

ITU REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

ITURDF

AFRICA REGION

ADDIS ABABA 2023

3-5 October

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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#ICT4SDG



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1. Introduction and overall frameworks

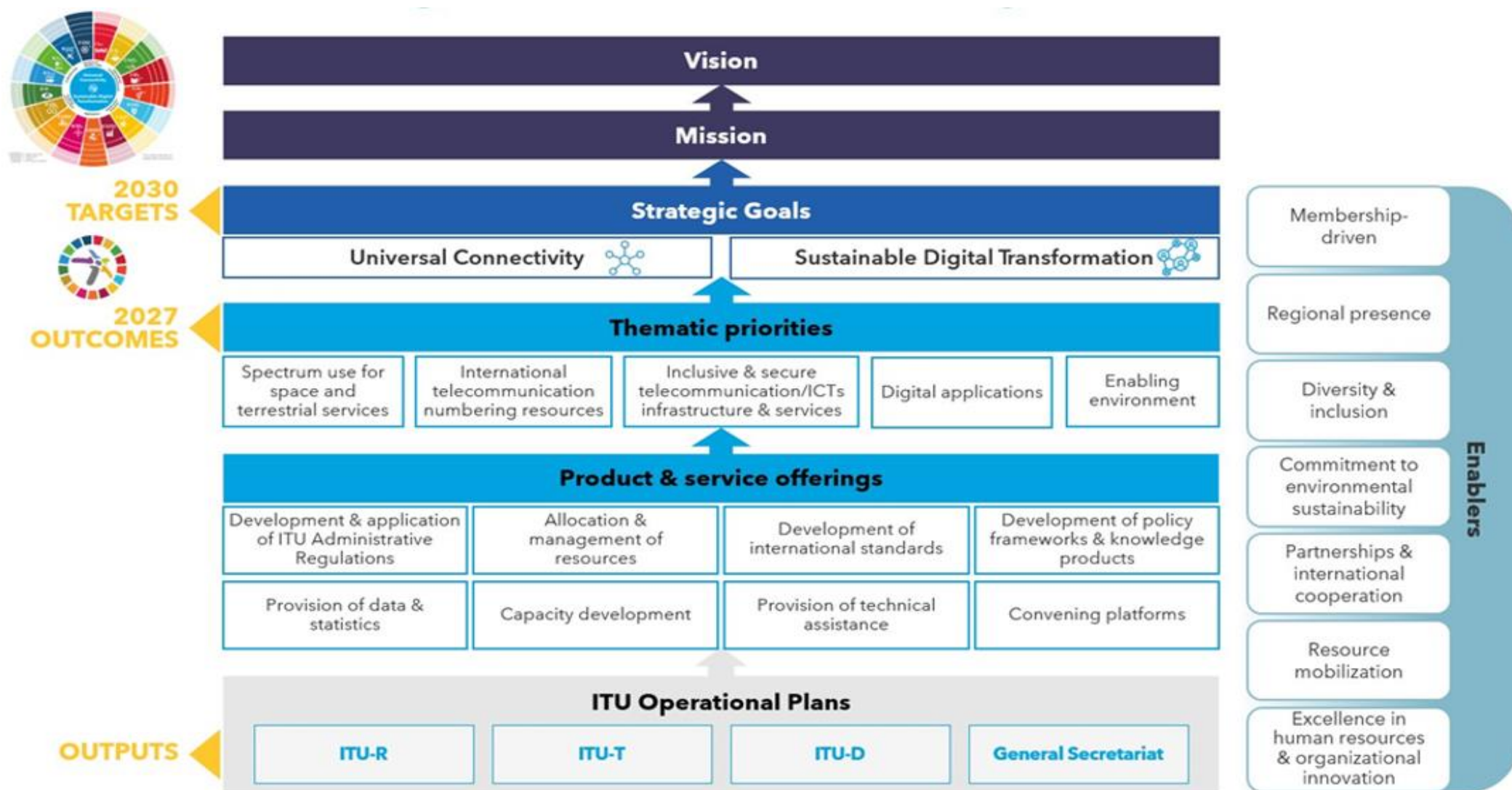
Introduction

Underlying theme: *“Digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable digital future: Accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Africa through digital transformation”.*

- Provide an overview of trends and developments in ICT access and use in Africa, which is home to 1.4 billion people
- Review progress, identify existing gaps, challenges and opportunities to achieve the Kigali Action Plan following the outcomes of WTDC-22.
- Provide an opportunity for the exchange on matters that concern digital for development in sub-Saharan context and how to achieve meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.
- Share experiences and good practices, discuss ongoing and planned projects, implementation plans, announce financial and in-kind commitments towards ongoing and future work, and engage in matchmaking between countries' needs and partners' pledges.



