Internet Society Foundation

Beyond the Net Grant Program

The Internet Society Foundation's Beyond the Net (BtN) program supports projects of the Internet Society (ISOC) Chapters —a network of 110 volunteer-run organizations throughout the world led by local ISOC members from technical and non-technical backgrounds. BtN grants range up to $5,000 USD for projects lasting nine months or less and up to $50,000 USD for projects lasting between 9 and 24 months.

The BtN program focuses on projects that support: establishing or facilitating connectivity, growing local Internet-related knowledge and skills, and understanding Internet usage and local needs.

2023
BY THE NUMBERS

$682,236
USD in BtN
grants awarded

54
grants
awarded

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32 🌐
countries
represented

Impact:

Program Milestones and Outreach Efforts

2023 was notable as it marked the first year that the allotted BtN funding was exhausted. This achievement was due to outreach efforts by program staff and an increased level of interest and activeness of the ISOC chapters. Through this outreach, 58 eligible chapters that had not received BtN funding within the last two years were identified and targeted with direct outreach and support in conjunction with ISOC Community Engagement Managers. This work resulted in 9 new grants in 2023.
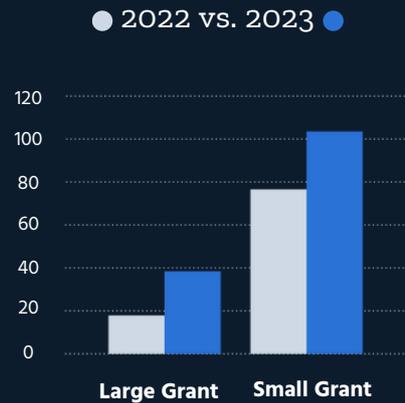
2023 Project Areas

BtN grants support a diverse array of chapter activities. Nearly half of 2023 BtN projects supported the development of technical knowledge within chapter communities. More than a quarter of grants supported community-specific Internet trainings for underserved groups, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, women, and people in rural areas; and special interest groups, such as teachers, parents, and journalists. 17% of grants helped chapters establish connectivity in unconnected and underserved areas. A small percentage of grants went towards research and work surrounding Internet policy.
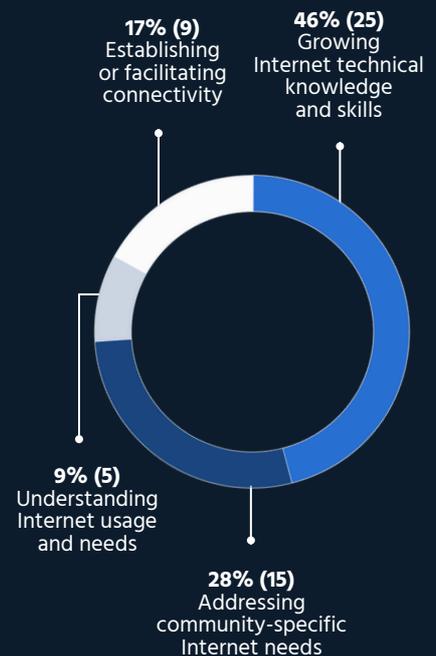
2023 Participant Impact

In 2023, 1,885 participants received Internet-related training through BtN projects. Since many of these trainings were Train-the-Trainer, the actual number of participants impacted is anticipated to be significantly higher. Digital skills, IoT, and technical trainings were among the topics selected for 2023 BtN projects. Additionally, 32 communities and more than 50,000 people gained access to the Internet through BtN grants focused on building connectivity in 2023. These activities included constructing community networks and developing technical infrastructure.

BEYOND THE NET LARGE AND SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

● 2022 vs. 2023 ●

From 2022 to 2023, there was a 35% increase in BtN Small grant applications (77 to 104) and a 117% increase in BtN Large grant applications (18 to 39).

BEYOND THE NET LARGE AND SMALL 2023 PROJECT AREAS

17% (9) Establishing or facilitating connectivity

46% (25) Growing Internet technical knowledge and skills

9% (5) Understanding Internet usage and needs

28% (15) Addressing community-specific Internet needs

Grantee Spotlight:
significant outcomes

In 2023, BtN grants were awarded to ISOC chapters for projects that utilized the Internet to help address local issues and promoted the development of an open, trusted, and globally-connected Internet. Projects dealt with a wide-range of issues, including: youth unemployment, advocacy, policy research, Internet safety, and economic inclusion.

"Our project aims to break down the myths surrounding the use of technology. With our methods, we can engage young girls in technology and show them they can master it. That's a big step."

BAKARY KOUYATE
President - Internet Society Mali Chapter

2023 BtN Projects for Gender-Inclusion and Community Trainings in Mali

In 2023, the ISOC Mali Chapter (ISOC-MALI) successfully completed four BtN Small grants for projects that supported various community needs, including: technical trainings and job internships for university students, Internet safety/safe-use awareness for parents and children, encryption trainings for local journalists, and capacity-building for young professionals. ISOC- MALI also received a BtN Large grant to promote gender-inclusion through the development of an online platform for women that will help them gain digital skills and participate in the digital economy.

ISOC Lebanon Chapter's Historic ".lb" Win with BtN Project

Among our 2023 grantees, the ISOC Lebanon Chapter successfully completed a BtN Large grant that addressed the absence of a local multi-stakeholder entity capable of managing the national Internet domain registry of Lebanon. With funding from BtN, the chapter was able to arrange the transfer of ownership and management of the Lebanese Domain Registry (LBDR), ".lb," from an LLC based in the United States to ISOC-LB, following the death of Nabil Bukhaled, the registry's creator and the chapter's original co-founder. ISOC-LB also received support from the ISOC Armenia Chapter, who shared their experience managing the ".am" ccTLD. This collaboration shows what can be achieved when ISOC chapters come together.

2023 **Funding by Countries and Regions**

Argentina
Bangladesh
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Burkina Faso
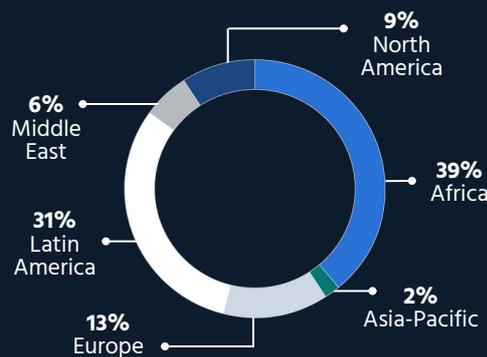Canada
Colombia
Congo (the Democratic Republic of the)

Egypt
France
Georgia
Ghana
Guinea
Haiti
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon

Liberia
Madagascar
Mali
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Puerto Rico
Rwanda

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Spain
Trinidad and Tobago
Tanzania, the United Republic of
United States of America
Zimbabwe

The names shown on this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Internet Society Foundation concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area of its authorities. We use ISO 3166 country codes and names.

2023 BTN FUNDING BY REGION

- 9% North America
- 6% Middle East
- 39% Africa
- 31% Latin America
- 2% Asia-Pacific
- 13% Europe

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