



2025 Internet Society Annual Report





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2025 in Review

 **USD \$20 M**
in grantmaking and philanthropic giving



Photo © Ann Joesoef



55+
Internet Society-led advocacy campaigns

Photo © Internet Society Haiti Chapter

 **53,800**
people trained

 **122**
events hosted or co-hosted

156,880 **124**
individual members chapters



Our Global Reach




150

countries and territories where we worked¹

¹ Work refers to countries and territories where we have distributed grants; delivered trainings through our TEL and Internet Society programs; conducted advocacy; or mobilized and supported Internet Society chapters and communities.

From the CEO

2025 was a significant year for the Internet. The number of people online almost doubled from a decade ago, from 3.2 billion people in 2015 to a record 6 billion people in 2025. We also saw a major win for the global Internet community as countries reaffirmed their support for the multistakeholder model of Internet Governance at the United Nations.

As CEO of the Internet Society and its supporting Foundation, I am proud that our vast, global community played a role in these accomplishments. It was the highlight of my first full year as CEO to meet with so many of our community members. From Hawaii, to Chile, to Bangkok, to Prague, and beyond, I witnessed first-hand how hyper-local efforts are connecting communities and informing global technology policies that shape people's lives.

Although we celebrate these gains, there is no escaping the reality that our shared vision of an Internet that is for everyone is getting harder to bring about.

Support for the multistakeholder model of Internet governance is more fragile than ever, threatening the very system that helps maintain the Internet as an open, decentralized, and interoperable resource. Too many countries view the Internet as a switch they can turn on and off, effectively silencing communities and concealing human rights abuses. Privacy breaches and surveillance are a daily reality around the world, creating a climate of fear and distrust. And a quarter of the world's population—approximately 2.2 billion people—is still offline, leaving them cut off from economic and educational opportunities that many people have long taken for granted.

In 2025, the first year of our ambitious 2030 Strategy, we pushed back on all these fronts. What we learned from our community is that when we are mobilized, vocal, and prepared, the results can be lifechanging: connecting the hardest to reach communities and protecting the newly connected online. Because the Internet we want is governed by all of us. And it's for everyone.

Thank you for being part of this important work.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Sally A. Wentworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Sally Wentworth

President and CEO of the Internet Society
and the Internet Society Foundation

Our Vision: The Internet is for Everyone



The Internet changes lives—but only when people can access it and use it safely.

Together, in partnership with our supporting organization, the Internet Society Foundation, and our vast, global community, we: **build and deploy** Internet infrastructure; provide decision-makers with **data and expertise** to develop, maintain, and protect the Internet; help **shape and advocate for policies** that impact how the Internet works; **provide strategic funding** to organizations worldwide; and **empower future Internet leaders** with the skills and expertise they need to succeed.

The Internet Society and the Internet Society Foundation operate as complementary parts of a single mission-driven ecosystem. The Internet Society advances technical leadership, policy advocacy, data-driven insights, and global community mobilization to build and defend the Internet. The Foundation strengthens and scales this work by mobilizing philanthropic resources, funding mission-aligned initiatives, cultivating future leaders, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability. Together, we align strategy, programs, and investment to advance our shared **2030 goals**: expanding affordable, reliable access and ensuring that people everywhere are safe and secure online.

The Internet is for Everyone



The Internet is
for Everyone

Photo © Internet Society

The impact outlined in this report reflects the extraordinary dedication of our global community and partners, whose commitment and collaboration made these achievements possible.

Making Internet Access Affordable, Reliable, and Resilient



A quarter of the world's population is still offline, and many of these people live in the hardest and most expensive to connect communities.

Over the past 10 years, the Internet Society has proven that community-based connectivity solutions are a viable way to extend affordable, reliable, and resilient connectivity to the hardest-to-reach communities. By empowering local communities with the skills, resources, and partnerships needed to deploy and sustain local connectivity, we can bridge the digital divide and create lasting digital inclusion.

Our **2030 Strategy** is focused on moving from an individual network approach to a global, scalable, and sustainable model that can be adopted worldwide.

In 2025, we continued to invest in community-based connectivity solutions while also building the foundation for scale and sustainability. Our approach to scalability rests on several pillars: delivering trainings; creating toolkits and other practical resources; targeted funding and investments; building and supporting technical communities; and policy and regulatory support to ensure that local frameworks enable community-centered connectivity initiatives to thrive.



Photo © Gustavo Streger

Investing in Connectivity Where It's Needed Most



Community-centered connectivity is one of the most effective ways to connect hard-to-reach communities, because solutions are built for, with, and by local communities. In 2025, we supported people in more than **87 countries** to establish or improve connectivity in their own communities.

Internet access used to be very limited in rural Gabagaba, Papua New Guinea. In 2020, the Internet Society advised local regulators on how to establish a community network, based on successes in similar environments.

At first, the Gabaspot Network brought connectivity to the village's 50 households. By 2025, the network's reach had grown to 5,000 people, as residents from surrounding villages began to rely on it. Teachers and students report increased educational opportunities, neighbors can now access state services without having to travel long distances, and farmers are using the connection to strengthen and grow their businesses.

“ Now a lot of the policies are aimed at connecting Papua New Guinea not only via roads, but also via the Internet.”

Ruth Nelson, National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA)



Watch the story of how Gabagaba's villagers are using the community network.

