



Giga: Supporting governments to connect every school to the internet

Barcelona, 4-6 November 2025, Smart Cities Expo World Congress





The Connectivity Challenge:

Nearly **half of the 6 million schools** in the world are not connected to the internet today. No access to online learning or digital tools. No voice in the connected world. A classroom in digital darkness.

More than **500M students have no access to internet.**

Of the estimated **2.6 billion** unconnected people, the majority are women and girls (ITU, 2024).

Unconnected children **are more at risk** across health, identity, gender equity, education, and ability to have jobs of the future.

This presents a challenge... and an opportunity!

How Giga Works



Map

Map the location of schools and monitor school connectivity status in real-time



Model

Model the infrastructure and investments needed to deliver school connectivity



Finance

Support governments to build the right-layered financing to pay for connectivity



Contract

Help governments contract connectivity for schools



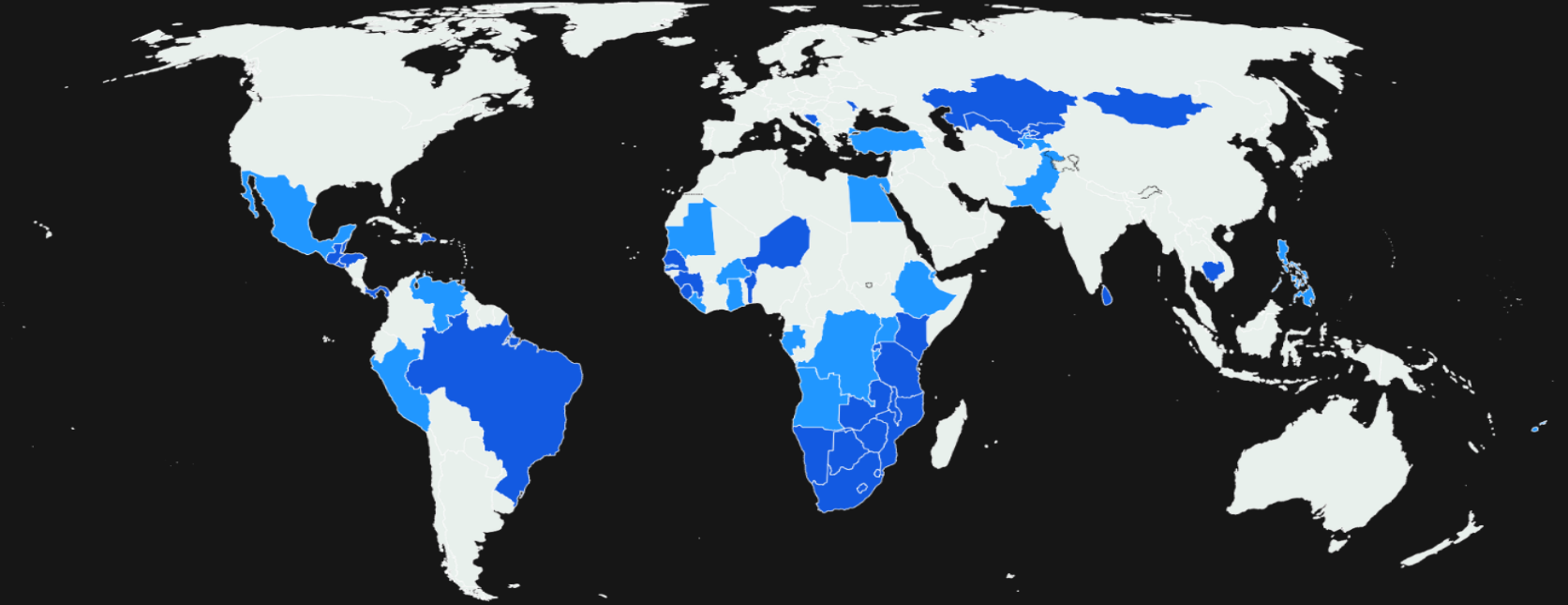
Underpinned by **capacity development**, strengthening skills and best practices across Giga's four main pillars

