



Digital Participation  
for the Next 50%

# 2023-2024 Report & Outlook

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**Prepared by**  
*The N50 Program  
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# A Reflection on Progress

**Dear Partners and Friends,**

As we unveil the 2023-24 Annual Report and Outlook for the N50 Project, we find ourselves reflecting on a year marked by thousands of conversations and connections tying us together in pursuit of a shared mission. This report highlights our collective journey over the past year and charts the course for exponential impact.

We remain focused on our mission through key impact areas for scale and replicability. This has generated...

- **64% more partners**  
*while creating a...*
- **10% increase in significant partner participation**  
*that generated ...*
- **100% increase in the number of funded projects**

As our new project portal showcases an ever expanding pipeline of projects, we know that the power of N50 activates when the right set of ingredients comes together. You are part of an expanding, active, and diverse N50 family. The N50 Project is more than just a sum of its parts – it's a testament to what can be achieved when we pool our resources, knowledge, and passion. Our focus remains steadfast on making a true impact, ensuring sustainability, scalability, and putting the needs of the communities we serve at the forefront.

We are immensely proud of The N50 Project, yet we know that this is a journey, not a destination. More work is needed. As the N50 Project expands, we are energized to think creatively--together.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.

**In Partnership,  
Program Management Office,  
The N50 Project**





# N50 Key Impact Areas

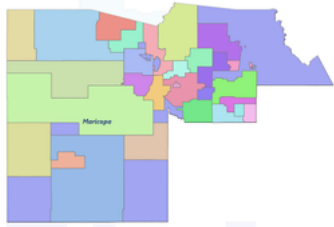
The evolution of the N50 Project has organically developed around key strategic impact areas, which emerged from projects driven by N50 partners. While these areas often overlap, they bring clarity to goals and strategies across the project ecosystem. On the subsequent pages, read about the efforts in 2023 both through active N50 projects and those that are deep in the curation process and preparing to launch.

N50 impact areas all have a focus on bridging the digital divide in rural areas, as connectivity is a gateway to access a suite of life-enhancing activities and participation in the global economy.





# The N50 Project: Active Global Presence



## COUNTY-WIDE BROADBAND MARICOPA COUNTY, AZ

Arizona State University is spearheading this Maricopa County project to improve broadband access and digital literacy to neighborhoods that lack adequate connectivity, hindering remote work and education. The project, in collaboration with **10 N50 partners** covers various aspects including network design, consulting, and community outreach over 3-5 years.



## YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE GHANA, KENYA, SENEGAL, SOUTH AFRICA

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded N50 Partner Arizona State University (ASU) \$80 million to empower African youth. ASU and partners, including Geeks Without Frontiers and the N50 Project, are now supporting YALI hubs to provide education and resources across **49 sub-Saharan countries**.



## EDULABS DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

N50 Partners launched the EduLabs program in the Dominican Republic to enhance digital literacy and tech skills in vulnerable communities. The initiative aims to grow from pilot to **impact over 23,000 families**, providing **training to over 90,000 individuals**, including children, youth, and adults across regions like Santo Domingo and San Juan de La Maguana.



## INDIGENEOUS RESILIENCE NETWORK

### NORTH AMERICA- MULTIPLE PROJECTS

N50 Partners are actively engaged supporting Indigenous communities through different projects including container-based **solar community hubs, workforce development, feasibility studies, cyber-security and related digital inclusion projects, corporate volunteering and grant preparation**.

These multiple efforts are pioneering an assets approach to strengthening capacity.



## 'FOR WOMENKIND' SPEAKER SERIES GLOBAL/ VIRTUAL

This 'For WomenKind' initiative project is designed to share the collective wisdom of N50 Partner's stellar women leaders. It showcases three phenomenal women and their unique perspectives on **gender digital equity**.



## PORTABLE CONNECTIVITY CENTERS FOR REFUGEES UKRAINE, POLAND, ROMANIA

This N50 Project launched in 2022 and continues to grow. **12 communities** in Romania, Poland, and Ukraine continue to benefit from the PCCs deployed to support connecting families, educational goals, and even entertainment. Ongoing connection with implementing partners continues to provide valuable insights for future iterations.

# On the Project Launchpad

(Selected Examples)

## EDUCATION EXPANSION

ZAMBIA, AFRICA

Spearheaded by N50 Partners World Vision, Mwabu, and Intel, this project is intended to scale the **N50 connectivity model** developed in Luumbo, Zambia with a focus on educational outcomes.



