

# The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) : 5 years of research, advocacy and multistakeholder engagement



**Caribbean IGF – Port of Spain  
May 2, 2019**

# (About me)

- 1994-98: DR and Haiti NRENs – live here since -1996 CanGoNet/SALSA
- 2002 Facilitated First Caribbean ICT roundtable (ITU/IDRC Barbados)
- Caribbean ICT stakeholders virtual community (CIVIC) → WSIS 2003 Caribbean positions (pre-history for CarIGF)
- 2003 Caribbean IS Program design consultations (Cariforum -> ClctSC DevNet mandated to rep. CIVIC)
- 2006 CarlsNet project (Taigüey-DevNet-JSNDP-AHTIC-Funredes)
- 2006 Caribbean Telecenters network (ACTIVATE)
- 2011 Caribbean Open Institute COI (OD4D research, DevCA, CSO)

*CIVIC today has 560 persons subscribed. Ask the volunteer moderator*

# What is The Alliance for Affordable Internet ?

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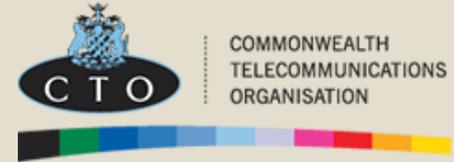


We are the  
**world's broadest technology sector alliance**  
working to  
**drive down the price of broadband**  
by  
**transforming policy and regulatory frameworks.**

# Public-private collaboration in action with 85 member organisations



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



All have endorsed one set of best practices

- grounded on the principles of internet freedom and the fundamental rights of expression, assembly, and association online -

for making affordable broadband internet a reality.

# Affordability still a major barrier to access



The high cost to connect is excluding billions from the digital revolution

Over half of the world's population is still offline  
*At current rates, on track to miss global access target by 20+ years*

Just 19 countries meet the "1 for 2" affordability target  
*1GB for 2% or less of average monthly income*

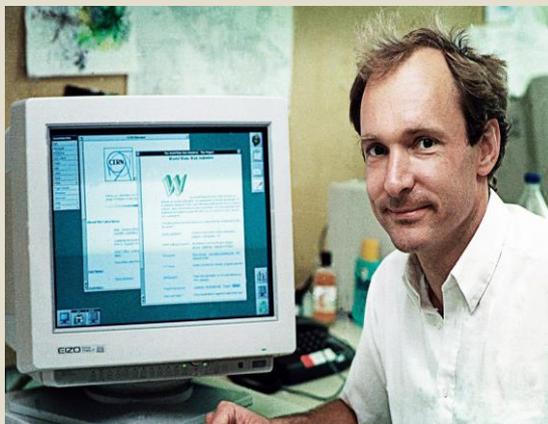
A4AI is hosted at



**WORLD WIDE WEB  
FOUNDATION**

Founded by web inventor  
**Sir Tim Berners-Lee** to  
advance the open web as a  
public good and a basic  
right for everyone

Working to deliver  
**digital equality** - a  
world where everyone  
has the same rights  
and opportunities  
online



