

Mozambique

In addition to opening its mobile market to competition, there is a flurry of activity to build out the national backbone infrastructure throughout the country, sharply boosting access.

Mobile services: There are three mobile operators. Mozambique Cellular (MCEL), a subsidiary of the incumbent telecom operator, launched as the country's first mobile operator in 1997. Competition in the mobile segment was introduced in 2003 when Vodacom, a subsidiary of the South African mobile group launched. A third operator entered the market in 2012 with the arrival of MOVITEL, a subsidiary of the Vietnamese VIETTEL group. In 2015, just over half of the households (55 per cent) had mobile telephones, of which 78 per cent in urban homes and 46 per cent in rural ones.³²³ Mobile-broadband using 3G technology was launched by MCEL in 2008, Vodacom in 2010 and MOVITEL in 2012, when it entered the market. The 3G technology cheaper than fixed offerings and hence most Internet access in the country is mobile-broadband.

Fixed services: The incumbent operator is State-owned Telecommunications of Mozambique (TDM) (90 per cent belongs to the Government and 10 per cent to management and employees). Although TDM's exclusivities have ended, it is essentially the only fixed-telephone provider offering service over copper lines and CDMA wireless local loop. On the fixed-broadband market, TDM offers ADSL up to 4 Mbit/s, fixed wireless access using CDMA EVDO and through a subsidiary, and cable modem with speeds up to 8 Mbit/s in urban areas. It competes with other ISPs that offer fixed wireless broadband. TDM, Vodacom and MOVITEL have been rolling out fibre-optic, and Mozambique's backbone extends more than 46 000 km, one of the biggest networks in sub-Saharan Africa. The commissioning of two fibre-optic submarine cables, which added significantly to Mozambique's international Internet capacity, and resulted in a massive drop in wholesale prices improved international Internet connectivity when Mozambique connected to the SEACOM cable in 2009, followed by the Eastern Africa Submarine System (EASSy) a year later. Two other cables are planned. The Mozambique Internet Exchange, created in 2002, is one of the oldest in the region.

Key indicators for Mozambique (2017)	Africa	World	
Fixed-telephone sub. per 100 inhab.	0.3	0.9	13.0
Mobile-cellular sub. per 100 inhab.	40.0	74.4	103.6
Active mobile-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	25.7	24.8	61.9
3G coverage (% of population)	40.0	62.7	87.9
LTE/WiMAX coverage (% of population)	0.0	28.4	76.3
Individuals using the Internet (%)	20.8	22.1	48.6
Households with a computer (%)	7.1	8.9	47.1
Households with Internet access (%)	10.8	19.4	54.7
International bandwidth per Internet user (kbit/s)	1.2	11.2	76.6
Fixed-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	0.1	0.6	13.6
Fixed-broadband sub. by speed tiers, % distribution			
<i>-256 kbit/s to 2 Mbit/s</i>	18.8	38.7	4.2
<i>-2 to 10 Mbit/s</i>	80.0	37.2	13.2
<i>-equal to or above 10 Mbit/s</i>	1.1	24.1	82.6

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

Government policy: The Ministry of Transport and Communications is responsible for sector oversight. There has been a focus on various projects, such as digital migration, e-government and cybersecurity. A new Telecommunications Law was adopted in 2016. The National Communications Institute of Mozambique (INCM) is the regulator responsible for telecommunications and posts. Its creation was authorized in 1992, when the sector reform process initiated, with TDM separated from posts and being commercialized. INCM also administers the Universal Access Service Fund.

Conclusion: Mozambique is progressing with ICT development. Connection of the country's first undersea cable in 2009, introduction of additional competition in the mobile market in 2012 and intensification of the national backbone network are laying the ground for wider coverage, better quality and cheaper prices. This will enhance digital inclusion in the country. In addition, the new Telecommunications Law enforces the sharing of infrastructure aiming to reduce the duplication of investment, allowing for additional coverage in rural areas.