

Digital Divide and Digital Transformation: Meeting the Pacific aspirations

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ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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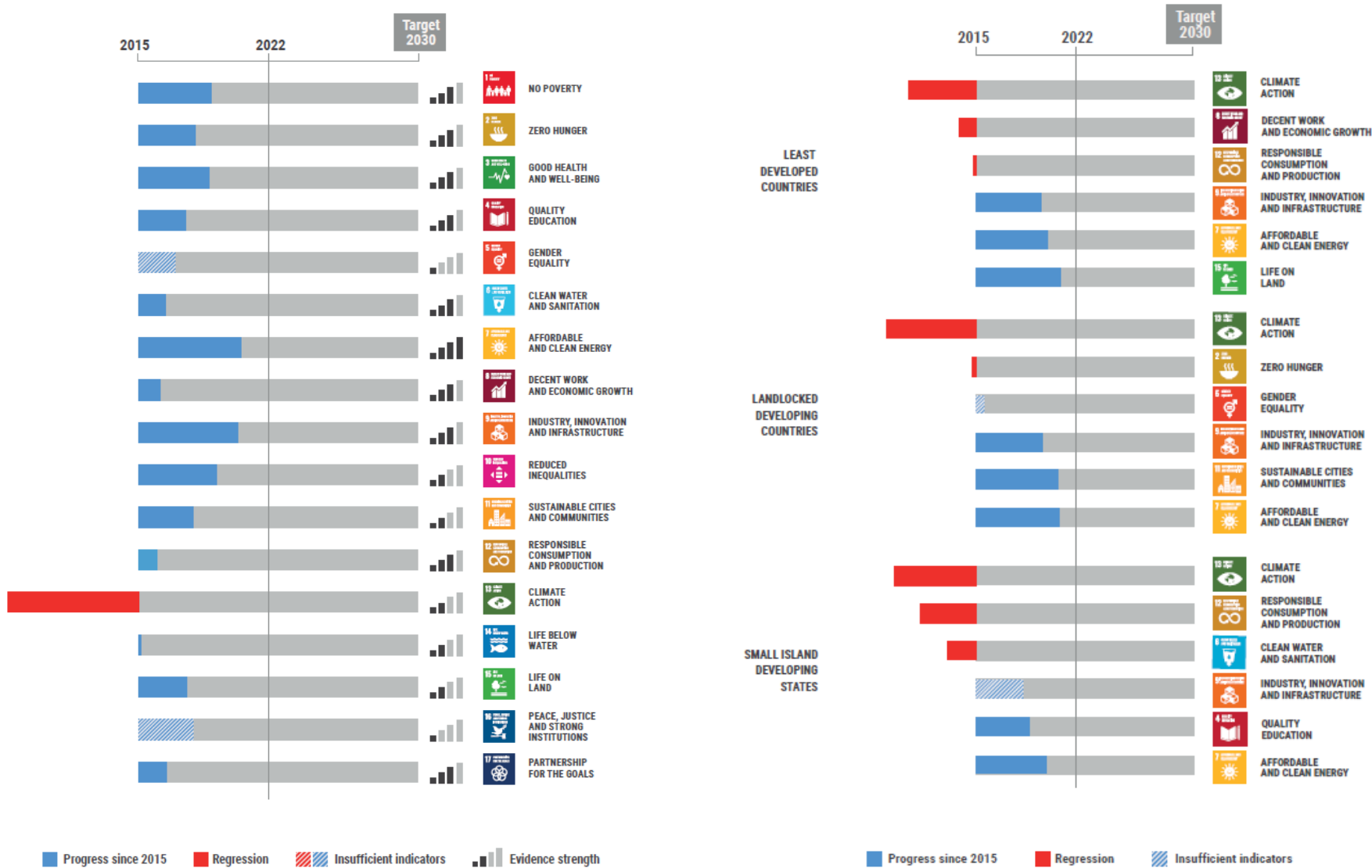
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ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



▼ Progress towards the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region



Source: ESCAP (2023)
 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
 SDG PROGRESS
 REPORT Championing
 sustainability despite
 adversities 2023
 at <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2023/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2023>



Meaningful Connectivity

Achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity
in the decade of action

Aspirational targets for 2030

Achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity –the possibility for everyone to enjoy a safe, satisfying, enriching, productive and affordable online experience– is key for enabling digital transformation and meeting the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

As part of the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, the [International Telecommunication Union](#) and the [Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology](#) have established a set of aspirational targets for 2030 to help prioritize interventions, monitor progress, evaluate policy effectiveness, and galvanize efforts around achieving universal and meaningful connectivity by the end of the decade.

More information:
www.itu.int/umc2030

Notes ¹ Mobile network of the latest technology is the most advanced technology available in the country with at least 40% of the population already covered. ² Parity is deemed reached when the share of women using the Internet/owning a mobile phone/using a mobile phone/with specific digital skills, among the female population is equal to the share of men. ³ Download speed. Mb/s = megabits per second. ⁴ kb/s = kilobits per second.



Universality targets

- 100% of population aged 15+ uses the Internet
- 100% of households have Internet access
- 100% of businesses use the Internet
- 100% of schools are connected to the Internet
- 100% of population is covered by a mobile network of the latest technology¹
- 100% of population aged 15+ owns a mobile phone
- >70% of population aged 15+ has basic digital skills
- >50% of population aged 15+ has intermediate digital skills
- Gender parity is achieved for Internet use, mobile phone ownership and use, and digital skills²



Technology targets

- 100% of fixed-broadband subscriptions are 10 Mb/s or faster³
- 20 Mb/s Minimum download speed at every school
- 50 kb/s Minimum download speed available per student⁴
- 200 GB Minimum data allowance for every school



