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Africa-BB-Maps National Event

National broadband mapping systems in Uganda

23—25 September 2025
Kampala, Uganda

<https://africabbmaps.itu.int/ug-kickoff/>



Report of the Africa Broadband Maps National Event 23rd to 25th September 2025 Kampala, Uganda





Acknowledgement

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) extends its sincere appreciation to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Union (EU) for their leadership and support in advancing the Africa Broadband Maps (Africa-BB-Maps) initiative. The successful convening of the National Event from 23rd to 25th September 2025 in Kampala reflects the strong partnership between international and national institutions committed to accelerating digital transformation in Uganda.

UCC further acknowledges the valuable contributions of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, the National Information Technology Authority–Uganda (NITA-U), telecommunications operators, infrastructure providers, development partners, and all stakeholders who actively participated in the discussions. Their technical insights, collaborative spirit, and shared commitment were instrumental in shaping a clear roadmap for the implementation of a national broadband mapping framework. UCC appreciates the dedication of all participants and looks forward to continued cooperation in realizing inclusive and data-driven digital development.



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Executive Summary

The Africa Broadband Maps (Africa-BB-Maps) National Event for Uganda was held from 23rd to 25th September 2025 in Kampala as part of a four-year ITU-led initiative funded by the European Union. The event brought together government institutions, regulators, telecommunications operators, infrastructure providers, development partners, and international experts to advance the establishment of a harmonised national broadband mapping system. The engagement aimed to strengthen Uganda's capacity to map broadband infrastructure and services, identify connectivity gaps, and support evidence-based policy, regulatory, and investment decisions.

Over three days, stakeholders reviewed the current broadband landscape, examined technical architecture and data governance requirements, and defined institutional roles for implementation. Key outcomes included agreement on UCC as the national data custodian, alignment on harmonised data standards, identification of regulatory and institutional gaps, and development of a phased roadmap for platform deployment and capacity building. The event reaffirmed broadband mapping as a strategic national asset essential for digital inclusion, regulatory effectiveness, and socio-economic development, and set the foundation for collaborative implementation under the Africa-BB-Maps framework.

1. Background

The Africa-BB-Maps project (2025–2028) is a four-year initiative implemented by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and funded by the European Union (EU). It is designed to establish or strengthen harmonised national broadband mapping systems in participating Sub-Saharan African countries, including Uganda, to enable national regulatory authorities to map broadband infrastructure and service coverage, identify connectivity gaps, and support data driven policy and investment decisions.

2. National Event Africa BB Maps

The Africa-BB-Maps National Event in Uganda brought together a broad coalition of stakeholders from government, regulatory bodies, telecommunications operators, infrastructure providers, development partners, and international organisations.

- a) Public-sector participation included the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, and the National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U), alongside other government entities with relevant geospatial and infrastructure data mandates.
- b) Private-sector participation included telecommunications operators and infrastructure providers such as MTN Uganda, Airtel Uganda, Uganda Telecom, Lycamobile Uganda, and infrastructure companies including American Tower Company Uganda.
- c) International organisations and partners in attendance included the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and representatives of development partners supporting digital infrastructure initiatives.

Collectively, this diverse participation reflected the whole-of-government and multi-stakeholder approach necessary to achieve the objectives of Africa-BB-Maps in Uganda and ensure that broadband mapping becomes a cornerstone of evidence-based regulation, infrastructure planning, and inclusive digital growth. An executive summary of the discussions is provided below and the detailed minutes are attached as an annex for reference.

1.1 Day 1: Policy Dialogue and Strategic Orientation

The first day set the strategic context, positioning broadband as a critical enabler of Uganda’s digital transformation and socio-economic development.

1.1.1 Welcome and Opening

Mr. Haruna Musinguzi, the Acting Executive Director of UCC highlighted Uganda's progress in mobile broadband penetration, noting that 7.5 million people remain underserved. He emphasized that the broadband mapping project is essential for accurately identifying coverage gaps and directing targeted investments to achieve inclusive connectivity.

Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, the Director of the ITU Development Bureau underscored the importance of integrating multiple data sources into GIS systems to support evidence-based policymaking. He further emphasized the need for strong national ownership to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of broadband initiatives.

Dr. Emmanuel Manasseh, the ITU Regional Director for Africa stressed that broadband mapping is fundamental to national digital development, as it provides visibility of infrastructure and identifies connectivity gaps. He noted that it enables strategic investment planning, supports progress measurement toward digital inclusion, and strengthens collaboration to ensure equitable broadband access for all citizens.

The ITU project representatives outlined the objectives of the Africa-BB-Maps initiative, including strengthening national mapping capacity, harmonising data collection frameworks, and enabling evidence-based policy decisions.

1.1.2 Day 1: Context and Current State Interventions

a) Uganda Communications Commission

UCC presented its ongoing initiatives related to broadband monitoring, including the use of GIS-enabled tools for mapping mobile coverage, fibre infrastructure, and quality of service performance.

UCC highlighted achievements in infrastructure visibility while noting ongoing challenges related to data standardisation, coordination across institutions, and timely access to operator data.

b) Public Sector Contributions

The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance and NITA-U presented existing national datasets that could support broadband mapping, including geospatial, infrastructure, and planning information.

