

A person wearing a red jacket and a backpack is walking across a suspension bridge. The bridge has a metal grate floor and chain-link railings. Colorful prayer flags are strung along the railings. The background shows a rocky, mountainous landscape with some trees.

# Delivering on a Five-Year Strategy: **2019–2024** **Impact Results**

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# Introduction

**The Internet is for everyone. But one third of the world's population still lacks access to it. We have been in the business of shrinking that number for 32 years by building, defending, and promoting the Internet.**

As technology evolves, so does our work. That's why, in 2019, we launched a five-year plan with a clear roadmap for change. This report is a snapshot of how we made the ambitious goals that we set for ourselves a reality.

When making the plan, we could not have anticipated that most of our work would be done amid a global pandemic. COVID-19 made our work more challenging, but it also made it even more critical: it underscored people's reliance on the Internet. For education, for work, for public health, and for human connection.

Despite the challenges, we exceeded our goals. Together with our global community, we built, promoted, and defended the Internet in 201 countries and territories. And we prioritized fundraising, helping diversify and extend our donor and audience base to secure long-term viability.

We invite you to celebrate your contributions, dig deeper into them [on our website](#), and to join us in the work ahead.

## Impact Across 201 Countries & Territories

- Training
- Advocacy
- Community Network
- Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)
- Sustainable Tech Community





# The Internet Society Community

**Connecting and defending the Internet is only possible with local supporters on the ground.**

Our community is made up of local volunteers worldwide who are passionate about the Internet as a force for good. Together, we are bringing connectivity to communities advocating for a stronger, secure Internet.





### By the Numbers

128,740

Individual Members

97

Partners

131

Chapters and SIGs

325

Alumni

82

Organization Members

81%

Chapters that received grants to support non-administrative efforts.





# Building the Internet

## **When COVID-19 Underscored the Need for Accessible, Reliable, Affordable Internet, our Community Stepped Up.**

Thanks to our community, we were able to provide and upgrade critical infrastructure and networks. Together, we helped reduce users' Internet costs while speeding up connections and bringing more people online.

A resilient Internet depends on more than infrastructure, which is why we invest in people, too. Through our Sustainable Technical Communities Funding Program, we were able to provide critical skills and professional networks to help build and maintain the Internet.





## By the Numbers

**GOAL:** By 2025, we will have built and extended connectivity to 50 communities.

85

Community Networks Supported

\$3,167,298

(USD) Funds Granted

56

Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) Supported

\$3,665,854

(USD) Distributed Through Grants

45

Sustainable Technical Communities Supported

\$232,389

(USD) Distributed Through Grants





## Communities We Connected

### [New Economic Opportunities for Indigenous Women in the South American Chaco](#)

We partnered with NANUM Mujeres Conectadas (NANUM Connected Women) to help connect over 5,000 people to the Internet and train women entrepreneurs to leverage it for their small businesses.



### [Shrinking the Digital Divide in Texas](#)

With a \$1 million USD grant from Truist, we helped the South Union Community Development Center build Internet infrastructure in Houston's Sunnyside neighborhood. Schools and businesses there now have access to affordable, high-speed Internet.



### [Bringing the Internet to One of the Remotest Places on Earth](#)

With support from Broadpeak, 48percent.org, and individual donors, we worked with the Nepal Internet Foundation to build the highest community network in the world. Now teachers, students, educators, doctors, and the local Sherpa community have reliable Internet access.





## In the News



### [Internet Society, Meta partner to grow local Internet ecosystems](#)

Our partnership with the Internet Society complements Meta’s infrastructure investments like subsea cables that help make the Internet ecosystem more reliable and lower the overall cost of providing Internet access.



### [Why Indigenous Tribes Struggle to Get Fast Internet, and How It’s Improving](#)

“Not only have tribal communities not been profitable to connect, but they have unique needs, both geographically and culturally, that have not been prioritized by large Internet providers,” Lane added.



Lifewire



### [Building a Bigger, Stronger Internet with Internet Exchange Points](#)

“ISOC’s 50/50 vision for keeping more local traffic local in selected economies around the world.”



dotmagazine



## Measuring the Availability, Evolution, and Resilience of the Internet

Launched in December 2020, Internet Society Pulse consolidates trusted third-party Internet measurement data from various sources into a single, easy to use platform.

From monitoring the impact of Internet shutdowns, infrastructure developments like Internet exchange Points (IXPs), or the Internet resilience of countries, it's a resource for anyone who wants to build, defend, or understand a changing Internet.

