The internet is a pervasive, fundamental part of daily life that continues to deliver massive economic and social benefits around the world. Yet some 4 billion people – more than 55% 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 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:

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

On the occasion of World Economic Forum on Africa held in Durban, the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services launched the South Africa Internet for All, a programme, to provide meaningful access to the Internet for all South Africans.

The project builds on the World Economic Forum's Internet for All initiative. As a critical enabler of the 4th Industrial Revolution, Internet for All focuses on accelerating internet access and adoption to the over 4 billion people not connected to the internet. The project's core objective is to develop new scalable and replicable on-the-ground models of public private collaboration, in partnership with government. The objective is to accelerate the achievement of the broader social and economic priorities of the country in the context of accelerating internet access and adoption.

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

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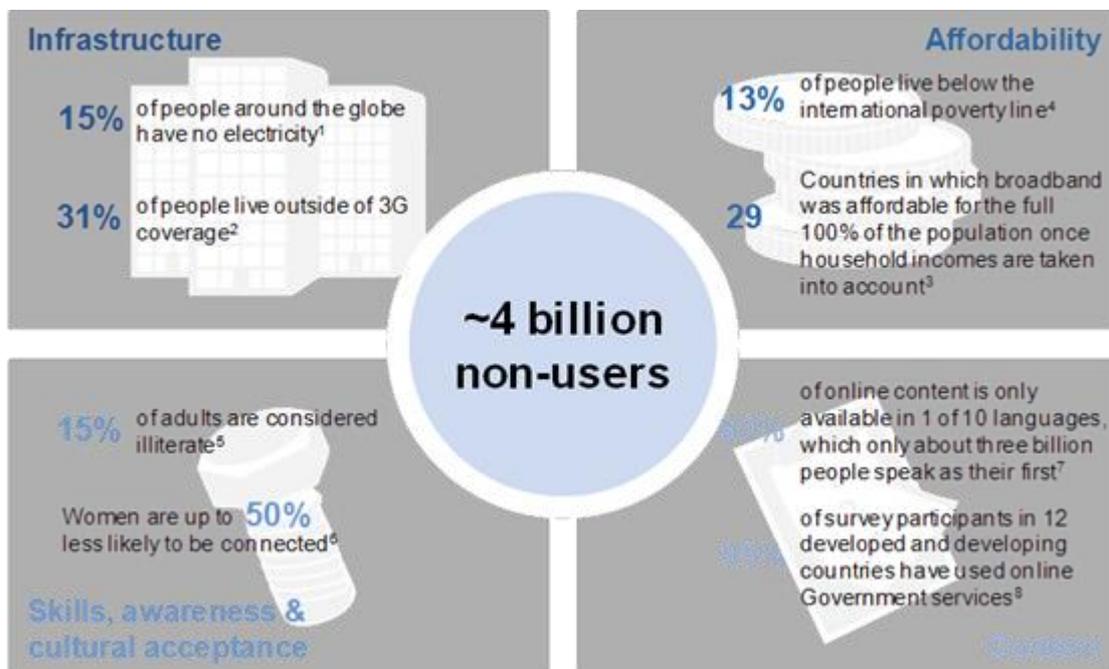
- Opportunities to develop new partnerships with non- traditional industry leaders and strengthen existing partnerships
- Insight and contextual intelligence to complimentary
- Forum projects such as
  - Promoting Global Financial Inclusion
  - Primary Healthcare Coalition
  - New Vision for Agriculture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

South Africa Internet For All

The "Internet for All" aims to bring millions of South Africans, including those in rural areas, onto the internet for the first time through new models of public-private partnership. According to the International Telecommunications Union, 52% of South Africans use the internet.

The Government's blueprint, the National Development Plan (NDP) mandates the establishment of a "seamless information infrastructure by 2030 that will underpin a dynamic and connected vibrant information society and a knowledge economy that is more inclusive, equitable and prosperous." Innovation also forms an anchor of the NDP, with specific focus on education, training and skills for innovative and knowledge society.

