**Giga:** Connecting All Schools to the Internet

Council Information Session
October 10, 2024

# The Connectivity Challenge

Nearly half of the **6 million schools** in the world are not connected to the internet today, mostly in the poorest countries and areas.

More than **500M students have no access to the internet.**

Of the estimated **2.6 billion** unconnected people, the majority are women and girls (ITU, 2021).

Disconnected children **are more at risk** with respect to health, gender equity, education and the ability to secure jobs of the future.

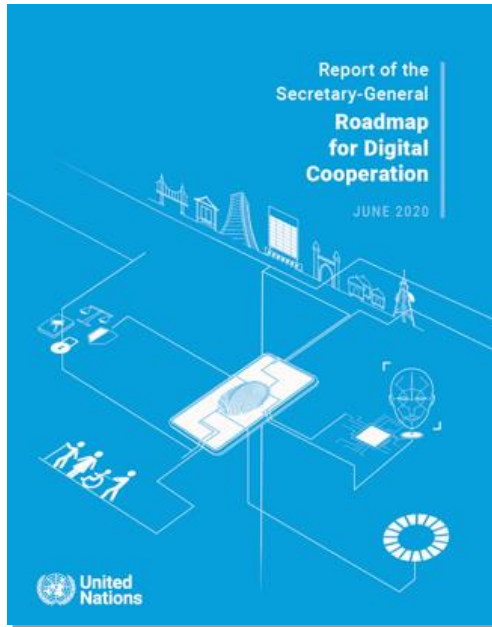**This presents a challenge...
and an opportunity!**

# Alignment of Giga with ITU resolutions

- **PP RESOLUTION 71** (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022) Strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027

| Goal | Targets | Target indicator |
|------|---------|------------------|
| Universal connectivity | Access to the Internet for all schools | Percentage of schools with entry-level Internet service (at least 500 MB per month) |

- **WTDC RESOLUTION 87** (KIGALI,2022) - Connecting every school to the Internet and every young person to information and communication technology services

- **PP RESOLUTION 200** (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022) Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development

- **PP RESOLUTION 205** (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022) ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society

# Giga – a joint initiative of ITU & UNICEF to connect all schools to the Internet by 2030



Report of the Secretary-General
**Roadmap for Digital Cooperation**
JUNE 2020

United Nations



**Transforming Education Summit**
United Nations, New York, 16, 17 & 19 September 2022



**Six pillars for the digital transformation of education**
A common framework

unesco   ITU   unicef for every child   GPE Transforming Education



United Nations

SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE OUTCOME DOCUMENTS
September 2024

Pact for the Future,
Global Digital Compact,
and Declaration on Future Generations

**June 2020**
**The Roadmap for Digital Cooperation**
Giga recognized as a new and potentially transformative model to achieve universal connectivity.

**September 2022**
**Transforming Education Summit Call to Action on Digital Learning**
Giga recognized as a key initiative to implement the policies, regulations, technologies, and financing required to ensure that school connectivity is safe, sustainable, and equitable.

**September 2024**
**Digital Transformation of Education**
Giga recognized as a complementary initiative to connect every school to the Internet.

**Global Digital Compact - Pact for the Future**
Map and connect all schools **and hospitals** to the Internet, building on the Giga initiative.