ITU Strategic Plan 2024-2027



Alignment with Africa Regional Frameworks and SDGs

ITU STRATEGIC PLAN



Agenda 2063: The Africa we want: *the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development, to prioritise inclusive social and economic development, continental and regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security amongst other issues aimed at repositioning Africa to becoming a dominant player in the global arena.*



Digital Transformation Strategy (2020-2030): *aims to harness digital technologies and innovation to transform African societies and economies to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive economic growth, stimulate job creation, break the digital divide, and eradicate poverty for the continent's socio-economic development and ensure Africa's ownership of modern tools of digital management.*

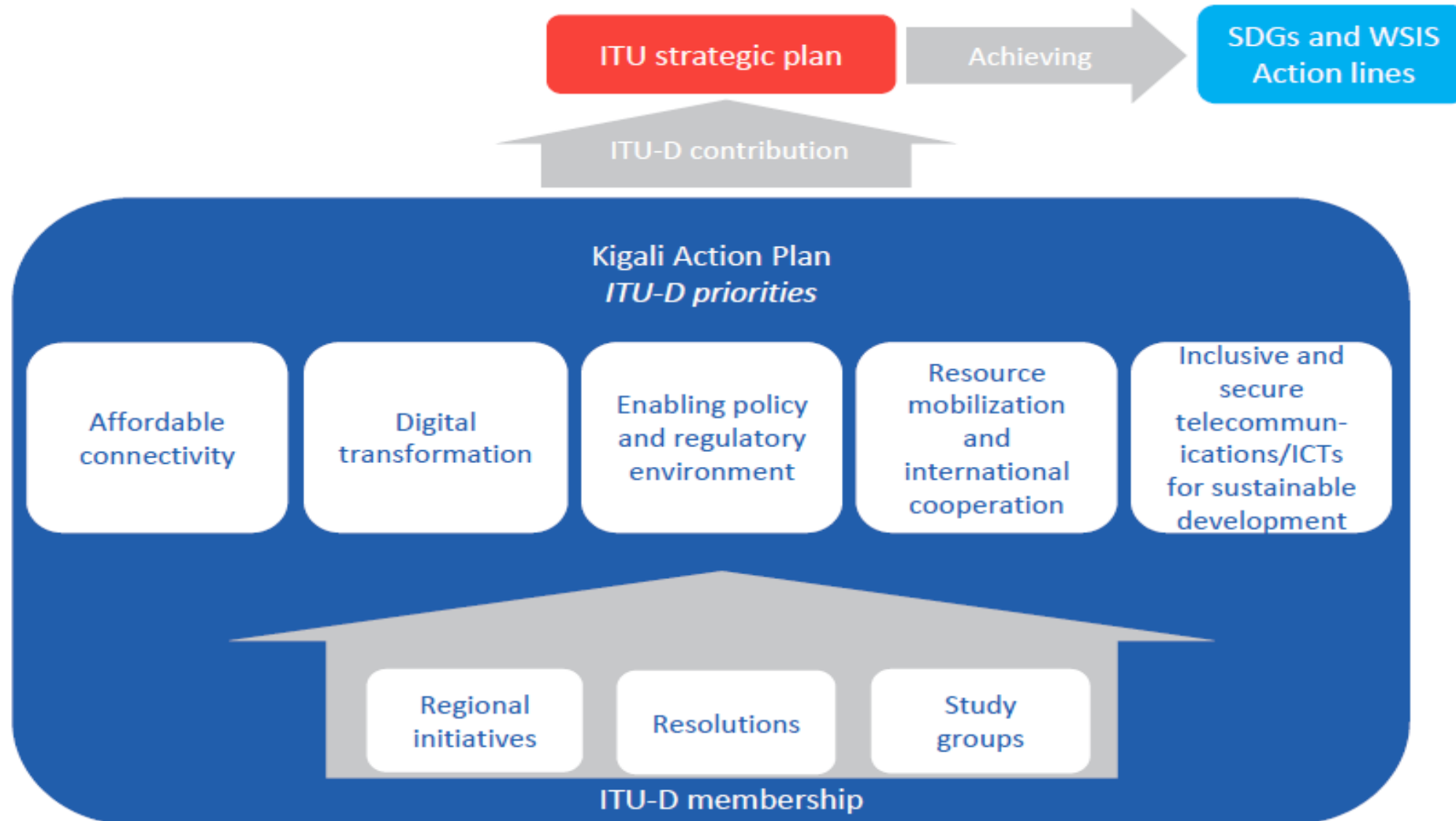
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: *17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aim to end poverty improve health and education, reduce inequality, tackle climate change and spur economic growth*



Digital as a catalyst to achieve the SDGs



Kigali Action Plan describes the ITU-D priorities, scope of activities and associated outcomes and outputs for the period 2022-25



Tools and products for each ITU-D priority:

1. Affordable connectivity

- Emergency telecommunications
- Network and digital infrastructure

2. Digital transformation

- Digital inclusion
- Environment
- Digital services and applications
- Digital innovation ecosystems

3. Enabling policy and regulatory environment

- Policy and Regulation
- Statistics
- Capacity development

4. Resource mobilization and international cooperation

- Partnerships
- Mainstreaming the needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- WSIS and SDGs
- ITU-D Study Groups

5. Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

- Cybersecurity

Study Questions 2022-2025

Study Group 1

*Enabling environment
for meaningful connectivity*

The @ITUDevelopment Study Groups are tasked with drafting reports, guidelines, and recommendations on a range of topics related to ICTs in the context of #DigitalDevelopment.

