

# GIGA CONNECTIVITY FORUM 2025

Report



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# 01 | Foreword



**Alex Wong**

Senior Advisor,  
Strategic Engagement & Initiatives,  
Office of the Secretary-General,  
and Giga Co-lead, ITU



**Christopher Fabian**

Senior Advisor, Office of Innovation,  
Giga Co-lead, UNICEF

Thank you to all the 250 participants from 42 countries who joined us at Campus Biotech, home to our Giga Connectivity Centre, for the second Giga Connectivity Forum (GCF). The collective contributions of all that participated made this forum the valuable experience it was, packed with productive conversations, collaboration and connections to further our global school connectivity goals.

What stood out most was the power of peer-to-peer learning. From breakout sessions in which countries collaborating with Giga presented their experiences to coffee breaks, delegates shared practical lessons, challenges faced and inspiring success stories.

As we have witnessed time and again, there is a lot that governments can learn from each other's school connectivity journey.

We, as the Giga team, also had the honor to share with delegates updates on our plans, products and other initiatives to accelerate school connectivity, giving children and young people greater opportunities for social and economic advancement.

To remain steadfast in purpose, the GCF was concluded with the development of an action plan to drive tangible progress towards the digital transformation of education.

A goal facilitated by Giga through the development of practical tools and solutions, policy and regulatory guidance, brokering global partnerships, providing support in procurement and developing national expertise.

The 2025 GCF built on the strong foundations established in last year's inaugural forum, deepening existing ties and creating new ones among the wide range of stakeholders in the Giga family. The more we work together, the farther we can go.

Thank you for being part of the journey towards #Destination2030.

Alex Wong & Christopher Fabian,  
Giga Co-founders



***"Giga represents a powerful model of modern multilateralism - agile, inclusive, and above all, results oriented."***

*- Ambassador Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations*

# 02 | About the Forum

A joint initiative between ITU and UNICEF, Giga supports governments to connect schools to the internet.



***"The Giga Connectivity Forum is a unique opportunity to drive progress towards effective, sustainable school connectivity."***

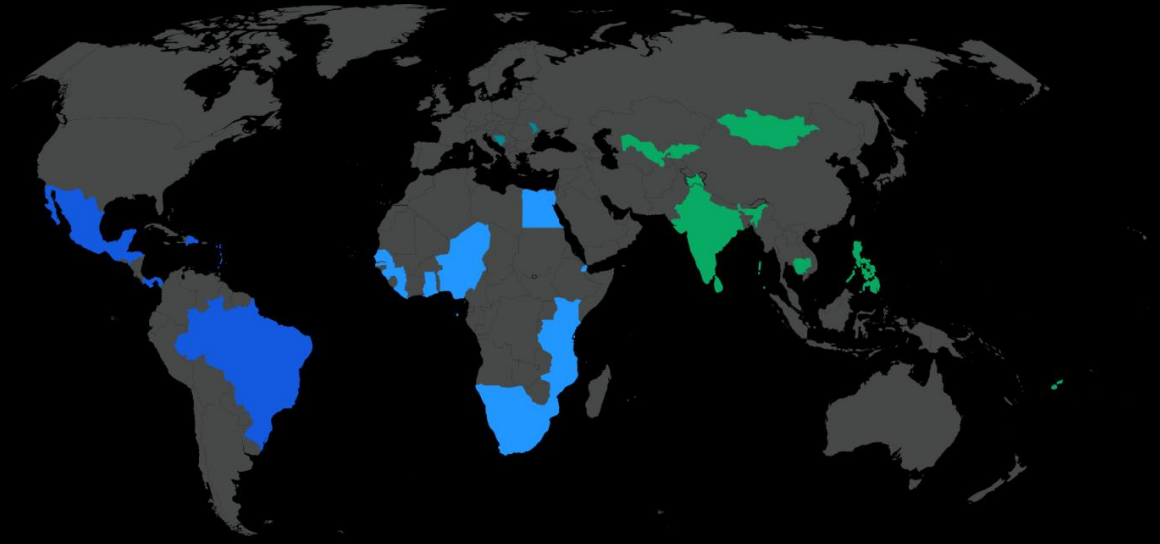
*- Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union*

The second Giga Connectivity Forum, held in Geneva July 8-10 2025, convened decision-makers responsible for school connectivity from Ministries of Education, Ministries responsible for ICT, Communications Regulatory Authorities and independent Universal Service Agencies, and other key stakeholders to take stock of the progress in school connectivity, discuss the challenges faced and share practical lessons learned. This culminated in a clear action plan framed around Giga's four pillars to advance towards our universal school connectivity goal: map, model, finance and contract, all of which are underpinned by capacity development.