Other Government agencies acknowledged the value of the Africa-BB-Maps initiative in improving inter-agency coordination and enhancing national planning.

c) Private Sector Engagement

Telecommunications operators including Airtel Uganda, outlined their infrastructure deployment initiatives and indicated willingness to support broadband mapping efforts, subject to appropriate data confidentiality safeguards.

The service providers emphasized the importance of integrating tower and fibre datasets into national planning frameworks to support infrastructure sharing and reduce duplication of investments.

d) International Partners

The ITU project representatives emphasized the need for standardized methodologies, harmonised data governance, and adoption of international best practices to ensure interoperability across participating countries.

Other international partners highlighted practical applications of broadband mapping to advance coverage and digital inclusion. These included leveraging mapping tools to support initiatives aimed at connecting every child to the Internet, thereby enhancing learning and skills development, through targeted identification of connectivity gaps in over 2,000 schools across Uganda.

They also emphasized the role of broadband mapping in facilitating the integration of farmers and vulnerable communities into digital financial services, improving access to resources, strengthening socio-economic participation, and enhancing inclusive service delivery.

e) Africa-BB-Maps Project Overview

The Africa-BB-Maps project team presented the implementation framework for Uganda, including the maturity assessment used to evaluate readiness across policy, governance, technical systems, and institutional capacity.

Expected outputs include:

- i. Establishment of a national broadband mapping platform
- ii. Harmonised data standards
- iii. Integration of broadband data into national planning and investment decisions

The project will progress through phased implementation, including stakeholder engagement, technical deployment, and capacity building.

1.1.3 Day 2: Technical Systems and Data Readiness

The second day focused on technical priorities, system architecture, and data governance.

a) Strategic Technical Priorities

Technical discussions emphasized integration of telecommunications datasets with national geospatial systems and the need for secure, scalable platforms.

Stakeholders identified priorities including:

- i. Interoperable data standards
- ii. Secure data governance frameworks
- iii. Protection of commercially sensitive information
- iv. Automated validation mechanisms

b) Case Studies and Best Practices

International experience, shared by an expert from the Italian Communication Authority-AGCOM, demonstrated the importance of legislative backing for data submission, structured access controls, and multi-tier data sharing models to balance transparency and confidentiality.

c) Technical Architecture and Tools

Participants explored system architecture options, including hybrid hosting models and open-source GIS platforms. Crowdsourced performance data was also discussed as a complementary validation mechanism for operator-reported coverage.

d) Breakout Sessions

Participants worked in thematic groups covering:

- i. **Systems Architecture and deployment methods:** recommending secure and scalable infrastructure.
- ii. **Data Governance and Collection:** proposing harmonised data collection, management and reporting schemas with an emphasis on data protection.
- iii. **Policy and Regulatory:** identified regulatory and institutional gaps, coordination and data governance challenges, and the need for harmonized policies, secure data management, and strengthened monitoring frameworks to enhance collaboration and support effective broadband mapping and regulation

These discussions provided practical inputs for the national broadband mapping system design.

1.1.4 Day 3: Stakeholder Coordination and Roadmap Development

The final day focused on policy alignment, institutional roles, and implementation planning.

a) Policy and Regulatory Review

Stakeholders reviewed Uganda's regulatory environment for infrastructure mapping and data sharing, identifying opportunities to strengthen coordination mechanisms.

b) Stakeholder Roles

Indicative roles were agreed:

- i. Data Custodian: Uganda Communications Commission
- ii. Policy Oversight: Ministry of ICT and National Guidance
- iii. Data Providers: Telecommunications operators and infrastructure entities
- iv. Capacity Development: ITU and development partners

c) Integration with National Development Objectives

Participants emphasized aligning broadband mapping with national digital transformation priorities, universal access programmes, and infrastructure investment planning.

d) Project Roadmap and Capacity Building

The Africa-BB-Maps initiative will include structured training programmes covering GIS, broadband data governance, and regulatory analytics. Next steps include:

- i. Platform deployment
- ii. Continued stakeholder engagement
- iii. Technical workshops
- iv. Development of national data governance frameworks

1.1.5 Closing Remarks

Dr. Emmanuel Manasseh, the ITU Regional Director for Africa emphasized that the success of the Broadband Mapping National Event was driven by strong stakeholder participation and collaboration. He described the digital divide as a developmental and economic crisis, calling on Uganda to demonstrate leadership and solidarity in advancing inclusive connectivity across Africa.

The Director for Corporate Affairs at UCC, Mr. Fred Otunnu expressed appreciation to the ITU and all participants for their technical contributions and collaborative spirit throughout the three-day engagement. He reaffirmed UCC's commitment to leveraging broadband mapping to strengthen regulation, guide investment, and advance national digital inclusion, officially closing the event with a call to sustain the momentum.

3. Conclusion

The Uganda Africa-BB-Maps National Event successfully aligned stakeholders around a shared vision of broadband mapping as a national strategic asset.

The event:

- a) Established institutional commitment,
- b) Defined technical and policy priorities,
- c) Clarified stakeholder roles and,
- d) Set the foundation for implementation.

Participants reaffirmed that collaboration, transparency, and sustained coordination will be critical to operationalising a national broadband mapping platform that supports Uganda's digital transformation agenda.

Annex 1: Minutes of the National Event

Annex 2: Link for the event including photos -
<https://africabbmaps.itu.int/ug-kickoff/>