Discover the newly-adopted questions:

itu.int/itu-d/sites/studygroups

- Upcoming meeting: 23-27 October 2023 Geneva, Switzerland

Q1/1

Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries

Q2/1

Strategies, policies, regulations and methods of migration to and adoption of digital technologies for broadcasting, including to provide new services for various environments

Q3/1

The use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management

Q4/1

Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs

Q5/1

Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas

Q6/1

Consumer information, protection and rights

Q7/1

Telecommunication/ICT accessibility to enable inclusive communication, especially for persons with disabilities

Study Questions 2022-2025

Study Group 2 *Digital transformation*

The @ITUDevelopment Study Groups are tasked with drafting reports, guidelines, and recommendations on a range of topics related to ICTs in the context of #DigitalDevelopment.

Discover the newly-adopted questions:
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Q1/2

Smart sustainable cities and communities

Q2/2

Enabling technologies for e-services and applications, including e-health and e-education

Q3/2

Securing information and communication networks:
Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity

Q4/2

Telecommunication/ICT equipment:
Conformance and interoperability, combating counterfeiting and theft of mobile devices

Q5/2

Adoption of telecommunications/ICTs
and improving digital skills

Q6/2

ICTs for the environment

Q7/2

Strategies and policies concerning human exposure
to electromagnetic fields

- Upcoming meeting: 30 October-3 November 2023 Geneva, Switzerland

ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa 2023-2025

ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025

Africa

Learn more at
www.itu.int/africa

AFR1

Supporting digital transformation to usher a rapid transition to digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa

AFR2

Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructures, connectivity and emerging technologies

AFR3

Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies and protection of personal data

AFR4

Fostering Emerging Technologies and Innovation Ecosystems

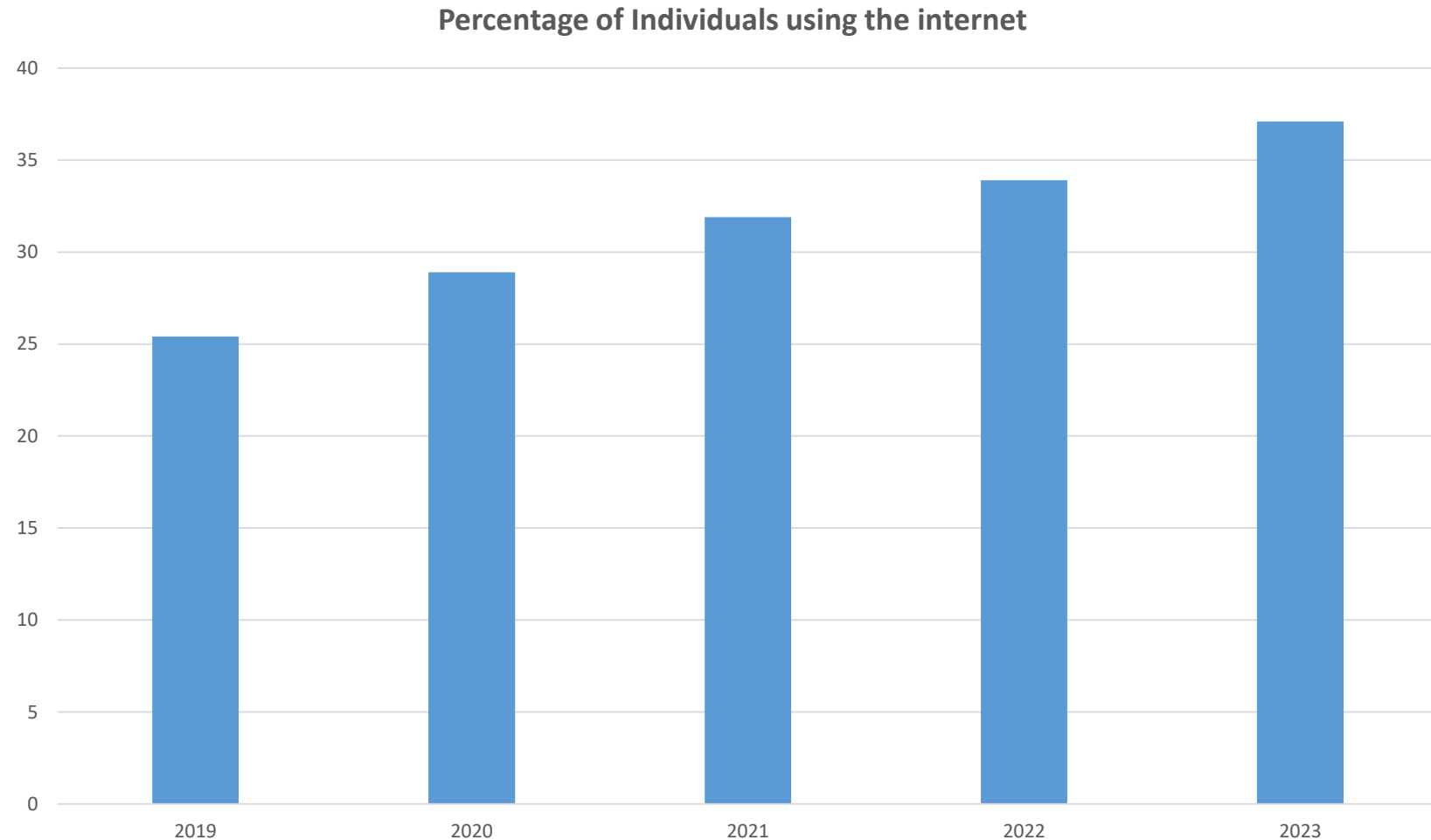


2. Digital development trends in Africa

Percentage of internet users in Africa (2019-2023)