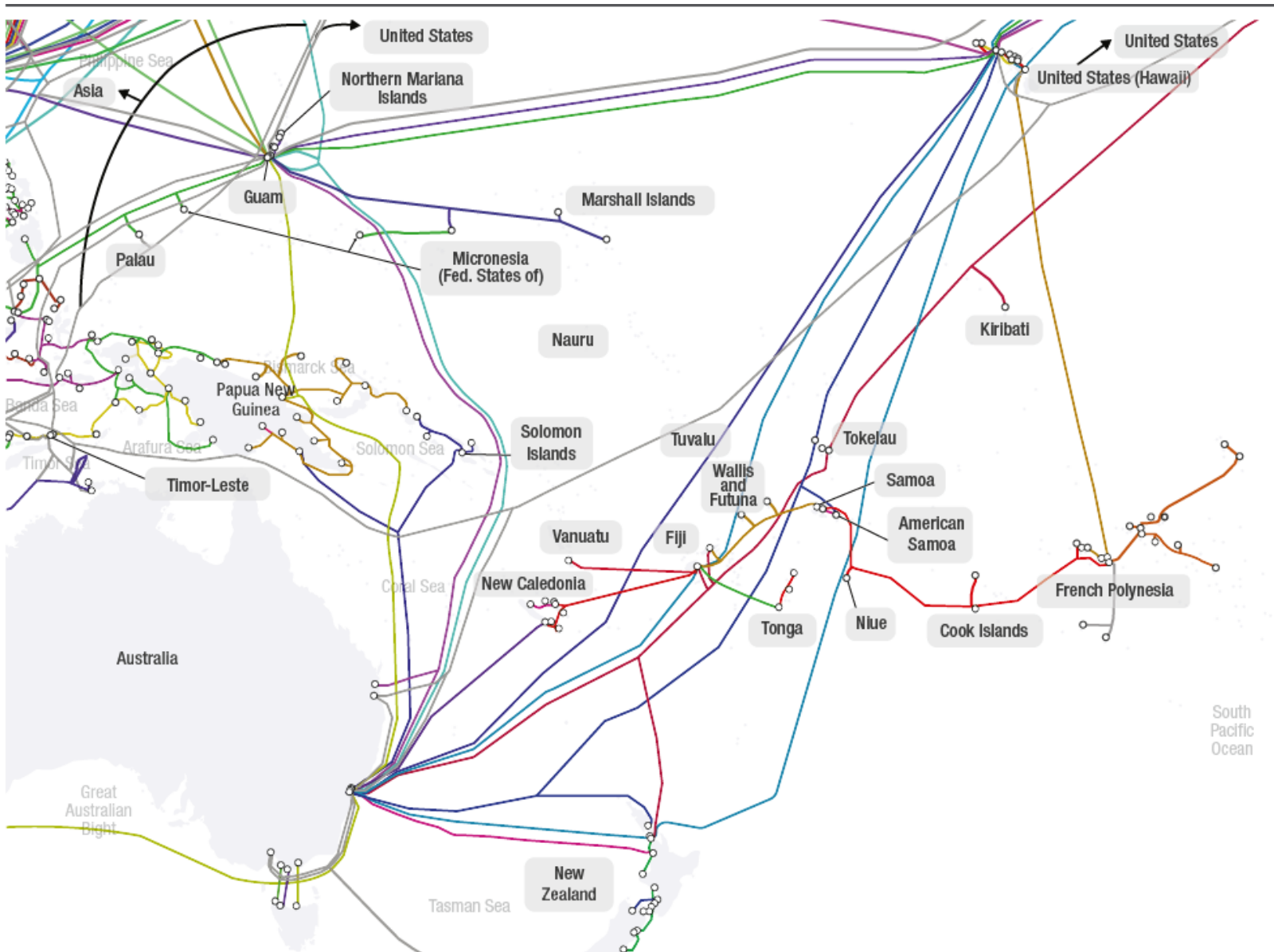
Affordability targets

- 2% Entry-level broadband subscription costs less than 2% of gross national income per capita
- 2% Entry-level broadband subscription costs less than 2% of average income of the bottom 40% of population



United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
Envoy on Technology

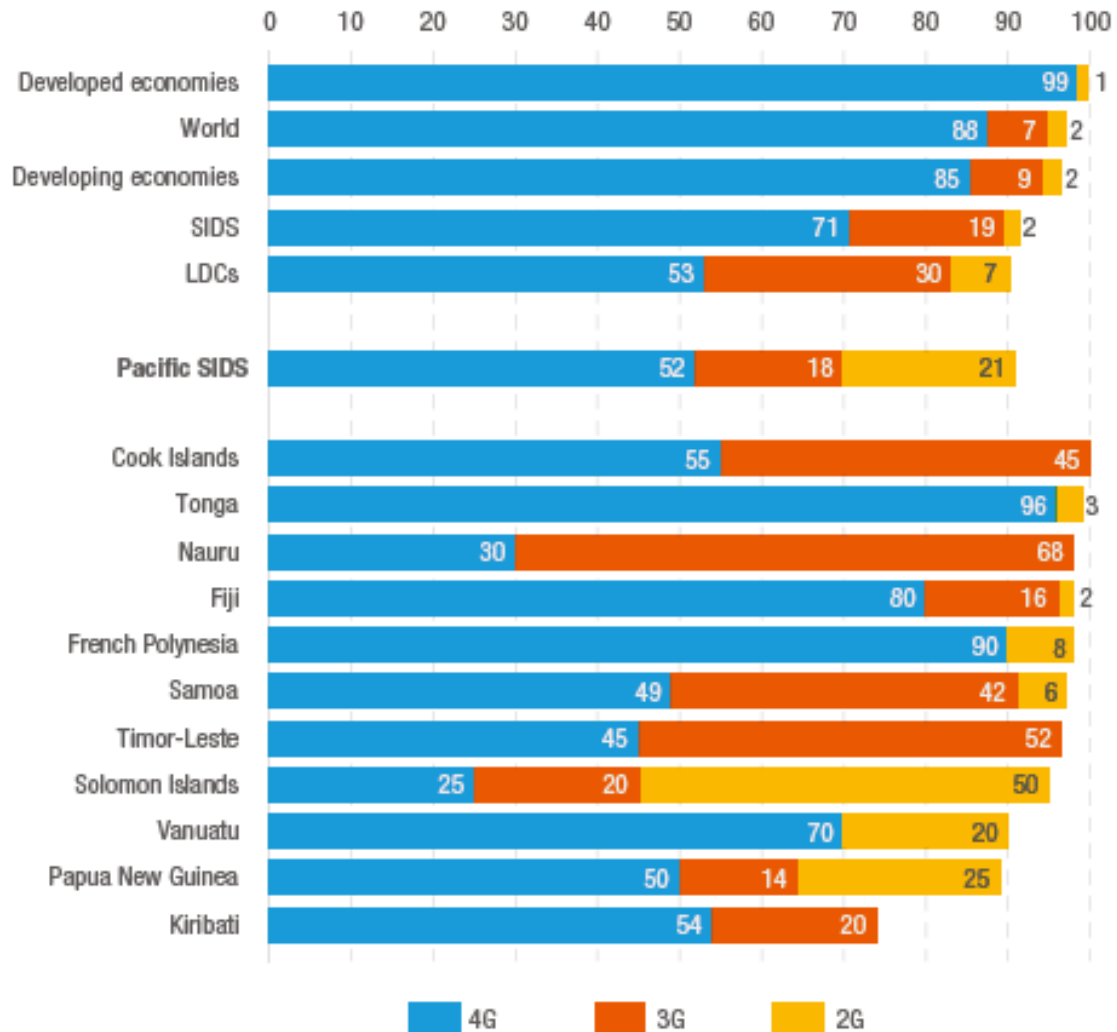




More International and Domestic Submarine Cables available in the Pacific

Source: UNCTAD Digital Economy Report Pacific Edition 2022 at <https://unctad.org/publication/digital-economy-report-pacific-edition-2022>

3G and 4G coverage in Pacific SIDS is lower than in LDCs, affecting the ability of people and businesses to communicate and participate in the digital economy.

