

To grow, the Internet needs a strong community behind it.



Around the globe, affordable and resilient Internet infrastructure is not evenly distributed. Many countries lack the strong technical foundations and policy frameworks that will enable them to realize the full benefit of the Internet.

We all have a role

By fostering the creation of local technical communities we can sustainably support the development of critical local Internet infrastructure, train more local technical experts, and work with policymakers and regulators for better policies and regulations to support the Internet. These are the building blocks for thriving, robust, and innovative local Internet ecosystems.

How We're Helping

Building communities: Local communities of practice are key to building a bigger and stronger Internet. So we're mobilizing and supporting individuals and organisations with common interests and technical expertise on Internet matters. An example of this is the development of new regional and local Network Operators Groups (NOGs) with partners where community members learn, share, and start new Internet development projects together.

Supporting the builders: We're supporting local technical communities to build critical Internet infrastructures such as Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), and also to improve existing IXPs, by providing technical assistance and equipment.

Training people around the world: We're running tutorials, online courses, and hands-on workshops to train hundreds of individuals in targeted regions and communities. The aim is for communities to better build, run, and maintain Internet networks. By bringing people together, we create a more diverse and strengthened community that can work together to build technical infrastructure, work with policymakers, and to adopt and adapt what has worked in other countries.

Sharing information: By convening people, commissioning studies and publishing reports, we aim to increase awareness and knowledge about peering, interconnection, IXPs, the importance of developing local technical pool of experts and communities, and to advise on policy making around the world.

Creating partnerships for sound policy: When governments, regulators, global, regional and local partners and Internet Society Community work together, we can make sure that the experience of what has worked and not worked before is taken into account. By providing evidence-based technical advice, as a community, we can contribute to better policy decisions to enable a bigger and stronger Internet.

Get Involved

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

The impact of IXPs: When local traffic stays local, Internet access is faster and more affordable.

Our 2012 Report showcased, with clear data, how IXPs catalyzed local Internet development.

Our 2020 report highlights how IXPs helped local traffic jump from 30% to 70% between 2012 and 2020 in Kenya and Nigeria. This led to significant savings in time and money for participating networks, and therefore played a critical role in expanding Internet access and lowering connectivity costs.

It puts these two countries in a strong position to participate in the digital economy, and has provided a blueprint for other African countries to follow.



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