

Development

Geographic divide / Digital divide / Essential services: agriculture and healthcare / Essential services: m-women / Essential services: financial services and energy / Entrepreneurship

Combating geographic digital divides

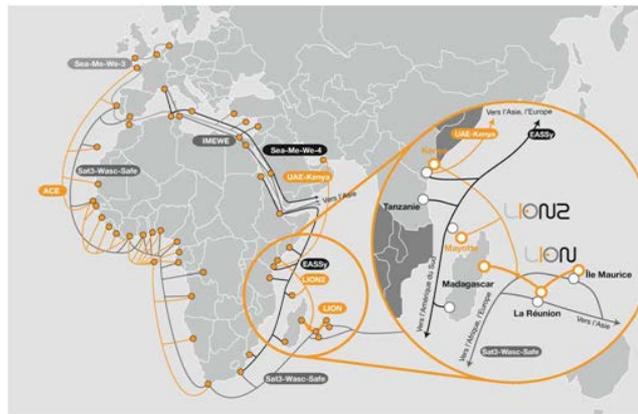
Challenges / vision / beliefs

Orange is committed, through its investments and innovative solutions, to combat factors which exclude people from ICT, so that as many people as possible can gain easy access to services that have become essential. To combat geographic and digital divides, Orange has long been investing in extending fixed and mobile network coverage:

- accelerating deployment of fibre and 4G in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, where our customers need it most;
- eliminating "Dead Zones".

Roadmap

- To meet the needs of the growing number of smartphone users, Orange is continuing to roll out 4G and 4G+ in Europe, Africa and the Middle-East, and testing 5G.
- The Group is also deploying very high speed fibre optic networks with FTTH (Fibre to the home).
- Orange is also committed to the digital enfranchisement of the Africa and Middle-East (MEA) region, by deploying innovative solutions designed to meet local needs, such as solar-powered radio towers and community telephones in the most isolated rural areas.
 - As part of this approach the Group has linked up with the GSM Association and seven major operators to facilitate access to mobile and internet networks in Africa and the Middle-East to better serve rural communities.
 - By sharing infrastructure, the operators involved in the project will be able to reduce costs for all the inhabitants of these regions.
- With major investments in submarine cable networks, Orange highlights its commitment to increasing access to the internet in nearly twenty African countries where the Group operates, whilst continuing to improve network quality:
 - commissioning of ACE cable in Benin and the Canary Islands in July 2015;
 - deployment of the SEA-ME-WE 5 (South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 5) submarine cable, which was commissioned in the second half of 2016.





Thematic data sheets

Corporate Social Responsibility

Indicators / Key figures

4G
in 21 countries
(end 2017)

46 million
4G customers
4.7 million very
fast broadband*
customers

*>100 Mbit/s

No 1
FTTH in Europe
26.5 million
households connectable
to Fibre

+31% households
connectable to
VFBB* in 2017

*>100 Mbit/s

News / achievements in 2017

- Deployment of 4G/4G+ networks:
 - In European countries to increase coverage and speeds. Rate of 4G coverage: > 99% in Belgium and Poland, ≥ 96% in France, Moldova, Luxembourg and Spain, > 90% in Romania and Slovakia;
 - In the MEA region: 13 countries covered with 4G (Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Jordan, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia).
- Fibre:
 - launch in Poland (2.5 million households connectable); continuing deployment in France (9.1 million households connectable), and in Spain (12 million);
 - in France, Orange has committed to open up 100% of the homes and business-use premises within its FTTH deployment perimeter in the AMII region to FTTH sales from the end of 2020.
- Undersea cables:
 - SKR1M (2016-2017): laying of a cable in Malaysia, between the mainland and the Borneo peninsula (2,100 km);
 - SACS (2017-2018): a major transatlantic project between Sangano in Angola and Fortaleza in Brazil;
 - ACE S4 (2017): laying of the segment of cable connecting the island of Sao Tomé and the city of Duyenfontein in South Africa (4,350 km);
 - AAE-1 (2017): laying of 2,000 km of cable to link Cambodia, Vietnam and Hong Kong.
- Mobile new deal in France: agreements were signed in 2018 between the French State and operators to ensure better mobile coverage in the regions, especially in rural areas. The aim is to roll out 4G reception to the whole country, which entails providing it to more than 1 million French people living in 10,000 rural municipalities (by 2020 for owned sites and 2022 for sites in the town centre dead zone programme).
- KONNECT VHTS: Orange has entered into a commercial agreement with Eutelsat to deliver, from 2021, very fast broadband connectivity by satellite system in rural areas of European countries in which the Group operates in the mass market.

Going further

- [Focus on networks in Africa](#) (thematic file)
- [Networks: the foundation of our innovation](#) (thematic file)
- [New European fixed VFB satellite system](#)
- [5G, the mobile connectivity of the future](#) (thematic file)
- [The mobile new deal in France](#)