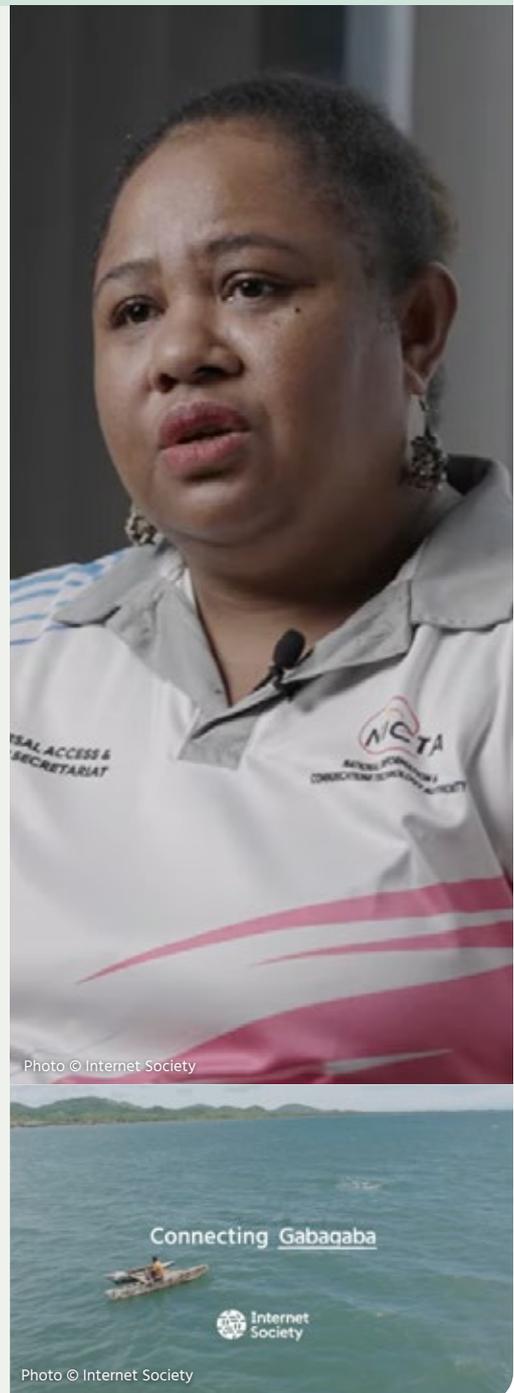


Photo © Internet Society

Photo © Internet Society

Expanding Access Where It's Needed Most



Our grant programs fund chapters, communities, and local organizations worldwide to expand digital access. In 2025, we granted **USD \$7,120,889** to connectivity initiatives.

With a USD \$300,000 grant from the Internet Society Foundation, unconnected.org introduced a connectivity model designed to overcome one of rural Malawi's biggest barriers: cost. In many communities, mobile data cost up to USD \$2.70 per gigabyte for slow speeds—making meaningful Internet access unattainable for most families and schools.

By working with a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) and introducing affordable prepaid vouchers at USD \$0.20 for six hours of high-speed connectivity, the project reduced access costs by more than 90%. As part of the agreement, the ISP is required to provide free Internet connectivity to the local schools. Revenue from these vouchers stays in the community and helps sustain the network—covering operating costs and ensuring long-term sustainability.

As a result, more than 70 schools across 63 rural communities are now connected, reaching over 70,000 people. What began as a grant-funded intervention has evolved into a locally sustained connectivity ecosystem.

“ The students are more engaged. They are eager to learn. The Internet helps me a lot, and then I help my learners.”

Alifane Msowoya, teacher



Read more about how the BOLT Grant Program is helping rural Malawians.



Photo © Gustavo Streger

Building Skills, Knowledge, and Confidence to Support Local Connectivity



Our trainings equip people—from Internet leaders to new users—with the skills to use, advocate for, and expand the Internet.

In 2025, we trained **47,705 people** on how to support community-centered connectivity.

Through our Train-the-Trainer model, **93 technical trainers** and **125 tutors** were also trained, strengthening a global network of educators who now support learners.

In Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in Uganda, home to over 192,000 people, connectivity is spotty and often not affordable. To help bridge that gap, we worked with grantees and an Internet Society alumna to train residents to build their own networks, use the Internet safely, and become trainers themselves. Within months, the community broke ground on its first community network.

“ **This knowledge has given me confidence and a new career path. I want to help my community connect to the world.**”

Lydia Nabintu, one of the first 45 Rhino learners to take a course on how to design and deploy computer networks



Read more about how residents at the Rhino settlement are getting online.



Photo © Samuel Lasu

Addressing Affordability and Accessibility Barriers



Peering is the practice of networks exchanging traffic directly with one another instead of routing it through third-party transit providers—an approach that lowers Internet costs and improves performance. In 2025, we hosted **32 peering events** to promote traffic localization and provided financial support to **20 Internet exchange points (IXPs)**.

Peering events are one way the Internet Society strengthens local technical communities and invests in a healthy peering ecosystem that supports the global Internet. Through these events, local technical leaders learn about emerging best practices, refine their skills, and build the relationships needed to cultivate a vibrant peering environment in their countries.

A 2021 donation of essential equipment and training by the Internet Society helped reinvigorate one of the first IXPs in the Western Hemisphere, InteRed IXP in Panama. Stagnant for many years, the Internet Society's support helped it grow from zero service

provider members in 2021 to 28 in 2025. The investment reduced latency for the providers' users across the country.

“ **Local interconnection costs are 10–15 times lower than international ones. Savings are immediate.**”

Pablo Ruidíaz, Executive Director, InteRed Panamá IXP



[Watch the story of Panama's game changing IXP.](#)



Photo © Avzeastudios

Learn more about our **[Community Network Do-It-Yourself Toolkit](#)**.

Building a Safe and Secure Internet



Newly connected people—especially Indigenous groups, refugees, and women-led social enterprises—face a higher risk of online safety and security threats, such as misinformation, scams, cybersecurity threats, and harassment.

The Internet Society champions the development, deployment, and policy frameworks necessary to build a more secure and resilient Internet. In our [2030 Strategy](#), this work continues as we add a clear focus on people's online safety.

Our chapters offer a unique window into how these global challenges translate into local needs. In 2025, we committed to working with our global community to identify the knowledge and resources that will enable people and communities to navigate safely online.

