

## Giga Stories

### Africa

Country and Challenge	Giga Solution	Story Angle
<b>KENYA</b>  <p>The Kenyan Government is aiming to grow the digital economy with universal access to connectivity by 2023. They seek to create a digital economy, propelling Kenya from a low-middle income economy to an emerging markets/advanced economy.</p> <p>However, although 70% of Kenyans are covered by 3G/4G, they cannot connect due to affordability and digital literacy concerns.</p>	<p>Working with the Government, Giga's school mapping will help refine the connectivity strategy. Giga will also help address policy, regulatory and tax barriers to boost competitiveness and protect consumers.</p> <p>Giga will also mobilize funding and prepare procurement lots — this targeted financing for connecting over 23000 schools that currently lack connectivity in Kenya could mean an estimated GDP growth of US\$3.3 billion. Giga will simultaneously facilitate connections on scaling digital textbooks, content, and other educational digital public goods while providing support to develop local, regionally relevant digital solutions.</p>	<p>Over 1.2 million primary school-aged children in Kenya do not attend school – the hardest to reach include children with disabilities, children living in pastoral and nomadic communities and in urban informal settlements, leaving them further behind and unable to propel not only themselves to a brighter future but also their country to the advanced economy it aims to be.</p> <p>By connecting every school and community, we can ensure that more children – especially children with disabilities, those from rural areas and from urban informal settlements – can access quality, inclusive education, helping them build the life skills for employability. By equipping children and young people with digital literacy, we're matching them with job opportunity, fostering entrepreneurship, and empowering a large generation of Kenyans to fully engage with their society and transform Kenya's economy.</p>
<b>NIGER</b>  <p>Niger is a young, predominantly rural country.</p>	<p>Giga is supporting the Government of Niger in its goal</p>	<p>If there is one area in which digital technology can drive change in Niger, it is education. The vast majority of students</p>

**Commented [AP1]:** I think my general comment is that all the stories start blending together. And I know that it's going to be hard to create niche stories for different countries because the final aim is the same. But a few do stand out, like the El Salvador one, or the Rwanda one about lack of natural resources. Maybe there is a way to have a very clear and different problem statement in the first para for each country that can then show how connectivity is solving these different problems (like building human resources to fill in the lack of natural resources, or give children an opportunity for a different life than the current one with violence)?

<p>58.2% of its population is below 18. In theory, a young population should drive economic growth; however, over 50% of children aged 7-16 are not in school due to geographic gaps in school coverage and poor retention rates – deepening inequities with the poorest and rural children least likely to attend school. On top of this, some parents choose not to enroll their children due to safety concerns, the distance to school, and child marriage.</p> <p>Few Nigerien schools – only 80 – are connected to the Internet.</p>	<p>of driving economic growth through digitization, with universal access to connectivity and education policies. By connecting over 19,000 schools and their surrounding communities, Giga aims to extend internet access to over 7 million Nigeriens.</p> <p>In partnership with the Government, Giga’s mapping technology can help accurately deploy connectivity and support the government efficiently roll out its connectivity programs. Niger has already received \$100M from the World Bank toward connecting schools and villages, and Giga is providing technical assistance in identifying locations for infrastructure and additional financing.</p>	<p>living in rural areas, without digital technology and the ability to access it, have been literally cut off from the world – making it impossible to continue learning.</p> <p>Imagine the future of Niger if we can connect every school, community, child and young person to the Internet and scale up modernized education – including world-class digital solutions, distance learning, relevant skill set training, entrepreneurship and remote work. By connecting schools and their surrounding community, we not only accelerate access to digital technology, we also close the digital divide and shatter inequities experienced by young Nigeriens, especially the poorest living in rural areas, due to circumstances beyond their control.</p> <p>Education is the best pathway out of poverty. With connectivity, we bring equal access to quality modern education. Empowering Niger’s young population will drive economic growth and help eradicate poverty.</p>
<p><b>RWANDA</b></p> <p>Rwanda’s young generation today is the largest in its history – about 5.4 million are under 18. Over the past years, Rwanda has achieved significant progress toward reaching middle-income status largely due to political stability,</p>	<p>Rwanda aims to grow its digital economy and public services through universal broadband usage. Giga will support the Government to leverage high coverage levels to close connectivity gaps quickly,</p>	<p>The Rwandan Government realizes that education is crucial for the economic prosperity of this small country with a lack of natural resources – by making the Internet a basic public utility, it can instead tap the power of its human resources.</p>

**Commented [AP2]:** Is there some way to make this very Niger specific? Like for Kenya the focus was children with disabilities or with nomadic lifestyles.

