



FTTx township expansion

The suburban fibre market in South Africa is reaching saturation, with limited growth potential remaining. Township communities represent a significant underpenetrated market: between 15 and 21 million people live in the country's 532 townships.

Expanding fibre into townships presents different operational challenges. These include higher population density, different infrastructure requirements, the need for community engagement, and the presence of opportunistic crime and informal access demands.

Telkom is expanding its FTTx rollout into township areas through Openserve. We are approaching this as both a commercial growth opportunity and a response to limited broadband access. The Group is continuously improving alignment with the requirements of this market, including product structuring and rollout execution.

In total, 1 539 209 homes and businesses were connected through our FTTx footprint by the end of FY2026, with a connection rate of 53.1%.

The FTTx initiative serves as a powerful driver of digital inclusion. It also significantly improves access to online education, healthcare, commercial and employment opportunities. By enabling such access, we actively support national GDP growth.

While the project is expanding from a small base, it is strategically positioned to unlock a significant market, extending the benefits of high-speed broadband to every sector of society.

Investing with purpose

Telkom contributes to indirect economic development through targeted investment in education and digital inclusion. We deliver these initiatives mainly through the Telkom Foundation. They focus on improving learning outcomes, expanding digital literacy and enhancing employability, particularly in underserved communities.

The Group's approach to economic development includes deploying ICT infrastructure and digital learning platforms, developing youth capabilities through accredited programmes and internships, and investing in Centres of Excellence that support research and innovation.



Supporting entrepreneurship: FutureMakers

Telkom recognises the role of SMMEs in driving economic growth and job creation. Over the last decade, we have anchored our position as a leading corporate partner in developing SMMEs in the ICT sector through our flagship enterprise and supplier development initiative, FutureMakers.

Since its launch in 2015, FutureMakers has supported more than 2 634 majority Black-owned SMMEs through incubation, investment, connectivity and business development services.

In FY2026, Telkom supported 362 enterprises with procurement opportunities worth R709.3 million. Collectively, FutureMakers businesses have impacted over 260 337 lives and, combined with our procurement spend, helped sustain more than 74 114 jobs across the country.

The programme remains a catalyst for inclusive growth, promoting innovation and localisation with a focus on Black-, youth- and female-owned technology start-ups.

