Internet for All
A project of The World Economic Forum’s Digital Economy and Society System

The Challenge

The internet is a pervasive, fundamental part of daily life that continues to deliver massive economic and social benefits around the world. Yet some 3.9 billion people – more than 52% of the world’s population – are still not online.

Although much progress has been made in closing the digital divide, the challenge remains huge, complex and multidimensional. It requires a collaborative, multistakeholder approach to overcome four key barriers to internet inclusion: infrastructure; affordability; skills, awareness and cultural acceptance; and relevant content.

The Forum Approach

Internet for All establishes and facilitates physical and digital platforms at the global, regional and national level, that will create hundreds of millions of new internet users, with a focus on the hardest to reach. It brings together stakeholders from the public and private sectors, non-profits, academia, international organizations, donors and civil society to create multistakeholder partnerships to achieve the following:

- Develop impactful partnerships
- Accelerate innovations
- Coordinate investments
- Strengthen the policy and regulatory environment
- Align programmes

The Value Proposition

Participation in the Internet for All project enhances an organization’s efforts in internet inclusion. By leveraging the Forum’s unparalleled and impartial convening platform, benefits include:

- Space for pre-competitive collaboration
- Platform for collective and impartial discussions with policymakers
- Visibility as a leader on global, regional and national levels through the Forum’s events and media channels
- Opportunities to develop new partnerships with non-traditional industry leaders and strengthen existing partnerships
- Insight and contextual intelligence to complimentary Forum projects such as:
  - Promoting Global Financial Inclusion
  - Primary Healthcare Coalition
  - New Vision for Agriculture
  - Digital Trade
Accomplishments to Date

Internet for All recorded important achievements that set the project on its way to reaching its long-term goal of bringing tens of millions of new internet users online. Highlights include:

- Creating a global community of over 50 leading organizations from business, government, civil society, academia, donors and international organizations, as part of the Internet for All Steering Committee.
- Creating seven Global Working Groups on critical topics for collaboration and linking these topics to other Forum communities and agendas at other global meetings through the global Network for Digital Development.
- Launching country programmes in Rwanda, South Africa, Argentina and Jordan.
- Launching two flagship reports. The first, *A Framework for Accelerating Internet Access and Adoption*, helps decision makers develop strategies and actions to achieve Internet for All. The second, *An Investment Framework for Digital Adoption*, provides users a way to understand the level of investment required in order to achieve Internet for All in a given country or region.

* The reports are available for download here: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Internet_for_All_Framework_Accelerating_Internet_Access_Adoption_report_2016.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Internet_for_All_Framework_Accelerating_Internet_Access_Adoption_report_2016.pdf) and here: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/White_Paper_Internet_for_All_Investment_Framework_Digital_Adoption_2017.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/White_Paper_Internet_for_All_Investment_Framework_Digital_Adoption_2017.pdf)

** An Investment Framework for Digital Adoption can be found here: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/White_Paper_Internet_for_All_Investment_Framework_Digital_Adoption_2017.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/White_Paper_Internet_for_All_Investment_Framework_Digital_Adoption_2017.pdf)

Sample Country Programme: Rwanda Internet for All

Launched at the World Economic Forum on Africa in May 2016, the Rwanda Internet for All programme has committed to creating 5 million new internet users in the country by 2019. To date the programme has:

- Successfully convened over 70 high level representatives from across the national internet development community on a recurring basis.
- Served as the platform for the development and launch of the Digital Ambassadors Program, a multi-stakeholder partnership that will train 5 million Rwandans in digital skills in the next three years. Several activities of similar ambition and scale are under development through the platform.
- Delivered a report on spectrum-framework harmonization in the East Africa region that offered guidance on best-practice principles.
- Convened regional dialogs on mobile money platform interoperability and on the development of a single digital market.
- Formed a strong partnership with SmartAfrica, with an aim to explore how the Internet for All model as deployed in Rwanda can be scaled across Africa.


Source: World Bank; ITU; Katz & Callorda; UNESCO; World Wide Web Foundation; BCG
The Global Working Groups

In addition to country programmes, Internet for All convenes seven global working groups that address crucial topics in internet access and adoption.

Coordinating on Digital Skills Training
Many organizations train non-internet users on digital skills, but these efforts are not coordinated, standardized, or built into core business lines. How can we change this?

Financing New Models for Connectivity
There are many connectivity projects in search of financing and many investors in search of projects. How can we overcome this disconnect and radically increase financing for new connectivity models?

Data for Digital Development
Having access to the right data is key to enable better policy making. The group will identify and map successful examples of data-driven policy making. It will also facilitate collaboration between business, academia, civil society, and international organizations to identify and fill current gaps in the connectivity data landscape.

The Impact of ICT on the SDGs
Internet for All stakeholders agree that internet access is about more than just SDG 9c. However, how we talk about the impact of internet inclusion on the SDGs is not consistent. This group will develop consistent messages grounded in empirical results.

Access to Justice
The internet can be used to improve transparency and efficiency of justice systems and create ways for citizens to engage with government. How can we accelerate these projects to drive internet adoption?

Gender and the Digital Divide
Many organizations are pursuing efforts to bring more women and girls online. How can we coordinate and streamline these efforts to make them more effective?

Strengthening Country Coordination
Building on the numerous digital development initiatives already taking place in regions and countries around the world, how can the organizations driving these efforts work together to improve coordination and collaboration? Members of this Working Group will identify 5-10 countries in 2017 to trial these new coordination/collaboration models.

Key Dates for 2017-2018

20 September: Network for Digital Development High Level Roundtable, New York

25-26 September: ITU Telecom World 2017 - Internet for All working session, Busan, South Korea

19 October (tentative): First Jordan Internet for All Forum, Amman, Jordan

21 November (tentative): South Africa Internet for All Forum, Johannesburg, South Africa

January 22-26: World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Joint Session of Internet for All and the Broadband Commission, Davos-Klosters, Switzerland

March 14-15: World Economic Forum on Latin America - Internet for All Latin America working sessions, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Note: Internet for All Forums in Rwanda and Argentina for Fall 2017 remain to be scheduled.
Digital Economy and Society: the Forum Context

Internet for All is part of the World Economic Forum System Initiative on Digital Economy and Society, which works to cultivate a shared, trusted digital environment that is a driver of inclusion, economic development and social progress. The system focuses on four thematic areas.

Transformation
Exploring and quantifying the impact of digitization on business and society

Access and Adoption
Bring internet access to the next 3-4 billion people and ensure the creation of local content and infrastructure

Policy and Governance
Ensure new digital business models through agile governance frameworks

Trust and Resilience
Increase awareness, understanding and action on cyber risk by embedding it into a fully integrated strategic risk assessment

Disruptive Technologies
Understand and shape ecosystems around game changing digital technologies

Get Involved
Organizations affiliated with the World Economic Forum can participate in the Global Working Groups. Affiliates and local organizations can join the country programmes. Please email anna.henry@weforum.org or visit our Facebook page (wef.ch/internetforall).