Our approach to Internet safety and infrastructure security is centered around several key pillars: strong advocacy to defend the Internet against decisions that weaken online security; funding the foundations of infrastructure security; strengthening the capacity of end users and civil society to protect themselves and the Internet; support for top-tier research on systems security; and equipping our global community with practical tools, trainings, and resources.

In 2025, we prioritized targeted grants, training, and advocacy to amplify the knowledge and resources our global community was already building and deploying to help bring people online safely. These efforts support our second 2030 strategic goal: that people everywhere have an Internet experience that is safe, secure, and protects them online.



Photo © Tomás Ramírez Labrousse

Co-Creating a Safer Internet with Communities Worldwide



Online threats are increasing in scale and sophistication. As more people rely on digital services, the need for trusted, practical safety support has never been greater. In 2025, our community responded to this need, with **81 Internet Society chapters** participating in activities to support a safer Internet.

One of our most significant achievements this year was leading a global, community-driven co-creation process to design the future Online Trust and Safety Hub, set to launch in 2026. Chapters and special interest groups (SIGs) were placed at the center of the design process, ensuring the Hub reflects community needs and local realities.

35 participants from 20 countries, representing 15 chapters and two SIGs, collaborated to define what a trusted, practical, and locally adaptable safety resource should look like. Together, they mapped user challenges, identified content priorities, shaped the information architecture, and defined principles to ensure the Hub can be localized across diverse cultural and linguistic contexts.

In parallel, chapters led hands-on safety initiatives to benefit their communities.

Across regions, they led safety trainings tailored to their communities' needs. For example, the Internet Society Mexico Chapter delivered customized short courses to older adults—a group often targeted by online scams. Participants learned how fraud schemes operate, how to recognize warning

signs, and how to protect their accounts and personal information.

Participants reported greater awareness of identity theft tactics and stronger confidence in navigating online services safely.

“What is most relevant to me are the preventative measures that must be taken.”

Yolanda Alcántara Hernández, course participant

“The impact of these scams extends beyond financial loss. It leaves older adults feeling marginalized from a society that increasingly relies on online services.”

Jeffry Fernandez, President, Internet Society Mexico Chapter



[Read about how our Mexico Chapter is helping older adults understand and identify scams.](#)

Building Safety and Confidence Among Newly Connected Communities



Internet Society Foundation grantee partners developed new, localized programs and training resources to meet the unique needs of their communities. In 2025, we distributed **USD \$7,280,068** across **179 grants**.

In Colombia's Cauca region, Fundación PLAN, supported by the Foundation, worked with women entrepreneurs—many experiencing their first meaningful interaction with the digital world.

Through a comprehensive training program, they gained the digital skills to promote and sell their products online. They also learned essential digital security practices, enabling them to grow their businesses without compromising their personal safety or the safety of their livelihoods.

“ My life has changed tremendously... this helps us, as women who care for a household, to work from home and increase our earnings, while staying safe.”

Edilma, program beneficiary



Read more about how women entrepreneurs in Colombia are using the Internet.

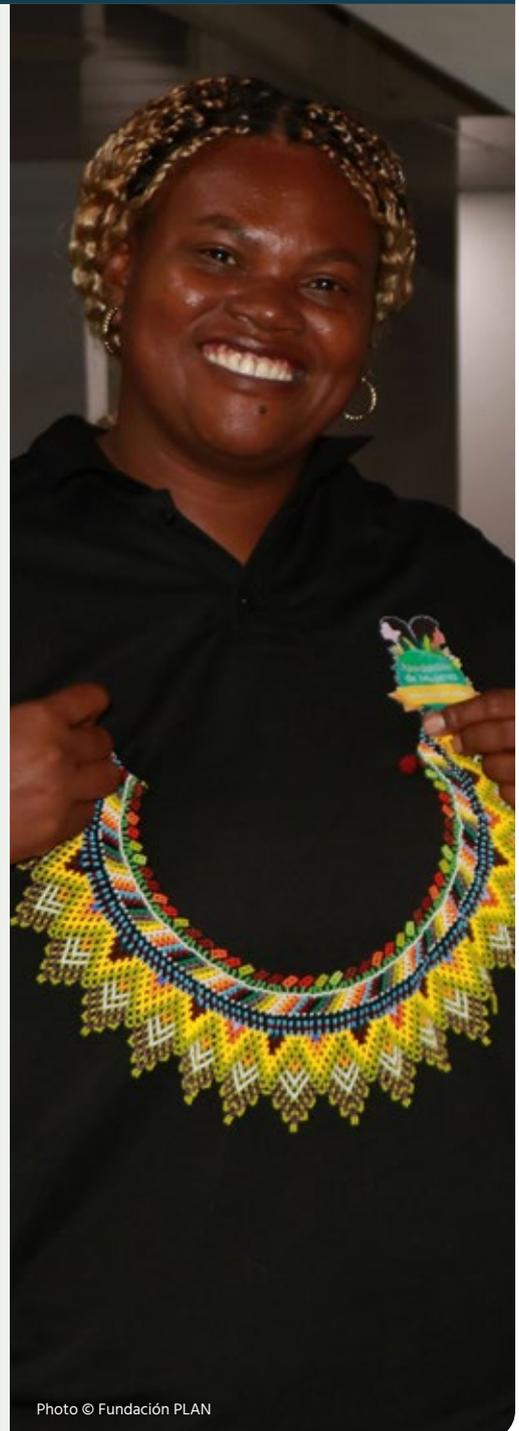


Photo © Fundación PLAN

Growing Public Momentum to Protect Encryption



Encryption safeguards some of the most fundamental things people rely on every day—security, privacy, and trust—making it a vital tool for protecting ourselves in a digital society. In the global movement to defend strong encryption, our collective voice matters. In 2025, **14,479 people** participated in Global Encryption Day events led by the **Global Encryption Coalition (GEC)**, demonstrating broad public support for strong encryption.

