**Outside Africa**

# Universal Service Fund - Pakistan

Established by the Government of Pakistan under the Ministry of Information Technology with the main of of spreading the benefits of the telecom revolution to all corners of Pakistan, it promotes the development of telecommunication services in unserved and underserved areas through the length and breadth of the country.

The fund consists of contributions equal to 1.5% of adjusted revenues from Telecom Operators with no government funding at all. Following a corporate model, to maintain a balance and avoid a conflict of interest the board of directors consists of 4 members from government and 4 members from the private sector.

## Effective utilization of the fund

1. **Broadband for Sustainable Development Program.**  
    Aimed at providing telecom services to the unserved areas across the country, with the issuance of 3G/4G licenses by the Federal Government, the programme was redesigned to include the broadband equivalent data services as a compulsory component. Furthermore, to power these projects, the sites are powered using green energy initiatives(Solar energy).
2. **Broadband Program** The broadband program was launched aiming at improving broadband penetration in 2nd/3rd tier urban areas what were previously unserved from the broadband perspective. Special emphasis is being paid to educational institutions whereby subsidy winners are required to set-up computer Labs with Broadband in higher secondary schools and colleges.  
   Furthermore Community Broadband Centres are being established for those that can't afford computers. This program is giving a boost to the provision of other e-services.
3. **Fibre Optic Program** To promote development of telecom services especially voice telephony and basic data services throughout the country, a stable and reliable Optic Fibre Network needed to be established. As such the existing cables are being extended to meet the growing demand for voice, data and Video services.
4. **ICTS for girls** An endeavour to spur the socio economic uplift of this very important segment of society, this program enables thousands of women to be trained at state of the art computer labs under coaching and training programs by Microsoft. The training is done at Women Empowerment Centres to train young girls from marginalised segments of society in highly marketable IT skills including Computing Skills, Programming skills, Communication skills and coaching from industry experts.
5. **Enabling Persons with Disabilities to Use Telecom Services**
6. **Telemedicine Network & Services** USF intends to establish a Special Project to set-up a Pilot Telemedicine (TM) network at 3 hubs and 12 remote sites in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Health. Through this project, USF aims to demonstrate that the Optic Fibre and the Broadband Networks can be used for providing health care facilities without any further addition in the telecommunications part. Telemedicine centers will be set up for provision of following consultation services:

a) General

b) Cardiology (Heart)

c) Dermatology (Skin)

d) ENT (Ear, Nose & Throat)

e) Radiology (X-Ray)

f) Gynecology

1. **Establishment of Telecenters** Telecenters will be a community resource center that will provide public with access to telecommunication services. Telecenters have the potential to provide e-services, distance learning and create employment opportunities, among various other benefits like bridging the digital divide. Each Telecenter will be connected to internet through high speed broadband, powered through renewable energy and equipped with computers and other essential network elements (printer/scanner/copier/fax, etc). Telecenters will offer basic access to internet and computers to the community; provide space to the Nataional Database & Registration Authority(NADRA) for offering NADRA / Domicile / Computerised Nattional identity Card(CNIC), and mobile phone operators for SIM verification; and other E-services.   
     
    The first Lot of the project contains ten Telecenters across Pakistan. The project has been awarded to M/S Pakistan Mobile Communication Limited and in currently in implementation phase.

# Universal Service Fund - Jamaica

The Universal Service Fund is an Agency under the Ministry of Science, energy and Technology Mandates to ensure access to information and communication tools to facilitate Development.

Starting out as the Universal Access Company Limited in 2005 courtesy of a Ministerial Order which mandated that all domestic telecom providers are obligated to collect a universal service levy on all inbound telephone calls from International sources. Charged at US$0.03 on fixed lines and US$0.02 on mobile lines, this funding has enabled the provision of universal access to all Jamaicans

## Utilization of funding received.

1. **USF ConnectJA**  
     
    Launched in 2016, this project aims at creating greater and easier access to broadband internet services to all citizens across the island. Effective of March 31, 2017, the total number of broadband connections stands at 430 across the island.
2. **Broadband Network**  
     
    Creating Jamaica’s largest public Broadband Network linking Jamaican Schools, Post Offices, Public Libraries, Health Sector and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).
3. **Community Access Points (CAPs)**  
     
    Community Access Points that drive the development of Information Technology throughout communities in Jamaica.

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# Universal Service Administrative Company - USA

Dedicated to achieving universal service, USAC is founded on the principle that suggest that everyone in the United States deserves accessible, affordable and pervasive high-speed connectivity.  
  
 Despite the pervasive connectivity in most Urban areas millions of people across the country have no access to broadband services needed to work, learn heal and communicate. As an independent not-fpr-profit designated by the Federal Communications Commision(FCC), USAC administers the Universal Service Fund where almost 10 billion dollars is available annually to serve people in rural, underserved and difficult-to-reach-areas.

## Utilization of funds

1. **Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program**  
    Provisions of discounts to keep students and library patrons connected to broadband and voice services at affordable rates.
2. **Rural Health Care Program** Supports health care facilities by bringing world class medical care to rural areas through increased broadband capabilities. It provides up to 400 million annually in reduced rates for broadband and telecom services.  
     
   Under this program, there are to subprograms that is;
   1. Healthcare Connect Fund.   
       Enables the provision of a 65 percent discount on eligible expenses related to broadband connectivity to both individual rural health care providers and consortia.
   2. Telecommunications Program.   
       Provides reduced rates to rural health care providers for telecommunications services related to the use of telemedicine and telehealth.
3. **Lifeline Program** Assists families in need obtain voice connectivity by offering discounts on their monthly phone bills.
4. **High Cost Program** Wireline and wireless carriers can become eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to receive reimbursement from the federal universal service fund’s High Cost Program for providing service in remote and underserved communities.

