

ITU-UNESCO Digital Inclusion Week for the Arab States

“Ensuring Equity and Inclusivity in all that we do: Data, Platforms and Policies”

ITU-UNESCO's fifth Annual Regional Digital Inclusion Week for Arab States will take place from 26 September to 2 October 2021. The Week will address the pressing issues of equity and inclusivity, which are at the forefront as the world seeks to recover from the pandemic. The week will also draw attention to the 2025 digital targets for equity and inclusivity. These ambitious targets include achieving broadband internet user penetration of 75% worldwide and 65% in developing countries; ensuring that 60% of youth and adults have at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills; and realizing gender equality across both targets (REF).

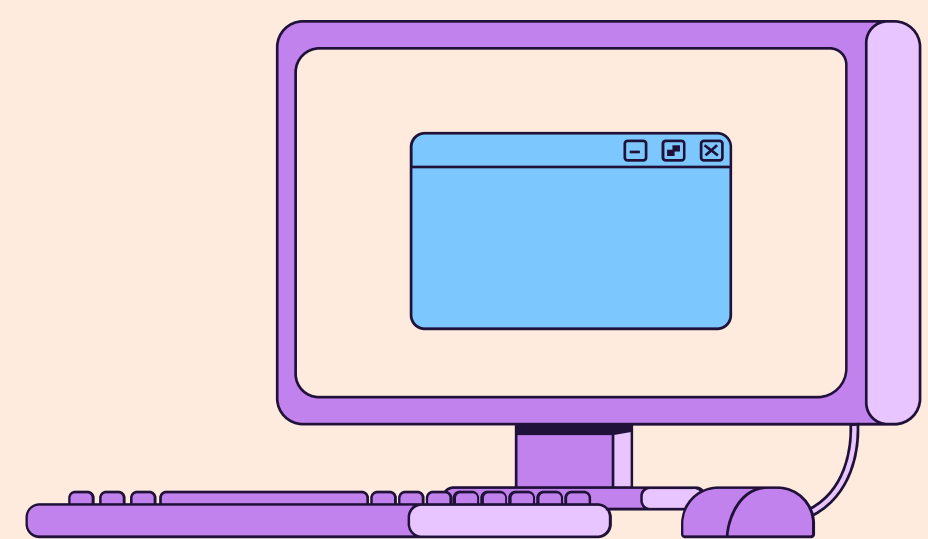


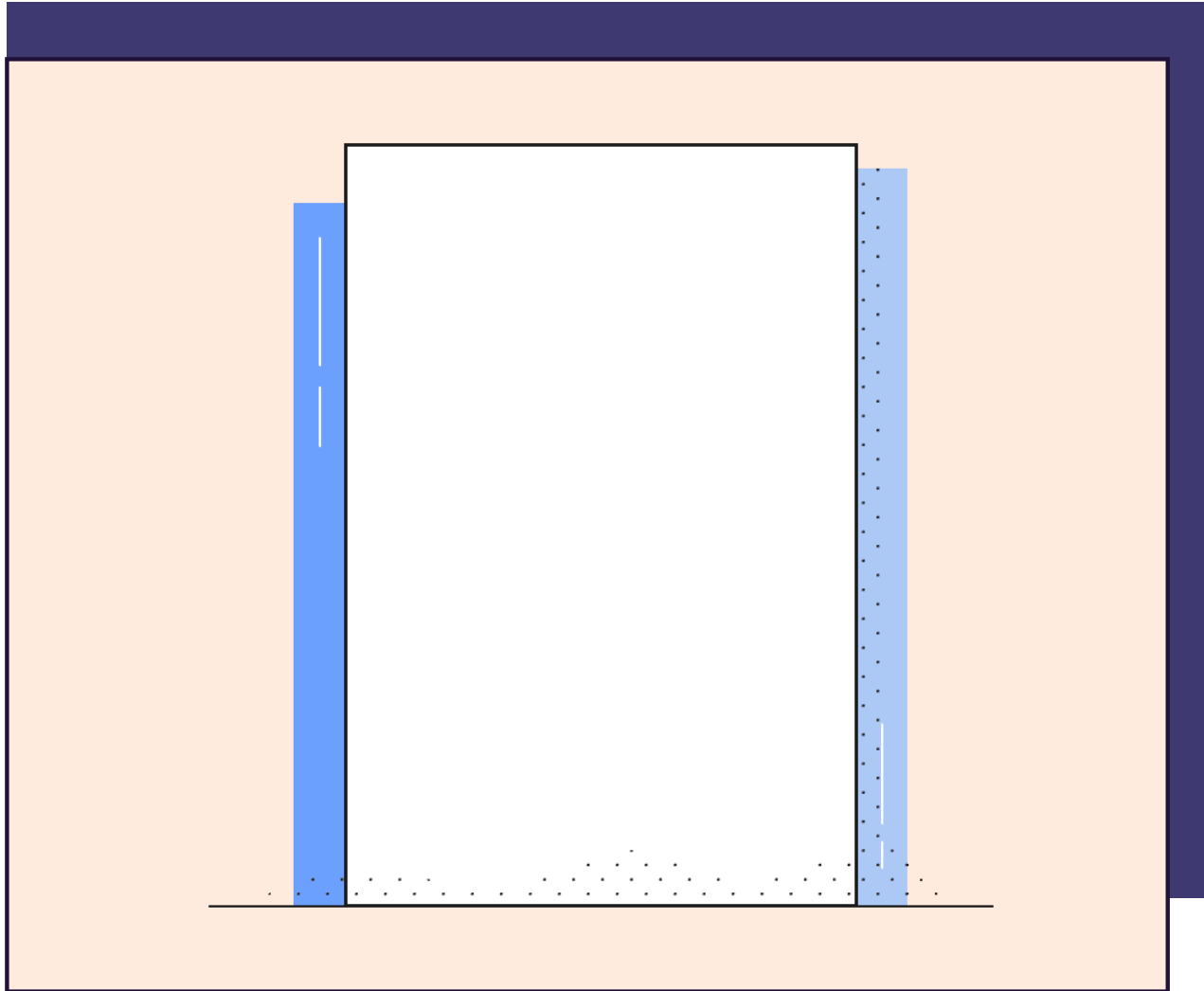
Data

The situation of many people is still not reflected in available data; furthermore, this data is seldom disaggregated. In the Arab region, only 43% of country-level tier I global SDG indicators are available and updated; 16% have not been calculated since 2000 for many countries (Arab Human Development Report, 2019). Data is most effective when it is publicly available, so open data is a critical resource to drive inclusive growth, foster collaboration, improve decision-making and impact monitoring.

Platform

Digital platforms can advance equity and inclusivity. For example, social media platforms provide an available and affordable tool; especially for the traditionally voiceless and marginalized; to share, speak up and to be heard. A study of the Arab region showed social media usage had more than doubled to 44% from 2014 to 2019 with 9 out of 10 youths using at least one social media channel daily.





Policies

Many Arab countries have seen a massive rise in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) that has been accompanied by new policy challenges. Effective responses require innovation, new management methods and a shift in the mindset of policy-makers.

Using robust data and leveraging technologies, policy-makers must redouble their efforts to address gender inequality, the needs of people with disabilities, migrants and other disadvantaged groups to ensure universal digital literacy as well as access to online tools and resources.

Get Involved in ITU-UNESCO Digital Inclusion Week

ITU and UNESCO are inviting stakeholders across the Arab region to organize at least one activity during this Week, to shed light on their key activities in this domain, whether at the national or regional level. Possible activities could include:

- Holding open, informative and interactive discussions;
- Raising awareness, leveraging capacity-building and encouraging regional engagement to promote ICT accessibility;
- Supporting research and promoting evidence-based policy recommendations;
- Sharing information and best practices;
- Organizing competitions, exhibitions and other events.



To Register Your Event:



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