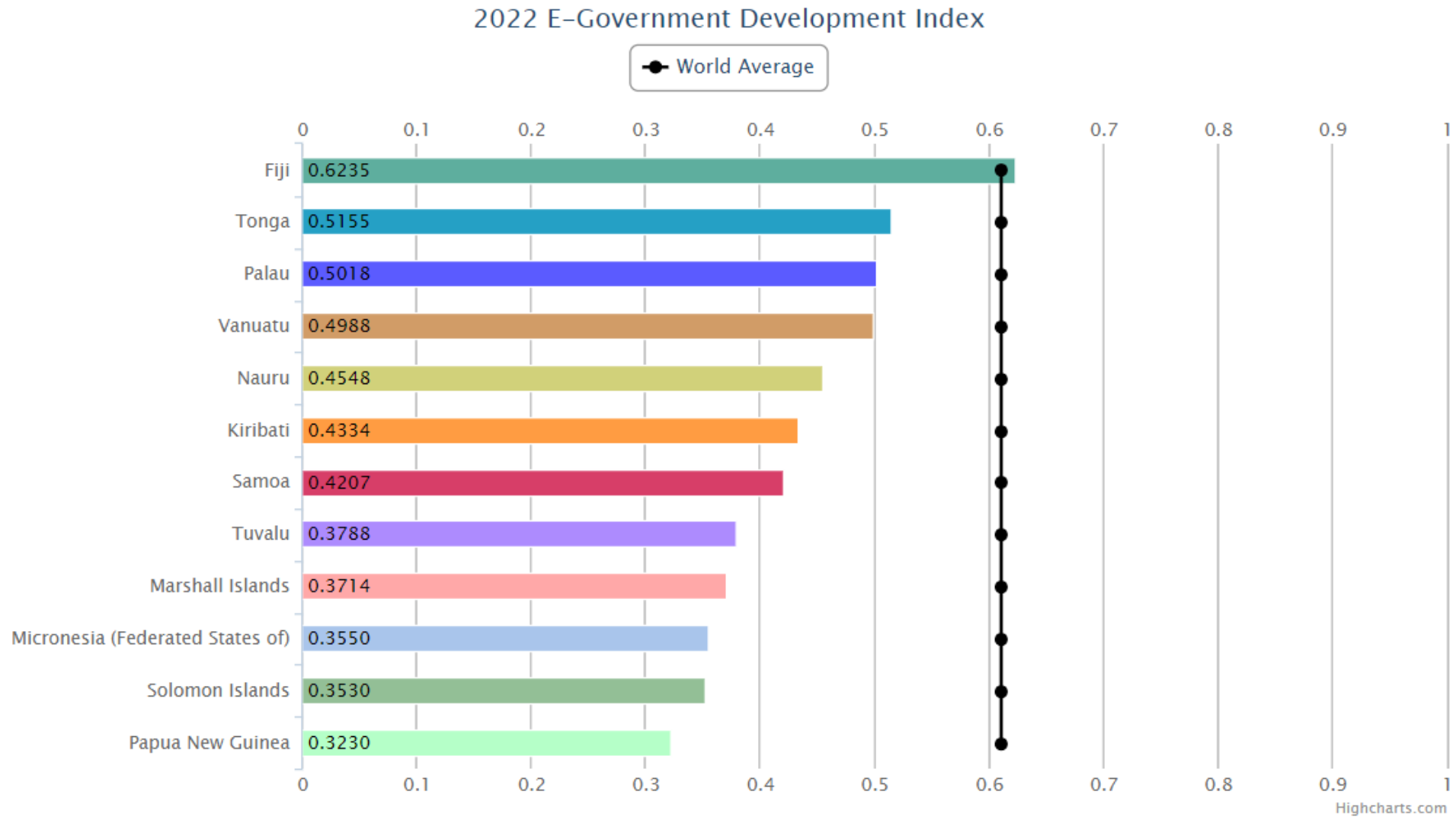


Population coverage of mobile network technology (2G, 3G and 4G), by country grouping and selected Pacific SIDS, 2021 or latest available year (Per cent)

Source: UNCTAD calculations, based on ITU (2022), Statistics: Global and regional ICT data, update of 25 January. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx> and ITU (2022), World telecommunication/ICT indicators database 2022, July Edition. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx>.

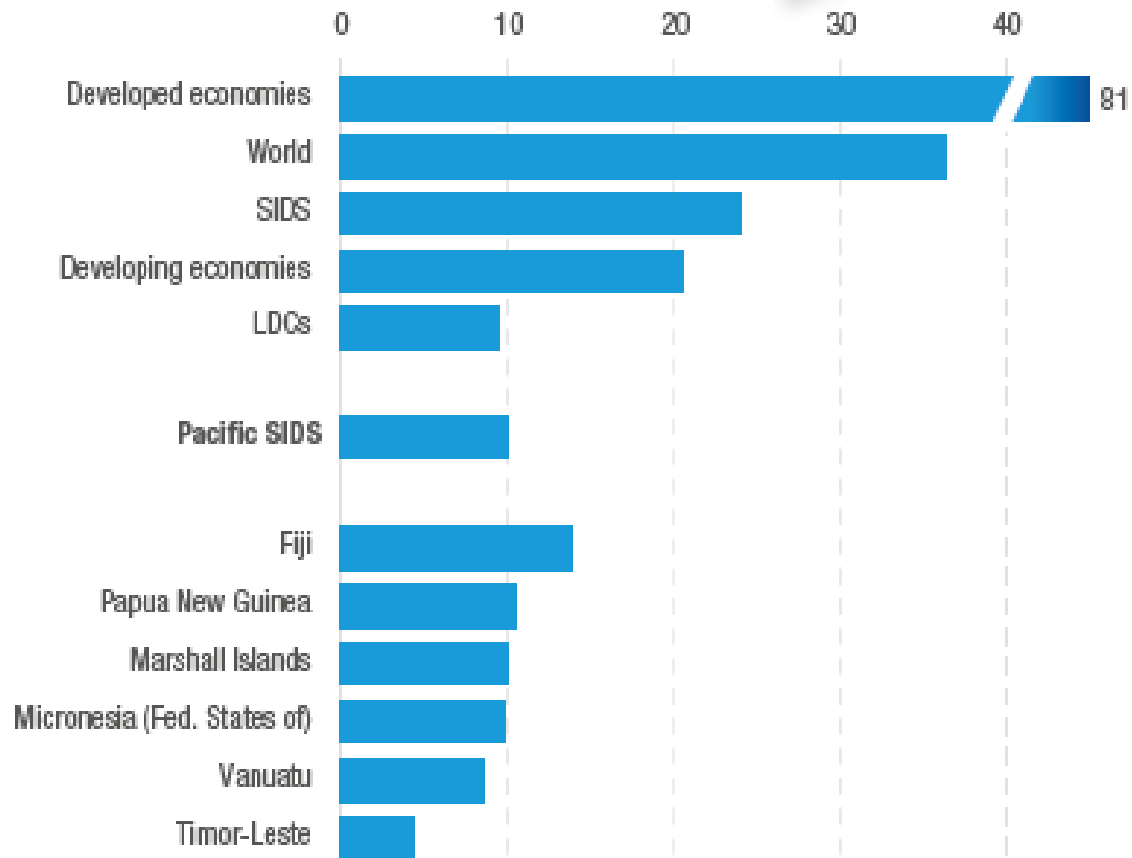


Need for Pacific SIDS to accelerate digital government



Source: <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Data/Compare-Countries> (downloaded on 27 Aug 2023)