# Africa

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# Universal Service Provision Fund - Nigeria

Established by the Federal Government of Nigeria, USPF was put in place to facilitate the achievement of national policy goals for universal access and universal service to ICT in rural, unserved and underserved areas in Nigeria.

## Fund Utilization

1. **Connectivity programme**  
     
    This programme comprises of telecommunications infrastructure projects that are implemented through the Public Private Partnership model. Despite being subsidized by the USPF they are implemented, owned and operated by Operators and Service Providers. The connectivity Programme enables the following projects.  
   1. **Rural Broadband Initiative(RUBI)** This initiative provides subsidies to operators for the development of network to support the establishment of core delivery mechanisms for broadband services in the rural/semi-urban areas of Nigeria. Currently the pilot wireless mobile broadband hotspots have been completed and as such both wired and wireless internet at high speed are provided at wholesale which in itself is catapulting the uptake of other broadband dependent projects like e-library, e-health and e-government.
   2. **University InterCampus Connectivity(UnICC)** A support project to the National Universities Commission's’ Nigeria Research and Education Network (NgREN) project, whose major aim is the delivery of broadband infrastructure and access to facilitate research and learning using state of the art technology. In short, designed to seamlessly connect the networks of the main campuses of selected universities to the networks of their corresponding medical colleges and teaching hospitals through the deployment of fibre optic cable and it’s associated equipment.
   3. **Backbone Transmission Infrastructure (BTRAIN)** Project designed to facilitate the connection of the rural and semi urban areas to the National Transmission Backbone Infrastructure via fiber infrastructure. It is fully implemented through Public Private partnerships with implementers by offering subsidies determined through competitions amongst implementers.
   4. **Base Transceiver Stations (BTS)** Granting of subsidies to Network Operators for the deployment of Base Transceiver Stations(BTS) and other passive infrastructure in underserved and unserved communities. The deployed infrastructure supports the extensions of voice services
2. **Access Programme** Projects under this programme are implemented through grants and are designed to create demand and promote usage of ICT in unserved and underserved communities and groups. They involve the provision of end-user devices to complement the telecommunication infrastructure that are deployed under the Connectivity programme.  
   1. **Tertiary Institutions Knowledge centres(TIKC)** An initiative aimed at facilitating broadband connectivity through deployment of optic fiber cable and installation of ICT devices and peripherals in some selected tertiary institutions where the beneficiary institutions receive 100 computers, ICT furniture 2 printers with network facilities and firewalls with broadband internet connectivity.
   2. **E-Health Project** An e-health intervention designed to support health care institutions with ICT facilities to manage their record electronically. It involves deployment of computers and accessories, provision of internet connectivity, deployment of e-health software, extensive training of users and other health personnel and provisions of other support services.
   3. **Information Resource Centres (IRC)** Intervention aimed at creating ICT-driven knowledge management that will adequately respond to the changing demand of users. Through this project, USPF establishes digital Libraries in the existing physical libraries to enable the sharing of information and other resources as well as the connecting and sharing of resources with libraries around the world.
   4. **School Knowledge Centres** Designed to promote the demand and adoption of ICT in public schools to encourage adoption of 21st century skills. Each school is provided with computers, printers, solar power system, bandwidth and education software/content.
   5. **E-Accessibility Project.** Initiative to promote the access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems in Line with the UN convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities. This project is implemented through the deployment of assistive technologies to relevant institutions to address the peculiar needs of the targeted beneficiaries.
   6. **Community Resource Centres.** USPF in partnership with local entrepreneurs and community-based organizations facilitates the establishment of Community Resource Centers (CRC) all aimed at extending voice, internet and ICT training and other e-services to unserved communities on shared basis.

# Universal Service and Access Fund (USAF) - South Africa

Established under the Electronic Communications Act (ECA) to fund projects and programmes that strive to achieve universal service and access to ICTs by all South African citizens.

## Utilization of the fund

1. **Handover Project** An ongoing project with the following objectives;
   1. To ensure that existing access centres (Telecentres and School Cyberlabs) are effectively operated and self sustainable over long term periods.
   2. To allow the Agency to use its future budgets effectively to deploy more access centres in the country.
2. **Rapid Deployment Project** The Rapid Deployment Project is designed to allow the sector to publicly bid for subsidies to deploy public access technologies that ensure access to ICT services in underserved and uneconomical areas of the country.   
   The objectives of this project include:
   1. To rapidly deploy public access technologies in underserved areas;
   2. To work in collaboration with the ICT sector to ensure long term sustainability of public access technologies in underserved areas;
   3. To ensure the deployment of innovative technologies in underserved areas; and
   4. To stimulate entrepreneurship in under-serviced areas.
3. **Broadcasting Digital Migration(BDM) Programme.** As part of the BDM(Broadcasting Digital Migration)Programme, USAASA is required to assist poor TV-owning households by subsidizing the cost to acquire DTT(Digital Terrestrial Television) and DTH(Direct toHome)Set-Top Boxes and antennas, as well as provide installation services(through the USAF).
4. **Set-Top Box Subsidy project** A project put in place to ensure that;
   1. the objectives of the broadcasting Digital Migration Policy of South Africa are met.
   2. Ensure an efficient process of providing subsidies to poor TV-owning households; and
   3. Ensure that the 5 Million poor TV-owning households targeted for subsidisation do indeed purchase Set-Top Boxes and become part of a Digital South Africa.