ICTs and Poverty Reduction
WSIS Recommendations, Follow-up and Implementation

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WSIS Call for National e-Strategies

- ***Tunis Agenda for the Information Society [Para 85]***

  - ➢ Taking into consideration the leading role of governments in partnership with other stakeholders in implementing the WSIS outcomes, including the Geneva Plan of Action, at the national level, **we encourage** those governments that have not yet done so to elaborate, as appropriate, comprehensive, forward-looking and sustainable national e-strategies, including ICT strategies and sectoral e-strategies as appropriate**, as an integral part of national development plans and poverty reduction strategies, as soon as possible and before 2010.**

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Annual Reporting through WSIS Stocktaking

National Implementation Mechanism:

- Does your country already have a strategy for coordinating WSIS Implementation at the national level?
  - ➤ Yes / No

- Is there a national e-strategy?
  - ➤ Yes / No

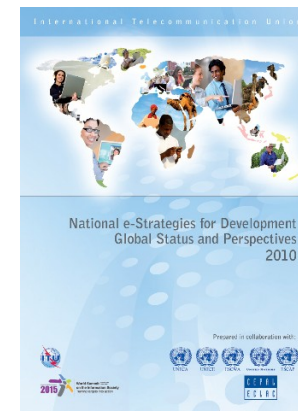- If yes, please provide the title and source of relevant documentation (e.g, URL)
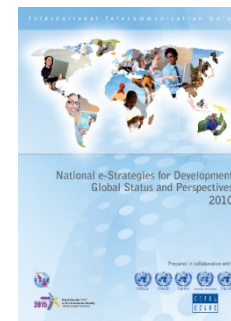

2005   2008   2010

http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking

Global Status and Perspectives, 2010 (ITU and UN Regional Commissions)

- What is the status of the national e-strategies worldwide in 2010?

- What are the approaches/trends in the ICT strategies? How can they be explained?

- What is the status of the sectoral e-strategies in particular? Which common trends can be observed?

- Have national e-strategies been integrated into poverty reduction strategies?

- How do the ICT strategies evolve?

http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/cyb/estrat/

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Percentage of regions and income groups with national e-strategies in place or in progress in 2010.
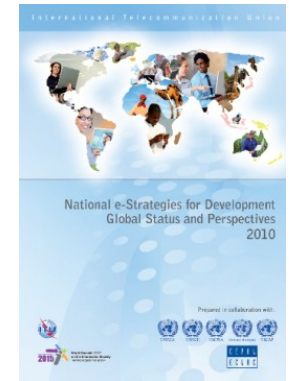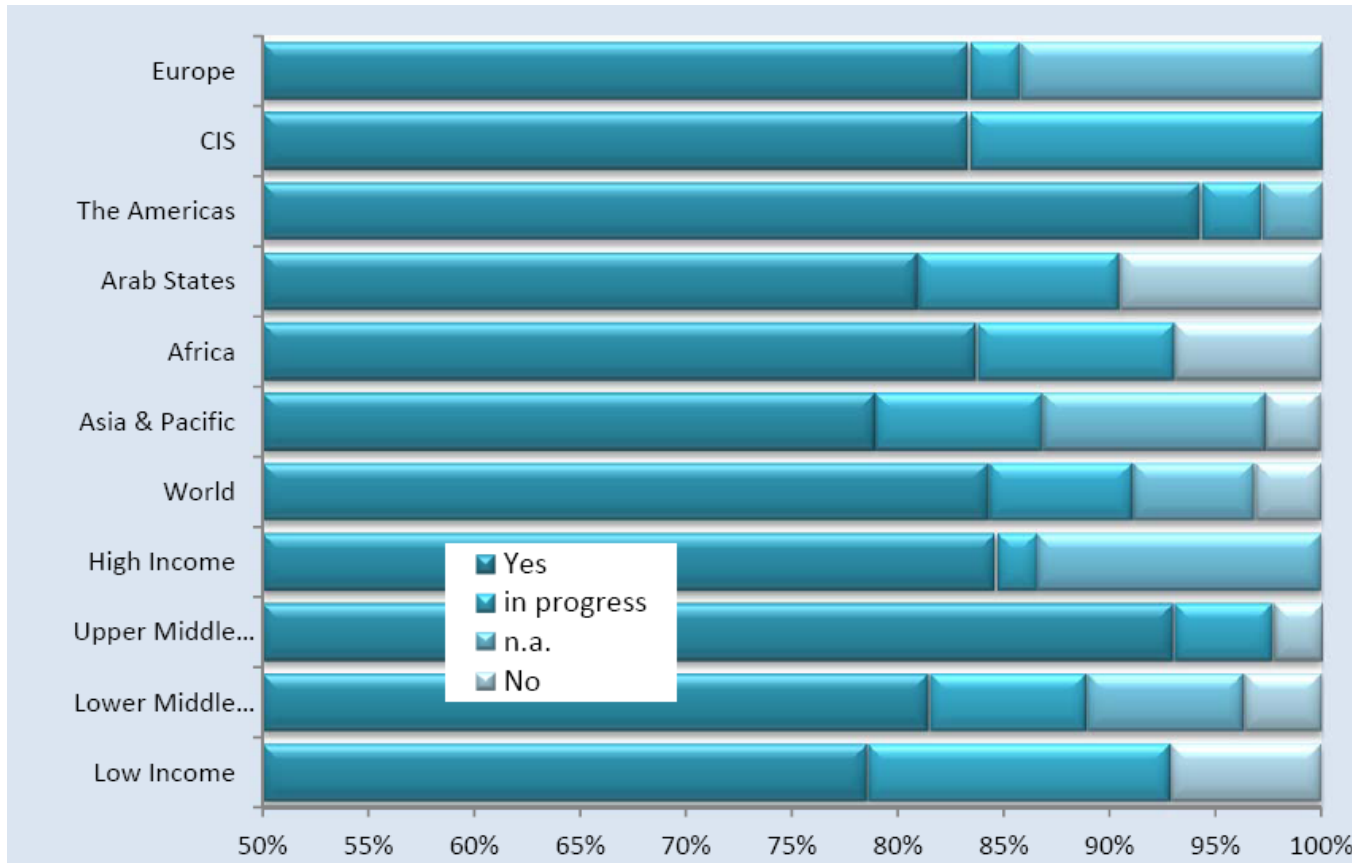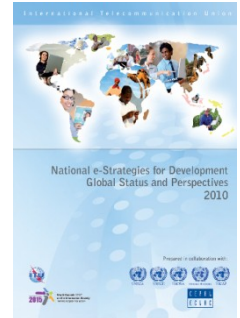

