

Regional Workshop on Promoting and Measuring Universal and Meaningful Connectivity

Nassau, Bahamas, 11-13 June 2024

“Promoting and Measuring Universal and Meaningful Connectivity”:

History, project objectives and activities

José L. CERVERA-FERRI, Senior Project Manager

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
ICT Data and Analytics Division



History of the concept of UMC

2018-2019

- UN Secretary-General convenes a **High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation** which drafts the report **“The age of digital interdependence”**.

2020

- Based on the Panel’s report and following further multistakeholder consultations, the Secretary-General issued his report **Roadmap for Digital Cooperation**, which includes, at its core, a **commitment to “connect” all people to the Internet**.

- multistakeholder **Roundtable on Global Connectivity**, co-chaired by the United Nations Children’s Fund (**UNICEF**) and **ITU**, with the support of the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology (**OSET**), works to **follow up on the Roadmap** by implementing its recommendations.

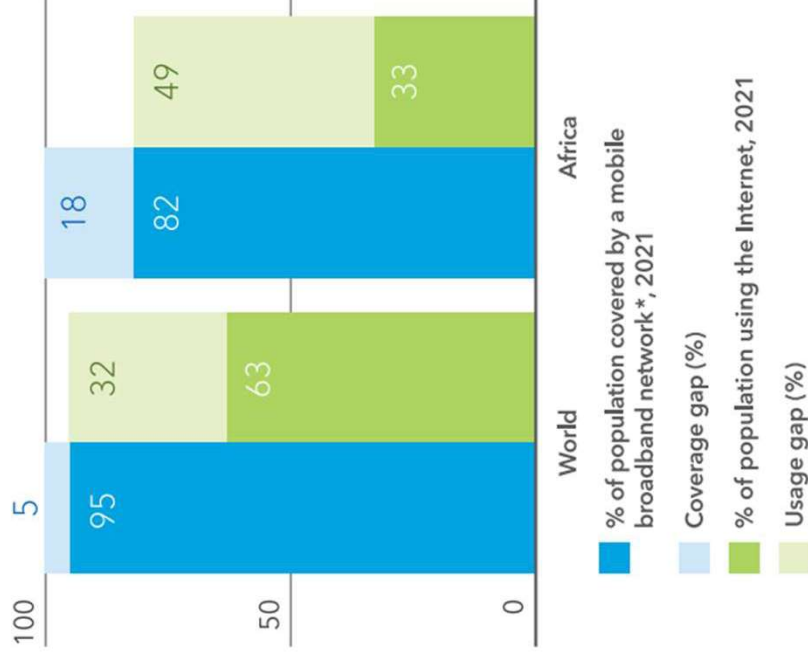
Coverage gap is much lower than usage gap

Coverage gap = people without access to a fixed or mobile broadband network

Usage gap = People that do not use the Internet while having coverage

Why don't people use the Internet?

When they use it, is it meaningful?

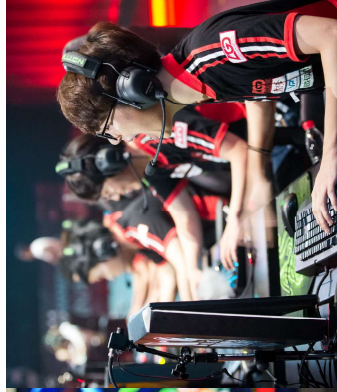


Note: *3G or more recent.
Source: ITU.

Universal and Meaningful Connectivity #UMC



The possibility for everyone to enjoy a safe, satisfying, enriching, productive, and affordable online experience.



Barriers to #UMC : 5 divides

- Geography : **urban / rural gap**
 - Infrastructure gap: Fibre-optic cables, connection to submarine cables, Satellite coverage
 - Population density - Remote areas, mountains, preventing overland cables
- Demography
 - Older populations **age gap**
 - **Gender gap**
- **Income gap**
- **Education gap** (closely related to demography, gender and location)
- **Cultural and behavioural barriers** : language of contents, behavioural aspects
- Some population groups are at the **intersect of the barriers**
 - Lower rural usage is partly a result of a lack of infrastructure, but there are additional factors at play: lower income levels, lower levels of education and of ICT skills
 - Refugees, IDPs, crisis-affected people
 - Homeless, marginalised and vulnerable groups (older, young, with disabilities, indigenous, etc.)

#UMC is aligned with the SDGs

Leave no one behind:

Commitment of all UN Member States to **eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities** that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole.