■ Engaged ■ Early Interest



45 Countries and
Territories **engaged**

28 Countries and
Territories **interested**

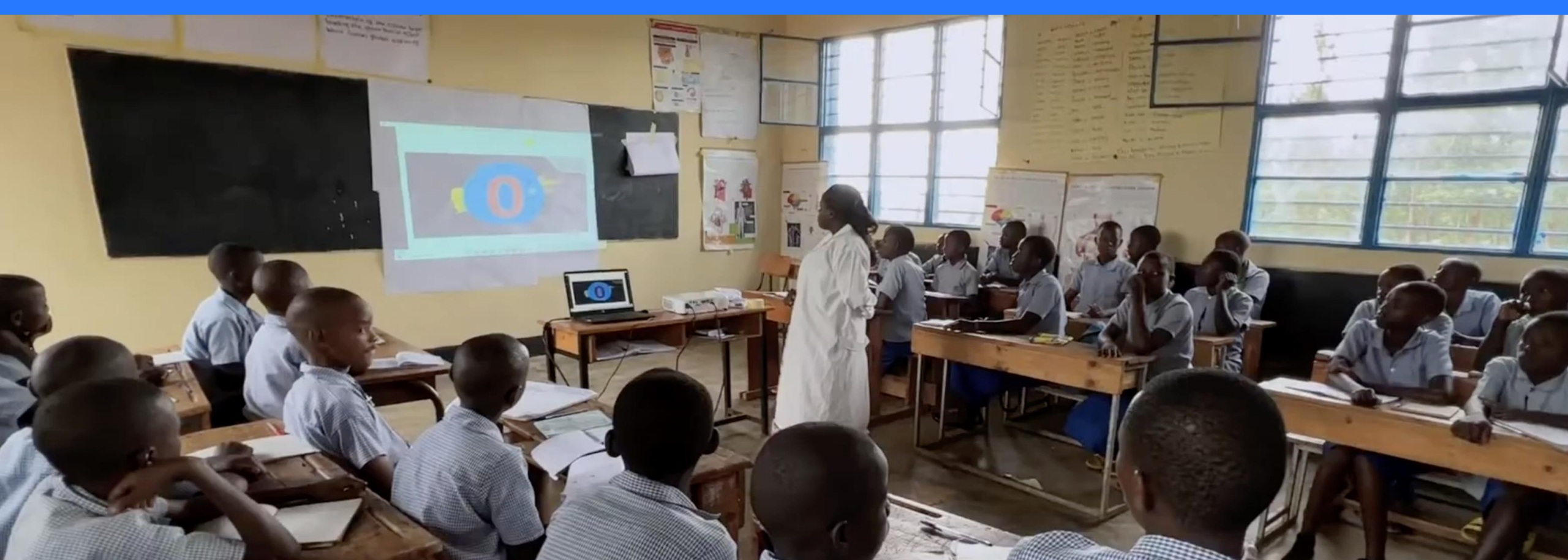


Source: World Bank Official Boundaries, UN Regional groups of Member States

Giga's Impact



Honduras: Giga developed an innovative way to finance school connectivity amid limited public funding:
the **community contribution model**



Rwanda: Giga supported the government in **reducing**
the **price of the gigabyte** by up to **50%**



Recognized in
Global Digital Compact,
annex to Pact for the Future:

Stepping-stone to **helping connect
all schools and hospitals** to the
Internet by 2030



A Giga's Use Case – Brazil

Giga's engagement in Brazil

1) Mapping and Data Collaboration

From 2022–2023, Giga and national partners conducted detailed infrastructure mapping of schools, identifying coverage, and measuring Internet quality in connected ones.