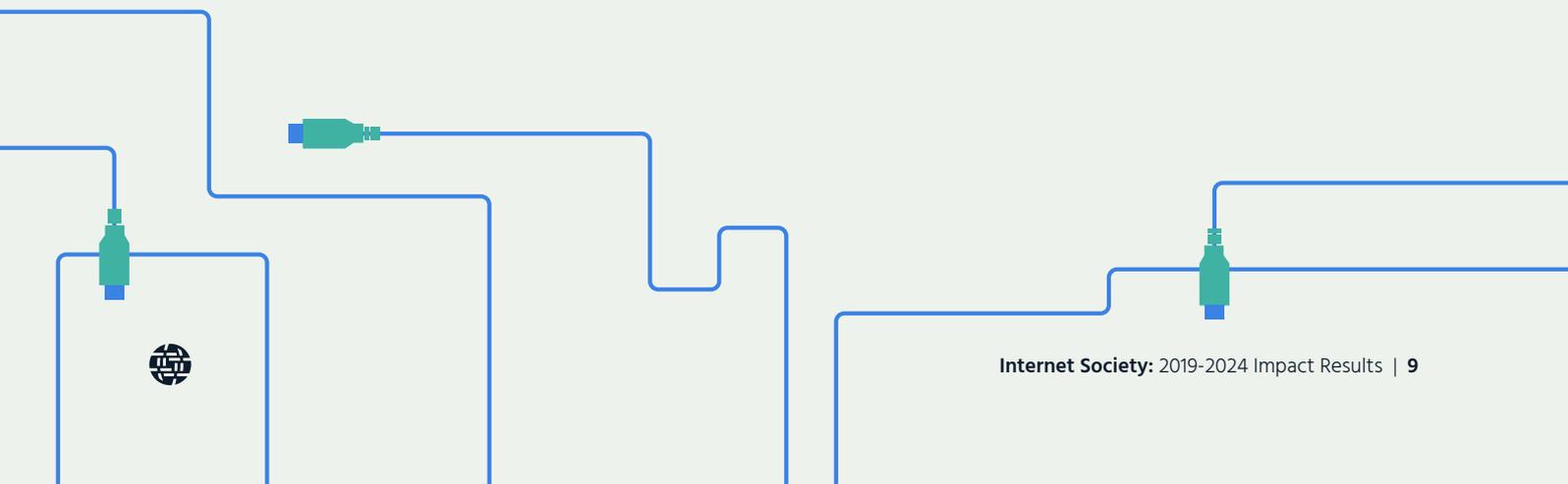
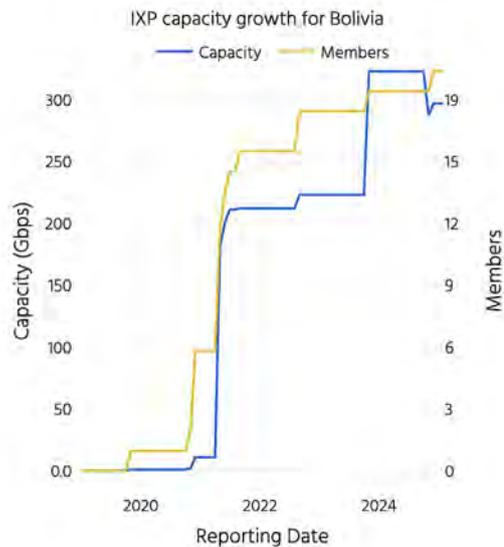
### After Nearly a Decade, Bolivia's IXP Gets a Boost