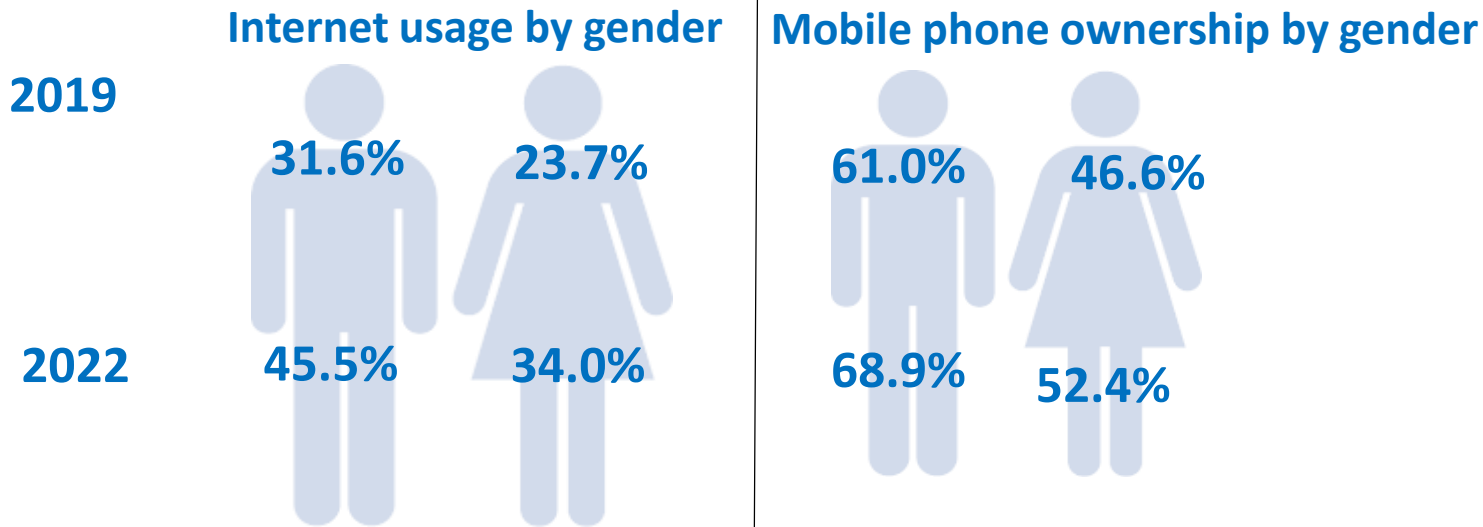
2023:

