



Internet Society: Q1 2026 Review

Board of Trustees Meeting
Yogesh Khanna, Executive Vice President and Managing Director

April 2026



Agenda

- Quarter in Review
- Advancing Affordable, Reliable, and Resilient Internet
- Advancing a Safe and Secure Internet
- Shaping Favorable Internet Policy and Regulatory Environments
- Powering Our Mission Through Our Community
- Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead



Quarter in Review

→ **Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): Action Plan delivery is on track**

What We're Seeing and Adapting To:

Geopolitics & Travel
Disruptions

Partner Capacity Constraints
(OFDS)

NDSS Financial Model
Pressure

Outpacing Success Metrics

Evolving Corporate &
Organization Member Strategy





Advancing Affordable, Reliable, and Resilient Internet

In Q1, we advanced our efforts to expand affordable, reliable, and resilient Internet access.



What we did:

- Paired connectivity with local capacity
- Focused on real-world use cases
- Created ecosystem-level change

What we saw:

Meaningful and lasting impact depends not only on deploying infrastructure, but on **enabling the people, systems, and partnerships that sustain it.**

Connecting Remote Glaciers to Protect Communities in Kyrgyzstan

What we did (led by the Internet Society Kyrgyzstan Chapter)

- Supported the deployment of low-cost sensors and connectivity solutions (including LoRaWAN) across five glacier sites
- Enabled real-time climate monitoring in remote mountainous regions of Kyrgyzstan

Why it matters

- Before: Slow, manual data collection limits the ability to respond to emerging risks
- Now: Real-time data allows monitoring changing conditions and threats like glacial lake outburst floods, landslides, and mudflows



Watch the impact story



Community-Centered Connectivity Pilot for Refugees in Uganda

What we did

- Paired Internet Society DDCN training with local capacity building
- Deployed two community-owned digital hubs
- Equipped 135 refugees and host-community members to build, manage, and sustain their own networks

Why it matters

- Promotes local ownership by building skills, governance, and systems for long-term sustainable access
- Proven, scalable, and replicable model for community-led connectivity



Implementation Partner Framework

What we did

- Developed the framework to shift the Internet Society's role from primary implementer to a structured ecosystem enabler
- Designed for use across the Society to be piloted with select partners throughout the year

Why it matters

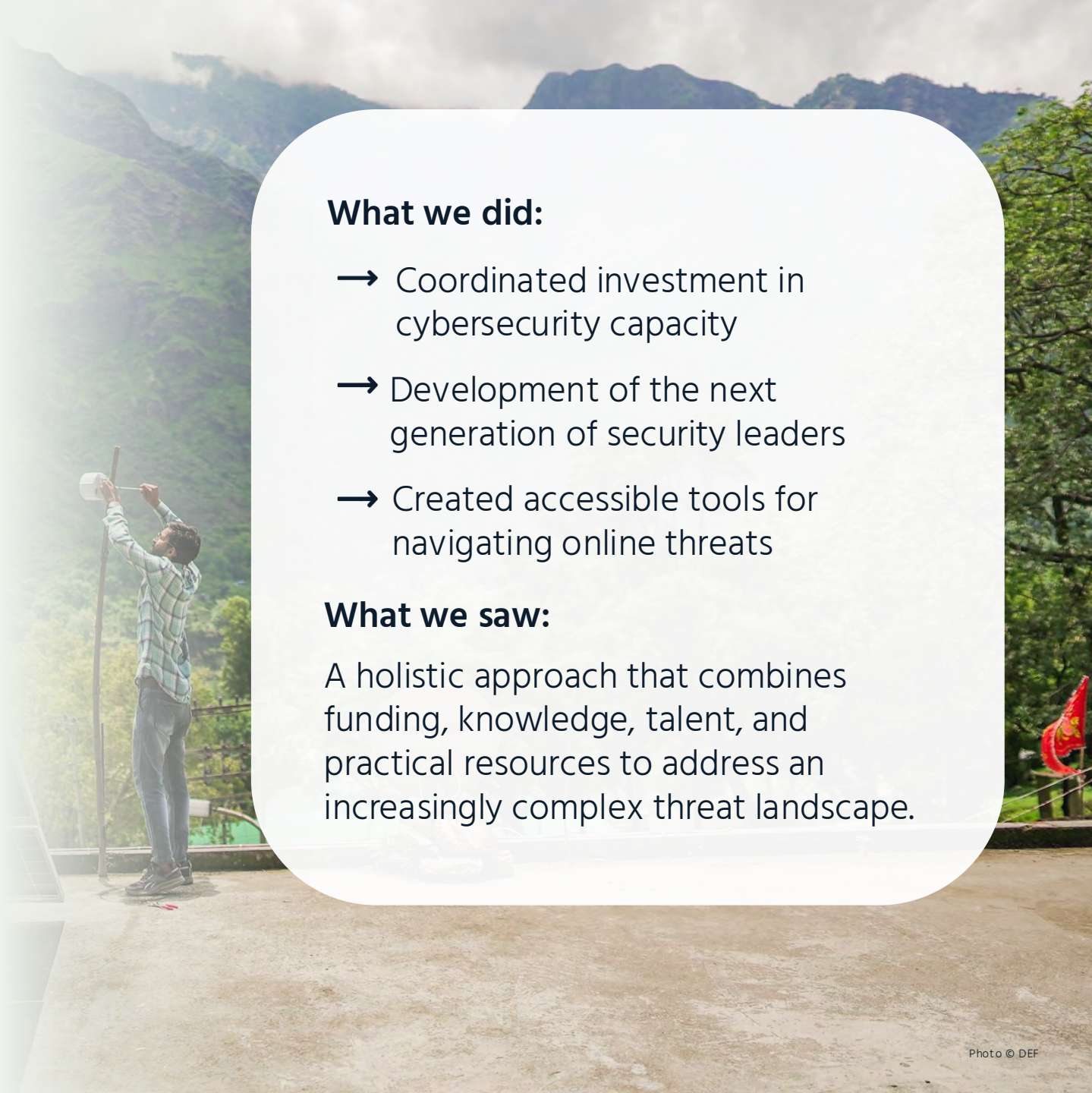
- Previous approach limited scale and did not fully strengthen capacity or sustainability of regional/national ecosystem organizations
- New framework creates a consistent model to empower partners while maintaining quality, accountability, and risk management
- We can now extend our reach and impact more effectively