Higher fixed broadband connections speeds in Pacific SIDS would improve the online learning experience, support businesses selling online and improve productivity.



Need to increase fixed broadband speeds in the Pacific

Source: UNCTAD Digital Economy Report Pacific Edition 2022 at <https://unctad.org/publication/digital-economy-report-pacific-edition-2022>

Source: UNCTAD calculations, based on Ookla (2022). Speedtest global index. Available at <https://www.speedtest.net/global-index>.

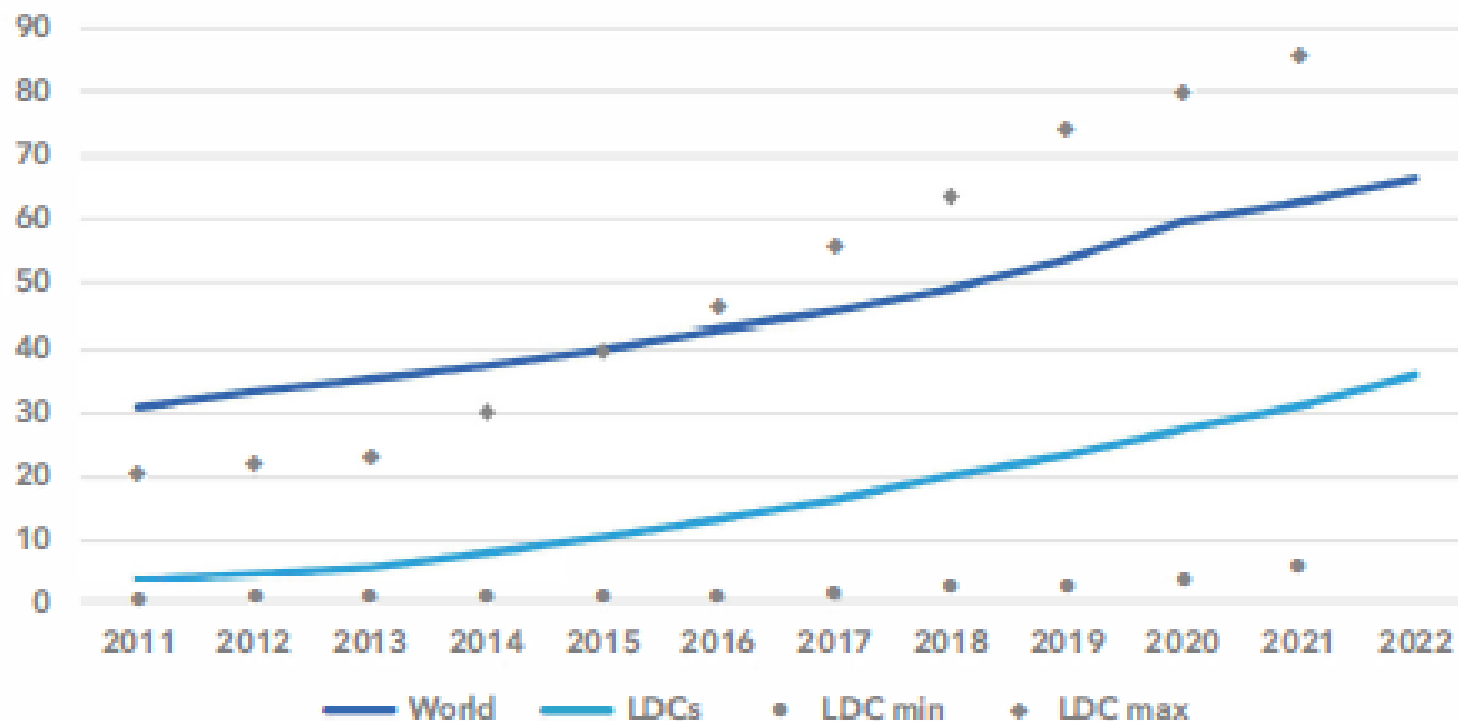
Notes: Countries' speeds are median download speeds (definition and calculations of the source). World and country groupings are based on UNCTAD calculations (medians of the countries' speeds in each grouping). Data concern April 2022, except for the Federated States of Micronesia (January 2022) and Vanuatu (March 2022).