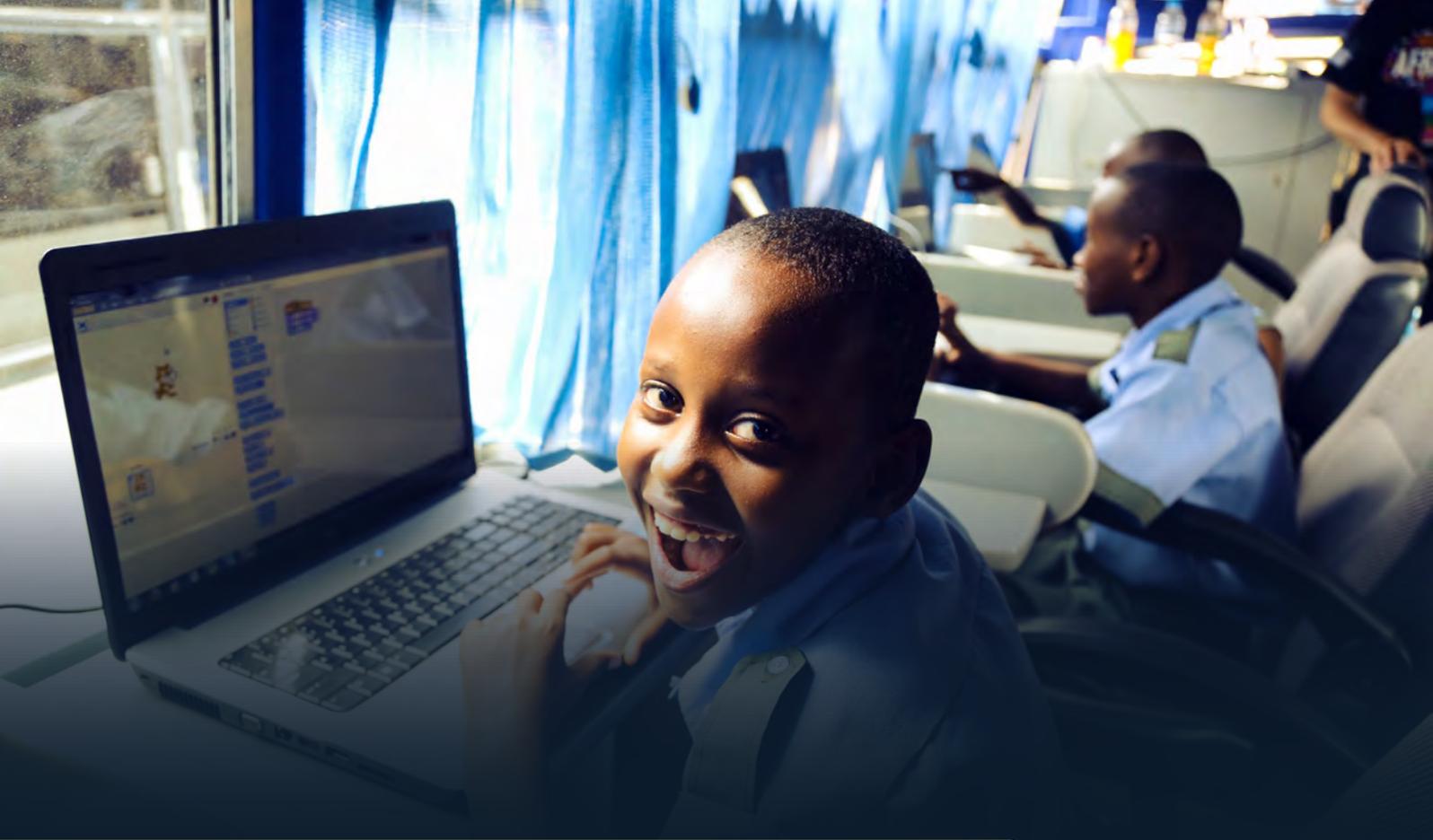
"It is so important to have Internet Society's global vision[...] When we lack equipment, they send us equipment. They have given us route servers, and supported the IXP's ROA certification. This support has helped give the IXP a face, give it an image and [helped] interconnect it with other IXPs in the region."

Lia Solis, president,  
Internet Society Bolivia Chapter

[pulse.internetsociety.org](https://pulse.internetsociety.org)

### Pulse IXP Tracker: The Data Behind the Story





# Defending the Internet

**Every day, legislators, courts, and regulators make decisions that shape the Internet. When those decisions could negatively impact people’s safety online or access to the Internet – either by design or by accident – we step in.**



We advocated for a secure Internet in 181 countries. From fighting back against legislative threats, to assessing Internet health in individual countries, to advocacy campaigns, our community is on the front lines of defending the Internet.

Together, we have shaped advocacy toolkits as well as partnered to protect critical online safety, like encryption. And we’ve pushed back against shutdowns and government attempts to control which sites people can access.





## By the Numbers

**GOAL:** By 2025, leading governments of the world have adopted policies that favor the growth of independent networks, which are free to interconnect.