## THE DIGITAL LAYER

UGANDA, AFRICA

N50 Partners Food for the Hungry and American Tower Corporation are working together to launch this N50 Project with a **10-school pilot** in Namutumba, Uganda that will demonstrate the viability and capabilities of a digital layer while serving thousands of community members.



## SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

INDONESIA

N50 Partners envision a future where decision-makers can make informed choices, **safeguarding the long-term health and sustainability of marine ecosystems** while also supporting the livelihoods of fishing communities. This project harnesses connectivity to implement a sophisticated smartphone application embedded with advanced artificial intelligence. .



## DISASTER RESILIENCE

MOROCCO

N50 Partner Dell and Computer Aid are spearheading this N50 Project to leverage the **N50 Portable Connectivity Center** model to support humanitarian efforts in Morocco after the 2023 earthquake.



## HEALTHCARE AND TECH

PAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

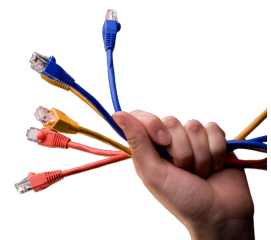
The intersection of **connectivity, power and health** is the focus for a growing number of potential N50 projects as LifeNet, Virtual Doctors, and other Partners craft digitally-enabled project solutions. Emblematic of the trend is USAID's program, the "Health, Electrification, and Telecom Alliance."



## LINKING ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

AFRICA & ASIA

N50 Partners are exploring a **scalable path to connect rural areas** with greater fidelity through an incentive method for internet service providers. Encouraging reliable connections to community anchor institutions paves the way for education, health and other applications. This incentive model -- where ISPs receive payments post-implementation -- ensures that new connections meet specified standards and persist long-term.

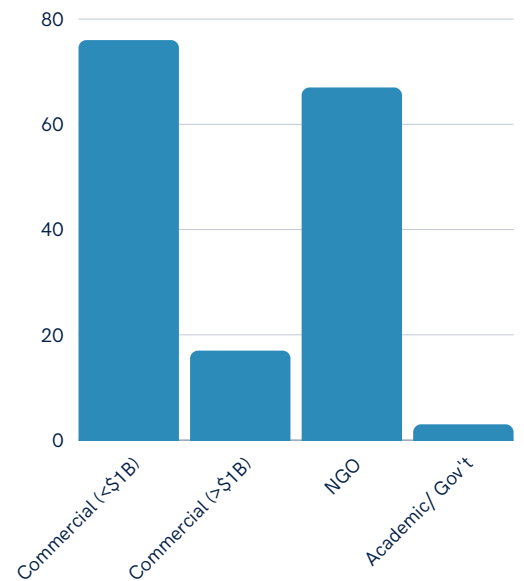
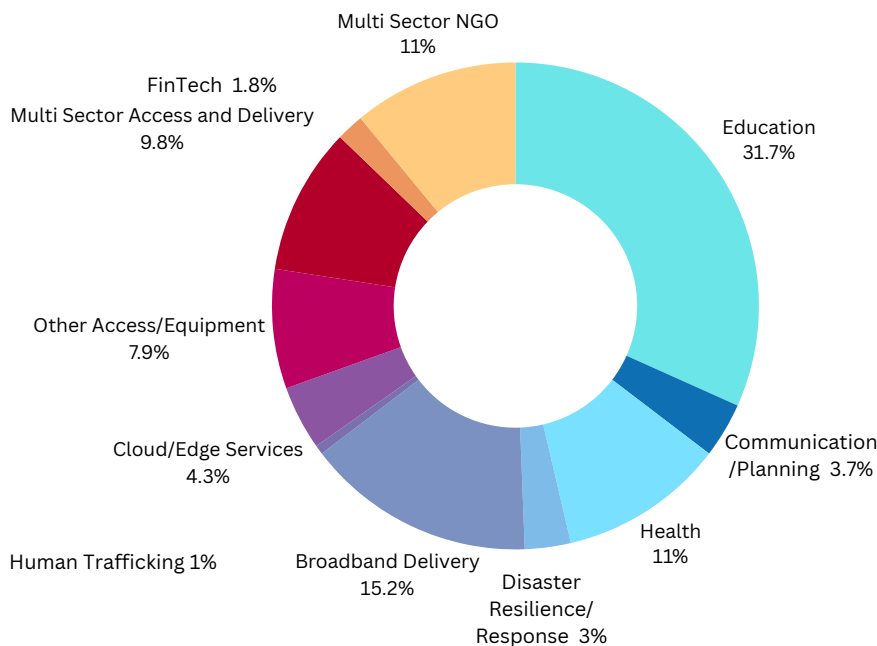