OPERATIONALIZING
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND
GOOD PRACTICE NOTE FOR UN COUNTRY TEAMS



Funded by
the European Union



#UMC as a guiding policy principle

- A digital policy guided by the UMC principle may address various dimensions (“connectivity enablers”):

- Coverage, speed, reliability in **infrastructure** underwrites the possibility of connecting and the quality of online experience
- More **affordable services** will enable many people to come online, while those already online will be able to extend their usage
- Improving **digital literacy (skills)** is essential. Many people do not use the Internet because they do not know what it is or how to use it, while many users fear or are unable to navigate cyberattacks, scams, fake news, or harmful content
- Internet-enabled **devices** need to be affordable, taking into account that device sharing is limiting and that basic devices will make for a less enriching online experience
- **Safety and security** will create trust when people go online



- And consider in its scope different users:

achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity

Aspirational targets for 2030

Achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity in the decade of action



Universality targets

of population aged 15+ uses the Internet
of households have Internet access
of businesses use the Internet

100%

of schools are connected to the Internet
of population is covered by a mobile network of the latest technology¹
of population aged 15+ owns a mobile phone
of population aged 15+ has basic digital skills
of population aged 15+ has intermediate skills
of population aged 15+ has internet use, mobile phone and digital skills²

>70%

>50%

Gender parity



Technology targets

100%

of fixed broadband subscriptions are 10 Mb/s or faster³

20Mb/s Minimum download speed available

50 kb/s Minimum download speed available

200 GB Minimum data allowance for every school

Affordability targets

Entry-level broadband subscription costs less than 2% of gross national income per capita

2% Entry-level broadband subscription costs less than 2% of average income of the bottom 40% of population



United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
Envoy on Technology



Achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity – the presiding theme of the decade of action – is key for enabling the Sustainable Development Goals.

As part of the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, the International Telecommunication Union and the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology have established a set of aspirational targets for 2030 to help prioritize interventions, monitor progress, evaluate effectiveness, and galvanize efforts around achieving universal and meaningful connectivity by the end of the decade.

More information:
www.itu.int/umc2030

¹ Mobile coverage of the population aged 15+ in 2021 was 98.9%, up from 98.1% in 2020. ² Mobile coverage of the population aged 15+ in 2021 was 98.9%, up from 98.1% in 2020. ³ Data on the availability of fixed broadband services is reported on a global level, not by country.

Aspirational targets for 2030

Achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity in the decade of action

www.itu.int/umc2030



United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
Envoy on Technology



From the #UMC principle to its measurement

- Define the **concept of UMC** in a plain and standardized “statisticians’ language”:
 - Terms
 - Dimensions
 - Indicators
- **Generate statistical information** and indicators to estimate the progress towards UMC
 - Compiling what exists
 - Piloting new indicators
 - Setting standards with established practices
- Create **capacity in producing and using statistical information about UMC**
 - Focus on developing and transition countries where statistical information is scarce
- Strengthen regional **collaboration and coordination between producers and users** of the statistical information

#UMC and the SDGs indicators

- **SDG Target 4.4:** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational **skills**, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
 - Indicator 4.4.1 *Individuals with ICT skills, by type of skills (youth and adults) (HH15)*
- **SDG Target 5.b:** Enhance the **use of enabling technology**, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of **women**
 - Indicator 5.b.1. *Proportion of individuals who own a mobile phone (by gender) (HH18)*
- **SDG Target 9.c:** Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide **universal and affordable access to** the Internet in least developed countries by **2020**
 - Indicator 9.c.1 *Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology*
- **SDG Target 17.8:** Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the **use of enabling technology**, in particular information and communications technology
 - Indicator 17.8.1 *Proportion of individuals using the Internet (HH7)*



Funded by
the European Union



A new partnership to promote and measure UMC

On 27 April 2023, ITU and the European Commission announced a three-year, €3-million global project to promote and measure universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC).

The project officially started on 1 May 2023



Funded by
the European Union



Myriam Ferran, Deputy Director-General for International Partnerships, European Commission, and Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Telecommunication Development Director at ITU, announced the project.

Project objectives and activities

Universal and meaningful connectivity narrative is mainstreamed, and significant progress towards 2030 UMC targets achieved globally

Specific Objective 2. More and better data on UMC

8 regional **workshops for users and producers** of UMC statistics

- Streamlining UMC in national digital policies
- Capacity building for statistical measurement of progress towards UMC targets

UMC **data collection and dissemination**

- Online course on the collection and use of UMC indicators (in partnership with ITU Academy)
- Exploratory use of secondary data sources to support UMC measurement
- UMC website, including a UMC Dashboard

Advocacy and information

- sessions at UN system events, World Telecommunication Indicators Symposium (WTIS), G-20 and other global and regional events
- Creation of digital communication assets, social media campaigns

Evidence-based research on effective interventions towards achieving UMC

- Global Connectivity Report
- Regional and thematic analyses

Specific Objective 1. Prioritization of Universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC) in policy agendas

Specific Objective 3. Better policies for UMC



Funded by
the European Union

Slide 12

TG0 Personally I would not mix workstreams and activities. For the EC audience, maybe better to go back to the output/outcome of the logframe and then list the activities under each. The workshops spans two outcomes but that's fine

Thierry Geiger, 2024-03-04T11:17:39.683

Additional material