As a founding member of the GEC, we defend encryption year-round through sustained advocacy and coalition building.

For example, in France, proposed amendments to the “Narco Trafficking Bill” would have forced companies to provide access to decrypted messages. A broad coalition mobilized. The Internet Society France Chapter hosted a workshop for policymakers, and we joined the Coalition’s steering committee in sending a formal letter to lawmakers. In April, the French Parliament removed the anti-encryption provision—a clear example of how coordinated advocacy can safeguard encryption and strengthen online safety.

“Encryption keeps adversaries out of that conversation... but it is under threat.”

Olga Cronin, Irish Council for Civil Liberties

“We work with journalists... it’s about protection of personal safety and avoiding censorship.”

Adriana Dergam, Prague Centre for Media Skills



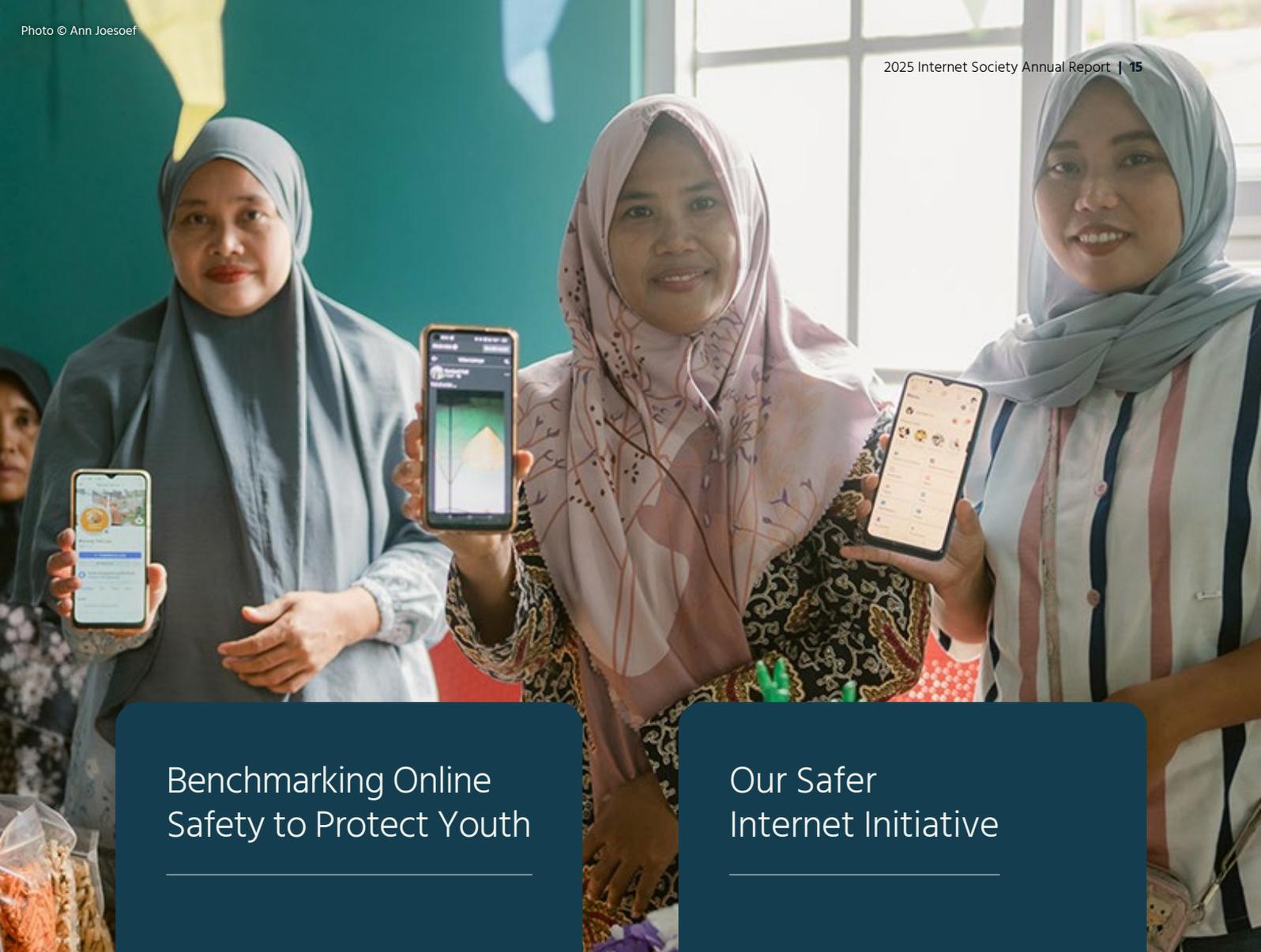
Watch highlights from the 2025 Global Encryption Day.



Read more about how our voices are making a difference in the fight for strong encryption.



Photo © Internet Society



Benchmarking Online Safety to Protect Youth

In 2025, the Internet Society Online Safety Special Interest Group published the **Global Online Safety Benchmark**, a high-level assessment of how effectively major digital platforms and selected national frameworks protect children and adolescents online. The report evaluates platform safety measures alongside legislative and support systems in five countries, identifying persistent gaps in enforcement, transparency, and accountability. By providing comparative data and practical insights, the benchmark informs policymakers, strengthens advocacy efforts, and encourages more effective platform governance—contributing to safer online environments for young people.

Our Safer Internet Initiative

We launched a global, multi-year project that leverages what we know works: targeted funding, targeted trainings, and targeted advocacy.

This multi-pronged approach is designed to strengthen and scale the long-term sustainability of online trust and safety work across the globe.

