ICT4Development Communications

Getting the Basics Right: The Digital Divide and its Impact on Achieving the SDGs

Darrell Owen
May 17, 2016
UNGA’s Sustainable Development Goals
Target 9c: “Significantly increase access to information and communication technology… AND... strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020”
LDC Connectivity Challenge of SDG Target 9c: Individuals with Internet Access 2000-2021

AND...Strive to provide Universal and Affordable Access to Internet in LDCs
The LDC Connectivity Challenge: Individuals with Internet Access in 2015

Connectivity Challenge: Low Internet Access & User Adoption

- Europe: 77.6%
- The Americas: 66.0%
- Commonwealth of Independent States: 59.9%
- Arab States: 37.0%
- Asia & Pacific: 36.9%
- Africa: 20.7%
- Developed: 82.2%
- World: 43.4%
- Developing: 35.3%
- Least Developed Countries (LDCs): 9.5%
Public & Private Sector Initiatives: Focus on Expanding Connectivity

+ Others
Public & Private Sector Initiatives: Focus on Expanding Connectivity

Addis Ababa Action Agenda

Connect 2020 Strategic Goals

Global Challenge Initiative
Future of the Internet

Global Connect Initiative
1.5 Billion More Online by 2020

+ Others
Private Sector Initiatives:
Focus on Expanding Connectivity

- Intel
- Google
- Cisco
- Microsoft

+ Others
SDG Target 9c Connectivity Challenge: Internet Access: 2000-2021

Significantly Increase Access to ICTs

AND ...Strive to provide Universal and Affordable Access to Internet in LDCs
SDG 9c (LDC): Connectivity Challenge

Global: 48 Countries

- Population: 897.5M
- % Poverty: 72.3%
- % Rural: 70%
- % Internet: 10.3%
SDG 9c (LDC): Connectivity Challenge

Global: 48 Countries
- Population: 897.5M
- % Poverty: 72.3%
- % Rural: 70%
- % Internet: 10.3%

Africa: 34 Countries
- Population: 567.5M
- % Poverty: 51.3%
- % Rural: 71%
- % Internet: 8.6%
LDC Digital Challenge: Ecosystem

Core Focus: Sustainable Business Models for Delivering Affordable Internet Services to Rural Populations

- Local Adoption to Include Shared Access, Literacies & Gender
- Facilitating Legal & Regulatory Environment
- Locally Relevant, Socioeconomic-Impacting, Value-Added Content-Services
- Off-Grid, Clean Energy, Low Cost Internet Connectivity
LDC Digital Challenge: Challenges

Challenges

- Disbursed rural populations
- Low income populations
- Capital costs to reach rural
- Limited access to electric power
- Lower literacies & education levels
- Lack of local language content & services
- Achieving Affordability
- Ensuring Profitability
- Gender Equality
- Greater ROI opportunities for MNO’s & ISP’s
- Limited Financing options
- Limited local capacity
LDC Digital Challenge: Needed Disruptions

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Needed Disruptions
- NBP & Functioning USFs
- Shared infrastructure
- Improved frequency management
- Market liberalization with supporting policy & regulation
- New business models
- Adoption of newer, lower cost technologies
- Off-grid clean energy
- Local language content
- Government as key content-services provider
- Community access with technical & user assistance
Essential Elements for Moving Forward

- National Priority on Expanding Internet Connectivity
- Translate Global Aspiration-Advocacy into Local Action
- Adopt a Cohesive Ecosystem Approach
- Develop National Plans, Commitment, Act & Monitor
- Build Effective Public-Private Sector Collaboration
- Commit to Innovation Disruption Across all Components
- Connectivity, Energy, Content, Adoption
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Thank You!

Follow on Discussions:

• Room 1- Giraffe 202
• 10:45am, 11:30am & 12:15pm

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