Research



Advocacy

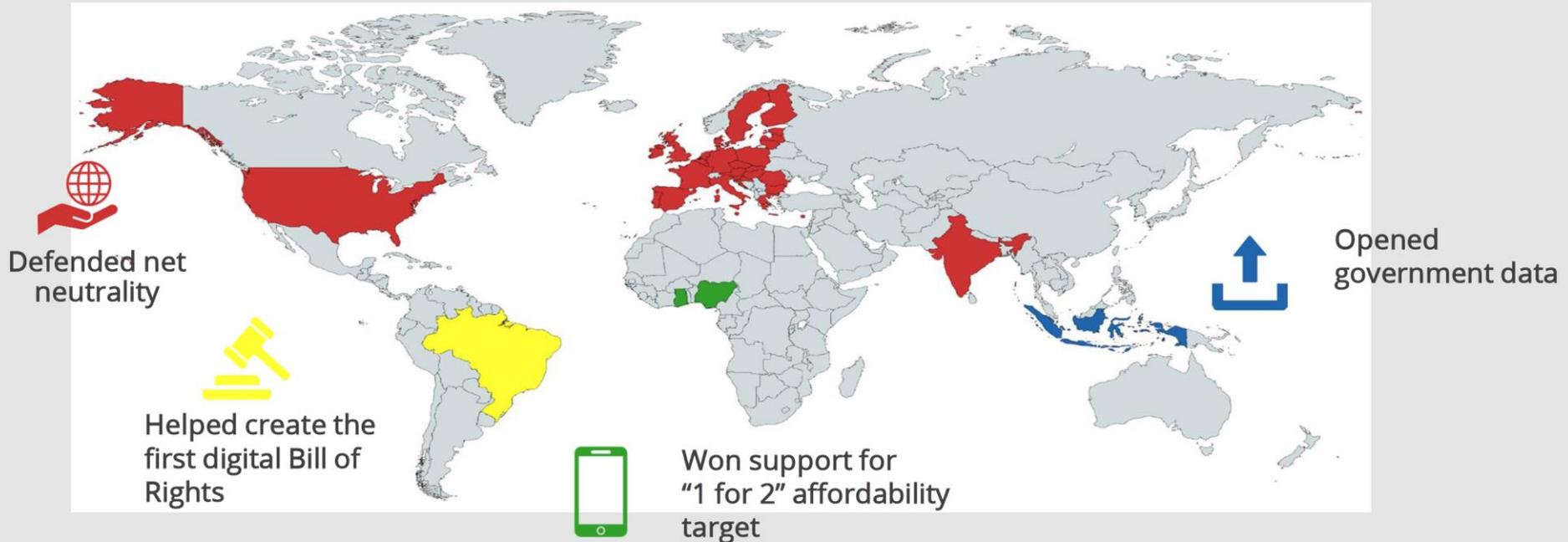


Practical Innovation



**WORLD WIDE WEB**  
FOUNDATION

# Some key policy victories



# A Contract for the Web



WORLD WIDE WEB  
FOUNDATION

<https://fortheweb.webfoundation.org/>

**\_For  
The  
Web |**



Governments



Citizens



Companies



#WEB30

# A big advocacy win!



Broadband Commission adopts A4AI's "1 for 2" Target on January 2018!



Meaningful access is next



# Research



# The 2018 Affordability Report

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- Annual effort to track policy & regulatory progress towards affordable internet
- Based on primary research across 61 low- and middle-income countries
- Why have some countries succeeded in improving internet access and affordability? What can other countries do to catch up quickly?

# Policy on pause

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Globally, policies have barely changed

<< Average increase in policy scores across all areas: 1% >>



Just **24 countries** meet “**1 for 2**” affordability target

--1GB of mobile broadband priced at 2% or less of average monthly income --

# What is the ADI?



## ADI = Affordability Drivers Index

Does not directly measure affordability; Measures the extent to which countries have implemented policies to improve internet affordability

ACCESS

INFRASTRUCTURE

# 2018 ADI: Global rankings



**ADI  
Top  
15**

COUNTRY	ACCESS SUB-INDEX SCORE	INFRASTRUCTURE SUB-INDEX SCORE	ADI SCORE 2018	RANK 2018
Malaysia	95.59	60.08	82.44	1
Colombia	83.38	66.02	79.12	2
Peru	80.71	63.20	76.21	3
Costa Rica	86.20	57.14	75.91	4
Mexico	76.05	63.30	73.80	5
Turkey	75.26	55.67	69.33	6
Argentina	71.99	58.20	68.94	7
India	71.49	56.59	67.83	8
Thailand	77.50	50.36	67.71	9
Dominican Rep.	71.35	54.10	66.44	10
Ecuador	71.45	53.18	66.00	11
Mauritius	76.66	45.75	64.83	12
Brazil	68.13	53.58	64.46	13
Morocco	69.84	48.72	62.79	14
Pakistan	65.74	52.39	62.56	15

# Research Outputs



- Policy brief published (March 2018) - *Universal Service and Access Funds: An Untapped Resource to Close the Gender Digital Divide*
  - Highlights need for gender-based disbursement targets within USAF's in Africa (proposed at 50% of funds), greater transparency, women centered project design, and the need for self-reflection on gender issues *within* Funds.
  - We are working on an advocacy plan to promote report's recommendations across the region.



# Research Outputs

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- **Mobile Broadband Pricing Update**
  - Review of prices for 2017 in almost 60 countries with publicly available dataset
  - Only 24 countries meet “1 for 2” target.
- **Quality of Service Report**
  - Emphasis on policies to lower costs and improve QoS
  - New public data set on QoS indicators by country (based on data from top MNO in each country): Download/upload speeds, and latency.