The Internet for All project will focus on addressing the barriers that prevent universal internet access:

Infrastructure

15% of people around the globe have no electricity[1]

31% of people live outside of 3G coverage[2]

Affordability

13% of people live below the international poverty line[4]

29 Countries in which broadband was affordable for the full 100% of the population once household incomes are taken into account[3]

15% of adults are considered illiterate[5]

Women are up to 50% less likely to be connected[6]

Skills, awareness & cultural acceptance

~4 billion non-users

of online content is only available in 1 of 10 languages, which only about three billion people speak as their first[7]

of survey participants in 12 developed and developing countries have used online Government services[8]
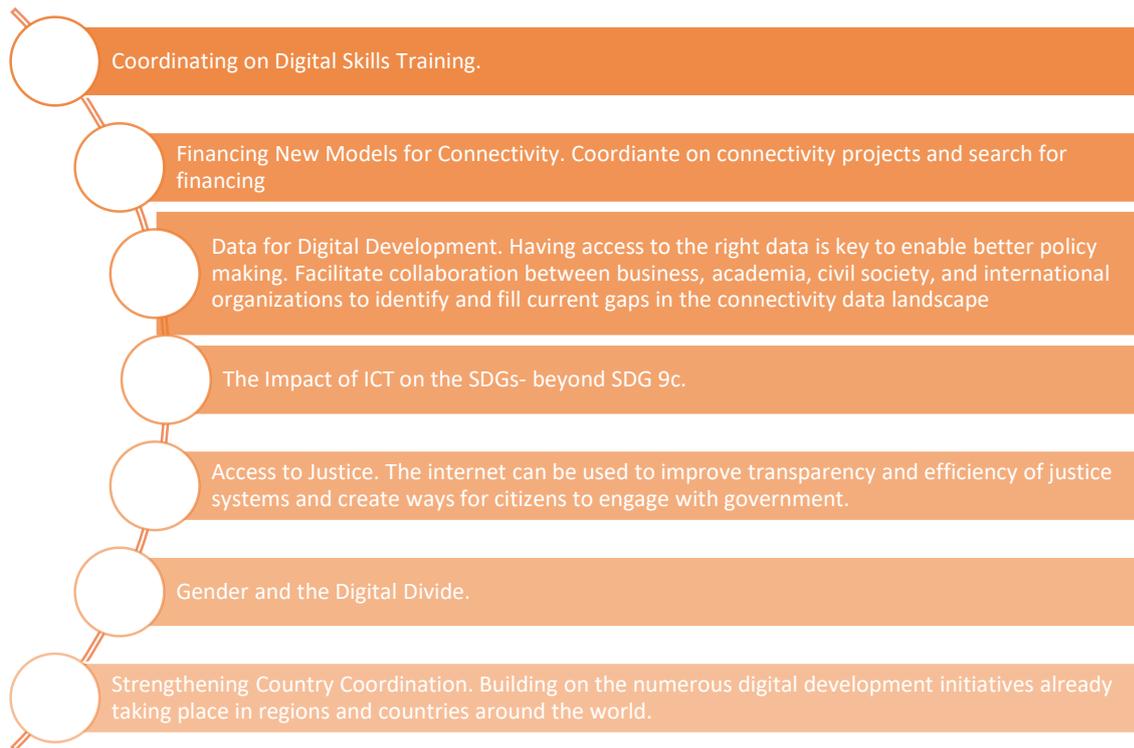
- Collaboration in the infrastructure connectivity and ensuring it reaches rural and underserved communities. As a Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS), through the SA Connect programme, we are leading the connection of districts, towns, cities to the Internet. Our primary focus is to connect schools, clinics, government services, and community centres (including public information areas and libraries).
- Collaboration in ensuring affordability and availability of broadband internet service and devices. South Africa currently has high cost of broadband services and through this initiative and work done by Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS), ICASA and operators, will address the high cost. The DTPS is also working with DTI, DST and DSBD on localising the manufacturing of devices for the local and regional market. It is estimated that South Africa will need 147.7 million devices by 2018, as we roll out the SA Connect. Therefore Government, together with industry will work on setting up electronic manufacturing hubs in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and bring in SMMEs in the area to manufacture, assembly and produce locally-made devices.
- Skills and awareness is also another area at which partnership has been forged to train, skill, re-skill and incubate citizens, especially the youth in the digital astuteness – incorporating not only the skills to use and access ICT services and create their own content, but also to enhance the capacity of communities and individuals to continually adapt and apply new technological applications to personal and local benefit.
- Development of local content so to explore how internet for all can better support the development of e-government services and enable SMMEs to develop relevant applications and platforms on local needs and requirements, and this will transform SMMEs to be job creators, rather than job seekers.