## GCF 2025 Participating Countries

Americas Africa Europe Asia and the Pacific



Regional Classification Criteria: ITU

## 03 | GCF in Numbers

Over 250 participants from 42 country delegations.

Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uzbekistan

83 Speakers engaged in 40 sessions, including:

10 Plenary Sessions

15 Breakout Sessions

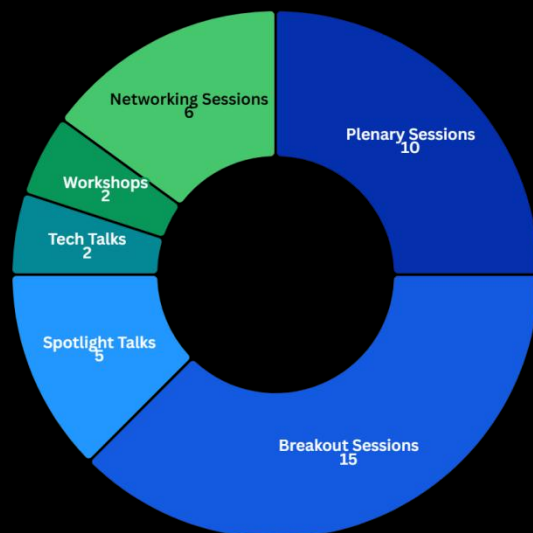
5 Spotlight Talks

2 Tech Talks

2 Workshops

6 Networking Sessions

(2 receptions, 3 lunches and 1 worldwide café)





## 04 | Key Themes

### Ensuring sustainability

A key concern that arose throughout the GCF was the need to ensure that connected schools continue to have and utilize connectivity. A holistic approach to address this is essential: From securing sustainable power sources, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas, to putting in place long-term financing mechanisms that ensure schools stay connected, as demonstrated by the School-as-a-Hub model in Honduras and the Public-Private Partnership approach in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It also includes focusing on digital skills for both teachers and the wider community to ensure that, once schools are connected, the benefits of digital technology can be continuously harnessed and expanded.

Sustainability must be anchored in all planning processes for school connectivity. This includes developing viable financial and business models, supporting educational and skills development, and ensuring effective knowledge transfer. Tapping into surrounding local businesses and market knowledge can strengthen these efforts and ensure that connectivity becomes a lasting foundation for community empowerment.



## Moving beyond connectivity

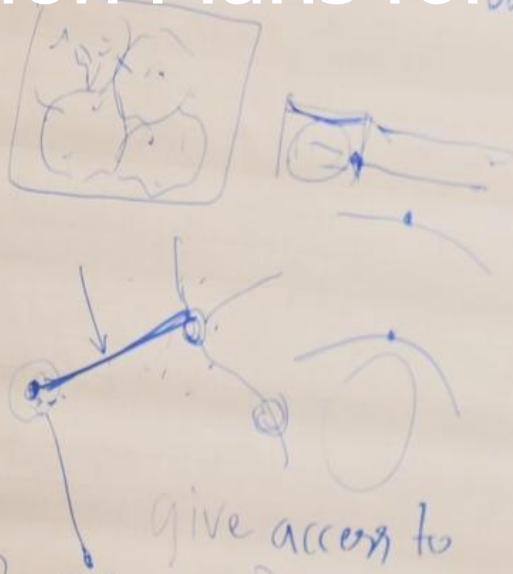
While Giga's role is to support governments in achieving school connectivity, it participates in collaborations with UN agencies and multilateral organizations that work in related fields such as digital infrastructure investment, teacher skills and training, affordable devices and child online security, electrification, and data costs, all of which make up the puzzle of the digital transformation of education.