100+

Statements, Open Letters, and Submissions

20+

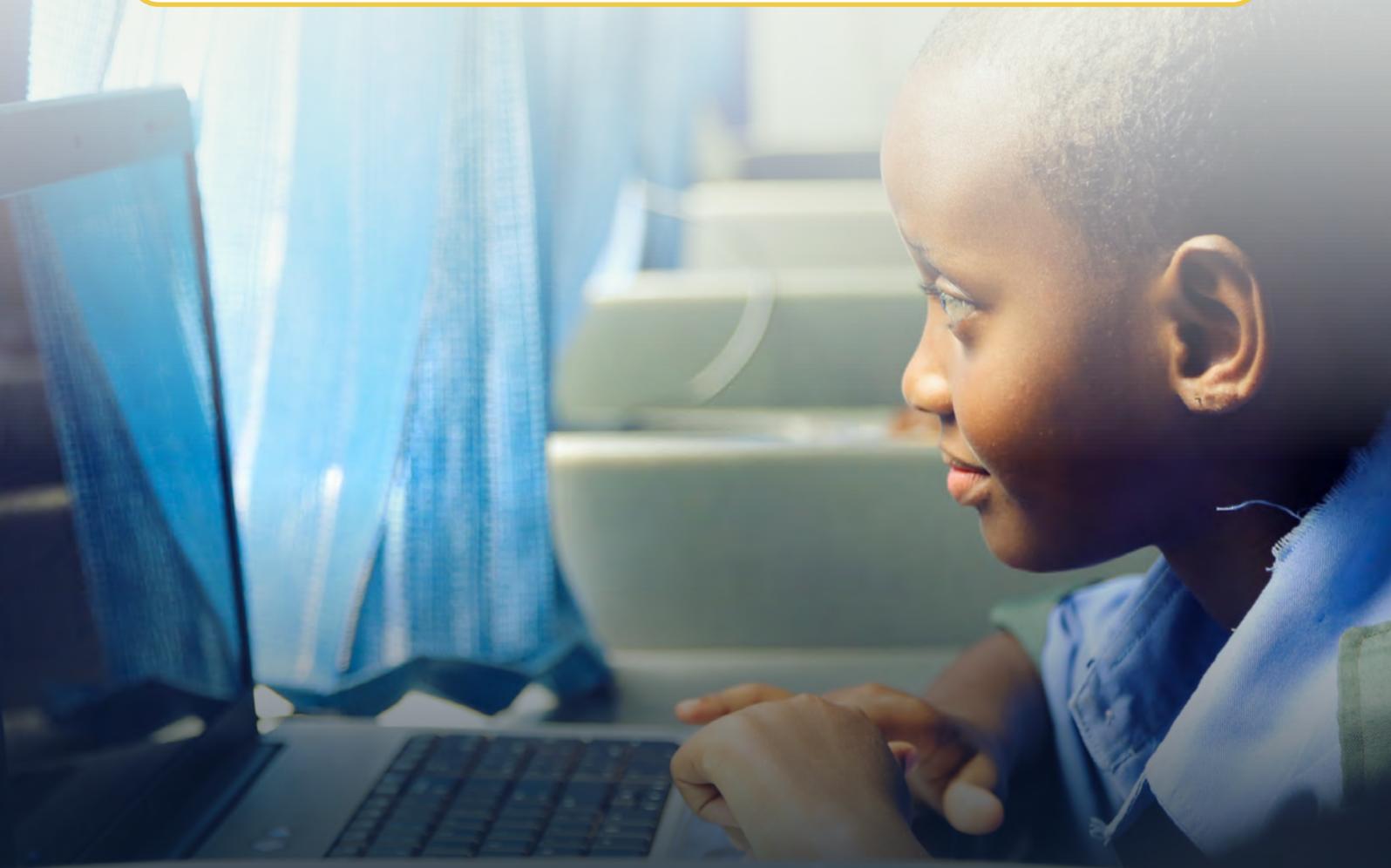
Internet Impact Assessments Completed

50+

Policies and Legislation Opposed

6

Amicus Briefs Filed





## In the News



### [When the Internet goes dark](#)

“these techniques have been in use for ‘many, many years’, according to Kreitem, and are a continuation of pre-internet restrictions to information.”



THE NEW STATESMAN



### [New EU telecom rules will leave everyone worse off](#)

“Proposed regulations are on the cards, which threaten to fragment the Internet, undermine net neutrality and leave European users bearing the costs.”