2) Partnership Development and Funding

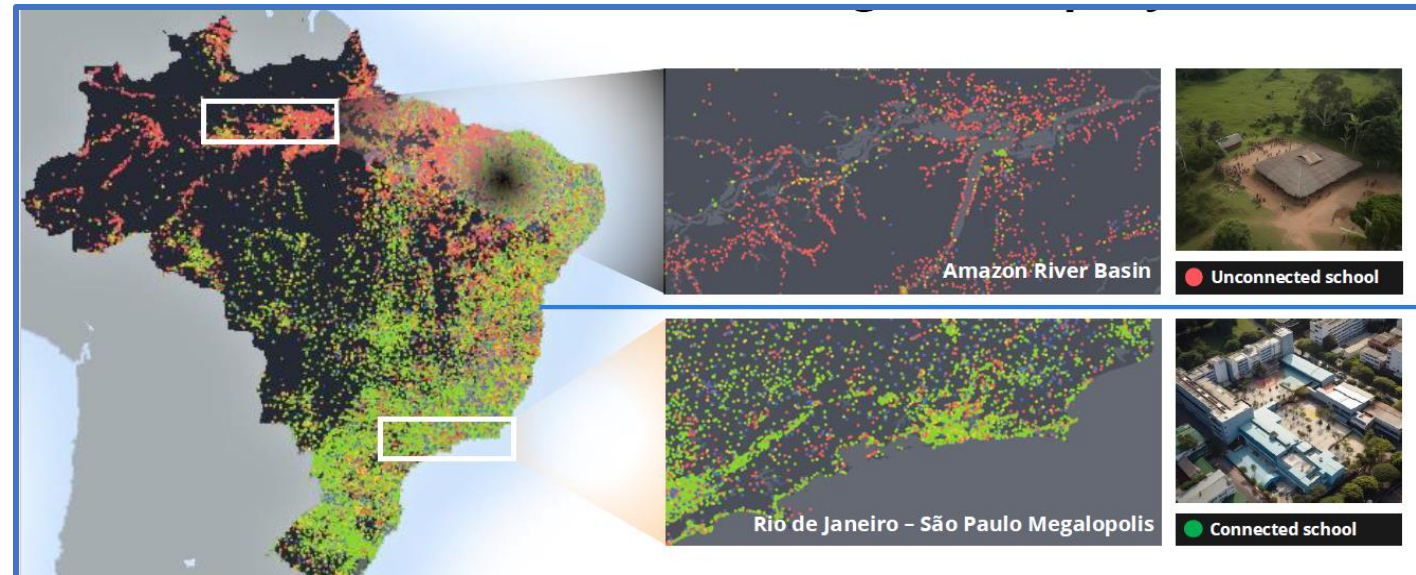
Early collaborations began with a pilot in 55 municipalities, exploring scalability and joint financing models for nationwide connectivity.