05

# Action Plans for

Planning Polygon to Filter Data



give access to  
Public Data

• A

Map

Model

Finance





Contract

Capacity Development



## Map

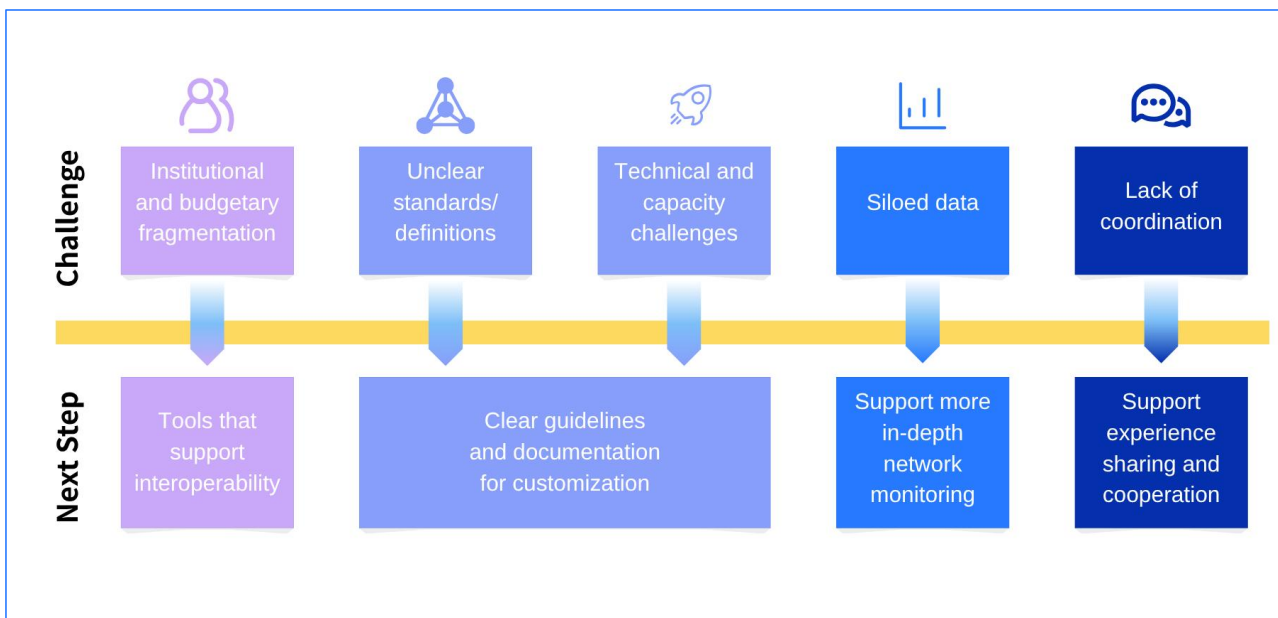
### Main Priorities for Mapping

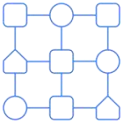
-  Unified, accurate mapping and data sources
-  Up-to-date and interoperable data
-  Sustainability
-  Local ownership of data and systems

School location mapping is the foundation of Giga's work. Accurate, interoperable data sources are key, which can also be harnessed for different uses, such as emergency or disaster situations. All too often data is fragmented or collected in silos. To be able to reap the benefits of the data, it needs to be standardized and centralized.

Giga can help in a number of ways, from data collection to network monitoring to ensure the internet service provider meets its contract obligations.




Below are the main challenges in school mapping outlined by country delegations, along with the next steps Giga plans to take to address them.





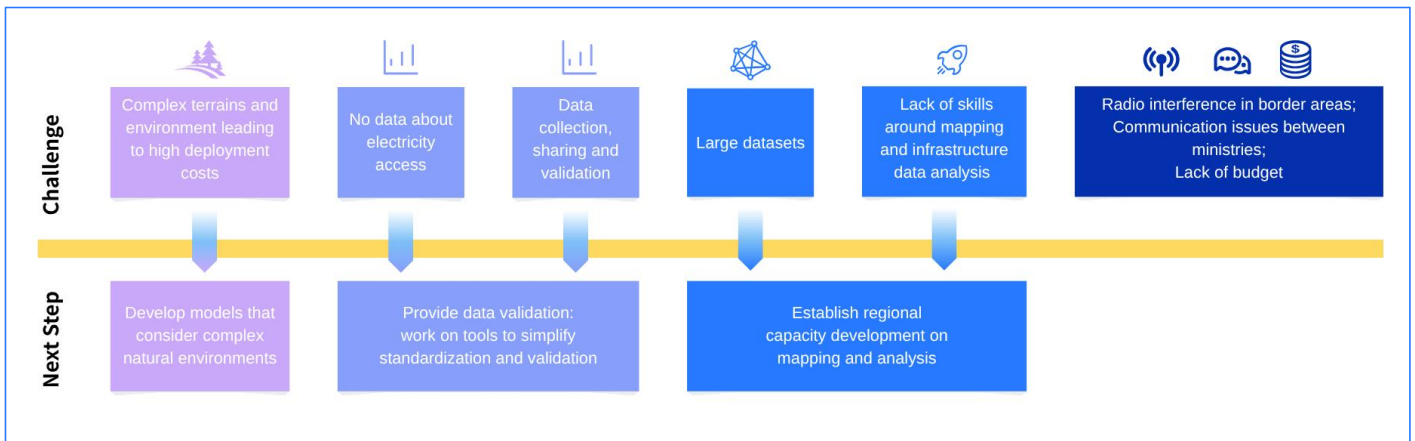
## Model

### Main Priorities for Modelling

-  Better data validation
-  Accounting for complex natural environments in models
-  Building skills on mapping and analysis