# Partner Portfolio

## Growing Ecosystem

### Who's Who in the N50

In 2023, the N50 Project's partner ecosystem continued its impressive growth, **expanding from 100 to 167 partner organizations**. This increase not only reflects the sheer number of new partners but also a deeper level of engagement and diversity, with partners actively contributing to and leading various projects. Key activities included participating in workgroups, collaborative grant writing, introducing new partners to the N50 network, and connecting projects with communities in need, demonstrating a significant rise in both the quantity and quality of partner participation. A comprehensive list of all N50 partners can be found on [www.n50project.org/partners](http://www.n50project.org/partners).



Collectively, N50 Partners represent roughly over **ONE MILLION** employees across **167 organizations**, providing a wealth of human-resources, knowledge and support.





# Community Connections

To increase partner participation, the N50 Project provides multiple avenues to connect and engage.



## INDIGENOUS RESILIENCE NETWORK

### BOARD OF ADVISORS ESTABLISHED

The IRN is an indigenous-led network promoting workforce development, digital skills, and community enrichment backed by the N50 Project. This year marks the establishment of an indigenous **Board of Advisors** which have met numerous times to guide the mission and vision. Many N50 Partners are engaged in developing projects that connect communities with high quality services, programs and products that have a proven and trusted indigenous lens.



## N50 'FOR WOMENKIND' TEAM

### DESIGNING A WOMEN-LED MENTORSHIP MODEL

The N50 'For WomenKind' team launched this year. Many N50 organizations' women thought leaders are actively contributing in **discussions and problem-solving sessions around gender digital equity** issues that arise in projects and inform N50 project design. The team is actively developing a women-led mentorship model that can directly support N50 Project communities and implementation teams as well as provide guidance to prospective project designs.



## CONFERENCES AND GLOBAL EVENTS

### N50 REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP

The N50 Project was represented at **30 different conferences** during 2023 and had time on the stage sharing the message at many, including SXSW, Arabsat 2023, Net Inclusion. Satellite 2023, Indigenous Connectivity Summit, APEC 2023, 2023 Tribal Broadband Summit, AnchorNets 2023, the UN General Assembly, and the Austin All Together for Digital Inclusion Stakeholder Summit.



## CONNECTING DIGITALLY

### EXPANDING OUR DIGITAL PRESENCE AND NETWORK

- The New **N50 Project Portal** went live on the N50 Website
- An updated **N50 video** was produced and shared
- The **N50 Connect e-Newsletter** was published monthly
- A **new white paper** outlining updates to the first N50 Project in Luumbo, Zambia was published
- Quarterly **N50 Partner meetings** were held virtually with increased participation

# Key Indicators

**500K**



## LIVES IMPACTED

Just within active projects, the total number of lives potentially impacted is greater than **500,000**. Including projects in the pipeline, The N50 Project is poised to impact more than 10 million people.

**15**



## ACTIVE N50 PROJECTS

Projects launched in 2022 continue to evolve and strengthen, and with the new projects in 2023, the N50 Project has **15** active projects at various stages of maturity.

**41**



## PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

The N50 Project pipeline is changing daily. Project ideas are incubated and socialized as they move to active recruitment for support and partnership. Today we celebrate **41** projects in the pipeline.

**10%**



## PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

The number of successful projects is only possible with the active engagement and participation of the N50 partner ecosystem. To date we have had a **10%** increase in the number of partners participating in projects, initiatives, and through gifts-in-kind.

**64%**



## NEW PARTNERS

The N50 Project charter supporters, partners and lead partners has grown by **64%** in the last year, increasing the collective diversity, capacity and potential impact of initiatives and projects.

# What's Next?

**As we forge ahead, N50 stands at a pivotal juncture of growth and impact.** Our journey has been remarkable, yet the path ahead is even more promising. In the coming year, we aim to not only continue our vital work but also deepen our engagement and scale our efforts. Each project and partnership, aligned with our strategic initiatives, is a step towards tangible, lasting change.

**We are stronger together!**

**We invite our partners, both current and prospective, to join us in this endeavor,** contributing to the synergy of efforts across our ecosystem. The future holds no shortage of opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and transformative impact. Let's embrace it together, continuing to build resilient, connected, and empowered communities **worldwide**. Your participation and support are crucial in this journey as we strive to create a more equitable and sustainable world for all.

## The N50 Project Pipeline

