

Guinea

Access to electronic communications in this West African country is practically all through wireless networks. The arrival of a submarine cable resulted in better quality and lower prices, thus widening access.

Mobile services: There are four mobile operators: MTN, the South African mobile group MTN operating under the brand AREEBA; Orange, a subsidiary of Senegal's SONATEL; INTERCEL, launched in 1993 as TELECEL, which is now a subsidiary of the incumbent operator in Sudan SUDATEL; and CELLCOM, a United States telecommunication firm. Orange and MTN dominate the market and both have launched 3G mobile broadband along with CELLCOM.

Fixed services: There is no fixed-line operator. Voice communications are through mobile networks. SOTELGUI, the incumbent operator, was partly privatized in 1995, when 60 per cent was sold to Telekom Malaysia. In 2008, the Government repurchased the shares, but SOTELGUI was declared bankrupt in 2013 and, since then, there have been a number of attempts to restore its operations, but to no avail. Fixed-broadband is available through fixed-broadband wireless networks and optical fibre provided by mobile operators to businesses in urban areas. The Government has obtained a loan from China for the construction of a national fibre-optic backbone that will cover around 4 000 km. The ACE submarine cable landed in the country in December 2012. The capacity of the cable began to be used in 2013. Access to ACE is managed by GUILAB, a public-private partnership between the Government and telecommunication operators in the country. It ensures open access and cost-based pricing.

Government policy: The Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Digital Economy defines the sector policy. A National Strategy for the Development of ICTs and the Digital Economy is being developed. The Authority for Regulation of Posts and Telecommunications is the sector regulator, guided by the 2015 Law on Telecommunications and Information Technologies.

Conclusion: With the demise of SOTELGUI, Guinea is essentially a wireless nation, with most ICT services provided through mobile networks. The

Key indicators for Guinea (2017)	Africa	World	
Fixed-telephone sub. per 100 inhab.	0.0	0.9	13.0
Mobile-cellular sub. per 100 inhab.	85.2	74.4	103.6
Active mobile-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	15.7	24.8	61.9
3G coverage (% of population)	62.4	62.7	87.9
LTE/WiMAX coverage (% of population)	10.3	28.4	76.3
Individuals using the Internet (%)	11.4	22.1	48.6
Households with a computer (%)	2.8	8.9	47.1
Households with Internet access (%)	8.9	19.4	54.7
International bandwidth per Internet user (kbit/s)	3.7	11.2	76.6
Fixed-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	0.0	0.6	13.6
Fixed-broadband sub. by speed tiers, % distribution			
<i>-256 kbit/s to 2 Mbit/s</i>	63.7	38.7	4.2
<i>-2 to 10 Mbit/s</i>	19.2	37.2	13.2
<i>-equal to or above 10 Mbit/s</i>	17.1	24.1	82.6

Note: Data in italics are ITU estimates. Source: ITU (as of June 2018).

arrival of the ACE cable and the adoption of open access and cost-based pricing approaches for international Internet connectivity have stimulated demand and widened access.