<p>strong governance, fiscal and administrative decentralization and zero tolerance for corruption.</p> <p>However, despite rapid urbanization, around 75% of the population live in rural areas and poverty remains widespread – disproportionately affecting children. Nearly all Rwandan schools are within its fiber network and/or covered by mobile broadband – but 1,796 schools remain without internet. As the Government of Rwanda invests in classroom infrastructure and digital content to empower learners with digital skills, ensuring connectivity for all schools means no one is left behind.</p>	<p>aligned with their existing SMART Classrooms program.</p> <p>Given the country's hilly geography, significant investment is needed for last-mile fiber connections. Giga will explore ways to build on regulatory reforms and activities, increasing investment attractiveness, boost affordability and protect consumers. Giga will not only explore innovative and appropriate last-mile connectivity solutions, but also mobilize concessionary investment to deploy these to connect the remaining schools.</p>	<p>By extending connectivity in a cost-effective and reliable way to ALL schools in Rwanda regardless of location, children and young people can enjoy learning with adapted global DPG resources, including digital textbooks and content for remote learning. We can pursue inclusive, equitable, and quality education for Rwanda's largest young generation and helping them emerge from school prepared for not only their future but also a global future, further spurring the country's growth.</p>
<p><b>SIERRA LEONE</b></p> <p>The Government of Sierra Leone provides free admission and tuition for children in approved schools; but many children are still out of school as they live in remote, rural communities, and due to high, persistent levels of poverty, parents are unable to pay the direct and indirect costs of education.</p> <p>While 80% of Sierra Leone's 11,200 schools are within 3G/4G coverage, only 205 schools are connected. Access to quality education, retention and completion of school remain challenges for children in Sierra Leone; furthermore, few opportunities exist for</p>	<p>Connecting 10,995 schools provides a gateway to connecting 3 million community members. Through mapping, Giga can articulate connectivity needs using schools as focal points based on which business cases and investment opportunities can be built, along with monitoring real time connectivity.</p> <p>Giga will also work with the Government to identify appropriate, innovative technologies for middle- and last-mile connectivity and mobilize the funding needed to connect the schools without connectivity. Giga will also provide technical assistance to</p>	<p>Not being able to attend school should not mean children and young people should stop learning. As we've seen during school closures due to lockdowns, it is imperative for young people to continue learning everywhere and anywhere. By connecting schools as a focal point, we can bring meaningful connectivity to every community.</p> <p>In Sierra Leone, there is a dire need for a comprehensive alternative learning pathway – including accelerated learning and marketable skills development programs – to help prepare out-of-school children and young people to re-enter formal education or pursue options of skills and</p>