Source : WSIS Stocktaking / National e-Strategies for Development (ITU-D)

Main Outcome

- As of April 2010, **163 countries and territories**, that is, **85.3 percent** of all ITU Member States, already had a national e-strategy in place, while another **13 countries and territories (6.8%)** were formulating and adopting one.

- Many national e-strategies include concrete measures aimed at promoting economic development through the improvement of national competitiveness in the regional or global ICT market. Consequently, many countries have **integrated ICT into their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.**

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Bangladesh

DIGITAL BANGLADESH FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE 02/16/2010

http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/BDF-2010/BG_%20Paper/BDF2010_Session%20VI.pdf

❑ **National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction** (NSAPR) 2009

❑ The Bangladesh has recently adopted a legislation on the communities radio's, opening the way for new channel of information and communication in isolated areas.

❑ The current government's **Digital Bangladesh by 2021** vision proposes to mainstream ICTs as a pro-poor tool to eradicate poverty, establish good governance, ensure social equity through quality education, healthcare and law enforcement for all, and prepare the people for climate change

❑ Mobile phone: 98% of geographic area, 33% of population

❑ Internet

  ❑ 3-4% (mostly using mobile)
  ❑ Broadband: < 50,000 connections
  ❑ 2 WiMAX operators only in Dhaka city
  ❑ Internet still unaffordable to most

