

Internet Society

Beyond the Net
Impact Report 2015

A photograph of two young girls wearing hijabs, sitting at a table and looking at two laptops. The girl on the left is wearing a patterned yellow and black hijab and is smiling while looking at her laptop. The girl on the right is wearing a black hijab and is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. Both laptops have the 'SimmtOnios' logo on the lid. The background is a light-colored wall.

The Internet of opportunity.

Introduction.

The Internet Society brings technical expertise and policy issues and discussions to life through the work of its local communities on the ground. We seek to improve the quality of people's lives in all parts of the world by providing them meaningful access to an open, trusted and global Internet. The adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN in September 2015 gave us a clear framework to increase our development efforts as well as reinforce our commitment to bringing the benefits of a globally connected Internet to everyone.

The Internet as an Enabler

The SDGs are not new for us. We have always seen the Internet as a critical enabler for sustainable development and believe that access to the Internet will help to accelerate the achievement of all of the SDGs. To play our part in facilitating this, the Internet Society has funded community-led projects throughout the world since 2005, firstly through our Community Grants funding programme until July 2015, and from then on through our Beyond the Net funding programme. Over the years these projects have worked on solutions that address 14 of the 17 SDGs.

Supporting the Community

Our Chapters play a vital role in Internet development and are vehicles of change in their regions, solving local issues and often contributing to the empowerment of their communities.

Chapter members are the ones who bring projects to life and they do this by transferring key knowledge and building crucial relationships while working directly with local communities. To improve support for our Chapters and to better align with the organisation's strategic development objectives, we have increased our focus on supporting the work of our community at both the local and regional level.



Beyond the Net

So, in 2015 we rolled out the Beyond the Net funding programme, which replaced and enhanced our Community Grants programme, and firmly concentrated the focus of our funding efforts on our Chapters' initiatives. Built on the same fundamental principles as the previous programme, the Beyond the Net programme helps the Internet Society to further support projects that matter locally while giving greater visibility to the amazing work our Chapter communities are doing to solve the issues that matter to them.

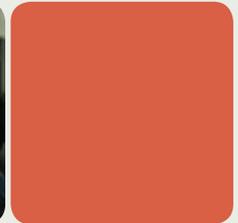

Raúl Echeberría

Vice President, Global Engagement
Internet Society

The Internet Changes Everything.

The Internet Society believes that the Internet has the power to change lives. To help make this a reality, it **funds innovative projects that harness the Internet to improve people's lives** and their communities around the globe.

From providing the necessary knowledge and tools to protect online freedom of expression in Tunisia and Pakistan to helping the visually impaired get online all over the world, **Beyond the Net** funded projects help to reinforce the Internet Society's mission: **The Internet is for everyone.**



The Internet as an Accelerator.

Projects funded by the Internet Society since 2005 have delivered localised solutions for 14 of the 17 SDGs.

The launch and adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations (UN) and its members in September 2015 paved the way for the Internet Society to increase the dialogue around its development work and improve the visibility of the invaluable work that its Chapter communities carry out around the world.

" Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020 " .

SDG 9c

The Internet Society has always worked with the understanding that the Internet is not the objective but the means to achieve these development goals and believes that the Internet is an accelerator for achieving all 17 of the goals. ICTs, particularly the Internet, are uniquely positioned to facilitate implementation of each and every SDG goal as well as to leverage the innovation, collaboration, and partnerships needed to make them a reality.

Find out more about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals at: sustainabledevelopment.un.org



Community Grants 2005-2015.

Funding for community Internet projects began back in 2005 under the **Community Grants** programme. Over ten years we supported hundreds of initiatives in over **70 countries**.

Most projects are still active and continue to provide benefits to their communities. We estimate that through Community Grants projects:

More than **300,000** people increased their awareness of Internet Governance issues.