Once school locations and connectivity status are established, infrastructure modeling takes the stage. This data-intensive work assists governments by presenting them with network connectivity options and costs. Geographic features, such as mountains or jungles, can be a challenge. Data availability and quality are once again critical, which Giga facilitates by providing guidance on data collection along with prompt feedback and validation. Capacity development is key here, training national technicians to advance the work expeditiously.

In response to the main challenges outlined by country delegations, Giga plans to take the following steps to address them.





## Finance

### Main Priorities for Financing



Capital Mobilization



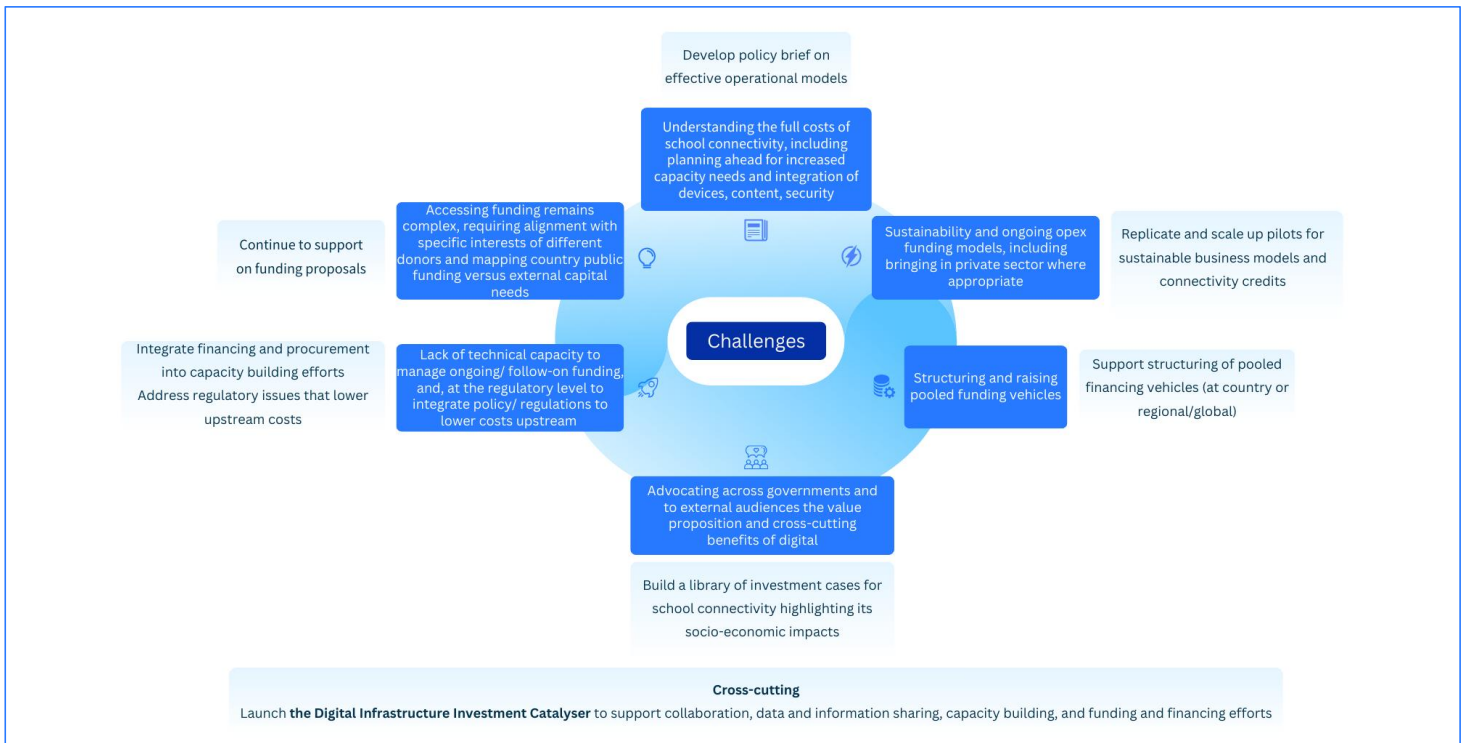
Sustainable Financing



Advocacy, Knowledge Sharing & Collaboration

A range of challenges, from capital mobilization to ensuring sustainable financing for school connectivity were discussed, as well as such factors as changes in technology or demand. Understanding the full cost of connecting schools is not always clear, but governments cannot plan the best use of limited resources without a reliable grasp of financial requirements. Moreover, the donor landscape is complex, which can make the process all the more time-consuming.




