



UGANDA
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY SUPPLEMENT

BUILDING UGANDA'S DIGITAL RESILIENCE IN A CONNECTED WORLD



Driving ICT utilisation and digital access

KAMPALA, May 17, 2026 - Uganda joins the rest of the world on May 17, 2026, to commemorate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), an annual occasion that highlights the transformative role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in social and economic development.

This year's theme, "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World," underscores the growing importance of robust digital infrastructure and services in supporting societies, economies, and public services in an increasingly interconnected world.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day has been celebrated annually since 1969 to mark the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. The day seeks to raise awareness about the opportunities that ICTs and the internet present in improving livelihoods, driving innovation, and bridging the digital divide.

As the United Nations' specialised agency

for Information and Communication Technologies, the ITU continues to play a central role in facilitating global connectivity and promoting inclusive digital development. Uganda has been a member of the ITU since 1963 and remains actively engaged in international efforts aimed at harnessing technology for sustainable development.

Over the years, ICTs have evolved from being tools of communication into critical enablers of national transformation. Today, digital technologies underpin commerce, education, healthcare, governance, agriculture, innovation, and financial inclusion. Across the globe, countries are increasingly recognising that resilient digital infrastructure is now as important as physical infrastructure in supporting economic growth and national competitiveness.

In Uganda, the communications sector continues to register significant progress, driven by strategic investments in infrastructure, supportive policy frameworks, and expanding digital services. The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has remained at the centre of these efforts through initiatives aimed at promot-

ing universal access, digital inclusion, consumer empowerment, and innovation.

One of the major priorities has been expanding connectivity to underserved and rural communities. Through the Uganda Communications Universal Service and Access Fund (UCUSAF), UCC has supported the rollout and upgrading of telecommunications infrastructure in areas where commercial incentives for private investment remain limited. These interventions have improved access to voice and internet services for millions of Ugandans, helping to narrow the digital divide between urban and rural populations.



Recognition

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The Commission has also continued to support connectivity in educational institutions. Through partnerships with stakeholders and ongoing digital access programmes, several government-aided schools and institutions have been connected to high-speed internet infrastructure, enabling learners and teachers to access digital educational resources and participate in the growing digital economy.

Uganda's digital transformation journey has equally been supported by the continued growth in mobile and internet penetration. Mobile broadband has become the primary means through which many Ugandans access online services, conduct business, access financial services, and communicate. The growth of mobile money and other digital financial services has further accelerated financial inclusion and strengthened participation in the digital economy.

Beyond connectivity, digital resilience also requires ensuring that citizens can use technology safely and productively. UCC has therefore continued to implement programmes aimed at improving digital literacy, promoting online safety, and strengthening consumer awareness. Particular attention has been given to child online protection, cybersecurity awareness, and combating misinformation and online fraud, all of which are essential for building trust and confidence in digital platforms.

The media and broadcasting sectors have also continued to play a critical role in national development by facilitating access to information and amplifying public education messages across the country. Uganda's broadcasting industry remains one of the most accessible communication platforms, reaching communities in diverse local languages and supporting public participation in national development processes.

Meanwhile, innovation within Uganda's ICT ecosystem continues to create new opportunities for entrepreneurship, employment, and service delivery. Technology startups, digital innovators, software developers, and content creators are increasingly contributing to economic growth and positioning Uganda as an emerging player in Africa's digital economy. This growth is supported by improvements

in connectivity infrastructure, increased smartphone adoption, and the expansion of digital platforms and services.

International collaboration also remains critical in advancing Uganda's digital aspirations. Through engagement with organisations such as the ITU, the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), and other regional and global partners, Uganda continues to participate in discussions on emerging technologies, spectrum management, digital inclusion, cybersecurity, and future communications systems.

As the world rapidly transitions toward advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, satellite broadband, and 5G networks, the need for resilient and inclusive digital ecosystems has become even more urgent. Digital infrastructure is no longer simply about connectivity; it is now central to economic productivity, innovation, public service delivery, and social participation.

The Government of Uganda, working together with industry players, development partners, and citizens, continues to prioritise the development of a robust communications sector capable of supporting the country's long-term social and economic transformation agenda. This aligns with the objectives of the National Development Plan IV and Uganda's broader vision of building a knowledge-based economy.

As Uganda commemorates World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2026, the occasion presents an opportunity to reflect on the progress made and recommit to building a digitally inclusive society where no one is left behind. The continued expansion of resilient digital infrastructure, affordable connectivity, digital skills, and safe online environments will remain essential in unlocking the full potential of ICTs for national development.

The future of Uganda's economy and society will increasingly depend on the country's ability to harness digital technologies effectively, inclusively, and sustainably. WTISD 2026 therefore serves as a reminder that digital connectivity is not merely a technological issue, but a development imperative that touches every aspect of modern life.



Expanding network coverage and connectivity



Bridging the digital divide through targeted skilling and device distribution