



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

ADDRESSING EMERGING REQUIREMENTS
AND CHALLENGES FOR POLICY AND
DECISION-MAKING IN DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2020

IN THIS EDITION:

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19: UN 'Remains Open for Business', Determined to Deliver for The People We Serve, Says UN Chief**
- **Telecoms, Coronavirus and Keeping the Networks Running**
- **ITU Launches Network Resiliency Platform**
- **Five Ways Coronavirus Could Shape Our Digital Future**
- **Coronavirus Shutdowns Expose Digital Divide**
- **WFP And UNHCR Bring Innovative Ideas to Address Operational Challenges to The Digital Solutions Bootcamp**
- **How Digital Inclusion Made Bangladesh a Standout South Asian Economy**
- **How to Accelerate Digital Literacy in The Enterprise World**
- **Leaving No One Behind: Guidance on Filling Data Gaps on Children in The SDGs**
- **Lack of Quality Data Compounds Risks Facing Millions of Displaced and Migrant Children**
- **This Is How Digital Banking Could Boost China's Economy**
- **Rural Broadband Policy Framework: Connecting the Unconnected**
- **Digital Doesn't Have to Be A Development Issue**

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19: UN ‘Remains Open for Business’, Determined to Deliver for The People We Serve, Says UN Chief



DESA

“In light of the continuing spread of the coronavirus, the UN has stepped up measures to safeguard staff and all those using its offices around the world, while at the same time ensuring that the critical work of the Organization continues to deliver on key mandates, and provide lifesaving support to those in need...”

Telecoms, Coronavirus and Keeping the Networks Running



“In the past decade, telecommunications have been somewhat forgotten by markets, who are enamored by much cooler digital brothers, as well as taken for granted by consumers – and given ‘tough love’ by policy-makers. But in the time of the Coronavirus global health crisis in which many people are being asked – or mandated – to stay home, telecoms connectivity is vital to keeping the economy going and keeping society intact...”

ITU Launches Network Resiliency Platform



“ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao’s statement on the launch of a global platform to help protect telecommunication networks during the COVID-19 crisis. New platform will assist governments and the private sector in ensuring that networks are kept resilient and telecommunication services are available to all...”

Five Ways Coronavirus Could Shape Our Digital Future



“The full disruptive potential of the coronavirus (COVID-19) will take months if not years to reveal itself. In the meantime, plenty of brainpower has already been expended exploring the potential cost to lives and livelihoods across Africa, Asia, Europe and America...”

Coronavirus Shutdowns Expose Digital Divide



“**No Internet, no school:** School closings in the U.S. in response to the coronavirus pandemic are exposing the continuing digital divide in the country, U.S. News and World Report says. The Federal Communications Commission should step in to help poor students get access, Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel told a Senate committee recently...”

WFP And UNHCR Bring Innovative Ideas to Address Operational Challenges to The Digital Solutions Bootcamp



Bootcamp...”

“From 9–13 March 2020, five teams of innovators from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) are coming together virtually for the **United Nations Digital Solutions**

How Digital Inclusion Made Bangladesh a Standout South Asian Economy



“Bangladesh is continuing its strong development trajectory, marching ahead of other South Asian countries in terms of its ranking on the Inclusive Development Index (IDI), GDP growth rate, and other human development achievements...”

How to Accelerate Digital Literacy in The Enterprise World



“As technology evolves, there is a ‘growing skills instability’. As a result, it is anticipated that more than one-half of all employees will require significant retraining in coming years. To build a digital product, all workforces must come together to help the developers without direction and potentially without the skill...”

Leaving No One Behind: Guidance on Filling Data Gaps on Children in The SDGs



“If children’s issues are measured and reported on, it’s more likely that attention will be paid to them. That’s why UNICEF invests heavily in the development of indicator methodologies, data collection and quality control, and advocates for open data. ...”

Lack of Quality Data Compounds Risks Facing Millions of Displaced and Migrant Children




“The widespread lack of quality data on millions of displaced and migrant children is compounding the serious risks they face, a coalition of international organizations announced today in New York during the launch of the International Data Alliance on Children on the Move. ...”

This Is How Digital Banking Could Boost China’s Economy




“China’s economy is growing at its lowest rate in over 30 years, but if the country’s nearly 40 million small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) could overcome a lack of access to funding, they could become a powerful engine of economic dynamism. Can digital innovators close the SME financing gap?”

Rural Broadband Policy Framework: Connecting the Unconnected

 **A4AI** ALLIANCE FOR AFFORDABLE INTERNET “In partnership with the Association of Progressive Communications (APC), Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA), Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and Facebook, A4AI has published the Rural Broadband Policy Framework (RBPF)...”

Digital Doesn't Have to Be A Development Issue

 Evidence. Ideas. Change. “For some, ‘development’ is synonymous with efforts to end global poverty via economic and social means. For others it carries the baggage of asymmetrical power relationships and self-interest disguised as selflessness. Neither view is invalid and nor are they mutually exclusive, but most would agree the world is moving on...”