Below are the main challenges outlined by country delegations in the finance field, along with the next steps Giga plans to take to address them.





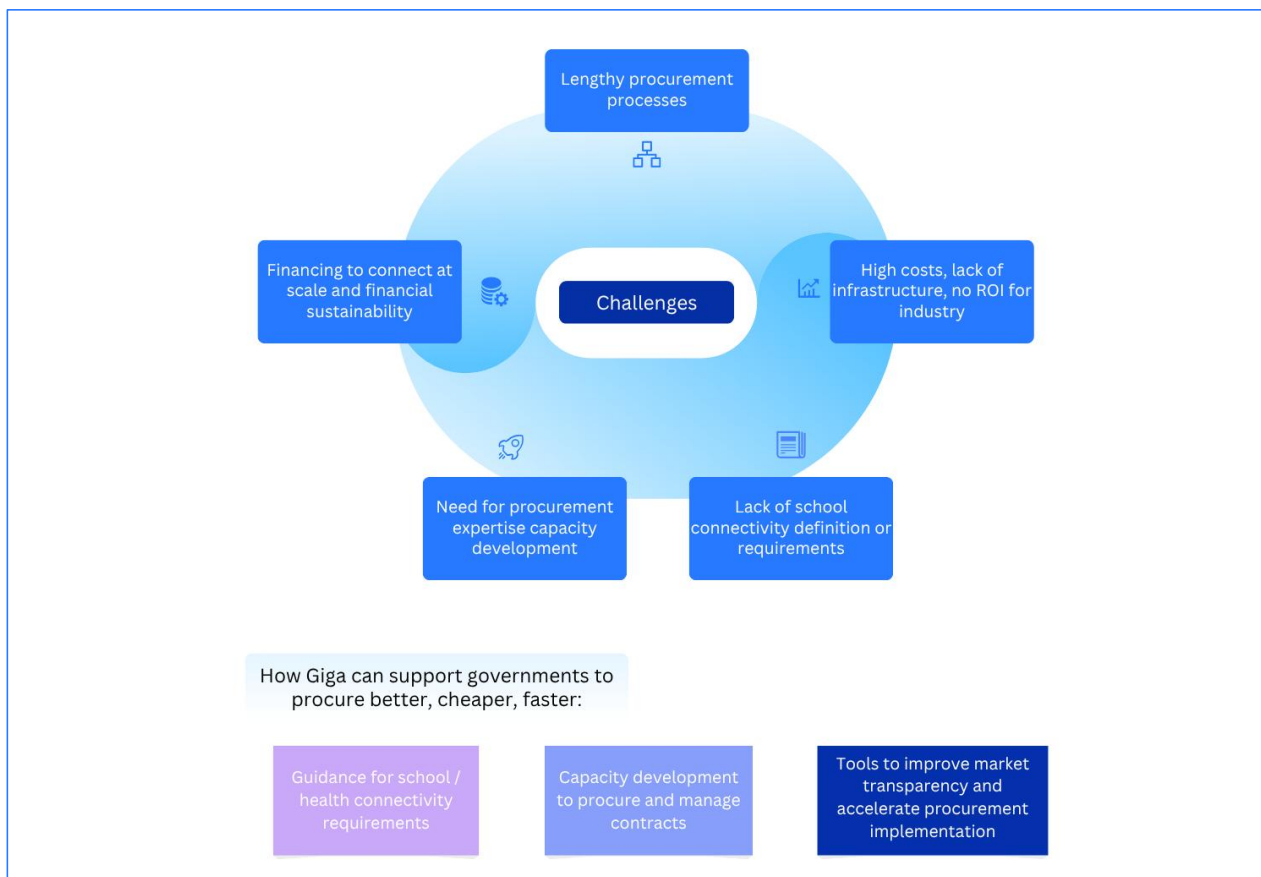
## Contract

### Main Priorities for Contracting

-  Increase number of suppliers and improve the quality of offers
-  Reduce the price of the Mbps and GB (affordability)
-  Unlock procurement at scale

Country delegate discussions on the contract side of connectivity focused on key challenges, including the need for more suppliers, since competition can help to bring prices down while ensuring quality. In this regard, governments need to understand how to compare the offers from suppliers. Also noted was the need to speed up the slow pace of procurement processes. Finally, to enable sustainable connectivity at scale, financing sources need to be in place.