Under this initiative, we launched the **Common Good Cyber Fund** in 2025, a global initiative to strengthen cybersecurity for the public good.



[Learn more about our initiative.](#)

Putting People at the Heart of Internet Policy and Regulations



Whether by design or by accident, Internet policies can make it harder for people to connect or have a safe online experience. These policies put the Internet's core principles—openness, decentralization, and interoperability—at risk.

Powerful advocacy ensures that the Internet remains open and interoperable, while also protecting people's safety and security—directly advancing our **2030 goals**. Our community is helping combat these threats by advocating for favorable Internet policies at local, regional, and international levels.



Protecting the Multistakeholder Model of Internet Governance

In 2025, our community played a significant role in securing reaffirmation of the **multistakeholder model** of Internet governance.

After years of advocacy by the global Internet community, including Internet Society chapters, organization members, and staff, United Nations (UN) Member States reaffirmed the importance of the multistakeholder model of Internet governance, a model that allows for the inclusion of diverse expertise, paired with a permanent mandate for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

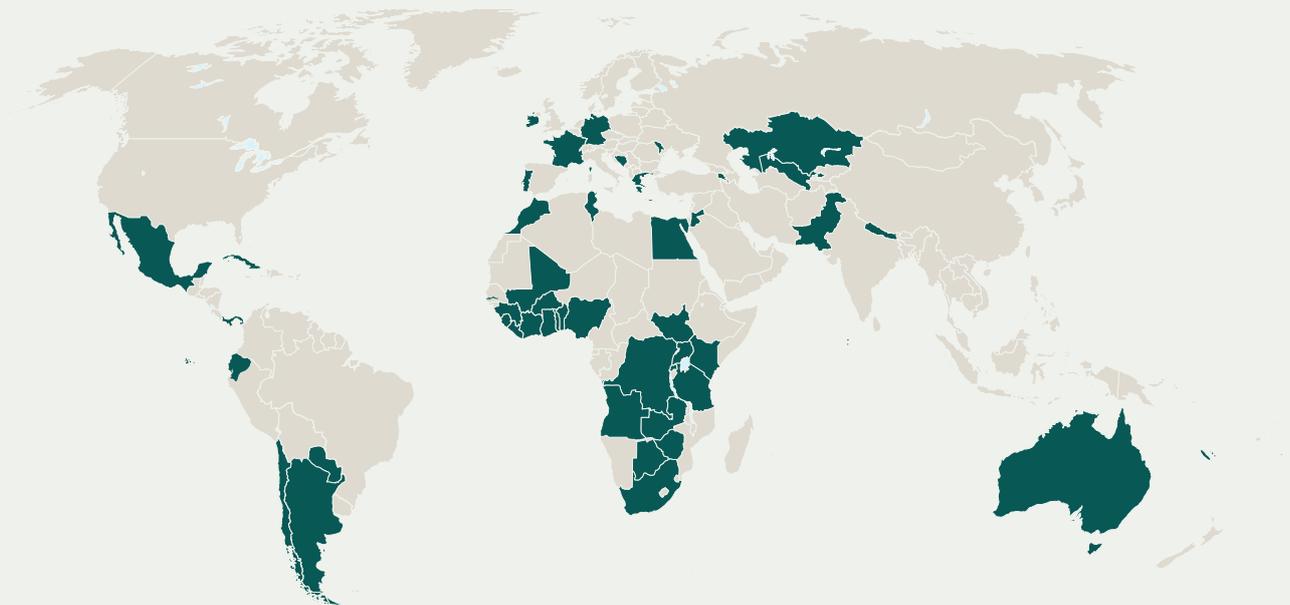
“ We commend this assembly for recognizing the borderless and collaborative nature of the Internet. It is an acknowledgement of the physical reality that networks must interoperate in order to function. And it is an affirmation of the multistakeholder model of Internet governance that has so effectively served our collective goals throughout the decades.”

Olaf Kolkman, Principal - Internet Technology, Policy, and Advocacy, Internet Society, speaking at the United Nations General Assembly



Read more about how governments reaffirmed multistakeholder governance.

Countries where we funded Internet Governance Forums and Schools of Internet Governance



Making Internet Governance More Inclusive and Responsive to Community Needs



Since 2020, the Internet Society Foundation has invested more than **USD \$2 million** in national and regional Internet Governance Forums (IGF), the Global IGF, and Schools of Internet Governance (SIGs). In 2025, we provided **USD \$517,880** to support global, regional, and national IGFs and SIGs.

Our IGF funding program fosters open and inclusive multistakeholder dialogue while equipping diverse actors with the skills to participate in Internet governance and help shape the future of the Internet.

When our Internet Society Haiti Chapter set out to expand connectivity, they turned to their local IGF. There, they discovered examples of how other similar communities were able to expand connectivity. By 2025, with support from a grant from the Internet Society Foundation, the chapter was recognized globally at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) Forum in Geneva for its exceptional contribution to expanding Internet access in some of Haiti's most underserved regions through community-led infrastructure.

“Sessions equip government representatives with new knowledge and perspectives that influence digital policy work back in their countries.”

→ [From Shaping the Future of the Internet: Six Lessons from Internet Governance Forums](#)



[Read about our Haiti Chapter's award-winning connectivity work.](#)



Photo © Internet Society Haiti Chapter



Advocating Side by Side with Our Community

In 2025, 96 chapters and 34 organization members took part in more than 55 advocacy campaigns worldwide. An advocacy campaign is a coordinated, strategic effort to engage decision-makers—whether individuals, institutions, organizations, or governments—to influence policies and practices that protect an open, globally connected, secure, and trustworthy Internet.

Advocacy in Action: Strengthening Privacy Protections in Canada

The Internet Society advocated against Canada's proposed Bill C-2, which included provisions that threatened digital privacy and enabled warrantless access to personal data. We co-authored and mobilized support for an open letter calling for the withdrawal of the bill in its original form and engaged directly with lawmakers to raise concerns grounded in technical expertise and due process principles.

