The state of meaningful access to information in 2022
A global overview of progress since 2015
About Development and Access to Information (DA2i)

• Demonstrate how access to information contributes to development, and is embedded across the UN 2030 Agenda;
• Demonstrate libraries’ contributions to providing equitable access to information in the context of the Agenda;
• Raise the visibility of libraries within the context of development agendas.
Can access to information create more socially and economically inclusive societies?

Given the unprecedented ability we have today to gather, use, create, and exchange information, how can we capitalize on the strengths of the information society to help combat poverty and inequality, make governments more transparent and accountable, improve gender equity, increase youth’s social and economic participation, and promote civic life in our communities?
Three dimensions of DA2i

“The rights and capacity to use, create, and share information in ways that are meaningful to each individual, community, or organization.”

Connectivity
Physical connectivity infrastructure and how it is used
Indicators: Technology access, use, & affordability

Freedom
The legal context and policy environment that support a rights-based approach
Indicators: Freedom in the world & internet freedom

Gender Equity
The social context to provide equitable access and fair opportunities
Indicators: Technology use, skills, employment, and STEM & political participation
Connectivity

Progress between 2015 - 2022
1 billion new internet users since 2015

92% Of the world is covered by at least a 3G Network

60% of people in the world are internet users

20% from 2015

2.7 billion people still offline

Technology & Social Change Group
Source: ITU, 2022
Affordability of internet services and devices still a major obstacle for inclusive access

Countries with the lowest population of internet users in the world

- Chad: 10%
- Niger: 10%
- CAR: 10%
- Burundi: 9%
- Malawi: 9%
- Congo, R.: 9%
- S.Sudan: 7%
- Somalia: 2%
- Eritrea: 1%

Technology & Social Change Group
Source: ITU, 2022
Freedom

Progress 2015-2022
Civil rights and political freedoms have declined across all regions

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<tr>
<th>Countries with Increasing Freedom Scores</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<td>43</td>
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Technology & Social Change Group
Source: Freedom House, 2022
Internet freedom declined for a 12th consecutive year

According to Freedom House estimates:

76% live in countries where individuals were arrested or imprisoned for posting content on political, social, or religious issues.

69% live in countries where authorities deployed progovernment commentators to manipulate online discussions.
Gender Equity

Progress between 2015 - 2022
Gender inequality decreased slightly between 2015 - 2022

- **Women graduating from STEM disciplines**: 37% (1% increase)
- **Women in parliament seats**: 22% (2% increase)
- **Young women not in education, employment, and training**: 31% (3% increase)

Source: UNESCO, ILO, and the World Bank, 2022
259 million fewer women using the internet than men

Gender digital divide

52%  56%

In low-income countries

4 out of 5 women are offline

Technology & Social Change Group
Source: ITU, 2022
Sub-Saharan African countries have the widest gender internet gap

- Women: 34%
- Men: 45%

Men are 1.5 more likely to own a mobile phone and 1.8 more likely to own a smartphone.
The road ahead

What will it take to guarantee equitable and meaningful access to information to all people?
Thank you

Choose a region from the drop-down menu at the top of the page to explore its progress. The graphs show the progress on each indicator using data from 2015 as a baseline and comparing it with data from 2022 or the most recent data available.

What is the progress towards improving connectivity between 2015-2022?

Connectivity indicators explore the progress around physical connectivity infrastructure available in the country, and how this infrastructure is used by the population. It includes three categories of indicators: Access, Use, and Affordability.

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