As seen below, Giga plans to take several steps in response to the main challenges outlined by country delegations.





## Capacity Development

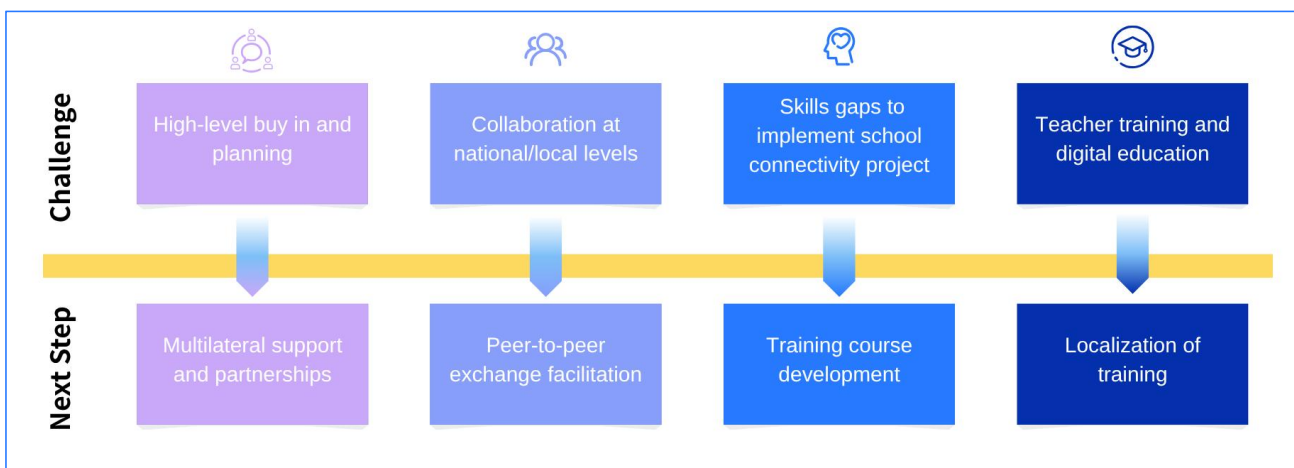
### Main Priorities for Capacity Development

-  Access to training and knowledge sharing
-  Aligning local needs and global support
-  Sustainable capacity development

Many capacity development needs were raised by country delegations. Among the most cited is a shortage of digitally trained teachers, which slows the utilization of connectivity. Local customization of digital learning materials is another key issue that emerged, part of the larger “think local, act global” approach to digital development, aligning local needs with global support. Finally, tech training for local technicians is vital to sustainable, meaningful connectivity.

Giga can help through its tailored training courses, localizing content to better suit each context, and fostering peer-to-peer exchange.

To address the main challenges outlined by country delegations below, Giga offers the support of its Learning Hub, recently opened in Geneva. Operated by ITU, the Learning Hub will offer training activities in all phases of the connectivity process. In Barcelona, the Giga Technology Centre provides a co-creation capacity development programme on Giga open-source tools and services, called the Giga Technology Exchange Programme.





# WSIS High-Level Ministerial Session Panel Session with



**Irene Kaggwa**  
Giga Programme Manager, ITU  
Moderator



**Kátia Helena  
Serafina Cruz  
Schweickardt**  
National Secretary for  
Basic Education, Ministry of  
Education of Brazil



**Ervin Williams**  
National Telecommunications  
Regulatory Commission  
(NTRC),  
St. Kitts and Nevis



**Pilar Orero**  
Professor at Universitat  
Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)  
in the TransMedia Catalonia  
Lab



**Basma Tawfik**  
National Telecommunications  
Regulatory Authority (NTRA),  
Egypt



2025

Giga Connectivity Forum



## 06 | WSIS and Giga

Giga's work, supporting governments to connect every school in the world to the Internet, is closely aligned with WSIS Action Line C2 (information and communication infrastructure), which made GCF the ideal venue for a joint Giga/WSIS Forum High Level event session on **"The Digital Imperative: The Critical Role of School Connectivity."**