Internet use

Only 36 per cent of the population in least developed countries is online

Percentage of individuals using the Internet



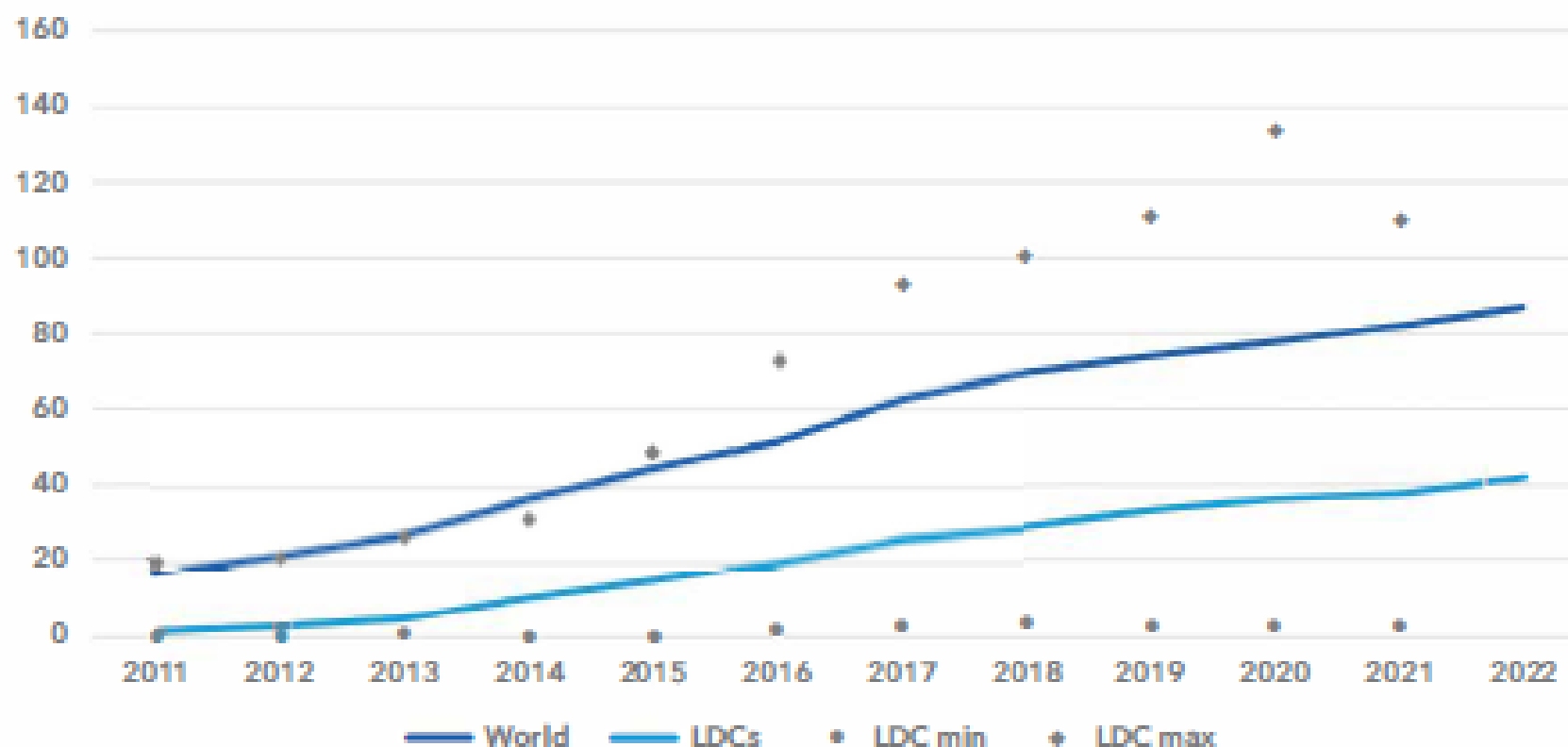
Note: In any given year, LDC min and LDC max represent the LDC with the lowest and highest value, respectively.
Source: ITU

Source: Measuring digital development, Facts and Figures: Focus on Least Developed Countries, March 2023, ITU Report available at https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/d-ind-ict_mdd-2023/



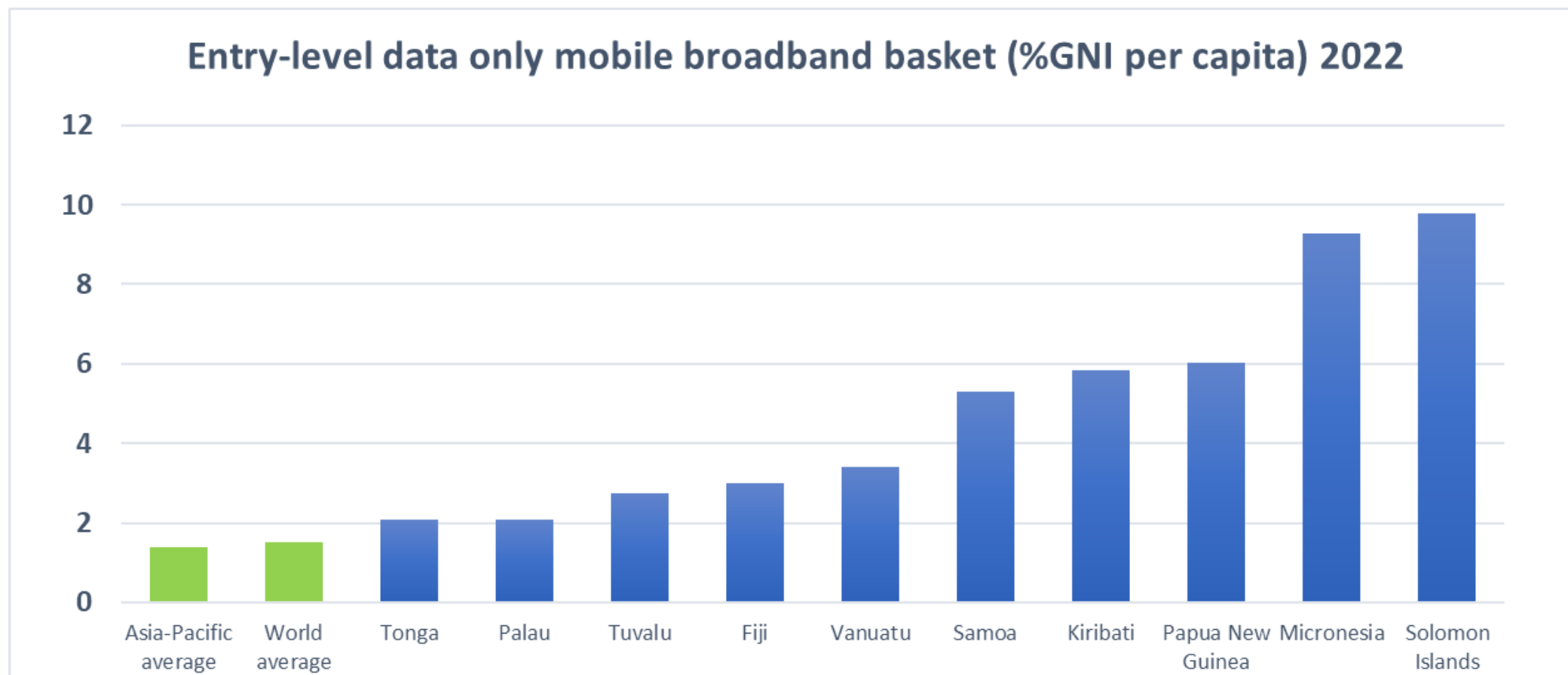
Despite a decade of break-neck growth, mobile broadband is not ubiquitous yet

Active mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants



Note: In any given year, LDC min and LDC max represent the LDC with the lowest and highest value, respectively.
Source: ITU

Source: Measuring digital development, Facts and Figures: Focus on Least Developed Countries, March 2023, ITU Report available at https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/d-ind-ict_mdd-2023/