- **37.1% of population in Africa using the internet compared to 25.9% in 2019**

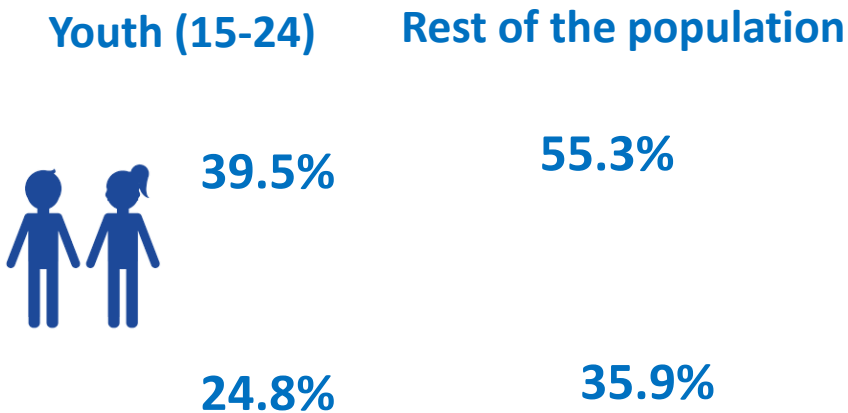


Digital divides

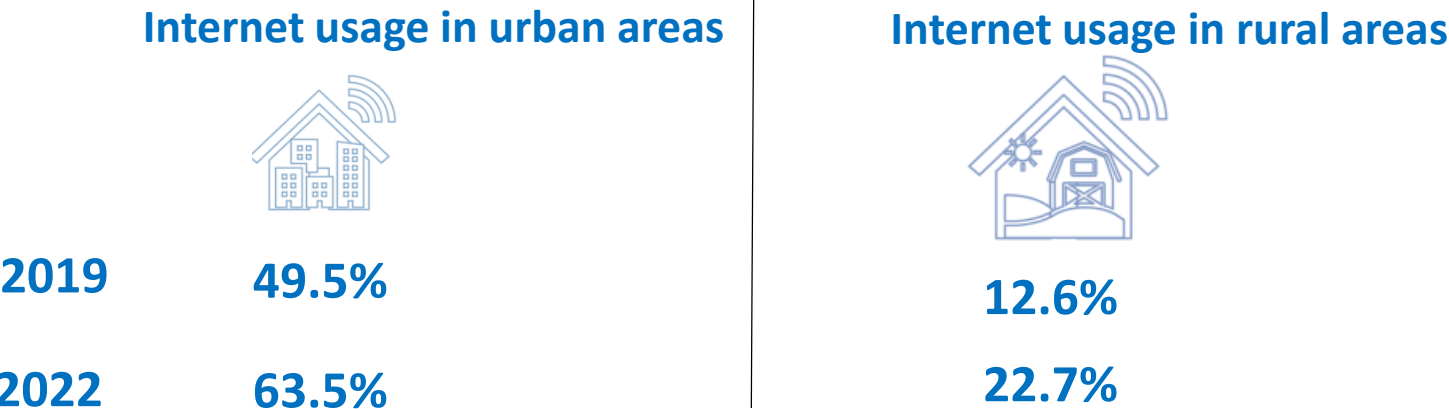
By Gender



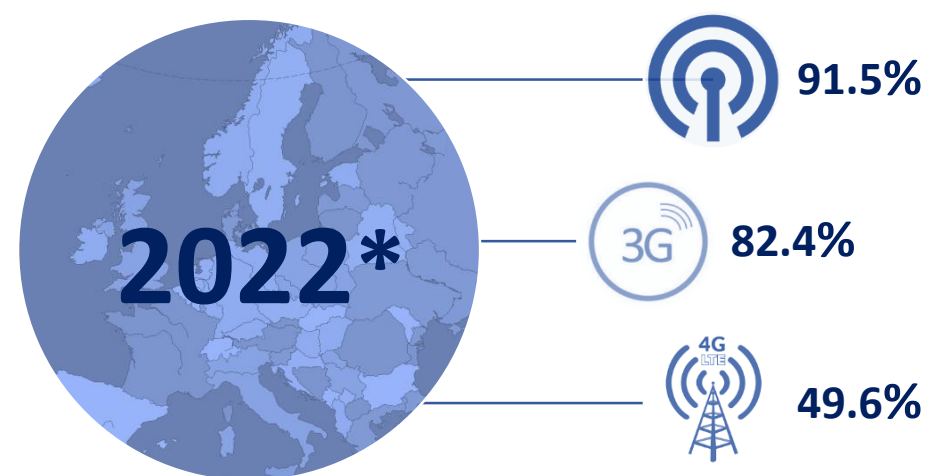
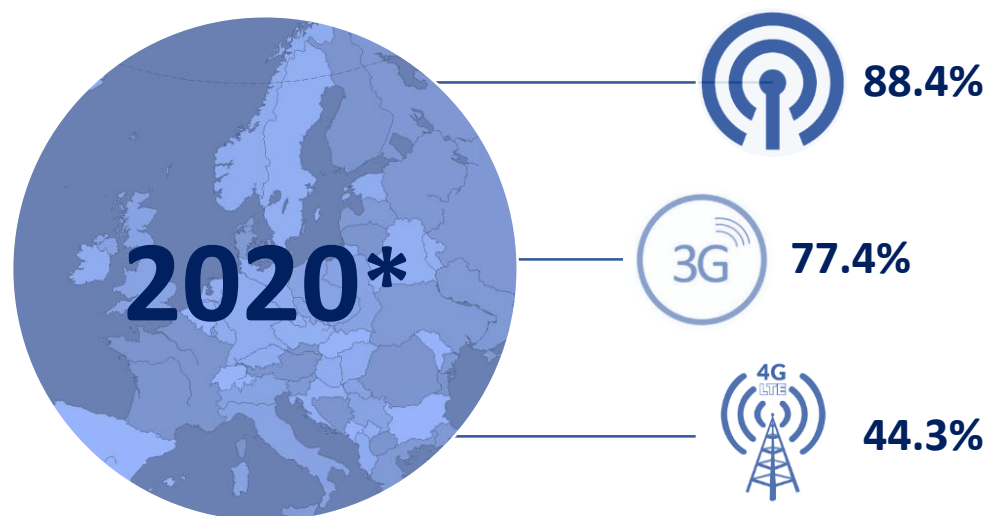
By Age