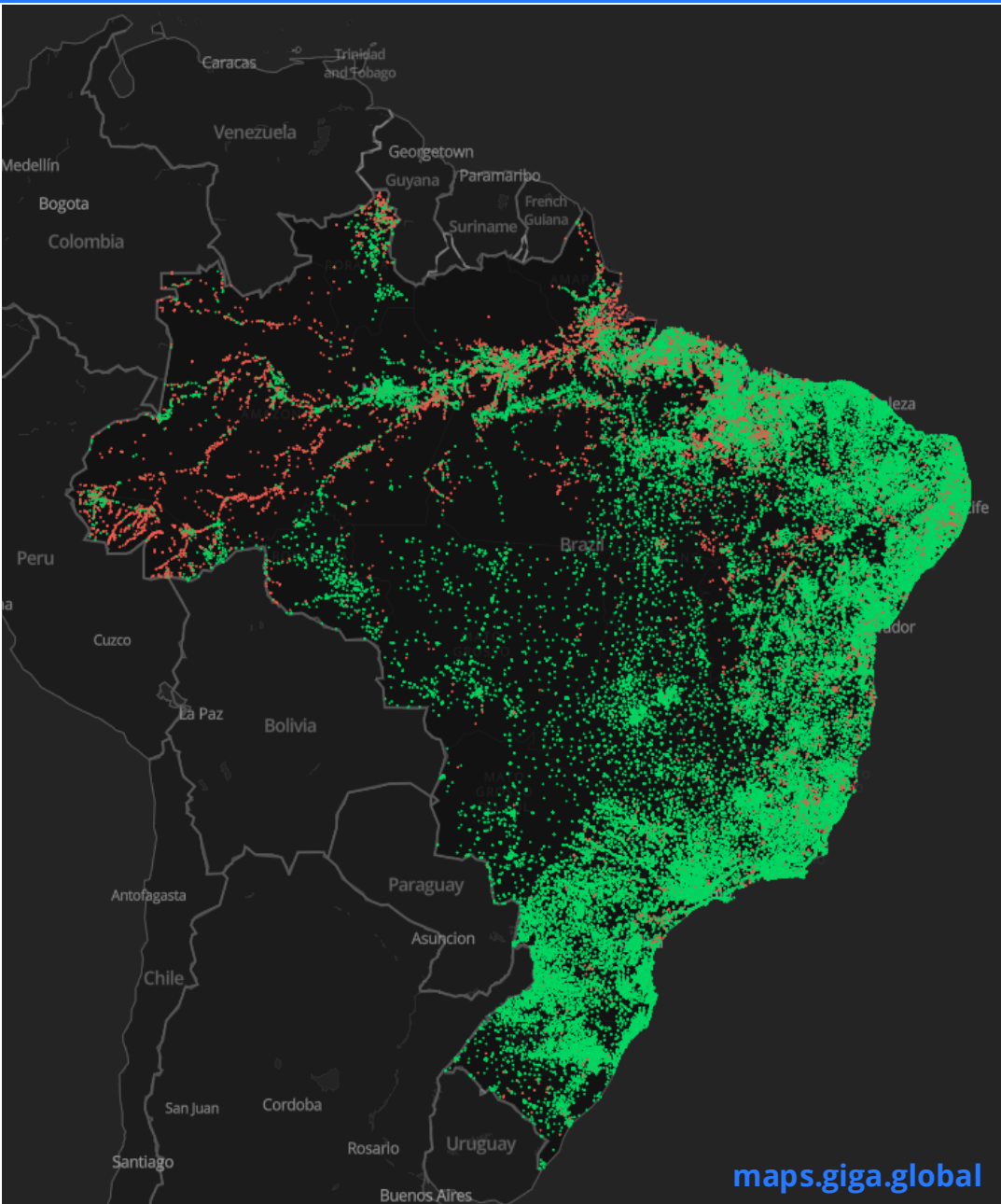
3) Workshops and Capacity Building

Multiple mapping training workshops, aimed to strengthen local capacity in data-driven decision-making for connectivity expansion.

4) Institutional Engagement

Regular meetings to align on school location data, quality of service metrics, and fiber penetration.





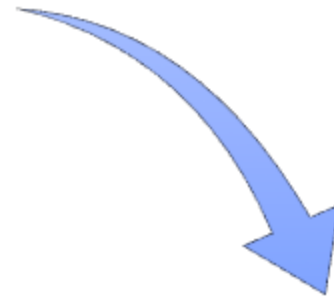
Fruits of the collaboration

Thanks to collaboration with **ANATEL**, the **Ministry of Communications**, the **Ministry of Education**, **UNICEF Brazil**, and key partners such as the **Lemann Foundation**, **NIC.br**, and **IADB**:

School location and connectivity status mapping

- School location mapped for **139+K**
- Schools with connectivity **109+K**

2021



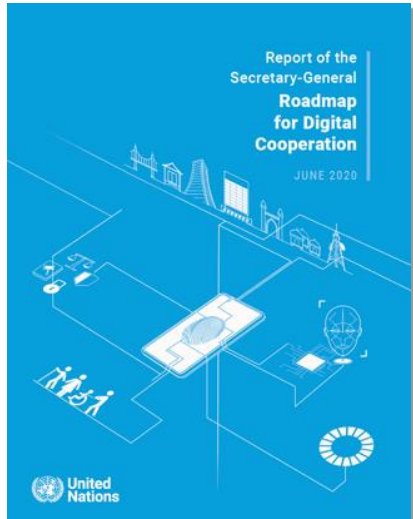
2025

Real-Time Monitoring

- There are now **87,000+** schools reporting **daily** live connectivity status, with data updated every four hours on Giga Maps.

Giga:

A joint initiative of **ITU & UNICEF** to connect all schools to the Internet by 2030



June 2020 The Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

Giga recognized as a new and potentially transformative model to achieve universal connectivity.



September 2022 Transforming Education Summit Call to Action on Digital Learning

Giga recognized as a key initiative to implement the policies, regulations, technologies, and financing required to ensure that school connectivity is safe, sustainable, and equitable.



September 2024 Digital Transformation of Education

Giga recognized as a complementary initiative to connect every school to the Internet.



Global Digital Compact - Pact for the Future

Map and connect all schools **and hospitals** to the Internet, building on the Giga initiative.

Giga's Centres

Giga Connectivity Centre Geneva

Giga Technology Centre



Giga is
accelerating infrastructure
investment & innovation
for school connectivity



DIII

Digital Infrastructure Investment Initiative

Co-led with the **DFI community** and in
coordination with the **G20 presidencies** of
Brazil (2024) and **South Africa (2025)**

*Scaling Innovation for Universal
School Connectivity*

Giga Accelerator

September 2025 – March 2026



Giga Knowledge Spark

October 2025 – December 2025

Empower students to work with experts to develop policy solutions that promote universal, sustainable school connectivity

16-17 October



Participate in the workshops. Meet the experts & take part in the discussions.

November



Write your **recommendations**. Dive into the world of the **policy brief** writing process.

December



Present **your brilliant ideas** to **decision-makers** in Geneva!

Connecting Humanity: A Blueprint for Closing the Digital Divide

A global strategy aiming to deliver universal, meaningful Internet access by 2030, unveiled by ITU, in collaboration with Saudi Arabia's Communications, Space & Technology Commission

ITU Publications

International Telecommunication Union

Connecting humanity action blueprint

Advancing sustainable, affordable and
innovative solutions

September 2025



Thank you!



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