Advancing a Safe and Secure Internet

In Q1, we advanced our efforts to foster a safer and more secure Internet.



What we did:

- Coordinated investment in cybersecurity capacity
- Development of the next generation of security leaders
- Created accessible tools for navigating online threats

What we saw:

A holistic approach that combines funding, knowledge, talent, and practical resources to address an increasingly complex threat landscape.

Advancing our Safer Internet Initiative

What we did

- In partnership with ISOC Foundation, launched the Common Good Cyber Fund, committing \$3.5M in 2026 funding
- Selected initial grantees
- Advanced \$3.35M global anti-scam initiative
- Developed threat landscape analysis and participated in global forums (e.g., UN Global Fraud Summit)

Why it matters

- Cyber threats and online fraud are increasingly complex, global, and fast-evolving, requiring coordinated investment, shared intelligence, and multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Targeted funding mechanisms combined with data-driven programming and global engagement better positions us to support the broader cybersecurity ecosystem, addressing emerging risks at scale



Combatting Emerging Threats with a Community-driven Online Trust and Safety Hub

What we did

- Platform selected and development started, prioritizing low-bandwidth environments, multilingual access, and inclusive UI/UX
- Product Owner with deep accessibility design expertise and are leveraging our in-house UX/UI expert to strategically guide external development
- Initiated partnerships (e.g., NetBeacon Institute) and engaged academic and industry stakeholders

Why it matters

- Communities—especially those most at risk—often lack accessible, localized, and trusted resources to defend against scams, fraud, and misinformation
- Embedding accessibility and UX into the foundation ensures trust and safety knowledge is available for the most vulnerable users



The NDSS Symposium is Strong Today—Pivoting to a Sustainable 2030 Model

What we did

- Delivered a record-breaking NDSS Symposium 2026
- Developed multi-year strategy to transform NDSS into a year-round innovation platform focused on policy translation, strategic industry partnerships, and aligning talent pipeline with the global majority

Why it matters

- Advancing Internet security relies on research and talent to address emerging threats and complex system challenges
- NDSS helps shape the future of Internet security by convening leading research and empowering the next generation of experts
- Expanding beyond the conference creates a direct translation layer for policymakers and a partnership-driven engine for industry, while fiercely protecting the underlying scientific integrity





Shaping Favorable Internet Policy and Regulatory Spaces

In Q1, we advanced our efforts to shape favorable Internet policy and regulatory environments



What we did:

- Strengthened policymaker capacity
- Empowered civil society advocacy
- Promoted open data standards
- Supported emerging Internet measurement experts

What we saw:

The Internet Society positioned as a trusted convener and resource for stakeholders working towards informed, inclusive Internet governance and regulation.