South Africa aims to connect 22 million to the Internet by 2020.

Proposed Working Groups

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

Coordinating on Digital Skills Training.

Financing New Models for Connectivity. Coordiante on connectivity projects and search for financing

Data for Digital Development. Having access to the right data is key to enable better policy making. 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- beyond SDG 9c.

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.

Gender and the Digital Divide.

Strengthening Country Coordination. Building on the numerous digital development initiatives already taking place in regions and countries around the world.

Current Partners and Pledges

To date the SA Internet for All initiative has the following partners:

- MTN
- Telkom
- Microsoft
- Qualcomm
- Intel
- Boston Consulting Group
- Digital Opportunity Trust
- Cisco
- DBSA
- Neotel/Liquid Telecom
- Vodacom
- Cell-C
- iBurst
- African Development Bank
- World Bank
- UK DFID
- World Economic Forum Young Global Leaders and Global Shapers
- IBM
- Google

- Intel
- Ericsson
- Accenture
- Altron
- Inmarsat
- Eagle Tower
- IntelSat
- ICT Africa
- Indlovukazi Online Media
- Black ICT Forum

Proposed Events for June

June is celebrated as Youth Month in South Africa, with a specific focus on June 16, Youth Day. Youth Month pays tribute to the school pupils who lost their lives during the June 16, 1976 uprising in Soweto. This year marks the 41st anniversary of the Soweto uprisings.

The Department would like to utilise this Youth Month to partner with key players, including industry players, on the South Africa's Internet for All.

The Public Outreach Awareness Campaign- 19 June 2017

The first engagement is proposed to take place on 19th June, where the department together with its partners convene a public awareness campaign, creating awareness on Internet for All.

The Public Outreach Awareness Campaign will take place in Soweto. The objective is to raise awareness and to reach those unconnected. It is proposed that the outreach programme include, (but not conclusive):

- Kiosk by Sector / Industry
- Onsite Training Platforms (coding/ web dev prog/ training on digital skills)
- Registration of website and email addresses
- Social media programmes
- Other programmes to get people connected

The objective of the Public Outreach Awareness Campaign is to reach and connect the unconnected areas. Therefore similar events will be held in each province over the next 8 months. Further schedule of events will be announced once the SA Connect roadmap has been finalised.

I4A Community Session

The second event will entail Community Sessions. The Community Session is the industry session with all partners and stakeholders who want to partner on I4A-SA. This includes those who took pledge during WEF Africa and Pre-budget engagement, as well as other national and international stakeholders. The Community Session is intended to outline the working groups, set up the Steering Committee and the reporting/ institutional arrangements.

The Community Session will have following outcomes:

- Declaration (Kliptown Declaration on digital revolution)
- Institutional arrangements
- Measurement tool (data on status/ gap analysis/ M&E framework)
- Goal on connectivity (for reporting at Davos WEF and WEF Africa 2018)
- Reporting timelines & synergy to Cabinet and WEF.

A pre-planning meeting will be convened on 12 May with WEF and key stakeholders to develop the programme and monitoring tools for the I4A-SA.