Our letter was cited during parliamentary debate, amplifying these concerns within the legislative process. The Canadian government subsequently announced it would withdraw the bill and introduce a revised version removing the controversial clauses. This outcome helped protect digital privacy and due process in a G7 country and reinforced the principle that efforts to strengthen online safety must not come at the expense of fundamental legal protections.



Read more about how our voices are making a difference in the fight for strong encryption.

Using Data to Strengthen Internet Resilience, Policy, and Public Awareness



In 2025, the **Internet Society Pulse platform** helped drive policy action, infrastructure development, and stronger safeguards for a more resilient Internet.

The Internet Society Pulse platform curates trusted data on the availability, evolution, and resilience of the Internet, equipping policymakers, journalists, researchers, and advocates with evidence to inform decisions and drive accountability. In 2025, Internet Society Pulse data was cited 188 times in media, advocacy, and research, a more than 40% increase from 2024, demonstrating its growing influence in public debate. Chapters in Gabon, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, South Sudan, Togo, and Burundi used this data to quantify economic harm and advocate for full restoration of connectivity, strengthening evidence-based advocacy in their countries.

Since February 2025, Internet Society Pulse has tracked 16,783 hours of Internet access lost globally due to intentional shutdowns, with an estimated USD \$134 million in combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) impact.

Internet Society Pulse also translated data into structural change. After reviewing the **IXP Tracker**, the South Sudan Chapter identified that the country had no active IXP and successfully advocated for the government to transfer leadership of the national IXP project to the chapter.

Through the Internet Society Pulse Internet Measurement Forum series, data-driven dialogue led to measurable improvements: following a

convening in Thailand, the Thai National Cyber Security Agency gathered local operators to activate Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) validation, resulting in an immediate five-percentage-point increase. By exposing systemic risks, including the concentration of cloud infrastructure highlighted in the November 2025 blog on Internet resilience, Internet Society Pulse not only informs conversation but drives policy action, infrastructure development, and stronger safeguards for a more resilient Internet.

“ To build a more resilient, secure, and equitable Internet, we must diversify infrastructure, strengthen the separation of concerns, and invest in localized alternatives. A balanced Internet—where no single company can bring the world to a halt—is essential not only for uptime, but for privacy, competition, and national security.”

Amreesh Phokeer, Internet Resilience Insights, Internet Society



[Read the full blog post.](#)

Building Advocacy Skills Through the Community Fellowship

In 2025, we launched the **Internet Society Community Fellowship** to meet the growing need for a global network of trained advocates who understand key Internet issues and can promote an open, secure, and trustworthy Internet within their own countries and regions.

The six-month learning program combines virtual and in-person workshop that equip fellows with the skills needed to influence policy, shape public conversations, and lead community based advocacy efforts.

“ I applied for the fellowship to actually widen my horizon on policy advocacy and to provide concrete actions for the various policy advocacy efforts we are doing in the country.”

Benjz Sevilla, Country Manager, unconnected.org, Internet Society Philippines Chapter

“ We’re all part of a global community. And understanding what’s happening in the other countries just helps me to know where my country is.”

Kaime Kipi, Senior Business Manager, PNG DataCo, Internet Society Papua New Guinea Chapter

Equipping Policymakers with Technical Insight

Since 1992, we have served as the corporate home of the Internet Engineering Taskforce (IETF). Together, we advocate for the multistakeholder model and open standards, and we co-host the **IETF Policymaker Program**.

When policymakers understand how the Internet works, how it has evolved, and the technical standards that enable it, they are better equipped to develop policies that support the Internet as a resource that enriches people’s lives.

In 2025, 44 participants from 28 countries joined the IETF Policymaker Program, and 30 Australian government policymakers took part in our pilot in-country program. Over four days of in person learning, participants explored how the Internet and its underlying technologies operate and gained insight into how Internet technical standards are developed. They also examined how these standards help address today’s Internet challenges and discussed how expertise from the technical community can support them in tackling the digital policy issues facing their countries.

Powering Our Mission Through Our Community



Photo © Tomás Ramírez Labrousse

156,880

individual
members

124

chapters

491

alumni

8

special interest
groups and
standing groups

79

organization
members

Our strength lies in our vast, **global community**. Internet Society members, chapters, special interest groups (SIGs), standing groups (SGs), organization members, alumni, and fellows are the engine of our **2030 Strategy** and work locally, regionally, and globally to ensure the Internet remains a force for good. They build community-driven solutions and fight for policies that help close the digital divide and ensure secure, resilient, reliable, and affordable access.

Think Global, Act Local: 124 Internet Society Chapters

Countries with Internet Society Chapters



Across six continents, Internet Society chapters educate, advocate, and drive technology and policy solutions in their local communities.

In 2025, chapters built community networks to bring underserved communities online. They operated IXPs to help increase Internet resilience. They fought against government-mandated Internet shutdowns and trained at-risk communities to protect themselves online. And they contributed to policy development, advocating for a trustworthy Internet for all.

The Internet Society Foundation awarded a total of USD \$2,004,881 to chapters in 2025 through various grant programs.

“ We are implementing many projects to connect the unconnected in Zimbabwe, but we don’t operate in a vacuum; we are part of the Internet Society global chapter community.”

Taurai Nyarufuka, President, Internet Society Zimbabwe Chapter

“ The South Sudan Chapter supported the case for establishing the country’s first ever IXP by using concrete data from Internet Society Pulse, and sharing best practices learned during a Peering Roadshow, which we co-hosted. IXPs create shorter routes for Internet traffic, offering a more reliable and affordable alternative to sending local Internet traffic abroad.”