Training Policymakers on Shaping Stronger Internet Policy

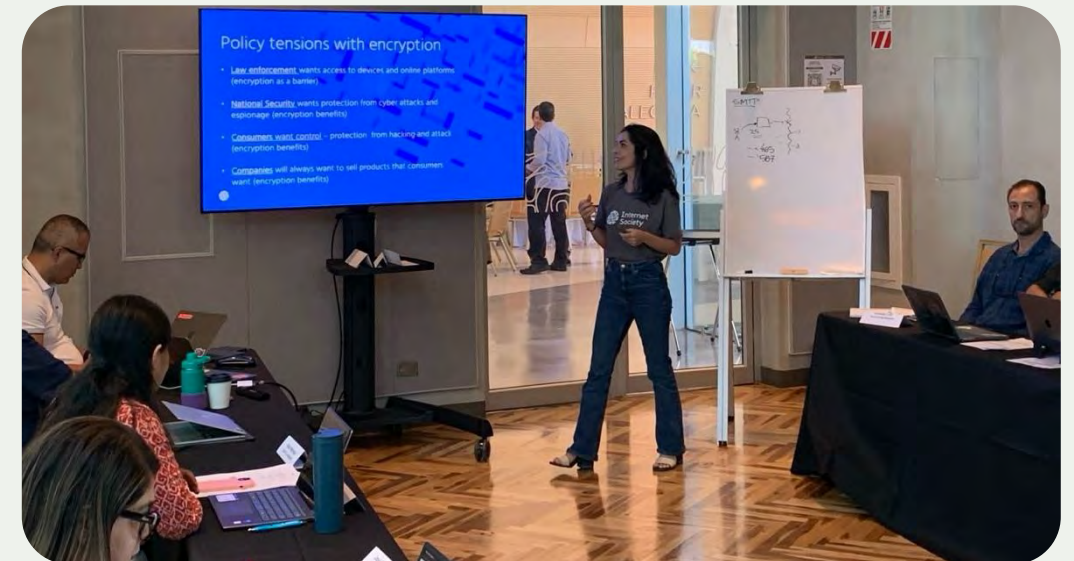
What we did:

- Attended the IX CITELE Assembly in Costa Rica, where we trained policymakers, delivered a keynote on the multistakeholder model, and signed a telemedicine connectivity partnership for Amazonas.
- Secured an upcoming training session in London with the DSIT, Ofcom, and other stakeholders.



Why it matters:

- Policymakers play a critical role in shaping Internet-related regulations.
- Equipping them with foundational technical knowledge and cementing partnerships drives informed, effective, and Internet-aligned regulatory outcomes.



Supporting Informed Advocacy and Decision Making

What we did:

- Onboarded 10 Pulse fellows with Internet measurement and policy-relevant projects.
- Hosted an Encryption Advocacy Workshop, enabling civil society organizations to directly engage with industry leaders and policymakers.

Why it matters:

- Effective Internet policy relies on credible data, research, and expertise, which our pipeline of experts can generate.
- Equipping civil society groups with knowledge, networks, and tools enables them to influence policy and defend Internet security principles.



Watch the
video from
a previous
workshop



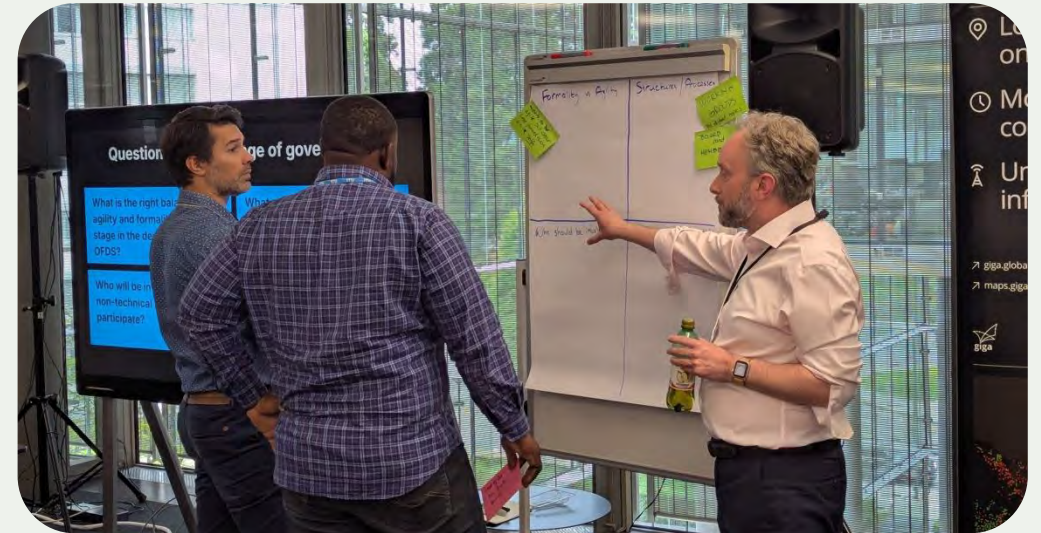
Open Fibre Data Standard (OFDS)

What we did:

- Engaged with regulators and multilateral organizations to advance adoption of OFDS
- Efforts included workshops with ICASA in South Africa, regional engagement via WATRA in Ghana, a joint publication with the ITU, and continued World Bank-supported adoption efforts in Kenya and Ethiopia

Why it matters:

- OFDS would enable more transparent, data-driven telecommunications policy and investment.
- This would improve regulatory effectiveness and support more efficient Internet infrastructure development.





