



HLPF 2021

Session: [Looking at the 2020 targets: implementation and review](#)

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On behalf of ITU, which is the custodian of 5 SDG targets related to ICTs, I wanted to comment on Target 9.c.

As a reminder, Target 9.c calls for significantly increasing access to ICTs and striving to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

This target is obviously critical. In the current context, connectivity has become a 'lifeline' and remains a key enabler for other SDGs.

The indicator used to monitor this target is the share of the population covered by a mobile broadband network, that allows connect to the Internet. The 2020 target is 100% of the population.

Has the target been met? The short answer is no. As of 2020, approximately 76% of the population of LDCs was covered by a 3G network.

And we need to remember that Target 9.c is only about access to Internet, the mere possibility of connecting. It is not yet about actual use. Indeed, only one in five people in LDCs are online. More efforts are needed to achieve universal access and even more efforts are needed in this decade of action to bring everyone online.