

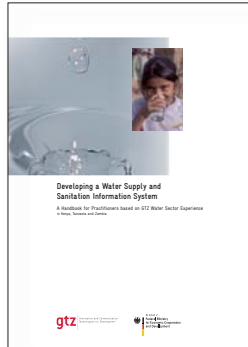
## ICT Mainstreaming

The Sector Project intensively promotes the use of ICT in a broad range of development policy areas. We foster new initiatives, propose mainstreaming strategies and concepts as well as document successful experiences in a number of sectors (health, education, good governance, infrastructure, rural development, etc.). Our activities in the field of ICT mainstreaming encompass the following three main areas.

### ■ Knowledge and Learning Systems

ICT offer learning opportunities and valuable tools for knowledge exchange and knowledge management. Instructional design should however be adapted to local needs and one should ensure adequate administration of learning management systems, often through accompanying capacity development measures.

### ■ Management Information Systems (MIS)



MIS are software or database applications that enable systematic data processing, exchange, and retrieval and help management processes. We support partners in introducing and developing MIS to meet local information management needs. The Sector project for instance provides information for practitioners in a variety of areas such as water supply or tax information systems.

### ■ Market and Business Solutions

ICT provide economic development opportunities and act as an engine for innovation. Mobile phones can provide access to banking services to previously unbanked segments of the population. Mobile or Internet solutions can also be used to improve business opportunities by supplying economic actors with relevant market information. We support the innovative use and local development of ICT infrastructures and solutions for rural as well as small and medium enterprises. The Sector Project for instance documented the success of the "Egypt 4 Trade" business intelligence platform.



Aiming at facilitating state of the art exchange of views, the sector project organizes annual ICT4D conferences. These events identify the benefits and suggest priorities in a range of ICT4D areas such as **e-Government** (Sept. 2008) or **e-Health** (Oct. 2009).

The Sector Project also publishes a quarterly newsletter. It can be subscribed via [www.gtz.de/newsletter](http://www.gtz.de/newsletter)



## Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development

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Information and Communication  
Technologies for Development

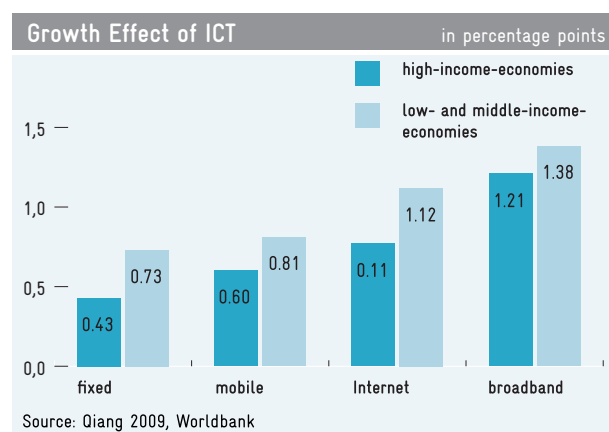


## Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) – engine for sustainable development

The spread and expansion of ICT positively impact economic performance. They improve people's cultural, social and political life and increase the efficiency of development programmes.

In low and middle income countries, wireless telecommunications are spreading rapidly. Mobile phones are connecting people who have had no access to fixed line telephones and until recently were cut off from the rest of the world. In Africa, major infrastructure developments are connecting the continent to the global fiber optic networks. This will enable the development of broadband Internet on the continent. Despite persisting deficits in infrastructures, connectivity in Africa is therefore improving.

**Telecommunication technologies** such as mobile phones and the Internet offer vast opportunities in developing countries. They are used for financial transactions, render medical services more widely accessible, open up new economic possibilities and facilitate civil society interactions through social networks or online journalism.



**Note:** The y axis represents the percentage-point increase in economic growth per 10-percentage-point increase in telecommunications penetration. All results are statistically significant at the 1 percent level except for those for broadband in developing countries, which are significant at the 10 percent level.

**Information technologies** such as management information systems improve quality and transparency of public services; making government institutions and activities more transparent and efficient e.g. in the health or tax sectors. However, despite progress in the availability and affordability of ICT, much remains to be achieved to bridge the 'digital divide' between countries but also between urban and rural areas.

### Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Information and communication technologies are the electronic means of capturing, processing, storing and disseminating information. They include voice telephony, data communications and computing devices from handheld to large scale, radio, television and similar technologies. For communication and the exchange of data, ICT can rely on copper wiring, fiber optics and a variety of wireless technologies.

### International Commitments

Our initiatives are guided by the international commitments of the Federal Republic of Germany to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the objectives of the UN World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS) and of the Accra Agenda for Action.

MDG 8 calls for a global partnership for development. One of the set targets provides: *"In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications"*.

In the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), developing country and donor governments have committed themselves to improving developing countries' information systems as a step to "improve management for results" and strengthen the quality of policy design, implementation and assessment. The AAA also calls for the strengthening of country systems, including systems for public financial management, procurement, audit, monitoring and evaluation and social and environmental assessment.

## The Sector Project ICT4D

The GTZ Sector Project ICT for Development (ICT4D) acts on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It provides the following capacity development and advisory services.

### Telecommunications Regulation

The telecommunications sector, driven by private sector engagement, is being liberalised in most low and middle income countries. This liberalisation process has to be complemented by a sound regulatory framework in order to ensure an affordable and widely available access to telecommunication services.

On behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Sector Project ICT4D actively supports the improvement of telecommunications regulation in partner countries of German development cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Our short to mid-term capacity development and consulting services help consolidate reforms of regulatory frameworks. They assist managers and experts in national policy and regulatory institutions in their efforts to make regulation more effective.

#### ■ A sound regulatory framework for Benin & Sierra Leone

In cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), we for instance provide assistance to Benin and Sierra Leone in the implementation of the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) *Supplementary Acts on the Harmonization of Policies and of the Regulatory Framework for the ICT Sector*. We have been supporting government authorities in transposing these acts into national legislation and in making the new legislation effective in the two countries.

#### ■ Connecting Africa to the Global Fiber Optic Networks

We support the efforts of the West Africa Telecommunications Regulators Assembly in setting up regional guidelines for securing affordability and access to the submarine cables. The price and quality of international connectivity is largely determined by access conditions to submarine cables. We thus contribute to setting the ground for affordable broadband Internet access in West Africa.