Powering Our Mission Through our Community

In Q1, we demonstrated that our community is not just a **part** of how we deliver impact—it is how we deliver impact.



We focused our work on:

- Global engagement
- In-person convening
- Locally led action

What we saw:

We are operating as a **coordinated, ecosystem-driven** organization.

Executive Engagements in APAC and LAC

What we did

- Supported executive engagement at three key global events
- Coordinated meetings with governments, partners, and the Internet society community
- We delivered a unified presence, strengthened relationships, aligned with stakeholders, and increased the effectiveness of our voice in global discussions
- Hosted two ISOC@ community events

Why it matters

- These convenings are critical moments where Internet policy and partnerships are shaped
- We enhanced the Internet Society's credibility and influence by ensuring leadership was present, prepared, and aligned
- With stronger partnerships and deeper trust across our community, we have a greater ability to advance our mission at a global level



Chris at MoU signing at CITEC (Costa Rica)



Sally, Chris, and Onno Purbo at APRICOT (Indonesia)



ISOC@ APRICOT



Sally speaking at ICANN 85 (India)

Our Community in Action

What we did

- Mobilized chapters globally to deliver locally led initiatives across key priority areas
- Continued strengthening of chapter leadership and governance

Why it matters

- A globally distributed, empowered community enables the Internet Society to operate at scale:
 - Respond to local needs
 - Influence national conversations
 - Advance strategic priorities in real time
- Our community amplifies our work by:
 - Significantly expanding our reach
 - Deepening our impact
 - Strengthening our credibility through locally relevant work



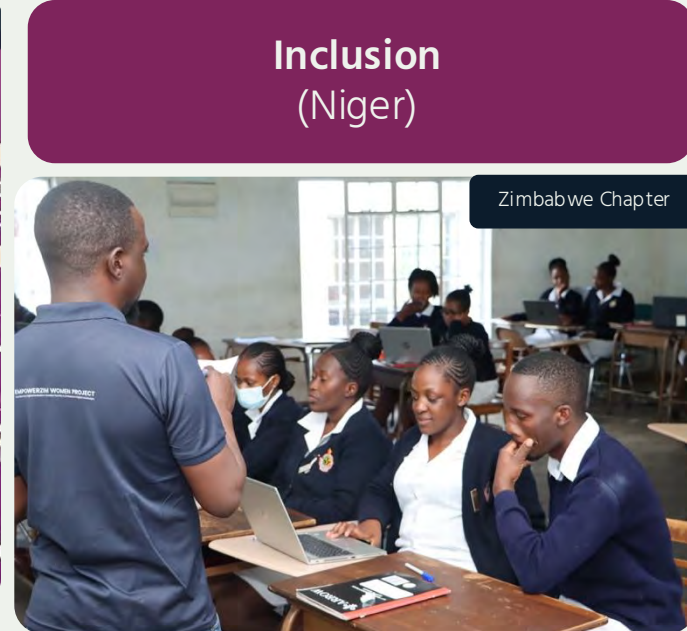
Lebanon Chapter



Lebanon's First Internet Exchange

Internet Society
LEB-IX
Lebanon Internet Exchange
Lebanon's First Internet Exchange
CENTRAL
ON PRO
UNITY B

Awareness on emerging risks (e.g., misinformation and AI)
(Puerto Rico)



Zimbabwe Chapter

Infrastructure and resilience
(Lebanon, Zimbabwe)

Public advocacy on Internet shutdowns
(Uganda, Chad, Gabon)



Mexico Chapter

Digital safety and skills
(Mexico, Mali)



Chad Chapter

IBRAHM MOUSSA
ENSEIGNANT A L'ENASTIC/PRESIDENT DE INTERNET SOCIETY TCHAD



Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead



Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead



Continuous contingency planning is a required operational muscle



Complex, high-impact engagements require a "One Society" approach



Early momentum requires agile metric calibration



Partner framework will help scale impact



Process simplification is critical to achieve operational efficiency





Thank you.

