

Fact sheet

Digital divide

- Today 2.7 billion people are without broadband and not able to access public services or learn from home.
- The share of Internet users in urban areas is twice as high as in rural areas. 71 per cent of the world's population aged 15-24 is using the Internet, compared with 57 per cent of all other age groups.
- Globally, 62 per cent of men are using the Internet compared with 57 per cent of women.

Connectivity/Affordability

- According to the latest ITU data, Internet use grew to 66 per cent of the population in 2022, reaching 5.3 billion people, up from 54 per cent in 2019.
- The pandemic led to an increase in digital financial services: four in 10 people in developing economies (excluding China) made a digital payment for the first time after the start of the pandemic. The target has been reached on a global basis with 64 per cent of people aged 15 years and older making or receiving digital payments in 2021 up from 52 per cent in 2017.

Internet shutdowns

- #KeepItOn coalition, which monitors shutdowns episodes across the world, documented 931 shutdowns between 2016 and 2021 in 74 countries.
- At least 27 of the 46 least developed countries have implemented shutdowns between 2016 and 2021, despite receiving support to increase their Internet connectivity.
- The official justification for the shutdowns was unknown in 228 cases reported by civil society across 55 countries.

Protecting the Environment

- 38 of the world's 150 leading tech companies are on track to become carbon neutral by 2030, with several aiming to be carbon negative soon after.
- Digital companies accounted for seven of the top ten largest corporate purchasers of renewable energy in 2020, making up almost half of the renewables purchased globally that year
- Overall, the 150 tech companies covered by the study consumed 425 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity in 2020, around 1.6 per cent of the world total. Of that amount, around one third was renewable.

Digital learning

- Globally, only 33% of children and young people (up to age 25) have Internet access at home.
- There is a significant gap between high-income and low-income countries, 87% coverage compared to 6%, respectively.
- In total, 759 million, or 63%, of young people aged 15-24 years old are unconnected to the Internet at home.
- Gender differences in frequency of Internet use can also be staggering. In some countries, Internet use is four times greater for boys than for girls.