❑ Shared access points (telecentres): 2,300 by GoB/NGOs/private sector

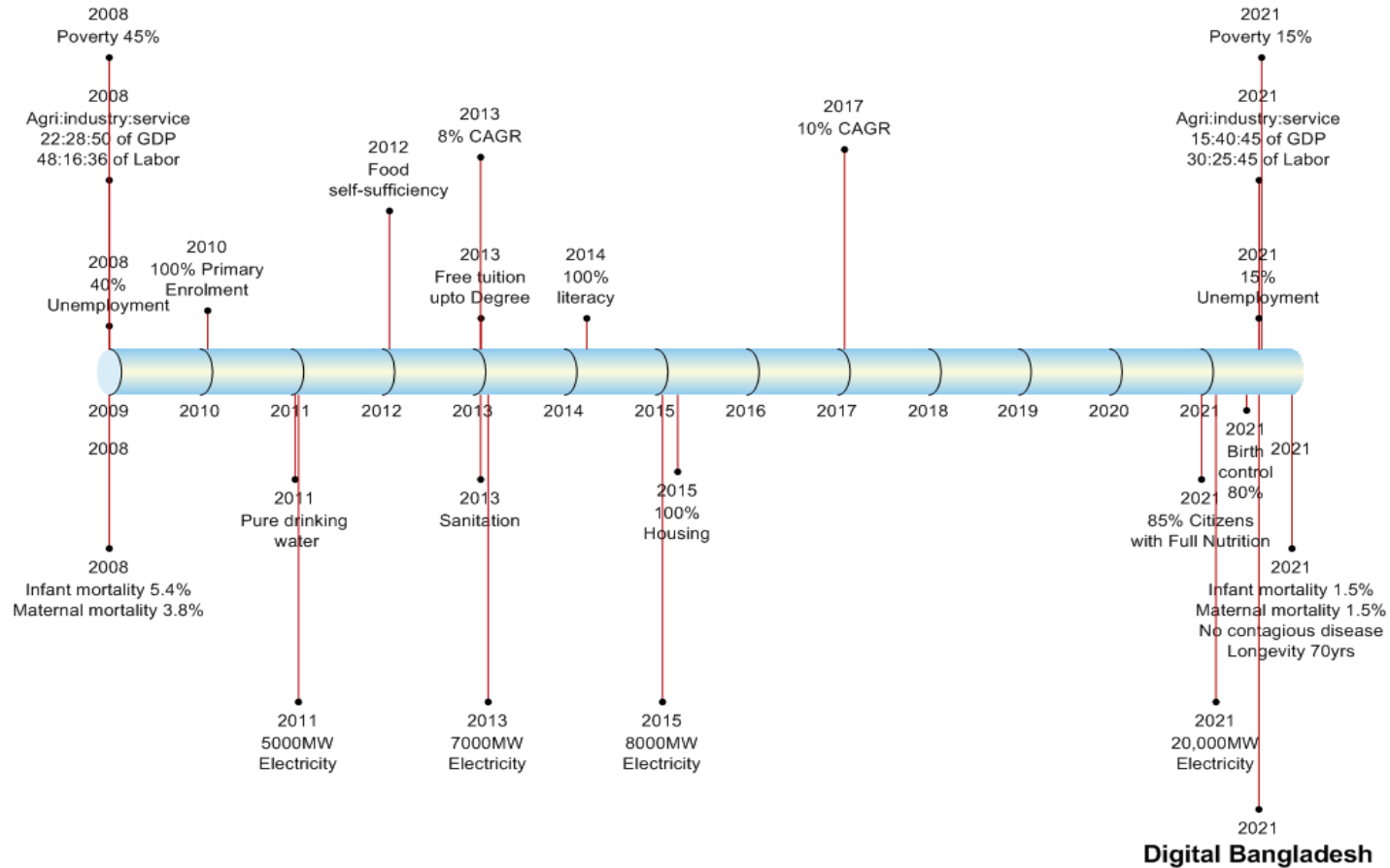❑ Community radio being explored

Broadband: 50 000(fixe)
Mobile: 52 430 000
Internet users: 617 000

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Bangladesh

2008
Poverty 45%

2008
Agri:industry:service
22:28:50 of GDP
48:16:36 of Labor

2013
8% CAGR

2012
Food
self-sufficiency

2017
10% CAGR

2021
Poverty 15%

2021
Agri:industry:service
15:40:45 of GDP
30:25:45 of Labor

2008
40%
Unemployment

2010
100% Primary
Enrolment

2013
Free tuition
upto Degree

2014
100%
literacy

2021
15%
Unemployment

2009   2010   2011   2012   2013   2014   2015   2016   2017   2018   2019   2020   2021

2008

2011
Pure drinking
water

2013
Sanitation

2015
100%
Housing

2021
Birth **2021**
control
80%

2021
85% Citizens
with Full Nutrition

2008
Infant mortality 5.4%
Maternal mortality 3.8%

2021
Infant mortality 1.5%
Maternal mortality 1.5%
No contagious disease
Longevity 70yrs

2011
5000MW
Electricity

2013
7000MW
Electricity

2015
8000MW
Electricity

2021
20,000MW
Electricity

2021
Digital Bangladesh

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Rwanda

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY, 2008-2012 (September 2007)

http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Rwanda/Rwanda_EDPRS_2008-2012.pdf

❑ In order to implement the strategy, the sectoral allocation of public expenditure will be organized to maintain **momentum in the social sectors – education, health and water and sanitation** – while also targeting agriculture, transport and **ICT**, energy, housing and urban development, proper land use management and environmental protection

❑ Given the high priority assigned by **Rwanda Vision 2020** to the development of the ICT sector, it is a matter of concern that not only were there no more professional and technical training centres in 2006 than in 2000, but that several of the existing centres are not adequately equipped and fully operational.

❑ Heavy **investment in infrastructure** will reduce business costs by improving the quantity and quality of energy supplied to urban and rural areas, improving the transport network (roads connecting markets, bridges, airports and regional railways), **expanding ICT (both provision and utilization)** and improving access to water for drinking/sanitation and for irrigation

Broadband:
8 388(fixe)
15 177(mobile)
Mobile:
2 429 252
Internet users:
450 000

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Gambia

THE GAMBIAN ICT4D-2012 PLAN

http://www.moici.gov.gm/images/stories/downloads/THE%20GAMBIA-ICT4D-2012%20PLAN-FINAL.pdf

❑ The Gambian e-strategy from the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure has for main objective to "Developing The Gambian Information Economy and Society and Accelerating the Process of Transforming The Gambia into the Silicon Valley of Africa " . The government of Gambia recognize the fact that ICT policies need to be "integrated into the overall developmental objectives". This plan has been made accordingly to the objectives of PRSP and MDGs and also is willing to be "WSIS-compliant".