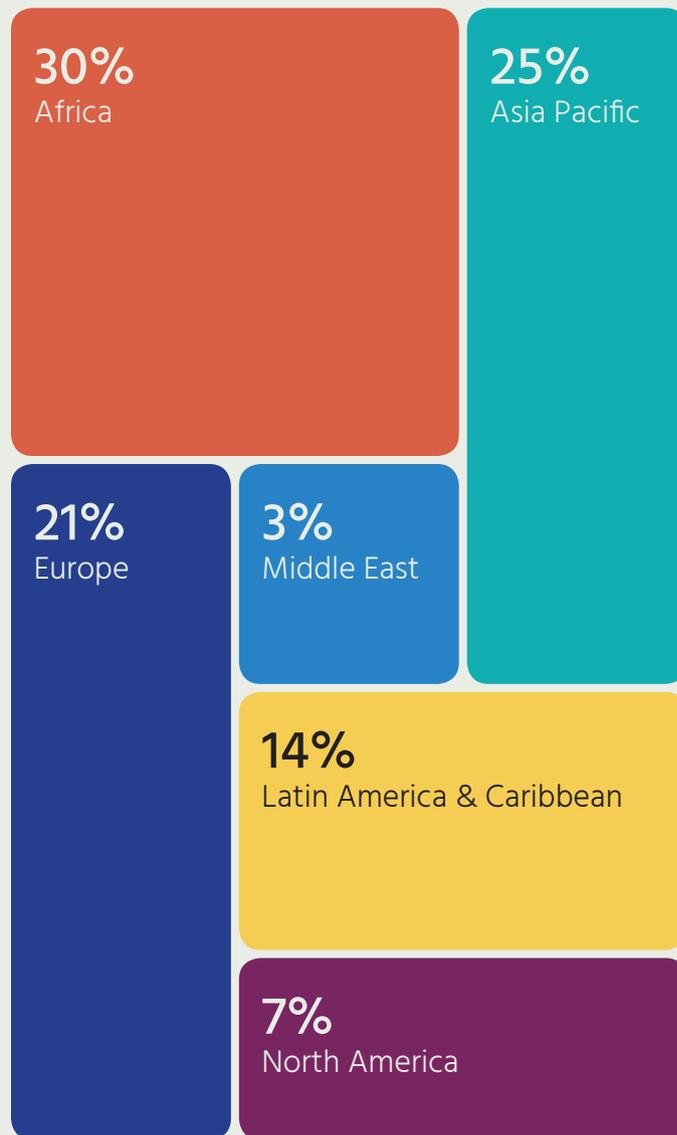
Over **100,000** people gained access to the Internet.

At the very least **30,000** Women and Girls were empowered through the use of the Internet.

Well over **30,000** people were trained on how to use the Internet.

At least **10,000** disabled people gained Internet skills to improve their quality of life.

You can find an overview of all of the projects funded under the Community Grants Program online at:
internetsociety.org/older-community-grants



Community Grants by Region

Beyond the Net.

110 Internet Society Chapters across **6 regions** provide a **unique local perspective** on emerging Internet issues.

In July 2015 **Beyond the Net** was launched to replace the Community Grants funding programme. Beyond the Net addresses the changing needs of the Internet Society Chapters and reinforces the organisation's commitment to development.

Chapters are central to the Internet Society's work. They can apply for up to **US\$ 30,000** in funding for projects that harness the power of the Internet to change lives. They work in partnership with local organisations to empower people in their communities.

Small Projects funding (up to US\$ 3,500) are granted to improve awareness on Internet topics of interest for the local community, and strengthen and grow Chapter membership.

Find out how the funding programme works, what funding is available and how you can apply:
internetsociety.org/beyond-net-grants



Funding 2015.

In 2015, **38 Chapter events** and small projects in as many countries and **13 community projects** from around the world received a total of over **\$US 500,000** in funding through the Beyond the Net funding programme. Many of these projects are still ongoing and we expect increasing impact going forward.

9 Chapters, 1 Special Interest Group (SIG) and **3 individual organisations** in countries with no local Chapter were awarded funding.



Latin America & Caribbean
Cuba, Guatemala and Paraguay

Europe
Armenia, France and Turkey

Africa
Ethiopia, Tunisia and Zimbabwe

Middle East
Lebanon

Asia
India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Africa.

3 projects supported in **Ethiopia, Tunisia** and **Zimbabwe** and **6 SDGs** addressed.

Country: Ethiopia.
Project: Non-visual Access to the Digital Library (NoVA).
Note: Creating an accessible web-based library to fulfill the education, information and entertainment needs of visually impaired individuals.
Category: Access – visually impaired.
SDG: 3 and 9.

in **2017**
the first digital library for the visually impaired will be launched in Ethiopia.

Country: Tunisia.
Project: Alliance Article 32.
Note: Defending the values and principles of freedom of access to information and networks in Tunisia.
Category: Access and Development.
SDG: 16.