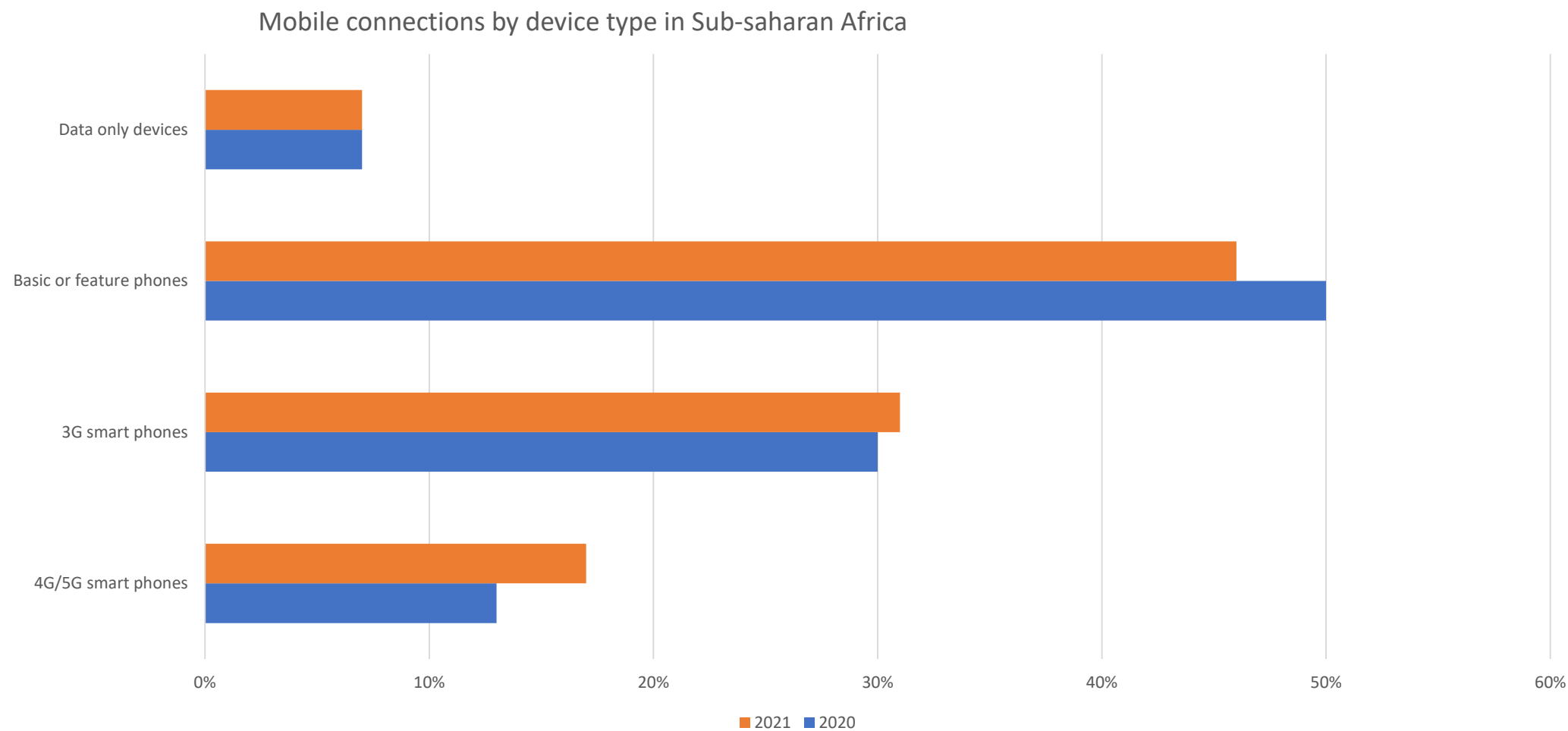
By Geographical Location



Population coverage by mobile technology