The 3 majors pillars of the first phase of the plan are :

❑ The **human resource development action plan** has been set up. The objective of this plan is to assess the need in human resources and implement initiatives accordingly to this assessment in order to achieve development goals.

❑ The **E-education action plan** which objective is to provide ICT education within the Gambian educational system. It is a necessary steps in order to "facilitate the deployment and the utilization of ICTs".

❑ The **ICT-Communities action plan** with the main objective of allowing any Gambian citizen to access a broad variety of e-services(such as e-health, e-government, e-agriculture). To realize this objective there is a need to develop ICT infrastructure in both rural and urban areas and also provide basic ICT literacy to citizens.

Broadband:
300 (fixe)
4 077(mobile)
Mobile:
1 433 000
Internet users:
130 100

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Bhutan

THE BHUTAN ICT POLICY AND STRATEGY (BIPS) (July 2004)

http://www.moic.gov.bt/pdf/bips.pdf

❑ The e-strategy for Bhutan is implemented under the leading of Ministry of Information and Communication but every government ministries, many agencies and the private sector are involved in the process.

❑ **Five main priorities of the strategy:**

❑ **Policy**: There is 2 aspects, e-government for one part and also the implementation of a regulatory framework facilitating development and cost-reductions for ICTs.

❑ **Infrastructure** with the creation of co-operation between infrastructure providers to ensure fast, secure, affordable and sustainable ICT infrastructure in Bhutan.

❑ **Human capacity**, to ensure ICT awareness and skills. This objective will be reached with training institutions and also the creation of ICT awareness campaign.

❑ **Creation of contents and applications** to implement e-education, e-health and create the necessary framework for e-business. With this heading also came the idea of preserving Bhutan cultural heritage.

❑ **Entrepreneurship**, which is the major heading regarding poverty reduction. One of the idea is to create business opportunities through outsourcing of government ICT work. Also the creation of an ICT sector will drive ICT services exports. There will be benefits from this development to non ICT sectors too.

Broadband:
3100(fixe)
11 886(mobile)
Mobile:
338 938
Internet users:
49 999

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Zambia

ICT4D: Challenges and Opportunities in Zambia (October 2009)

http://www.sangonet.org.za/sites/default/files/Zambia_Research_Report.pdf

❑ The Zambian ICT Policy was formulated and developed from 2001 till 2004, finalized in 2005 and only launched by Government in **2006**. Civil society and academia were extensively involved during the policy formulation process, but have not been contacted to participate in the implementation process thus far.

❑ The **regulatory regime is supportive of ICT4D**. Markets have been opened and the regulator has been working with players and consumers to improve service delivery and gain critical mass so that ICT can play a more defined role in the development of the country. License fees have been reduced to allow more market players into the sector, a decision taken after reviewing the low ICT indicators in the country.

❑ **Five areas** were prioritized as ones that could have an impact on society and ICT4D - these form the focus of this document: **Human capacity development, Agriculture, Education, Health and ICT Services**. The policy that was put in place has implementation strategies for each area of focus and these were developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. A key issue has been the creation of a **universal access fund**, developed in collaboration with the International Telecommunication

❑ Commercial service providers will contribute to the fund. This fund was to be launched in 2009.

❑ In the long run, it is **necessary to develop financing frameworks** that attract private investors. Models should be defined that suit market segments and this will lead to mobile call rates and ISP charges going down which will enable service providers to cater for all markets, including the poor. National governments should create an enabling environment through appropriate policies and policy instruments. Laws should be supportive of appropriate technology development, import duties and taxes on information equipment should be reasonable. Operator licenses should be easy to obtain and difficult to revoke, and low cost services such as Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), WiFi and WiMAX should be encouraged and not seen as income grabbers from the incumbent telecommunications operator.

Broadband:
8 000(fixe)
4 000(mobile)
Mobile:
4 407 000
Internet users:
816 222

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Addressing the Challenges for LDCs

- **LDC-IV Side Event** of the
  UN Group on the Information Society
  - ➤ Harnessing ICT for Development:
    Opportunities and Challenges for LDCs
  - ➤ Turkey: **12 May 2011**
  - ➤ www.ungis.org

- **WSIS Forum 2011**
  - ➤ High-Level Dialogue on ICTs for LDCs
  - ➤ Geneva: **16-20 May 2011**
  - ➤ www.wsis.org/forum

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Thank You!

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