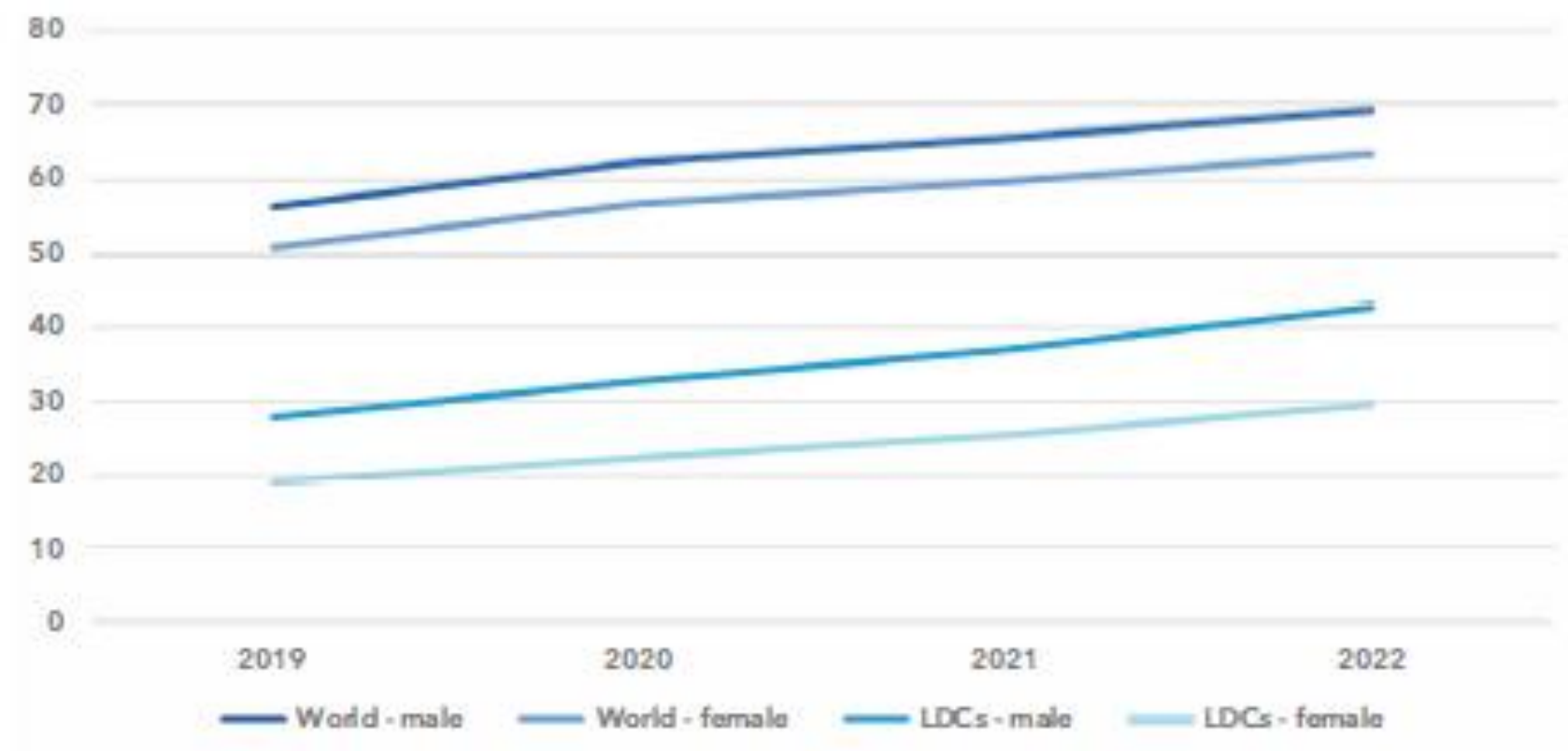


Source: ITU based on data available at ITU Data Hub (<https://datahub.itu.int/>)



The gender gap in Internet use shows no sign of narrowing in LDCs

Percentage of individuals using the Internet, by gender



Source: ITU

Source: Measuring digital development, Facts and Figures: Focus on Least Developed Countries, March 2023, ITU Report available at https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/d-ind-ict_mdd-2023/

PACIFIC COUNTRIES REMAIN VULNERABLE TO DISASTERS



Vanuatu: Pacific nation reels from twin cyclones and earthquake

3 March



How the Tonga volcano eruption from 2022 may affect Australia's weather for up to eight years

By Tyne Logan

Posted Thu 16 Feb 2023 at 4:31am, updated Thu 16 Feb 2023 at 11:39am



The undersea eruption off Tonga could change Australian weather patterns for years to come. (AFP: Tonga Geological Services/Eyepress)

Bougainville state of emergency after volcanic eruption extended

123 on 17 August 2022



Local authorities have a need to take. Dispatch of supplies. Tensions and relations have begun with the support of the US Marine (M) 22. (Photo: AFP)

A state of emergency put in place after last month's eruption of Mt Bagana in Bougainville has been extended for the maximum two-month period.

MPs in the autonomous Papua New Guinea region voted on the measure on Wednesday at an extraordinary meeting of parliament.

The original state of emergency was applied to the Tondano and Milne Bay districts near Mt Bagana, but it now covers Bougainville districts of Urua, Bani, and Bani because of fears of flooding.

President Michael Somare told parliament the remedial measures include the establishment of seven evacuation centres, in addition to the two already in use at Tondano and Milne Bay.

There will be at Piva Station and the Milne Bay district areas, and another two in the Kopeki Wards 1 and 2 in the Pongana district, and at Sereke in Kaniua district.

He also said the Bougainville Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan, which outlines strategies for resource allocation and community response to natural and human-induced disasters will be finalised.

CYBERSECURITY OVERVIEW : ASIA-PACIFIC 2020

Country Name	Overall Score	Regional Rank
Korea (Rep. of)	98.52	1
Singapore	98.52	1
Malaysia	98.06	2
Japan	97.82	3
India	97.49	4
Australia	97.47	5
Indonesia	94.88	6
Viet Nam	94.55	7
China	92.53	8
Thailand	86.5	9
New Zealand**	84.04	10
Bangladesh	81.27	11
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	81.06	12
Philippines	77	13
Pakistan	64.88	14
Sri Lanka	58.65	15
Brunei Darussalam	56.07	16
Nepal (Republic of)	44.99	17
Myanmar	36.41	18

Country Name	Overall Score	Regional Rank
Samoa	29.33	19
Fiji	29.08	20
Papua New Guinea**	26.33	21
Mongolia	26.2	22
Nauru**	21.42	23
Tonga**	20.95	24
Lao P.D.R.	20.34	25
Cambodia**	19.12	26
Bhutan	18.34	27
Kiribati	13.84	28
Vanuatu	12.88	29
Solomon Islands	7.08	30
Tuvalu**	5.78	31
Afghanistan	5.2	32
Marshall Islands**	4.9	33
Timor-Leste**	4.26	34
Maldives**	2.95	35
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea**	1.35	36
Micronesia*	0	37

* no data

** no response to the questionnaire/data collected by GCI Team



- Pacific islands countries falling behind despite the cyber challenges
- No Pacific Islands countries in Top 100 on GCI
- Lack of information, capacity and awareness
- Lack of information on cybersecurity readiness