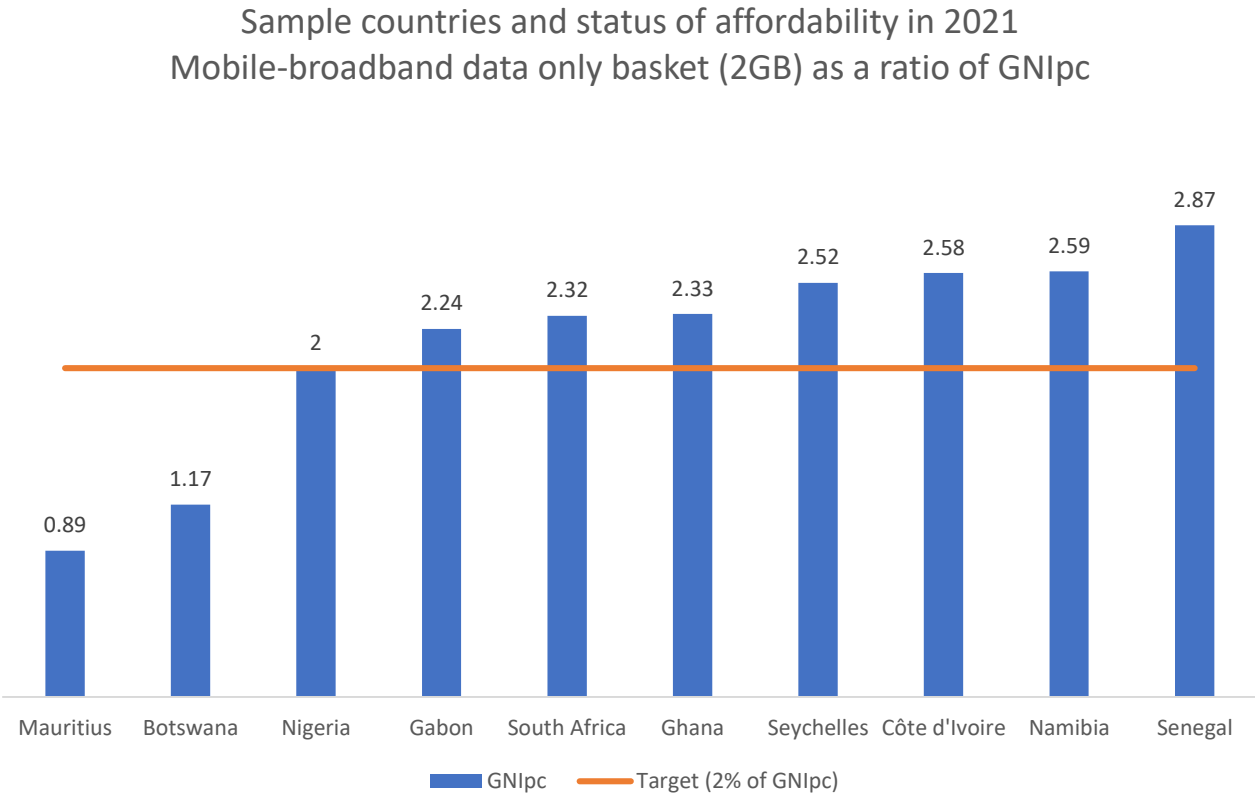
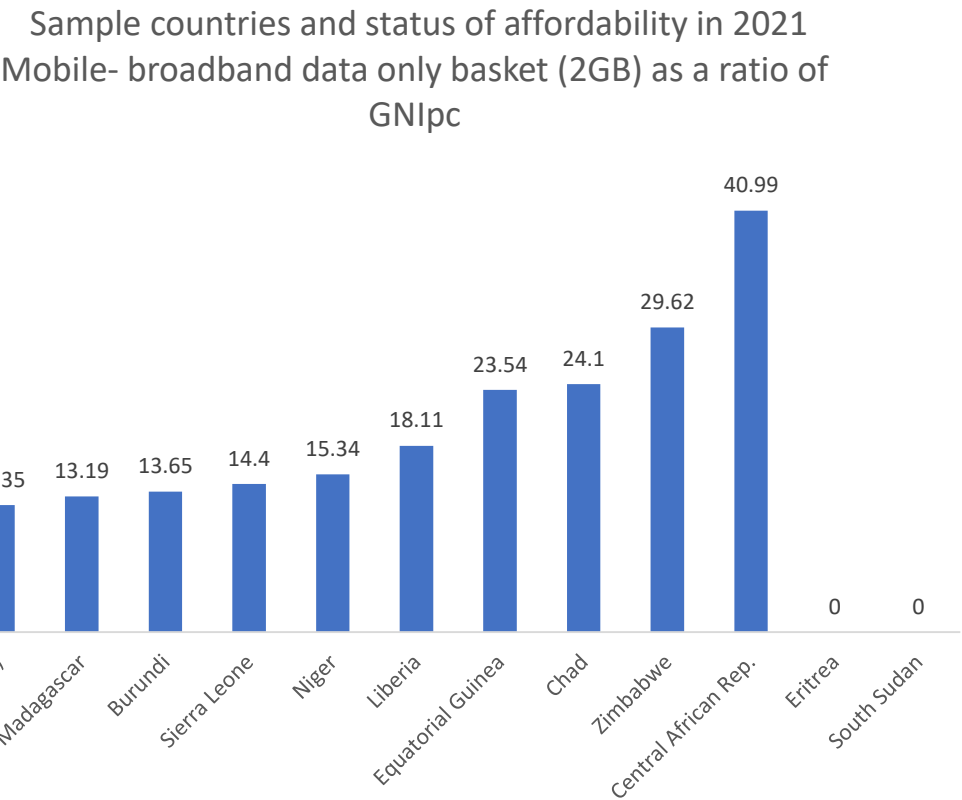


