

The background features a complex pattern of thin, wavy lines in shades of grey and white, creating a sense of depth and movement. On the left side, there is a purple wireframe sphere that appears to be partially obscured or integrated into the overall pattern.

# 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.



International  
Federation of  
Library  
Associations and Institutions



Technology & Social Change Group  
Information School



## *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

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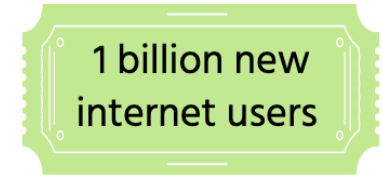


3G

92%

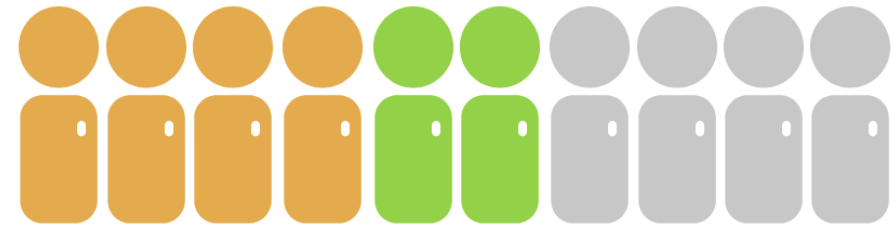
Of the world is covered by at least a 3G Network