POLITICO



### [Five things to know about the Supreme Court case that could change the Internet](#)

“What’s critical about Section 230 is that it enables a small innovator with a new idea about how people might communicate online to focus on developing their product.”



THE HILL



### [Misguided policies the world over are slowly killing the open Internet](#)

“Splinternet” is a word for the loss of the single, globally connected, and decentralized Internet... We need to stop it.”



FORTUNE



**Encryption safeguards the personal security of billions of people and the national security of countries around the world. Without encryption, private messages, financial data, photos, videos, and so much more would be at risk.**

The Global Encryption Coalition (GEC) was launched in May 2020 to promote the use of strong, end-to-end encryption and protect it where it was under threat. We are proud to be a founding member of the GEC steering committee.

When we started the project, most governments opposed or resisted end-to-end encryption. After years of advocacy, awareness raising, and coalition building, we saw a dramatic shift. In 2024, 22 government officials, entities, and elected officials made public pro-encryption statements, including national governments in Europe that we mobilized to stop anti-encryption regulation from passing in the European Union.

The GEC has grown rapidly into a coalition of over 434 members in 105 countries drawn from civil society, industry, and academia. Together, we host Global Encryption Day annually to educate the general public and raise awareness about the role encryption plays in their lives, reaching millions of people. And in 2023 alone, GEC and the Internet Society community engaged in over 1,250 individual advocacy activities that target policymakers and stakeholders.





## The Impact Assessment Toolkit: Guides and Templates to Help Defend the Internet

Launched in 2020 and upgraded in 2025, the Impact Assessment Toolkit serves as a valuable resource for evaluating policies and proposals against the critical properties that could harm the Internet.

More Internet Society chapters than ever started using the [toolkit](#) for policy analysis, and government relations in support of our shared advocacy goals. This had a significant impact on our advocacy reach worldwide, making 2024 a record year for community involvement in advocacy.





# MANRS

## From Incubation to Independence: Defending Routing Infrastructure

Anyone who runs a network has a responsibility to ensure a globally robust and secure routing infrastructure that stops bad actors and mitigates misconfigurations that wreak havoc on the Internet. That’s why, in 2014, Internet Society helped rally the network operator community to establish global benchmarks through the Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS) program.

By 2024, MANRS had become a globally recognized beacon for securing global routing, helping keep the Internet safe through shared norms and practices. The Internet Society transitioned the secretariat and operational functions over to the Global Cyber Alliance (GCA), while continuing to provide funding, advocacy, and training. The success of MANRS demonstrates the power of incubating and nurturing community partnerships.



### Success: The US Makes a Big Step Toward Better Routing Security

#### [U.S. Department of Commerce Implements Internet Routing Security](#)

Monday, May 13, 2024

“NTIA also worked with Mutually Agreed Norms of Routing Security (MANRS), a project of the Internet Society, and the Global Cyber Alliance. MANRS advocates for greater routing security and provides guidance on how networks can implement routing security on their networks.”





# Learning, Training, and Fellowships

**Our programs enable, equip, and support Internet champions globally with the opportunity to network and learn from the Internet Society and other industry experts.**

Participants who complete a course can go on to join the Internet Society Alumni Network and apply their know-how to train others, to build Internet infrastructure, and to defend the Internet through advocacy and technical maintenance.

