Smartphone and tablet (all types)

Optimise the energy consumption of your mobile devices

A lack of electricity and frequent power cuts are some of the most important factors that constrain ICT use in developing countries. Here are some tips to help optimise smartphone use in this type of context.

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What is the purpose?

Optimising energy consumption ensures that mobile devices can work for as long as possible in contexts where electricty is scarce.

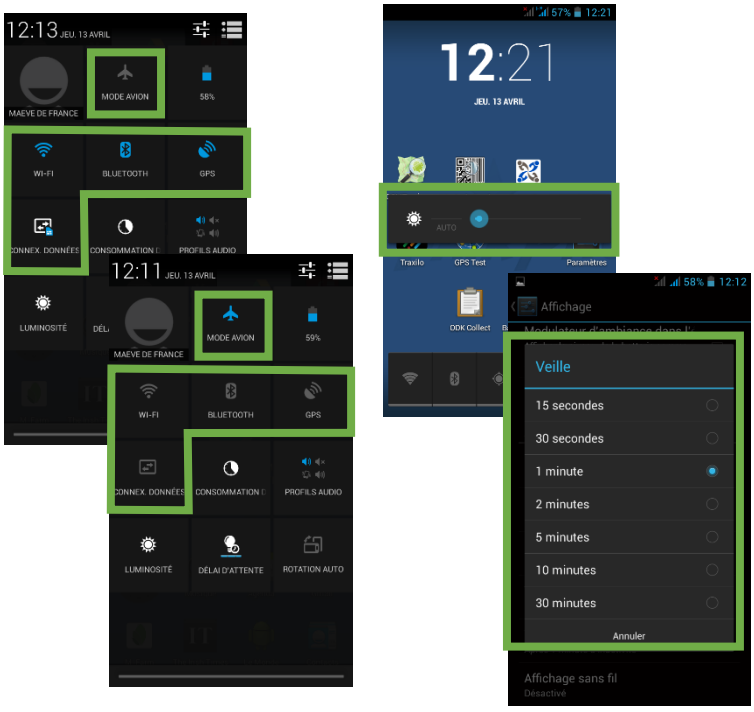
Prerequisite

- Have some degree of access to an energy source

How can we do it?

Here is a list of suggestions for optimising your battery life:

1. The first time a device is used, make sure that the battery is completely empty before starting to recharge it
2. Where possible, switch the device to flight mode (this turns off the Wifi, 3G and Bluetooth etc.)
3. Turn off the GPS when you do not need it
4. Reduce the screen brightness
5. Reduce the time that is required before the phone switches into sleep mode
6. Regularly close applications that run in the background when you do not need them.



Portable charger, USB cable

In situations where these steps are not enough:

1. Make sure you have spare batteries
2. Make sure you have a portable mobile charger (e.g. an external battery pack/powerbank) and/or chargers that are adapted to your context (e.g. solar, USB cable, car…)
3. Check if there are solar charging stations nearby: these are becoming more common in some countries.

To go further

These recommendations are focused on contexts where there are already available sources of energy. In situations where this is not the case, consider whether electrification is a potential option. Further details are provided (in French) in the AMP report: *Access to Photovoltaic Energy in Development Aid* or its summary.

Free

2 minutes per smartphone for most of these steps