Following the context set by ITU Deputy Secretary-General Tomas Lamanauskas, the session, moderated by Giga ITU Programme Manager Irene Kaggwa, shared insights by Kátia Schweickhardt (Ministry of Education of Brazil), Ervin Williams (NTRC, St. Kitts and Nevis), Basma A. Tawfik (NTRA - Egypt) and Pilar Orero (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) on key areas such as the importance of collaboration across Ministries, enabling policy and regulation, and technological strategies for advancing connectivity in the hardest-to-reach areas such as the Brazil's Amazon region, where the strengthening of culture and local identity contributes to the drive for connecting schools. Panelists also explored fostering sustainable school connectivity, including mandating government funded operators and exploring corporate social responsibility (CSR) for entities such as commercial banks, and the importance of having documented government policy on school connectivity in place to ensure continuity across administrations.

# 07 | Spotlight Talks

Diverse voices from the tech, international finance and academic fields added to the forum's vibrant discourse. Key subjects addressed included the need to ensure the digital divide is not exacerbated by the development of AI; the contribution of standards to school connectivity; the role of satellite technology for expanding school connectivity; utilizing schools not only as community anchors for economic development but as connectivity hubs in the event of climate and natural disasters.



*"Building the AI future for the next generations and being able to allow connectivity into schools is extremely linked. We have to start training the young generation to use the systems, but we also have to start allowing them to potentially build systems that are representative of their own realities."*

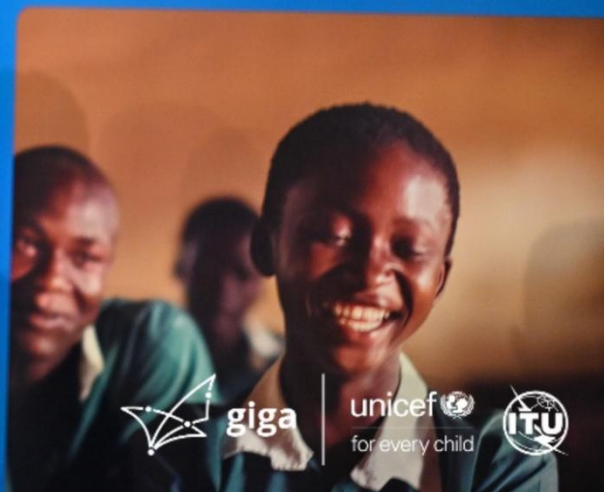
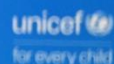
- Kate Kallot, Founder & CEO at Amini



Giga empowers governments with open-source connectivity solution and innovations

About us  
➤ [giga.global](https://giga.global)

Our map  
➤ [maps.giga.global](https://maps.giga.global)



giga

unicef  
for every child





## 08 | African Ministerial Breakfast: Implementing Bulk Procurement for School Connectivity



The African Ministerial Breakfast brought together country delegations from across the continent for a deep-dive into how to harness bulk procurement to cut connectivity costs for schools and health centres. The session focused on taking a structured approach to collective purchasing using the following tools:

- **Long-Term Agreements (LTAs)** with a wide range of internet providers, secured through competitive, continent-wide RFPs tailored to schools and health centres.
- **A public catalogue of connectivity prices** to improve transparency and negotiation leverage.
- **Secondary bidding rounds** to unlock volume-based discounts.
- **Real-time tools** for monitoring and managing service delivery, ensuring accountability.

The session highlighted how coordinated procurement can accelerate digital transformation and deliver meaningful savings for governments, turning connectivity into a catalyst for broader development.

# Organizations participating in GCF

## (In alphabetical order by country)

Country	Entity	Category
Albania	National Agency of Information Society	Special Guest
Antigua and Barbuda	Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Information Technology	Country Delegation
Belize	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance	Country Delegation
Benin	Ministry of Digital Affairs and Digitalisation	Country Delegation
	Ministry of nursery and primary school	Country Delegation
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Communications Regulatory Agency	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Civil Affairs	Country Delegation
Botswana	Ministry of Child Welfare & Basic Education	Country Delegation
	Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority	Country Delegation
Brazil	National Telecommunications Agency	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation
Cambodia	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport	Country Delegation

	Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia	Country Delegation
China	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	Expert
Dominica	National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission	Country Delegation
Dominican Rep.	Dominican Institute of Telecommunications	Country Delegation
Egypt	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Education and Technical Education	Country Delegation
El Salvador	Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations in Geneva	Special Guest
Eswatini	Eswatini Communications Commission	Country Delegation
	National Cybersecurity Agency	Country Delegation
Fiji	USP The University of the South Pacific	Country Delegation
France	Council of Europe Development Bank	Expert
Germany	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Special Guest
Ghana	Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology, and Innovations	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation
	National Communications Authority	Country Delegation
	Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations in Geneva	Special Guest

