

# To truly have an Internet for everyone, everyone needs to be connected to a reliable network.



## Community Networks are a complimentary solution that helps make that possible.

### Building an Internet for Everyone

Even though the Internet has expanded around the world faster than any previous technology, nearly half of the world's population still lacks Internet connectivity. If we're going to build an Internet that is available to everyone we need to build it in new ways. Community Networks are a way to bridge the connectivity gap - they can provide connectivity for people, by people.

### How We're Helping

We empower people to build, run, and manage their own Community Network in areas where Internet access is either not available or speed and costs are not optimal, and are not affordable.

Our work focuses on the following:

**Community engagement:** Community Networks often start with one interested person. Someone who learned about Community Networks from another person, a network of colleagues, at a conference or community event, or something they have read in an article or blog post. Supporting and nurturing this interest is a key part of the process. We work hard to connect people to each other to create a broader community of support.

**Partnering for sound policy and regulation:** We make sure that interested individuals and communities understand the relevant policy and regulatory landscape in their country. We do this by providing training about local, national, and regional circumstances. We also work with partners, experts, Community Networks, civil society, international development agencies and governments, to advocate for regulatory and policy solutions which encourage and enable Community Networks.

**Training and guidance:** We provide training on both policy and technical aspects of Community Networks, as well as ongoing support for running and maintaining a Community Network. We also advise on the best technologies and devices to use to establish a Community Network. We provide examples of how others have created and run a Community Network so that local people can adapt this information to their local circumstances.

**Deployment:** Assisting with deployment is the last stage of the work we do in order to make a Community Network a reality. There are many types of deployments as there is no "one size fits all" approach to Community Networks. Deployments depend on the readiness of the community, policy and regulatory issues, availability of infrastructure (such as towers), or backhaul systems that need to be set up.

**For their Community. With their Community. By their Community.**

Community networks compliment traditional ways of bringing people online. They're usually built and maintained by the people who use them.

While there's no one single way to build a Community Network, the common thread that runs through them all is local empowerment. People connecting themselves on their own terms.

Community Networks are being built all over the world. They have been a lifeline before COVID and are connecting people so that they can work, learn, and stay in touch with family and friends.

### Get Involved

- [Visit our website](#) for more details.
- Become an [Internet Society Member](#) and stay up to date with regular member project updates.



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