# Giga contribution to the agenda of connecting schools to the Internet
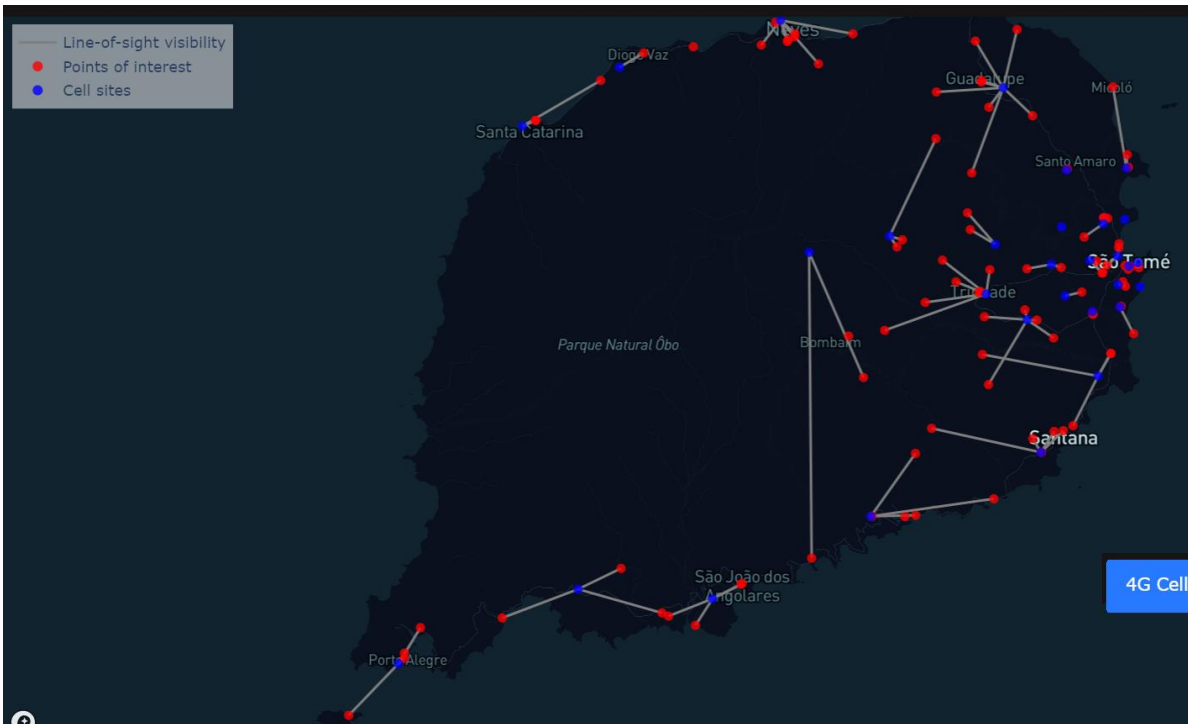
**Map** the location of schools and monitor school connectivity status in real-time

**Model** the infrastructure, policies, regulations and investments needed to deliver school connectivity

Support governments to build the appropriate layered **financing** to pay for connectivity

Help governments to **contract** connectivity for schools

# Infrastructure modeling

# Components of the project that ITU is handling

➤ **Infrastructure analysis:** visualization of country's infrastructure relative to school locations with consideration of surrounding population, & cost estimates of required deployments. This aids government develop informed plans and have productive engagements on school connectivity

➤ **Technical training:** Facilitating the deployment, onboarding and use, by participating countries, of connectivity products, solutions developed and/or services provided via Giga

➤ **Barcelona Giga Accelerator Program:** Incubation support to start ups towards development of solutions that facilitate global school connectivity

➤ **Geneva Global Connectivity Center:** fostering awareness of solutions + opportunities in connectivity of schools, capacity strengthening towards bridging the digital divide, and enabling the realisation of digital development.