ITU's support to Pacific Digital Transformation





| ITU Smart Villages and Smart Islands are

designed to address the **socio-economic challenges** faced by **communities** through **digital transformation at community level** with emphasis on **vulnerable populations** (women, youth, and persons with disabilities)

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

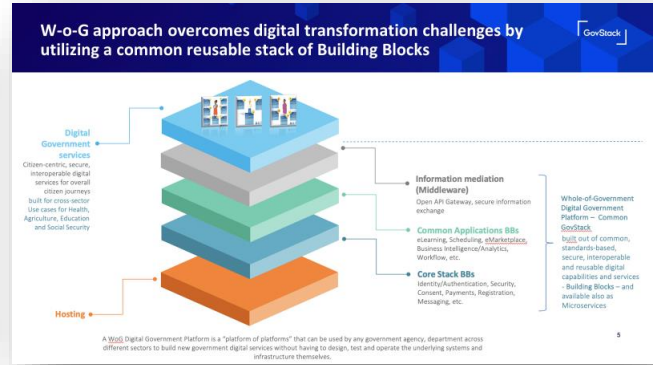
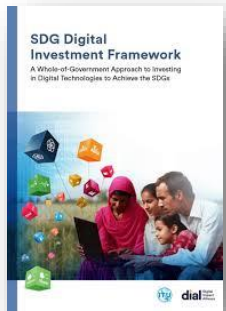
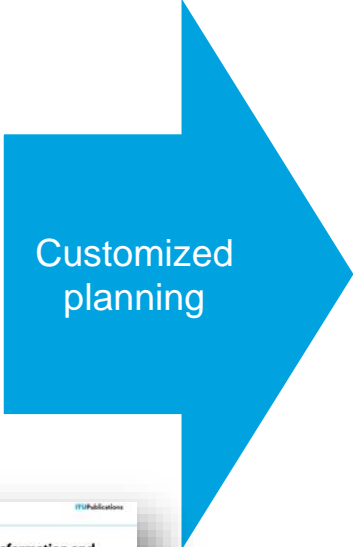


Whole-of-government approach for digital development

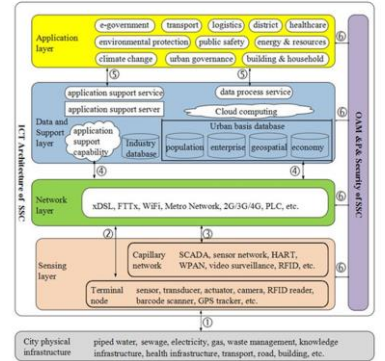
National Vision and SDG implementation plan



Legislations
Regulations



Smart city



Smart village



Smart Islands




Concept of Smart Villages and Smart Islands



whole-of-government
approach


common ICT
building-blocks

low cost
better scalability
multi-sector collaboration
partnerships



 e-healthcare

 e-education

 e-agriculture

 e-governance

 disaster
management

 digital finance

Smart Islands South Malekula - Impact stories



School Connectivity

South Malekula Secondary School reconnected.

Students at SMSS who attended ITU expert's workshop on positive use of internet and ICT have improved access to internet and started learning online.



New Agri Products

Emergence of "Smart Island" branded product.

A group of coconut producers put their new digital skills to use in creating marketing materials to reach more customers and produced new product.



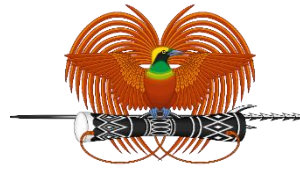
Mobile Banking

Improved digital financial literacy and use of mobile payments

3 mobile wallet service providers offered hands-on workshops to villagers with the ITU expert; people started using MyCash, IsiMoney, and M-Vatu payments, replacing the costly travel to town.



United Nations
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Delivering as One



STREIT   
SAPOT LONG RUREL BISNIS, INVESMEN NA TRED



Increasing access to Internet
E-agriculture strategies
Establishment of resource centers
Information systems
Digital agriculture services
Digital skills and financial literacy
E-learning



FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



ITU IS COMMITTED TO ASSIST IN DISASTERS



Tonga (2022)



Papua New Guinea (2023)

▼ Pacific Girls in ICT Day

Purpose

To inspire and encourage girls to pursue a future in ICTs and to empower them by ensuring they have the necessary skills, confidence and support to achieve their goals

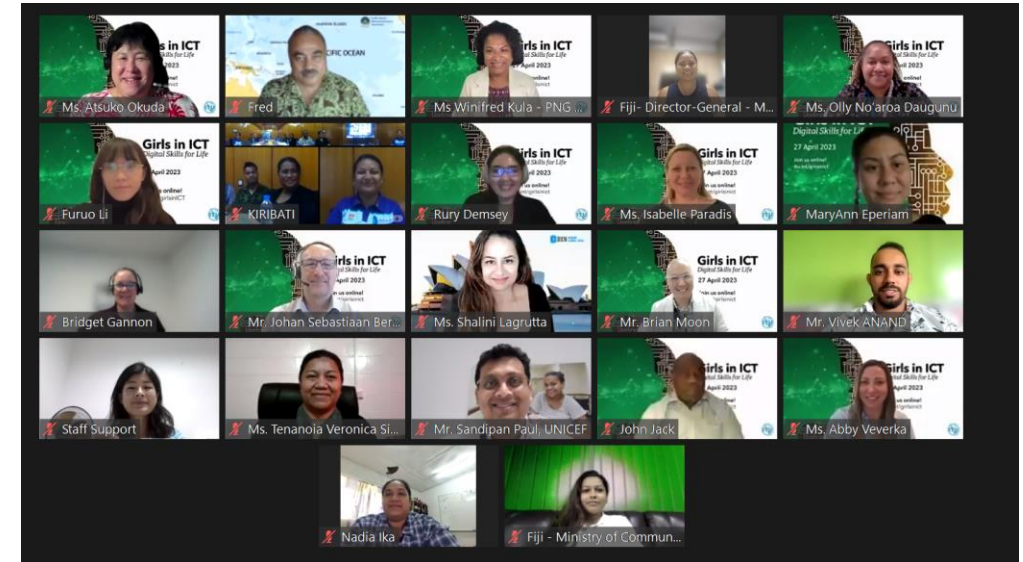
Since 2011, over 377,000 girls and young women have taken part in more than 11,400 **International Girls in ICT Day** celebrations in 171 countries.

2023

Girls in ICT Day – Pacific Opening Ceremony on 27 April 2023 in partnership with Governments, PTC and PITA.

Activities ongoing / planned in Pacific since launch (e.g. Fiji, FSM, Tonga, Kiribati, Samoa, Nauru)

Closing Ceremony planned in October 2023



Call upon Pacific stakeholders to join Girls in ICT Day initiative, launch, support and strengthen national GICT programmes

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION REQUIRES AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



National Governments



Partnerships are critical
in realizing digital transformation and requires
resources to scale up across sectors and across
geographies ...



