Concept Note

Giga Country Tour

Showcasing the power of school connectivity to the world

Background

Since its launch in 2019, Giga has made significant strides in advancing universal school connectivity —mapping millions of schools, connecting learners in underserved communities, supporting governments, and developing innovative models to reduce connectivity costs through data, technology and finance.

Building on this momentum, Giga is proud to launch the **Giga Country Tour (GCT)** to showcase the achievements and lessons learned from countries that have embarked on this journey.

The Giga Country Tour is envisioned as a dynamic, story-telling driven online series that brings the vision of universal school connectivity to life through real country experiences. By highlighting the journeys of selected **Giga countries**, the series will foster peer learning and inspire action. It will also shine a spotlight on the broader ecosystem of **partners**, **pledgers**, **donors**, **innovators** and **entrepreneurs** who are driving progress in school connectivity and digital inclusion worldwide.

Objectives

- **Spotlight** the implementation journeys of selected Giga countries, highlighting key milestones, challenges and successes.
- **Showcase** the work of partners, pledgers, donors, innovators, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders supporting school connectivity and digital inclusion at country level.
- **Facilitate** the exchange of experiences and lessons learned to accelerate scale-up and enable replication across contexts.
- **Inspire** new countries and stakeholders to engage with Giga by demonstrating tangible results, impact, and practical approaches to overcoming challenges.
- **Strengthen** the Giga community and its collective narrative by showcasing progress from the ground up.
- **Highlight Giga tools and products**, illustrating how they can be applied throughout different stages of the implementation journey.

Target Audience

The **Giga Country Tour** will be delivered as an online webinar series, combining invitation-based participation with open access to a broader online audience.

Key stakeholders invited to the sessions will include: ITU members, Giga countries, Giga partners and donors, Partner2Connect pledgers, as well as representatives from financing institutions and development banks, academia, civil society, private sector companies, and innovators and entrepreneurs engaged in advancing school connectivity and digital inclusion.

Scope and Timeline

The first leg of the **Giga Country Tour** will run from **September to December 2026** and will feature three Giga countries[1] across different regions:

First Stop – Americas: Guatemala. (10 September 2026. 9:30 AM -10:30 AM Guatemala Time – 5:30 PM-6:30 PM Central European Time) - **Done**

Second Stop – Asia: Cambodia (21 October 2026. 3:30 – 4:30 PM Cambodia

Time – 10:30 – 11:30 Central European Time) - **Done**

Third Stop – Africa: Country and Date (TBD)

Format and Structure

The Giga Country Tour will be delivered as a **live webinar series** via **Zoom**, with each session recorded and subsequently made available on the **Giga platform**. As part of Giga's capacity development pillar, the series will also feature a strong marketing and communications component to maximize reach and engagement.

Each webinar will have a duration of **60 minutes** and will follow a **dynamic**, **fast-paced** format. **Audience engagement** will be a core component of the format. Each session will include a **dedicated interactive segment** to foster dialogue and peer exchange.

The **Giga Country Tour** will be an exciting, action-oriented, and transformational series, delivering tangible learnings and fostering active engagement across a diverse range of stakeholders.

Join us!!!

Do you want your country to be featured in the Giga Country Tour? Email us at: giga@itu.int

Visit the Giga Country Tour Website: https://giga.global/giga-country-tour/#stops

[1] *The three countries that will comprise the first leg of the Giga Country Tour have been selected by the Giga Secretariat. Following editions of the Giga Country Tour in 2027 will include countries both selected by the Secretariat, and "volunteer" countries that express their interest in sharing their journey.*