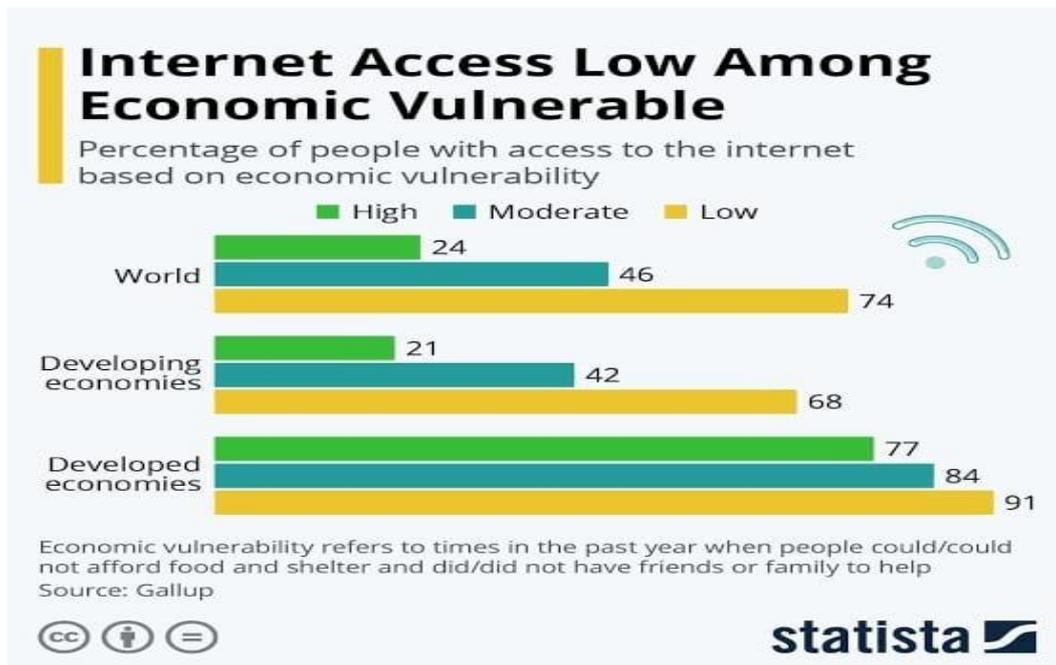


WHAT IS THE DIGITAL DIVIDE?



Inequality in access to the Internet and Information and Communication Technology is known as the digital divide, and it disturbs the life of 52 % of women and 42 % of men worldwide. This ratio extends even broader when we mention certain regions. According to official statistical data's, in Africa, only 39.3 % of its inhabitants had Internet access, compared to 87.2 % of Europeans and 94.6 % of Americans.

This data of May 2020 shows the technological gap that deprives one country of another, despite the fact of development in networks such as 3G and 4G, while we wait for the massive advancement of 5G, which have begun to reach almost everywhere around the world.

WHAT ARE SOME REFORMS TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE EFFICIENTLY?

In many places, initiatives have been launched to facilitate access to technology. Here we mention some of the most relevant ones:



❖ **Digital literacy programs:**

They help people in less accessible areas of the Internet to reduce the digital gap between them for their personal well-being. The main objective of the digital literacy programme is to develop skills in them like functional skills, critical thinking and evaluation, cultural and social understanding, collaboration, the ability to find and select information, creativity, effective communication and E-safety.

❖ **Alliance for Affordable Internet:**

This affordable internet measure, led by an international combination of governments of both developed and developing countries, corporate and civil society, plays a significant role in rural people's women empowerment, healthcare, and education problems.

❖ **Free Basics:**

free basic is an application and website, promoted by Facebook and six other technology companies, aims to provide free access to a number of websites and services made up of photos and videos which can be used at free of charge.

❖ **Starlink:**

This project Promoted by tycoon Elon Musk is launching satellites into space to provide high-speed Internet and global coverage at low prices. Starlink is easy to install and has faster recovery after a disaster.