Joseph Abuni Gama, President, Internet Society South Sudan Chapter

“ Empowering the local community to build and maintain a community network on their own terms is key to its success. In addition to free community digital literacy training, we also work with the local high school to train the next generation in basic computer hardware and networking fundamentals, ensuring that they can support the operation of the network in the future.”

Joel Templeman, Executive Director, Internet Society Canada Manitoba Chapter

Growing the Next Generation of Internet Leaders



In 2025, our alumni network expanded by **36%**, reaching nearly **500 driven individuals** whose commitment and collaboration are powering a vibrant, growing global community of Internet advocates.

The Internet Society’s growing alumni network is a dynamic, worldwide community of Internet advocates. As graduates of our leadership, policy, technical, and learning programs, alumni remain actively engaged well beyond their initial cohort, continuing to learn, collaborate, and create new pathways to advance our mission.

For example, last year, alumni launched their very own **podcast, Internet Changemakers**, to create a space for deeper conversations about the future of the Internet and the role of community in shaping it. The podcast responds to a growing need for accessible, human-centered dialogue on issues such as online trust and safety, privacy, affordable access, and infrastructure resilience. Episodes have explored topics including the digital trust ecosystem, the cost of connectivity, pioneering digital trust initiatives, and what’s next for the Internet.

“**Through the alumni network I’ve built lasting collaborations across continents, whether in formal IGF sessions, speaking and peer collaborations, or informal hallway conversations. It’s a space where ideas truly turn into action.**”

Nicolas Fiumarelli, alumni of the Youth Ambassador Program (2019) and the Community Fellowship (2025)

“**What began as a small cybercafé has grown into a model for community-led connectivity. Through the Fellowship and the alumni network, I strengthened the partnerships and policy engagement needed to scale that vision—proving that rural communities can build and sustain their own digital future.**”

Joseph Bishi, alumni of Mid Career Fellowship (2023)





79 Organization Members: Amplifying Advocacy and Expertise

Internet Society organization members share our mission and work with us to advance it.

In 2025, our organization members supported advocacy efforts by providing valuable feedback on our **policy briefs**, adding their signatures to open letters, and actively participating in the **WSIS+20** planning sessions. Organization members also played a leading role in the **Global Encryption Coalition** Steering Committee, and on Global Encryption Day, spreading the message: don't break encryption.

8 Special Interest and Standing Groups: Working on Global Internet Issues

Special interest groups (SIGs) and standing groups (SGs) bring together members to focus on specific Internet challenges.

In 2025, the Internet Society Youth Standing Group played a central role in planning and delivering the Latin America and Caribbean Youth IGF at the National University of Córdoba, Argentina, convening over 100 young people in person and 200 online to engage on issues ranging from AI and cybersecurity to digital rights, inclusion, and resilience. Through this experience, participants built the skills, networks, and confidence needed to engage in multistakeholder policy spaces.

Supporting the Open Standards Community That Shapes the Internet's Future



The **Internet Engineering Task Force** (IETF) is the premier standards development organization for the Internet. It develops voluntary technical standards that are widely adopted by Internet users, network operators, and equipment vendors, helping shape the evolution of the Internet over time. The IETF does not control or regulate the Internet; rather, it provides a forum where technical experts collaborate to develop standards through open participation and consensus.

Since 1992, the Internet Society has provided the organizational home for the IETF, supporting the IETF LLC and contributing to the stability of its operations.

In 2025, we continued this long-standing support through a USD \$7.3 million commitment to sustain the IETF's core activities. Through ongoing financial and organizational support, the Internet Society helps maintain the open standards process that enables the Internet to remain interoperable, resilient, and able to evolve over time.

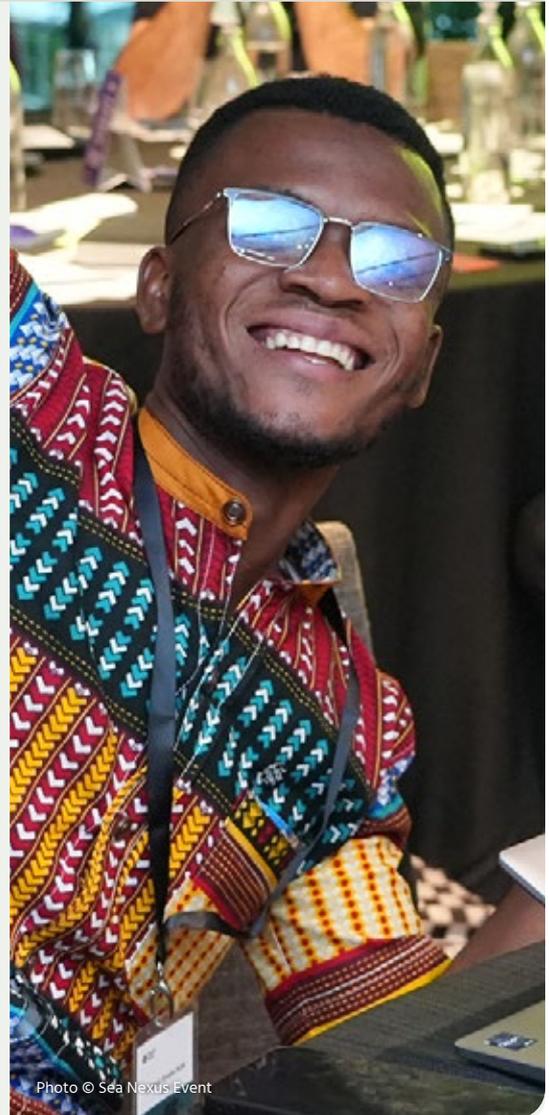


Photo © Sea Nexus Event

Our community completed almost 900 activities and initiatives to defend and promote the Internet in 2025. [Learn more about our community impact.](#)

Powering Impact Through Funding Partnerships



Behind the progress over the last year is a broad and committed group of global supporters. The Internet Society and Foundation are deeply grateful for the individuals, organizational members, corporations, foundations, governments, and partners whose funding supports our overall impact and advances our mission.