# Giga footprint
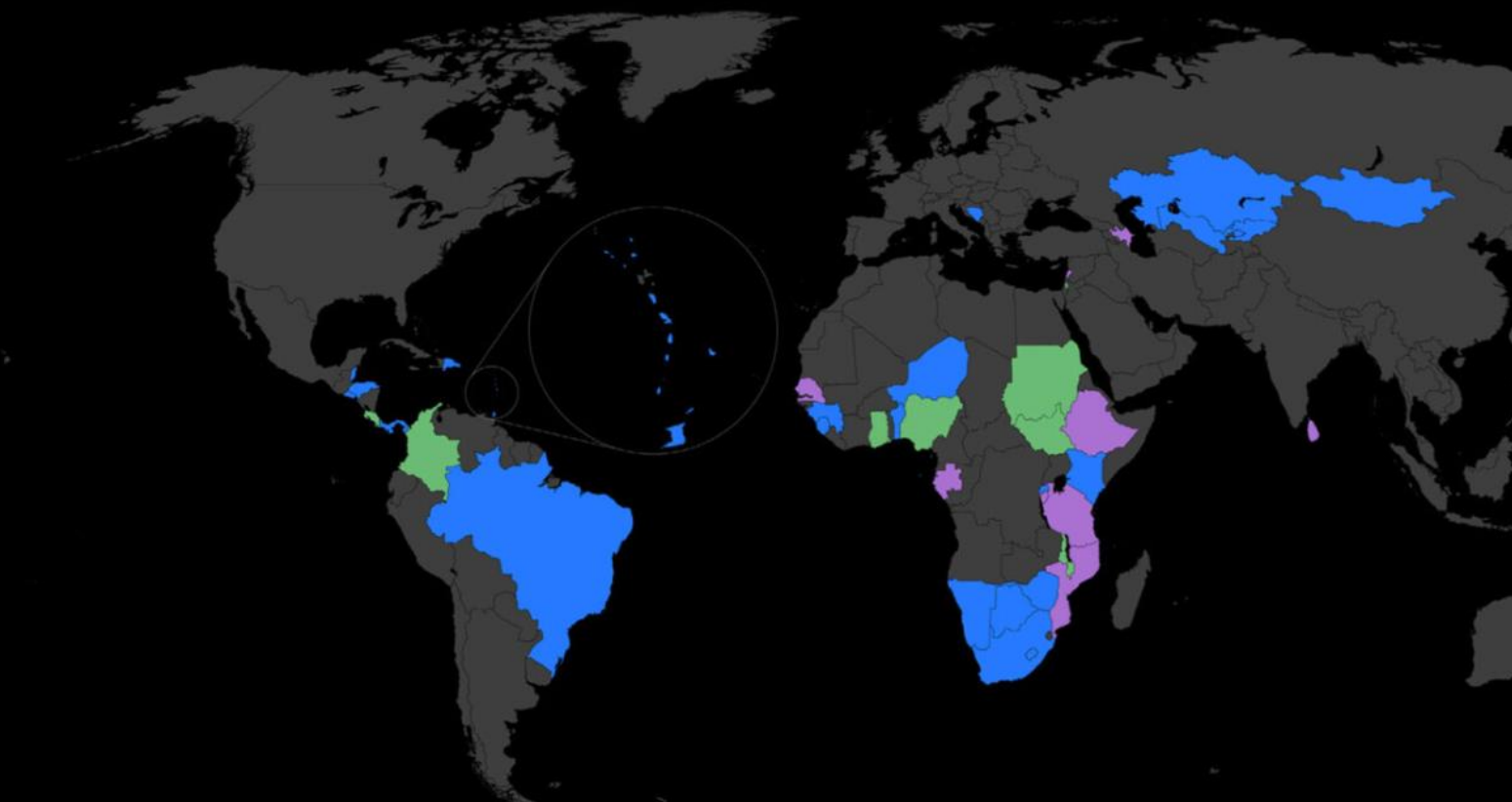


**Countries where Giga is active**

Anguilla
Antigua & Barbuda
Barbados
Belize
Benin
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
British Virgin Islands
Dominica
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Grenada
Guinea
Honduras
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Lesotho
Mongolia
Montserrat
Namibia
Niger (temp pause)
Panama
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Sierra Leone
South Africa
St Kitts And Nevis
St Lucia
Trinidad & Tobago
Uzbekistan

**Countries with school mapping support**

Colombia
Costa Rica
Ghana
Malawi
Nigeria
Palestine (temp pause)
South Sudan
Sudan

**Countries with early interest**

Azerbaijan
Burundi
Ethiopia
Fiji
Gabon (temp pause)
Lebanon
Mozambique
Senegal
Sri Lanka
Tanzania

giga.global   @gigaglobal   @giga_global

giga   unicef for every child   ITU

# Giga Connectivity Forum

**2024** July 9-10 First ever & inaugural **high-level "Connectivity Forum"** was convened in Geneva

**240 participants** including government delegations from over 25 countries, academia, and financial institutions discussing **solutions to the challenges to connecting the world's schools to the internet – safely, productively and affordably**

# Outlook

- Launch of the Geneva Global Connectivity Centre (1Q2025)

- Launch of the Barcelona Giga Accelerator program (1Q2025)

- Enhancing ITU offered products & services towards school connectivity

- Onboarding more countries

- Enhancing partnerships with complementary UN agencies, Financial Institutions & other stakeholders

# Schools are far more than dots on a map. They are centres of learning and hope.

They're a place where dreams are built and futures are made.