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ITU Launches COVID-19 Initiative

The International Telecommunication Union today announced the launch of the Connect2Recover initiative to help countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic through the expansion of communications connectivity. The initiative, which is being supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre of Saudi Arabia, will focus initially on certain countries in Africa. A news release said it will (1) “develop a methodology for identifying gaps and bottlenecks in the use of digital networks and technologies at country level”; (2) “assist countries in assessing their needs, gaps and bottlenecks, and develop strategies to ensure that the digital infrastructure and ecosystems adequately support recovery efforts”; and (3) “conceptualize and implement pilot projects to test specific technological solutions in line with national country strategies and policies.”

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