	Tamale Technical University	Country Delegation
Grenada	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation
Guatemala	Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations	Country Delegation
	The Superintendency of Telecommunications	Country Delegation
Guinea	Minister of Pre-University Education and Literacy	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Digital Economy	Country Delegation, Speaker
Honduras	Ministry of Education of Honduras	Country Delegation
India	Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications	Country Delegation
Kenya	Amini	Speaker
	Communications Authority of Kenya	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Information, Communications	Country Delegation
	National ICT Innovation & Integration Centre	Country Delegation
	State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications	Country Delegation
	Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations in Geneva	Special Guest
Kyrgyzstan	Ministry of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic	Country Delegation

	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation
Lesotho	Lesotho Communications Authority	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Education and Training	Country Delegation
Liberia	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications	Country Delegation
Malawi	Ministry of Information and Digitalization	Country Delegation
Mexico	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation
	Rhizomatica	Special Guest
Moldova	Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Education and Research	Country Delegation
Mongolia	Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Communications	Country Delegation
Mozambique	Mozambique Communications Regulatory Authority	Country Delegation
Namibia	Ministry of Education, Art and Culture	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Information and Communication Technology	Country Delegation
	Office of the Prime Minister	Country Delegation
Niger	Ministry of Communication and New Information Technologies	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation

	Permanent Mission of Niger to the United Nations in Geneva	Special Guest
Nigeria	Nigerian Communications Commission	Country Delegation
Pakistan	Higher Education Department, Government of the Punjab, Pakistan	Country Delegation
Panama	National Public Services Authority	Country Delegation
Philippines	Department of Education	Country Delegation
Portugal	Association for Progressive Communications	Special Guest
Rwanda	MTN	Expert
	Embassy of Rwanda to Switzerland and Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva	Special Guest
	Rwanda Information Society Authority	Country Delegation
	SMART AFRICA	Special Guest
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation
	National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission	Country Delegation
Saint Lucia	OECS Commission	Country Delegation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission	Country Delegation
São Tomé and Príncipe	General Regulatory Authority	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Education, Culture, Science	Country Delegation
Senegal	Grant Thornton Technologies	Country Delegation

	Telecommunications and Posts Regulatory Authority	Country Delegation
	Universal Telecommunications Service Development Fund	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Digital Economy and Telecommunications	Country Delegation
	National Education Ministry	Country Delegation
South Africa	Department of Basic Education	Special Guest
	Department of Communications and Digital Technologies	Country Delegation
	Independent Communications Authority of South Africa	Country Delegation
	MTN Group	Country Delegation
Spain	Government of Catalonia	Special Guest
Sri Lanka	Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education	Country Delegation
	Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations	Special Guest
	Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka	Country Delegation
Sweden	Unconnected.org	Speaker
Switzerland	Artha Impact (Rianta Capital)	Special Guest
	University of Geneva	Special Guest
	GESDA	Special Guest

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	Giga Research Lab	Special Guest
	HEC Lausanne	Special Guest
	International Affairs	Special Guest
	International Bridges to Justice (IBJ)	Special Guest
	Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations	Special Guest, Speaker
	State of Geneva	Special Guest
	Swisscom	Special Guest
	Swissquote	Special Guest
	Trust Valley	Special Guest
	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Special Guest

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Tanzania	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology	Country Delegation
	Ministry of Education	Country Delegation
	Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority	Country Delegation
	Universal Communication Service Access Fund	Country Delegation

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United Kingdom	Project Earth and Queen Mary University of London	Speaker
	Northern Trust	Special Guest

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United States	Meta	Special Guest
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	World Bank Group	Expert
	USAID	Special Guest
Uzbekistan	Ministry of Preschool and School Education	Country Delegation
	Council of Europe Development Bank	Special Guest
	GitHub	Special Guest
	M-Lab / Superbloom	Special Guest
	People Centered Internet	Special Guest
	The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)	Special Guest

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# Stay in Touch See You in 2026!

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[www.giga.global](http://www.giga.global)

## Resources

- Interviews
- Summary Video
- Event Photos

We'd love to stay in touch and let you know what's happening next for Giga. So if you haven't done so already, please sign up to receive more news, timely stories and insights in our new **Giga Newsletter!**

Signup



unicef   
for every child