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations





ITU standardization: Technical foundations



Transport,
access and
home networks



Multimedia



Service
quality



Numbering
& emergency
comms



Artificial
intelligence



Cybersecurity



Internet
of Things



Environmental
efficiency



Quantum
information
tech



Accessibility

Digital Currency Global Initiative



Quantum information technologies (QIT)

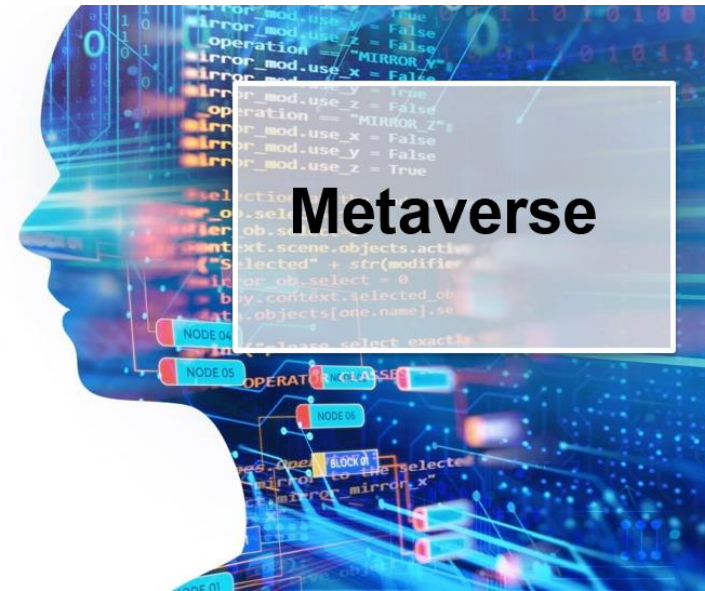


United 4 Smart Sustainable Cities



Digital Health

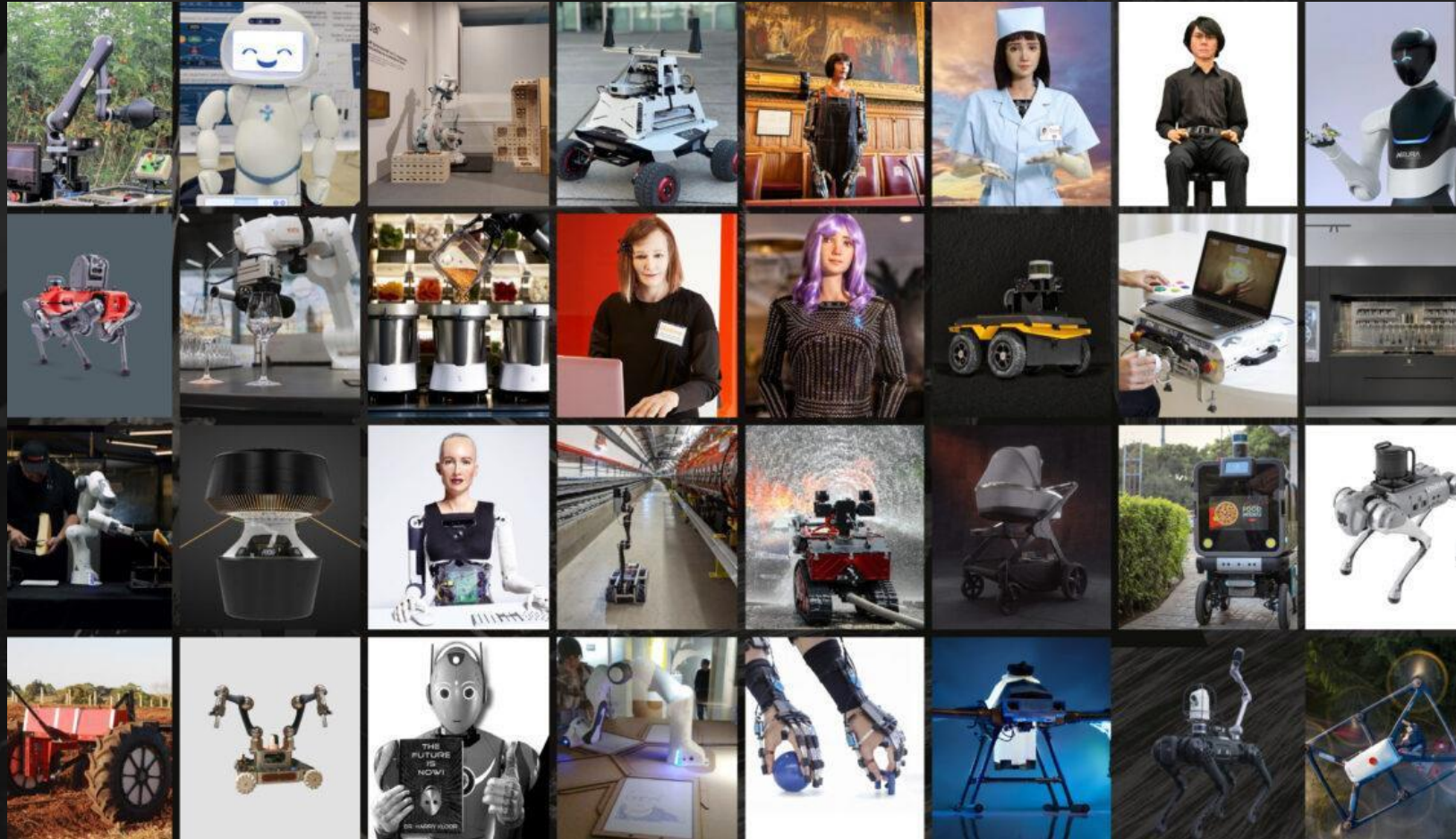
Metaverse





AI for Good

| AI for Good Global Summit 2023



- 9** social humanoid robots
- 40+** specialized autonomous robots
- 40+** robotics experts
- 20+** presentations at the Robotics for Good Stage
- 40+** robotics exhibitors
- 1** robotics press conference
- 1** exclusive meeting with a robot for ITU staff during Summit



ITU REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

ITURDF

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

BANGKOK 2023

13-15 September
Bangkok, Thailand



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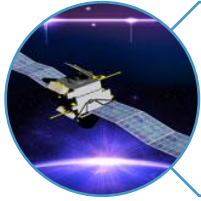


#ICT4SDG



Organized by





Connectivity: Resilient, reliable and affordable connectivity to deliver digital services to unconnected islands and communities



Whole of government approach: Support in developing an integrated approach to digital services and digital government



Digital inclusion: Support governments with community awareness and skills development for vulnerable groups



Future-proof solutioning, taking into account AI, IoT and data analytics with data protection and cybersecurity

Thank You



Contact Us

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