60%



of people in the world are internet users

▲ 20%  
from 2015

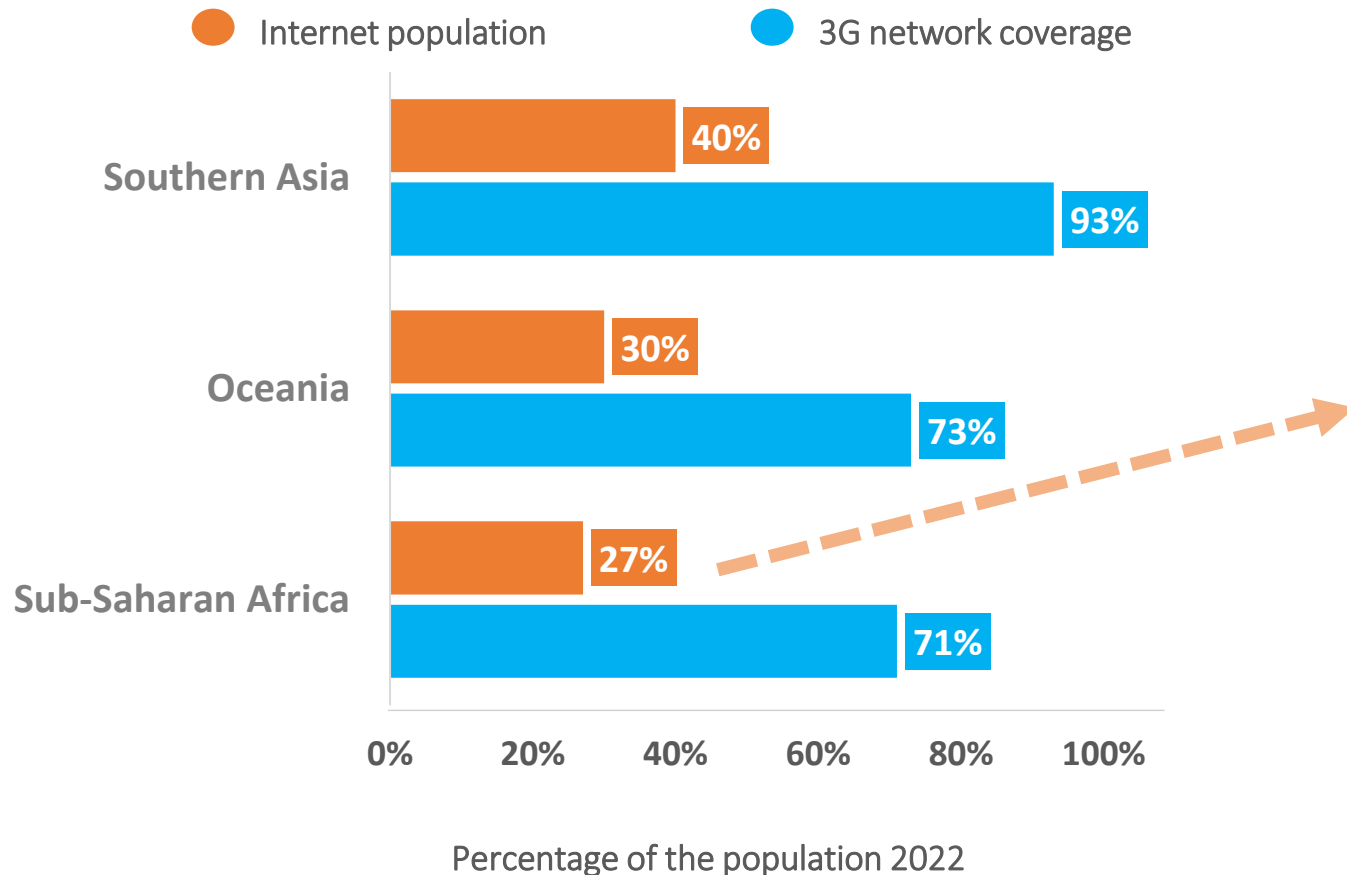


● 2015

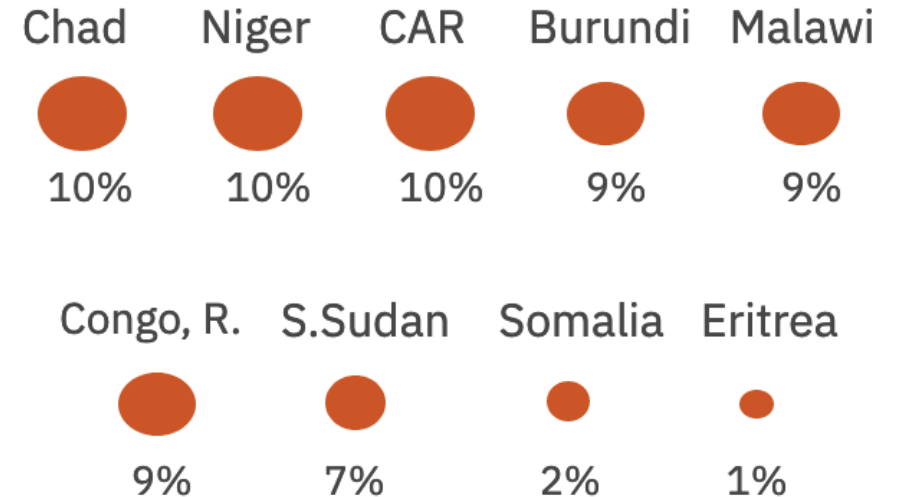
● 2022

2.7 billion people still offline

# Affordability of internet services and devices still a major obstacle for inclusive access



## Countries with the lowest population of internet users in the world





# Freedom

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Progress 2015-2022





# Civil rights and political freedoms have declined across all regions

Technology & Social Change Group  
Source: Freedom House, 2022

COUNTRIES WITH  
INCREASING  
FREEDOM SCORES



2015



2022

COUNTRIES WITH  
DECLINING  
FREEDOM SCORES



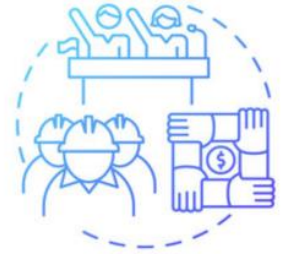
71



102



FREEDOM  
OF EXPRESSION



FREEDOM  
OF ASSOCIATION



POLITICAL  
PLURALISM

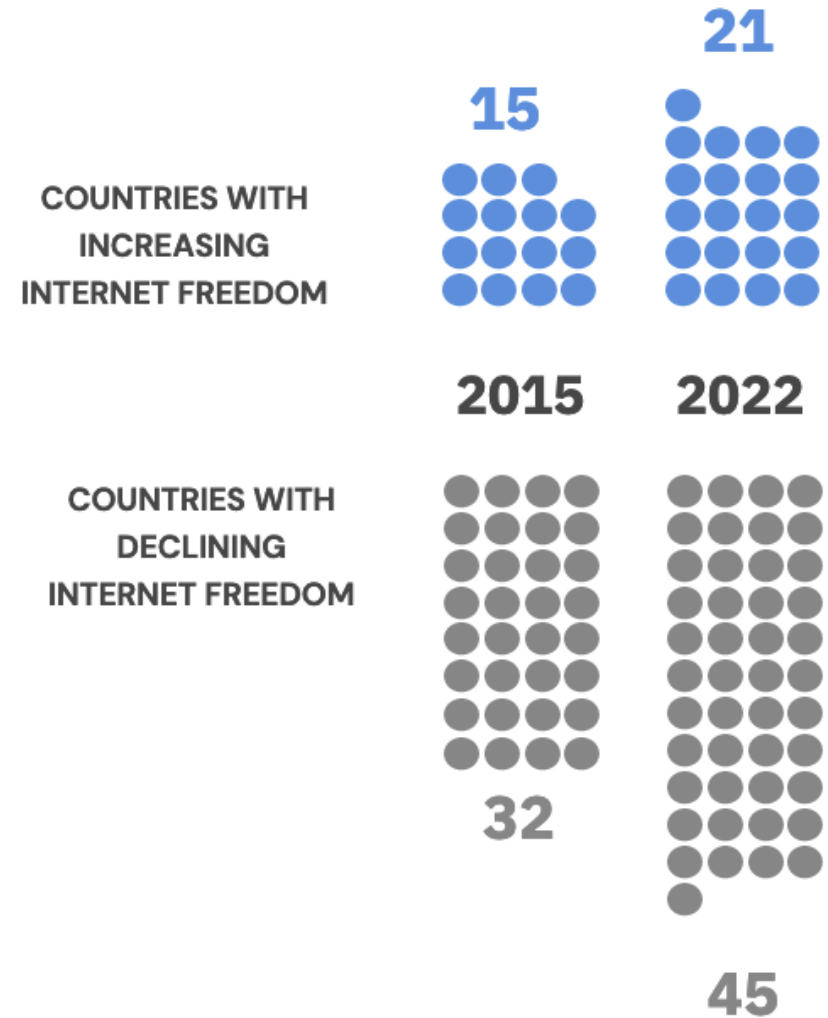


# Internet freedom declined for a 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year

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

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Progress between 2015 - 2022

# Gender inequality decreased slightly between 2015 - 2022



**37%** **1% ▲**

Women graduating from  
STEM disciplines



**22%** **2% ▲**

Women in parliament  
seats



**31%** **3% ▲**

Young women are three times for likely to not be  
in education, employment and training than men



# 259 million fewer women using the internet than men

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## Gender digital divide



52%

 **6%**  
from 2015



56%

 **6%**  
from 2015

## In low-income countries



**4 out of 5 women**  
are offline

## Sub-Saharan African countries have the widest gender internet gap



34%



45%

Men are 1.5 more likely  
to own a mobile phone  
&  
1.8 more likely to own a  
smartphone

## The road ahead

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DA21

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

# Thank you

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