>> [Download the full datasets in csv format](#) or [xlsx format](#)

>> [See also data from previous years](#)

Price in USD

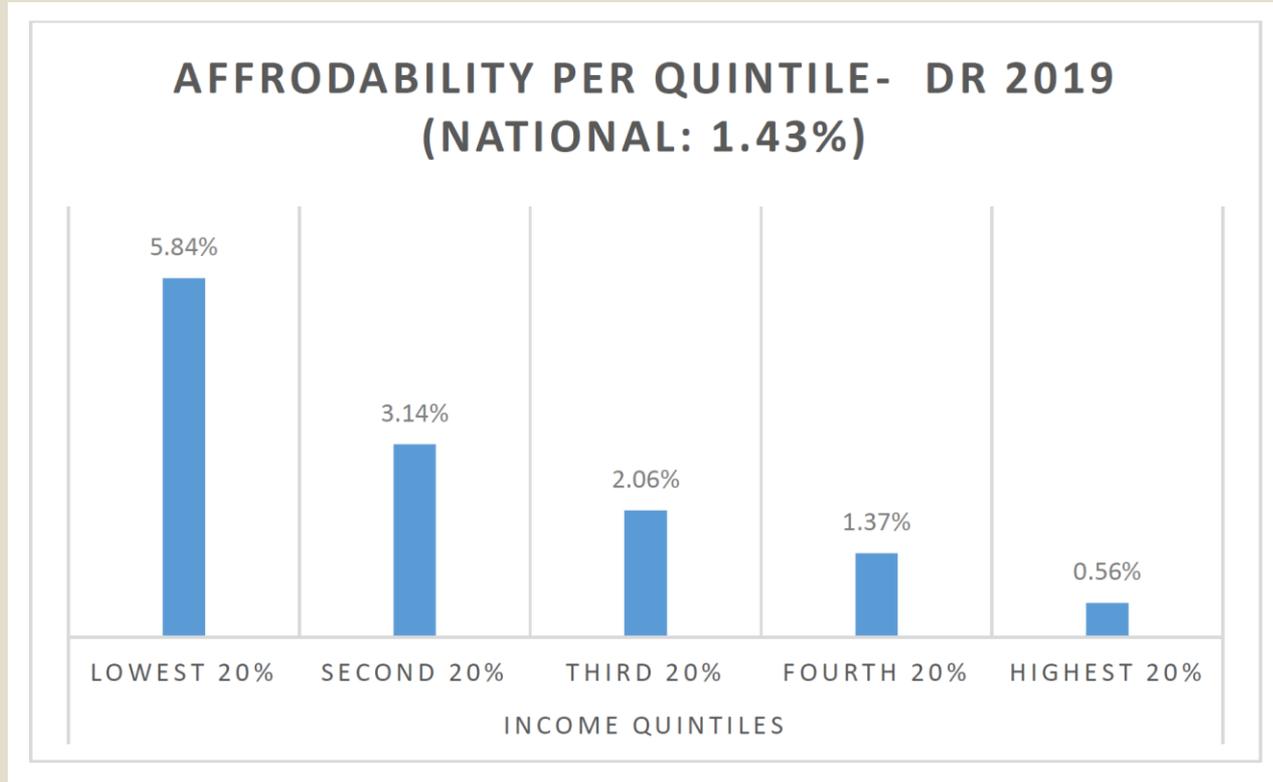
Price (USD) as a % of Average Income

Heat Map

Search by country...

	100MB	500MB	1GB	2GB	5GB	10GB
Countries	GNI per capita					
 Afghanistan	1.39%	4.17%	4.17%	5.56%	13.91%	27.82%
 Algeria	2.04%	2.04%	2.04%	3.82%	5.10%	5.10%
 Angola	1.17%	2.35%	4.70%	9.40%	23.49%	29.37%
 Argentina	1.12%	1.12%	1.12%	1.12%	1.12%	1.42%
 Bangladesh	0.54%	1.53%	2.35%	3.46%	6.25%	11.87%
 Belize	4.68%	4.68%	4.68%	4.68%	4.68%	9.35%
 Benin	2.61%	5.22%	7.83%	10.44%	11.75%	17.75%
 Bolivia	0.49%	1.09%	2.18%	2.72%	7.63%	10.79%
 Botswana	0.98%	1.56%	1.56%	2.38%	5.63%	10.95%

# DR per Quintile affordability



# What action must we take to make universal broadband access a reality?



## Employ Public Access Solutions to Close the Digital Divide

Critical to reach groups that cannot pay for regular internet use.

## Foster Market Competition through Smart Policy

Competitive markets provide foundation for growth, innovation & affordable access.

## Implement Innovative Uses of Spectrum

Clear strategies to ensure availability of sufficient spectrum on a timely basis.

# What action must we take to make universal access a reality?



## Promote Infrastructure and Resource Sharing

Provides operators the best option to reduce the cost of service provision.

## Make Effective Use of Universal Service and Access Funds

Active, transparent & efficiently managed funds can support broadband strategies & targets.

## Turn Effective Broadband Planning Into Effective Implementation

Plans that set clear, time-bound and measurable targets are best of all.

