



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



COVID-19
RESPONSE

UN DESA WEBINAR SERIES

The unprecedented COVID-19 crisis has accelerated the digitalization of many businesses and services, including teleworking and video conferencing systems in and out of the workplace, access to healthcare, education and essential goods and services.

The resilience of networks and people has been extraordinary. ITU works with its membership and the broader ICT and development community to connect all.

Contact ITU Regional Office
for Africa at: itu-ro-africa@itu.int

Here are some **ITU COVID-19 resources, platforms and knowledge products** that ITU has shared with countries in the region. In Africa, we have been enhancing and accelerating initiatives that we already have in place in order to mitigate the pandemic.

*ITU Global Network Resiliency Platform (#REG4COVID)

ITU Global Network Resiliency Platform (#REG4COVID) is a place where regulators, policy makers and other interested stakeholders can [share](#) information, [view](#) what initiatives and measures have been introduced around the world, and [discuss](#) and exchange among peers on experiences, ongoing initiatives, and innovative policy and regulatory measures designed to help ensure communities remain connected, and to prepare for the medium and long-term recovery from COVID19. Access the REG4COVID here <https://reg4covid.itu.int/>

Search on specific initiatives in Africa here https://reg4covid.itu.int/?page_id=59

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* ITU Innovation Challenges 2020 - Rethinking the digital economy's value chains during COVID-19

The 2020 edition of the ITU Innovation Challenge is taking place amid a global pandemic caused by COVID-19. This has resulted in stress on value chains and countries' readiness for a digital economy, significantly affecting social conditions worldwide. Global supply, production, consumption and delivery chains are disrupted. Traditional economies are struggling, as industries have not been

digitalized and infrastructure is inadequate to cope with current stress levels. The challenge is an open competition platform for innovators and ecosystem builders to present their ideas and projects, empowering them to transform their communities into thriving digital societies.

Do you have what it takes to create a digital world? Find more information here <https://cocreate.itu.int/>

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***ITU Digital Financial Services (DFS) during COVID-19 Webinar Series**

ITU Digital Financial Services (DFS) webinar series provides insights on the innovative applications of telecommunications services, digital payments and fintech in addressing COVID-19 triggered social distancing and lockdown and share lessons learned from governments and DFS stakeholders on the measures that they are implementing. ITU Digital Financial Services (DFS) during COVID-19 Webinar Series can be accessed here <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/webinars/Pages/dfs.aspx>

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***AI for Good Webinar Series**

The 2020 edition of the AI for Good Global Summit will be presented as a continuous digital event, featuring weekly programming across multiple formats, platforms and time-zones, including keynotes, expert webinars, project pitches, Q&As, performances, demos, interviews, networking and more. The AI for Good Webinar Series can be accessed here <https://aiforgood.itu.int/programme-2020/>

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***Virtual WSIS TalkX**

Weekly virtual WSIS TalkX are held to allow WSIS Stakeholders to interact, connect and collaborate. Preparing towards the WSIS Forum 2020, High-level Track Facilitators, Workshop Organizers, WSIS Prizes 2020 Champions and others conduct virtual interactive talks highlighting their linkages with the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. Virtual WSIS TalkX can be accessed here

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2020/Home/WSISTalkX>

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***Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond Webinar Series**

ITU and the office of the UN Under Secretary-General Fabrizio Hochschild have co-organized a series of webinars on digital cooperation in response to COVID-19. Under the theme “Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond”, the webinar series focused on how to secure safe, stable, affordable and inclusive connectivity in this time of crisis and will help identify possible solutions and common approaches and strategies from different nations and stakeholders.

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/seminars/2020/DigitalCooperation/default.aspx>

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*** Broadband Commission Community responses to COVID19**

The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, the UN's high-level public-private partnership, is committed to putting digital cooperation into action, to keep economies and societies working, and to support the world's vulnerable populations. Commissioners and their organizations are urgently collaborating to compile and disseminate a repository of tangible actions based on the three pillars of resilient connectivity, affordable access, and safe use of online services for informed and educated societies, to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and ease the immediate adverse impacts for economies and societies. More information on the Agenda for Action for faster and better recovery can be found here <https://www.broadbandcommission.org/COVID19/Pages/default.aspx>

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***ITU-WHO unleashing information technology to defeat COVID-19**

ITU and WHO, with UNICEF support, have worked with telecom companies to text people directly on their mobile phones with vital health messaging to help protect them from COVID-19. These text messages reach millions of people who cannot connect to the Internet for information. This initiative builds on work of the joint WHO-ITU BeHealthy BeMobile initiative.

Link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/20-04-2020-itu-who-joint-statement-unleashing-information-technology-to-defeat-covid-19>

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***ITU Guidelines for national emergency telecommunication plans (NETP)**

The ITU Guidelines for national emergency telecommunication plans (NETP) are a critical tool to assist policy makers and national regulatory authorities to develop a clear, flexible and user-friendly NETP with a multi-stakeholder approach. The guidelines can also be used for developing tailored contingency plans related to epidemics and pandemics involving all national stakeholders.

Link: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Publications/Guidelines-for-NETPs.aspx>

Image:

**ITU Guidelines for
national emergency
telecommunication plans**



***Report on Measuring Digital Development: ICT Price Trends 2019**

In the face of COVID-19, keeping telecommunication and digital services as affordable as possible is more vital than ever. This report monitors the affordability of ICT services by analysing and comparing price data for mobile-voice services, mobile data and fixed broadband for analysts, telecom operators, policy-makers and economists. It also provides information on countries' progress towards achieving the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's target for 2025, according to which entry-level broadband services should be made affordable in developing countries at a level corresponding to less than 2 per cent of monthly GNI per capita.

Link: <https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/pr08-2020-Measuring-Digital-Development-ICT-Price-Trends-2019.aspx>

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***ITU Smart Villages Platform for COVID-19 response in Niger**

The ITU Smart Villages Platform used now to disseminate voice messages for COVID-19 in Niger. It is already operational and supported by all 4 operators.

Link: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/ICT-Applications/Pages/smart-village.aspx>

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