alternative education for out-of-school children and young people, keeping them unable to acquire functional literacy for sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment, helping them realize, despite their circumstances, their full potential and contribute meaningfully to nation building.	the Government on best practices for efficient, cost-effective deployment of these funds toward reliable school and community connectivity.	livelihood development for sustainable employability.  With access to the Internet, Sierra Leonean learners can build 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills for employment in their own and a global labor market, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to their economy.
<b>ZIMBABWE</b>  76% of Zimbabwe's children live in poverty, with most living in rural areas – those hardest to reach in terms of health, education, nutrition, water and sanitation, access to information, and other basic indicators of well-being and quality of life – while urban vulnerability increases as internal migration does.  The Government aims for holistic development of the nation by harnessing the power of ICT across all sectors of the economy and by society at large; however, children are unable to build these digital skills and contribute to nation-building with 6,611 schools unconnected – with 75% of these being primary schools.	In collaboration with the Government, Giga will use mapping to identify schools and refine investment needs for unconnected schools. This includes real time monitoring to confirm service levels are being upheld as well as using this data to define a partnership and fund strategy to connect the 6,611 schools.  Giga will also work with Zimbabwe's Ministries of Education and ICT to explore opportunities for digital public goods to play a role alongside emerging private e-learning platforms and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem to build locally developed digital public services and goods.	Access to affordable ICTs – including the right virtual platforms – will make it possible for many learners to achieve not only their educational goals but also their overall skilling goals, in an increasingly connected world.  By connecting schools, over 3.5 million community members can access information, opportunity and choice increasingly found online, and build the digital and life skills with a wealth of digital public goods enabling digital growth for all. This expanded community connectivity could result in a US\$0.6 billion in GDP growth for Zimbabwe, allowing more resources to flow into holistic development.

#### Central Asia

Country and Challenge	Giga Solution	Story Angle
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>  Kyrgyzstan is a young nation, with 2.1 million children making up 36.5% of its	With Giga's support, Kyrgyzstan has provided basic broadband to 99% of its schools and increased speeds and lowered	Many children in Kyrgyzstan enter and end formal schooling without the required life-skills and become unprepared for their futures. This is especially

<p>population. Child poverty is a serious issue and concern for the future, as a result of – as well as resulting in – poor access to quality services and protection, missing out on education and healthcare.</p> <p>The poorest children live mainly in rural areas. 31 mountainous schools in the country remain unconnected to the internet, while 671 schools on local government budgets are either unconnected or pay for slower, less reliable coverage.</p>	<p>the costs of service; working with the Government, Giga has mapped schools and helped identify 702 schools that lacked high quality internet.</p> <p>Giga also worked with the Prime Minister's Office to negotiate ongoing service fees; prices were lowered by almost half while speeds doubled, saving 40% of its annual education connectivity budget.</p> <p>Giga will mobilize targeted financing for connecting or improving connectivity in 702 schools and support sustainable financing opportunities for ongoing fees.</p>	<p>compounded among the poorest children and young people – those living in rural, mountainous areas with no access to the Internet in their schools and communities. This inability to access services and digital education is seen as youth unemployment and underemployment rates remain high.</p> <p>The digitalization of society is a requirement today, and the Government has invested in its free e-learning website. By connecting schools, children and young people in Kyrgyzstan can find their own opportunities to rise out of poverty, gaining the necessary life-skills they need and want regardless where they are from.</p>
<p><b>UZBEKISTAN</b></p> <p>The Government has set transitioning to a digital economy as of its highest priority tasks; it sees digital knowledge and modern information technologies as necessary to achieve progress. In line with this, it aims to connect all schools with reliable internet service; but 3,833 schools remain unconnected, and only 7% of secondary schools met the Ministry of Education's standard of a high speed, uninterrupted internet connection.</p> <p>Uzbekistan is rapidly investing in school connectivity and digital content creation to</p>	<p>Giga is supporting the Government across all stages of school connectivity and access to digital public goods, to help realize its 2035 policy toward enhancing the country's position in science, technology, and innovation.</p> <p>Through integrating government data into Giga's mapping, the country's school connectivity strategy can be refined with clear speed targets. Giga will continue advising the Government on mechanisms to bring in investments, as well as facilitate connections with investors.</p>	<p>As the country shifts from its independent isolation into a global outlook, Uzbekistan has to simultaneously – and urgently – incorporate educational and professional opportunities for Uzbeks, especially children and young people, to bring it to the global stage.</p> <p>The Government has put programs in place to ensure early childhood education services are expanded and the quality of basic education is improved. With universal, reliable connectivity, we can ensure these efforts reach the most vulnerable and prepare all children and young people for life-long learning and</p>

support learners through COVID-19 and beyond.	By connecting 6,237 schools and their surrounding communities, Giga hopes to plant the seeds of internet skills and digital ecosystem development to empower 10 million community members.	<p>meaningful participation in a growing economy.</p> <p>To make connectivity meaningful, Giga will support to develop, strengthen and contextualize digital public goods, especially focusing on youth development services.</p>
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## Latin America