# How is A4AI working to tackle these gaps?



Encouraging the adoption of ambitious affordability targets to drive down prices & increase access

Working with national coalitions & stakeholders on the ground to develop policies needed to improve affordability

Improving collection of gender- and poverty-disaggregated data to track progress

Advocating for expanded public access initiatives

*Designing gender-responsive policy*



# **Women's Rights Online**

# WRO members



International Association of Women in Radio and Television





WORLD WIDE WEB  
FOUNDATION

We can close the digital gender gap if we R.E.A.C.T



Rights



Education



Access



Content



Targets



@webfoundation

#WomensRightsOnline



WORLD WIDE WEB  
FOUNDATION

**Connecting the Next Billion:**

**Why we must REACT to the Growing Digital Gender Gap**

# Direct support & action: Where we work



# How do we work in member countries?

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In each member country, we form a  
**national multi-stakeholder coalition**



to  
IDENTIFY KEY BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE ACCESS  
&  
DEVISE TAILORED SOLUTIONS TO DRIVE PRICES DOWN

# Priority engagement areas: Africa coalitions



Country	Priority Issues
<b>Ghana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Data collection/research to develop solid evidence for policy decisions</li><li>● Pricing transparency &amp; consumer awareness and advocacy</li><li>● Infrastructure sharing &amp; open access<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Government adopted proposed reduction on smartphones import duties</b></li><li>❖ <b>Shaped resolution on data plans price transparency, consumer protection</b></li><li>❖ <b>Government endorsed “1 for 2” affordability target</b></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Mozambique</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Data collection/research to develop solid evidence for policy decisions</li><li>● Equal access and use (universal broadband access with focus on marginalized groups and rural development)</li><li>● Fiscal policy and sector taxation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Contributed to the national census indicators to measure ICT access and use</b></li><li>❖ <b>Shaped the development of new infrastructure sharing regulation</b></li><li>❖ <b>Shaped development of new universal access &amp; service regulations</b></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Nigeria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Pricing transparency &amp; consumer awareness and advocacy</li><li>● Infrastructure sharing, spectrum &amp; open access<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Government endorsed “1 for 2” affordability target</b></li><li>❖ <b>Coalition successfully stalled a proposed 9% tax on all data services</b></li><li>❖ <b>A4AI is key advisor to ICT Minister on national broadband plan revision</b></li></ul></li></ul>

# Priority engagement areas: Latin America coalitions



Country	Priority Issues
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Fiscal policy and sector taxation</li><li>● Infrastructure sharing &amp; open access</li><li>● ICT public policies for social inclusion</li><li>● Data collection/research to develop solid evidence for policy decisions</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Revived Digital Agenda development process; had been dormant for 5+ years</b></li><li>❖ <b>Contributed to the development of new infrastructure sharing regulations</b></li><li>❖ <b>Submitted recommendations for reforms in the fiscal policy affecting the sector</b></li><li>❖ <b>Broadband law proposal</b></li></ul>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Support the design and implementation of the national digital agenda</li><li>● Development of a National Broadband Plan</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Project started in July 2017</b></li><li>❖ <b>Working with national stakeholders and COMTELCA on sub-regional project to develop broadband strategy and plans</b></li></ul>

# Priority engagement areas: Asia coalitions



Country	Priority Issues
<b>Bangladesh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Infrastructure sharing and deployment</li><li>● Development of a National Strategy and Plan for Effective and Affordable Broadband in Bangladesh</li></ul> <p>❖ <b>Project started in July 2017</b></p> <p>❖ <b>Working with A4AI partners/supporters to develop national strategy and action plan for the development of affordable broadband</b></p>
<b>Myanmar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Fiscal policy and sector taxation</li><li>● Infrastructure sharing and deployment</li><li>● Universal access strategy</li><li>● Data collection/research to develop solid evidence for policy decisions</li></ul> <p>❖ <b>Submitted recommendations for ICT sector data collection</b></p> <p>❖ <b>Provided inputs to the National Telecommunications Master Plan</b></p> <p>❖ <b>Developed a map of the fiscal policy affecting the ICT sector as a whole</b></p> <p>❖ <b>Developing recommendations for effective use of rights of way</b></p> <p>❖ <b>Submitted gender based recommendations for the Universal Access Strategy</b></p>



# lessons

- Real multistakeholder engagement is also a capacity and consensus building exercise.
- Takes time a much more effort. A consultant would produce similar proposal faster and cheaper but miss the buy in.
- Needs real buy in from government, trust in that outputs will be considered or adopted
- For successful post-process implementation, process as important as result



# Thank you!



Yacine Khelladi  
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