

# Accelerated the roll-out of fiber and extended network coverage

Expanding fixed and mobile network coverage throughout regions is a priority for Orange. We invest and engage in partnerships that focus on delivering very high-speed broadband to everyone, whether deploying fiber, extending 4G coverage, installing new radio sites in the Middle East and Africa, funding and laying submarine cables or harnessing satellite technology in order to tackle the digital divide in our operating countries.

## 01

### A record-breaking year for fiber

→ As the first broadband operator in Europe to make the strategic decision to roll out Fiber to the Home (FTTH), Orange continued to invest in and deploy its FTTH network over the past year. At end-2020, we had covered 47.2 million households worldwide, 22.9 million in France, 14.9 million in Spain and 7.8 million across our other operating countries in Europe, a 23.4% increase on the previous year. Furthermore, the pandemic magnified the transition to fiber, highlighting the need for a reliable, very high-speed connection, as confirmed by our record-breaking business performance—in France and Poland, for instance. Orange Poland's fiber customers increased by nearly 40% in 2020, representing over 200,000 new clients.

## 02

### Extended 4G coverage

→ The Group continued to improve mobile coverage in rural areas of France, where it came top of Arcep's latest ranking for mobile network quality. In Africa and the Middle East, the Group continued to deploy 4G in almost all of its operating countries, taking advantage of network sharing agreements and innovative technology, such as lightweight pylons, to extend its coverage in rural areas. At end-2020, we reached 33 million 4G customers, up 39% on the previous year, and over 128 million mobile customers overall.

## 03

### State-of-the-art submarine cables

→ Investing heavily in over 40 submarine cables, Orange continues to broaden its global network. In 2020, we landed the Dunant cable, the first submarine cable to connect France to the United States in over 15 years. This joint project with Google enables us to expand connectivity between Europe and the US—the world's busiest connectivity route—with internet traffic doubling every two years on average. In May 2020, Orange joined the 2Africa consortium comprising China Mobile International, Facebook, MTN GlobalConnect, stc, Telecom Egypt,

Vodafone and WIOCC. This cable will connect 23 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Europe by 2024, catering for growth in data traffic as a result of the deployment of 4G, 5G and high-speed broadband access for hundreds of millions of people.

## 04

### Very high-speed satellite broadband throughout France

→ In July 2020, the Group announced it had purchased all the capacity available on the Eutelsat Konnect satellite from Eutelsat Communications, a French satellite telecommunications operator. This agreement is in line with the national broadband plan adopted by the French government to roll out a service delivering speeds of at least 30 Mb/s throughout France by 2022. Orange's entire retail customer base—including people living in rural areas—can access very high-speed broadband using satellite technology. The service is provided by our subsidiary Nordnet, the leading French distributor of satellite internet services since 2008.



### A new cable ship with a reduced environmental footprint

In December 2020, Orange announced it would be building a cable ship specifically designed to repair submarine cables, including fiber-optic telecommunications cables and power cables connecting offshore wind farms. The choices made in the design phase (hull, propulsion thrusters, hybrid energy management system, connection to the onshore power supply when berthed, etc.) will reduce the ship's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% and nitrogen oxide emissions by 80% compared to old-generation ships.