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<p><b>EL SALVADOR</b></p> <p>40% of El Salvadorians are covered by 3G/4G but remain unconnected due to affordability, electricity, and digital literacy barriers. If all can not only connect to the Internet but also participate in a digital economy, El Salvador can become a competitive country (I.e. in the Global Competitive Index).</p>	<p>Giga will work with the Government to map school locations and their connectivity status, and subsequently provide technical assistance and mobilize funding to safely connect every child.</p> <p>Giga will then extend support to develop locally relevant digital public goods, and identify gaps where global solutions can be adapted to or combined with local solutions.</p>	<p>Political and civil unrest and safety issues have taken a toll on El Salvador, forcing families to find sanctuary and opportunity elsewhere. El Salvador wants to address these concerns — but taking a forward looking lens, it wants to become a competitive country especially in the ever-growing global, digital economy – but how can it do so with its human capital, especially the young, fleeing?</p> <p>By connecting schools and communities and offering young people the opportunity to gain digital skills, they can form El Salvador's homegrown digital workforce and boost the country's competitiveness, boosting not only its standing but also its reputation as a tech centre in Central America.</p>
<p><b>HONDURAS</b></p> <p>The Honduran Government aims to equip all learners with equitable, quality education that will allow them to effectively participate in a modern economy. However,</p>	<p>To ensure every Honduran is covered and can access the Internet, Giga will work with the Government in mapping schools connectivity and</p>	<p>In Honduras, 44% of children (3-17) are out of school, either due to their location (rural, hard-to-reach areas) or lack of economic resources. These children and young people <u>do not want</u> to continue studying,</p>

there are over 2 million Hondurans that are not covered by mobile broadband. Closing the digital divide is needed to ensure digital literacy grows through academic and vocational education, increasing employment and incomes.	<p>identifying appropriate last-mile connectivity solutions.</p> <p>As we connect every school and community, Giga will help strengthen the Honduran entrepreneurial ecosystem by building a pipeline of locally developed digital public services and goods, and identify solutions to scale in other Giga countries.</p>	<p>because they do not think education opens the doors to the world of work.</p> <p>Establishing universal connectivity means every child could meaningfully access the Internet, whether at school or at home, and enter a world of information and opportunity where they can build any and all digital skills they want and need. Learning and skilling becomes not only fun, but especially ubiquitous. With every young Honduran becoming a digital native, they can find their niche in the digital economy and pioneer a modern economy in Honduras.</p>
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## OECS

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<p><b>OECS</b></p> <p>Across the Eastern Caribbean, overall connectivity is high, but poorer, rural areas lack quality coverage; and where there is access, speeds are slow and service costs are high. The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States has set digital transformation as a regional priority, envisioning digital education powering this.</p> <p>However, while many schools have some connectivity, tracking and improving service quality across all 1,147 schools would be a significant step towards truly universal connectivity.</p>	<p>Giga is supporting the OECS to ensure regional harmonization, transitioning all Member States into digital education systems with e-learning platforms integrated.</p> <p>Giga's mapping work will help monitor in real time schools' internet connectivity to improve quality, reliability and consistency, and value for money for internet services. Once established, Giga will help integrate connectivity plans for other public services and mobilize investment to support deployment, expand, or improve connections to ALL schools.</p>	<p>A lack of reliable, affordable access to the Internet means children and young people are excluded from the wealth of information available online, limiting their opportunities to learn and grow and to fulfill their potential. Empowering children to succeed through broadened access to quality education is one of the best defenses against poor choices later in life.</p> <p>With improved connectivity, children and young people can better access their education and gain ICT skills in the process. Providing access for all children will help support their whole development, regardless of ability or</p>

		background, helping them avoid the pressures and dangers which typically result in resorting to violence. Doing so can help raise employment for youth and disadvantaged groups – with education, even children and young people living in the poorest communities can get the best start in life and ready to face the pressures and complexities in the ever-changing modern world.