**Training in  
175 Countries  
& Territories**

Empowered Over  
15,000 Learners





## By the Numbers

15,332

Learners trained

18

Courses

96%

Satisfaction rate

147

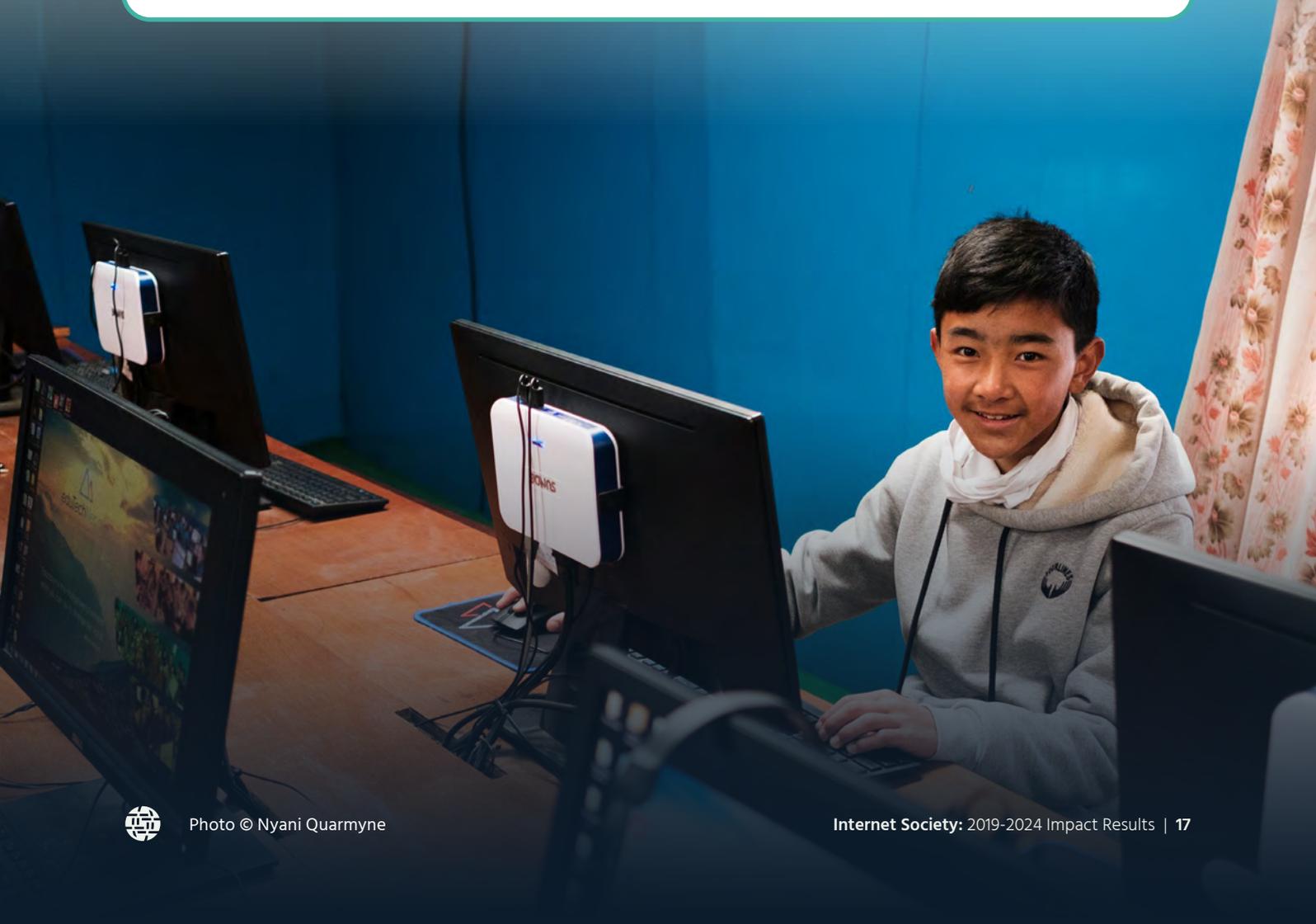
Tutors trained

1,112

Training sessions

175

Countries covered





## Our Programs are Designed to Provide the Tools People Need to Succeed.

### Leadership Programs

Gain a unique perspective on the Internet and boost your career as Internet leader.

[Early Career Fellowship](#) | [Mid Career Fellowship](#)



### Policy Programs

Tackle policy challenges facing the Internet at the intersection of technology and governance.

[Youth Ambassador Program](#) | [Policymaker Program](#)



### Technical Programs

Expand your technical skills in growing the Internet through the [AfPIF Fellowship](#).



### Learning @ Internet Society

Take [online and moderated courses](#) designed around your interests and needs.





## The Road to 2030

**Thank you for your role in helping us exceed our goals for the past five years. None of the work would have been possible without the Internet Society community.**



We are excited to build on our success, and invite you to join us in the work ahead. In the coming years, we will work tirelessly toward making sure that:

1. People everywhere have access to affordable, reliable, and resilient Internet.
2. People everywhere have an Internet experience that is safe, secure, and protects them online.

[Join us.](#)





**The Internet Society is a global charitable organization working to ensure that the Internet is for everyone.**

Through its community of members, special interest groups, learners, donors, and 130+ chapters around the world, we defend and promote Internet policies and technologies that keep the Internet open, globally connected, and secure. Together we can advance the Internet.

[Donate](#)

**@internetsociety**

The Internet Society is a U.S. 501(c)(3) charity (EIN 54-1650477) with a multi-year top 4-star ranking from Charity Navigator.

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