Within this broader group, some funding partners chose in 2025 to work together in new ways—combining resources, trust, and long-term vision to strengthen the Internet for people and communities worldwide through the Connectivity and Safer Internet Co-Funding Initiatives and the Common Good Cyber Fund.

What distinguished 2025 was not only the level of investment but also how our partners chose to engage. We aligned around shared strategies designed to deliver impact at scale, supported by clear frameworks for collaboration grounded in transparent governance, defined priorities, and sustainable outcomes.

Funding partners include governments, philanthropy, and industry from across the globe. Together, we are advancing community-led connectivity; investing in infrastructure to reduce costs and improve resilience; strengthening local and global capacity to address online risks; advocating for supporting policies and regulations; and supporting nonprofits that operate on the frontlines of cybersecurity and civil society protection. Through this coordinated effort, the Internet Society, along with our co-funding partners—including Craig Newmark Philanthropies, the governments of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, and others—intends to direct more than USD \$80 million by the end of 2029.

This is what partnership looks like at its best: a clear commitment to coordination, accountability, and long-term impact—ensuring the Internet remains a resource that supports opportunity, participation, and trust for people everywhere.

**Community-Centered
Connectivity Initiative**

**Safer Internet
Initiative**

**Common
Good Cyber Fund**



Internet Society and Internet Society Foundation Board of Trustees



Photo © Irene van Kessel

Olufunke Baruwa
(Nigeria)

Ramanou Biaou
(Benin)

Brian Haberman
(United States)

Ted Hardie
(Portugal)

Maureen Hilyard
(Cook Islands)

Russ Housley
(United States)

Victor Kuarsingh
(United States)

Barry Leiba
(United States)

Charles Mok
(Hong Kong)

Kathleen Moriarty
(United States)

Caleb Ogundele
(Nigeria)

Laura Thomson
(United States)

Sally Wentworth
(United States) –
President and
CEO (ex officio)

**Sagarika
Wickramasekera**
(Sri Lanka)

2025 Financials



Internet Society and Internet Society Foundation Statement of Activities Summary (000's) – Unrestricted

For the year ended 31 December 2025, in USD

	Actual	Budget
Revenues		
ISOC generated	\$ 8,205	\$ 8,181
PIR contribution to ISOC	58,000	58,000
Total revenues	66,205	66,181
Expenses		
Program and departmental	\$ 52,727	\$ 55,366
Board governance	373	350
Total expenses	53,100	55,717
Other: investments and other activities, net	\$ 16,517	\$ -
Change in net assets	\$ 29,622	\$ 10,464



Internet Society Generated Revenue (Unrestricted)



Consolidated Total Expenses (Including Board-Designated)

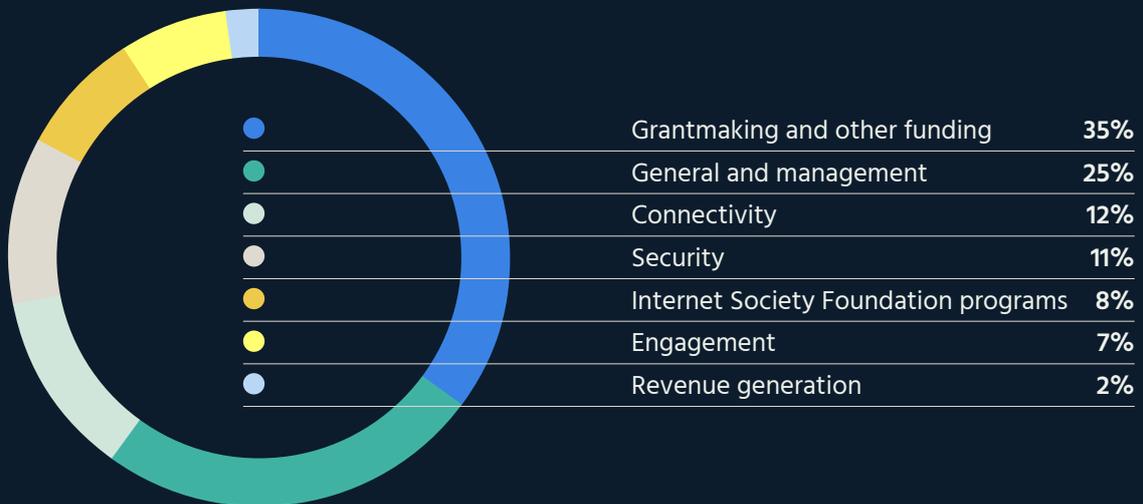


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The Road to 2030

2025 marked the first year of implementing our **2030 Strategy**, with measurable progress toward expanding affordable, reliable access and strengthening online safety and security.

In 2026, we will accelerate this momentum by scaling community-centered connectivity, strengthening local Internet infrastructure, and increasing training to build local technical capacity in underserved regions.

We will also deepen our work to build trust online by cultivating a strong pipeline for the **Safer Internet Initiative**, expanding practical safety trainings, launching the Online Trust and Safety Hub to connect communities with vetted resources, and reinforcing global advocacy to defend encryption, intermediary protections, and open standards.

At the same time, we will sharpen policy leadership and scale our impactful giving through our co-funding model.

Across all of this, our global community remains the driving force—mobilizing locally, advocating globally, and translating strategy into real-world impact. The road to 2030 demands urgency and scale—and in 2026, we will deliver on both.

Learn about our 2030 Strategy, **[Internet Society 2026 Action Plan](#)** and **[Internet Society Foundation 2026 Action Plan](#)**.



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Be a part of our impact for 2026!
Get involved



2025

Internet Society Annual Report