300
Tunisians trained on Internet Governance since 2015.

Country: Zimbabwe.
Project: Internet of Things (IoT) Makerspaces.
Note: Establishing IoT Makerspaces at schools to inspire and equip local students with IoT skills and resources.
Category: Access and Development.
SDG: 1, 2, 9 and 10.

35
University of Zimbabwe students trained on Arduino Toolkits.

20
Zimbabwean High School students' lives transformed through IoT Makerspaces.

2
teachers trained to set up their own Makerspaces.

Asia Pacific.

3 projects supported in **India, Pakistan** and **Sri Lanka** and **4 SDGs** addressed.

Country: India.
Project: IICB - Indian IETF Capacity Building Program - Phase II
Note: Increasing adaptability of and contribution to Internet Standards from India through the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Capacity Building (IICB) Program.
Category: Open Standards, Security and Resilience.
SDG: 9.

280
students trained on IETF capacity development.

3
agreements signed with educational institutions.

Country: Pakistan.
Project: Hamara Internet.
Note: Raising awareness of digital violence against women, reinforcing the right to use the Internet and be free from harassment, surveillance, or other digital threat.
Category: Access - women
SDG: 5 and 16.

500
women empowered through digital violence awareness training and many more supported via 24/7 telephone helpline.

Country: Sri Lanka.
Project: New Vision for the Visually Impaired.
Note: Training the visually impaired on basic and advanced Internet skills in two phases.
Category: Access and Development.
SDG: 3 and 9.

150
visually impaired Sri Lankans' lives improved through learning.

Europe.

3 projects supported in **Armenia, France** and **Turkey** and **4 SDGs** addressed.

Country: Armenia.
Project: Internet Radio for People with Visual Impairment.
Note: Informing visually impaired Armenians of their rights and privileges, problems and solutions, new opportunities and success stories through Internet radio.
Category: Access – visually impaired.
SDG: 3 and 9.

2,000
visually impaired Armenians empowered through Internet radio and related activities every day.

Country: France.
Project: Simplification des CGU.
Note: Creating a model/signage to simplify Terms and Conditions for all users.
Category: Open Standards, Security and Resilience.
SDG: 9.

Country: Turkey.
Project: Safe and Conscious.
Note: Use of the Internet and ICT for children in Turkey.
Category: Access and Development.
SDG: 4 and 10.

in 2017
Turkish children will be more aware of safety when using the Internet, while local content is being developed.

Latin America & Caribbean.

3 projects supported in **Cuba**, **Guatemala** and **LAC** and 3 **SDGs** addressed.

Country: Cuba.
Project: WiFi-UH.
Note: Providing the University of Havana with a powerful wireless network for its community.
Category: Access and Development
SDG: 4 and 9.

Country: Guatemala.
Project: Community Internet Center for Indigenous Mayans.
Note: Providing Internet access and educational Internet training for indigenous Mayan children and families.
Category: Access and Development.
SDG: 4 and 9.

280
indigenous Mayan children and families trained on computer use and Internet access.

17
students completed extended computer training.

Country: Regional.
Project: Observatorio de la Juventud.
Note: Building a participatory platform to facilitate youth-to-youth exchange of knowledge about Internet governance throughout Latin America.
Category: Open Standards, Security and Resilience.
SDG: 16.

182
latin American young people working together to exchange knowledge about Internet governance.

Middle East.

1 project supported in **Lebanon** and **1 SDGs** addressed.

Country: Lebanon.
Project: Open Data Lebanon.
Note: Hosting and managing the OpenDataLebanon.org.lb portal and providing guidance and support to the various government agencies to assist them in the identification, transformation and publication of their datasets on the portal.
Category: Open Standards, Security and Resilience.
SDG: 16.

in **2017**
Lebanese government agencies to be assisted using the OpenDataLebanon.org.lb portal.

Thank you.

Special thanks to all the people, Chapter members and volunteers involved in the various projects. It is you who have made and are making a difference in people's lives through the Internet of Opportunity.

Thank you to the Selection Committees over the past ten years, who had the difficult task of selecting projects among the hundreds of applications received.

How to apply:

internetsociety.org/beyond-net-grants

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Internet Society
Beyond the Net



The Internet is for Everyone.

Founded by Internet pioneers, the **Internet Society** (ISOC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet.

Working through a global community of chapters and members, the Internet Society collaborates with a broad range of groups to promote the technologies that keep the Internet safe and secure, and advocates for policies that enable universal access.

The Internet Society is also the organizational home of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

Learn more internetsociety.org