Mobile connections by device type in Sub-Saharan Africa

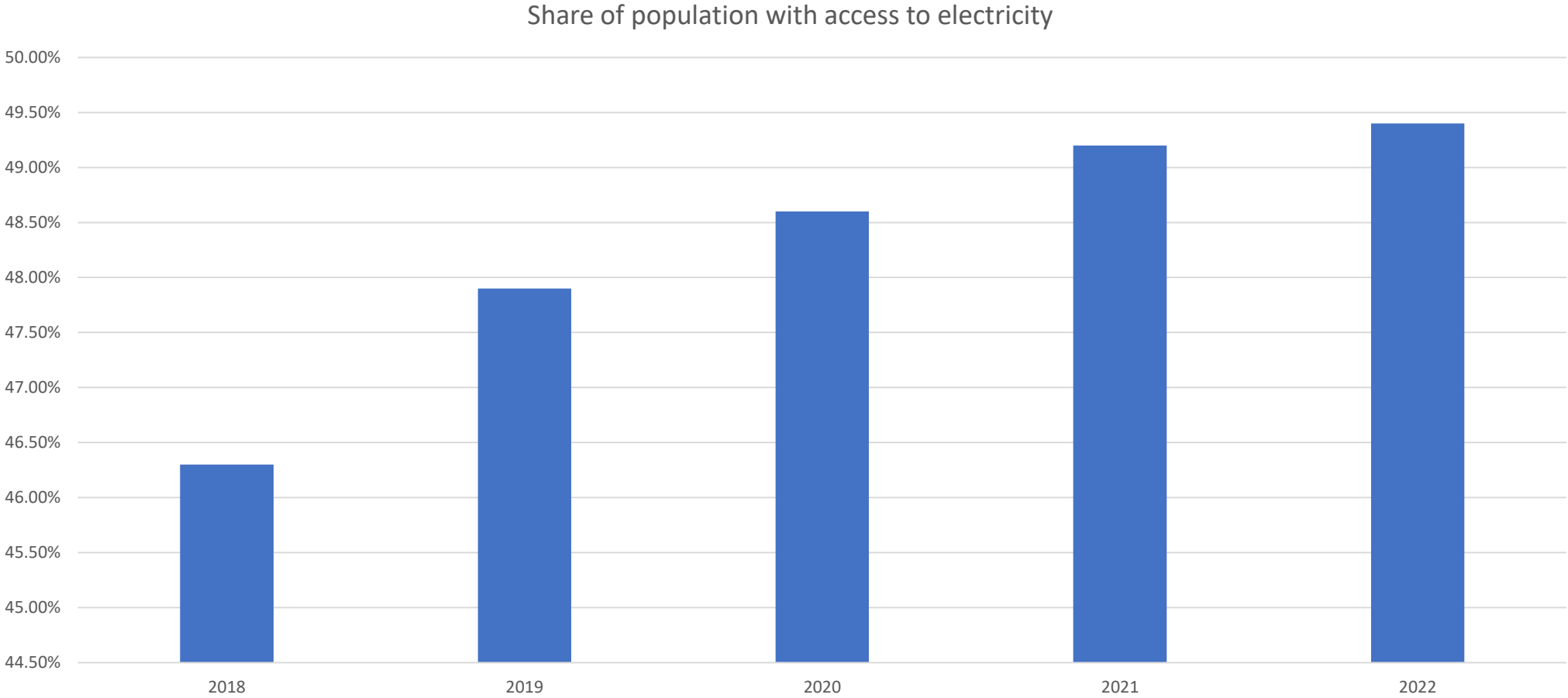


Status of affordability

(Mobile broadband data only basket (2GB) as a ratio of GNI per capita)

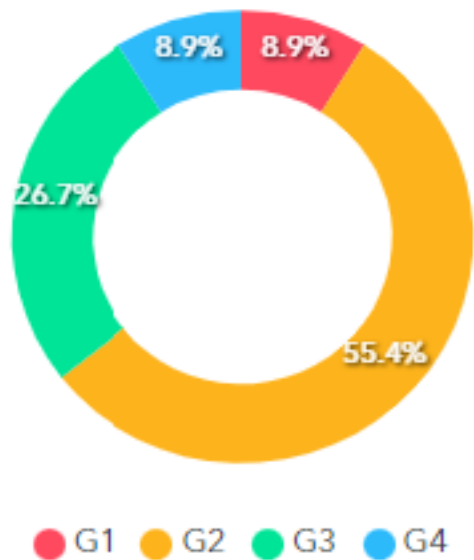


Percentage of the population with access to electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa

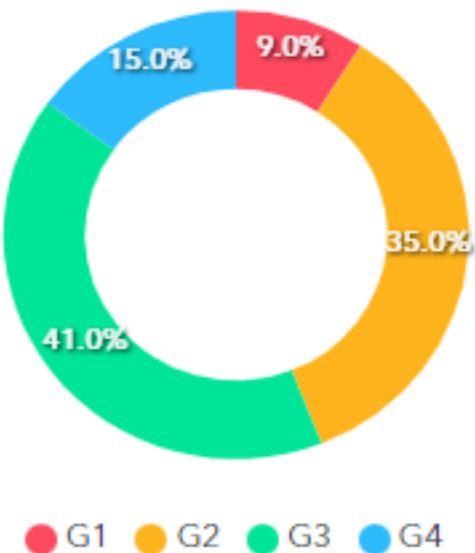


Maturity of regulatory frameworks in Africa region

AFRICA 2018



AFRICA 2022



- Generation 1 (G1) :**Regulated public monopolies** : Command and control
- Generation 2 (G2): **Opening Markets**: Partial Liberalization and Privatization
- Generation 3 (G3): **Enabling investment, innovation &access**: Due focus on stimulating competition, content delivery & consumer protection
- Generation 4 (G4): **Intergrated regulation** : Lead by economic and social policy goals
- Generation 5 (G5): **Collaborative Regulation** -Inclusive and harmonized approaches across Sectors

	2018	2022
Generation 1	8.9%	9%
Generation 2	55.4%	35.0%
Generation 3	26.7%	41%
Generation 4	8.9%	15%

3. Years in Review (2021-2023)

Key achievements

Technical assistance delivered and engagements at national level

- **Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) projects** completed in **Botswana, Kenya and Gambia** completed and operational to secure their respective national cyberspace to improve cyber threats intelligence capacities.
- **ITU-McCaw broadband wireless project** completed in **Burundi, Djibouti, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Eswatini and Lesotho**.
- Readiness assessment workshop successfully held to support **Guinea Bissau** implement a national CIRT.
- **A national Public Key infrastructure** developed to improve **Mali's** digital signature capacities and national digital transaction authentication
- **ITU-Microsoft project in Ethiopia** under implementation to accelerate Africa's Digital Transformation through connectivity to foster meaningful digital connectivity and access with a focus on youth and women.
- **ITU-Uganda digital transformation project on 'Technical Assistance and Training to Uganda on National ICT Development Strategy'**, under implementation and supported by CICETE (China International Centre For Economic & Technical Exchanges) that aims to support the country's implementation of national digital transformation priority areas that include capacity building, policy and regulation recommendation and other priority areas.
- **A cost modelling and pricing project** to facilitate affordable ICT/ digital access in the country with a focus on schools and rural communities in **Sierra Leone**.

Technical assistance delivered and engagements at national level

- ITU-EIF Project has supported the development of skills and opportunities to empower women entrepreneurs in **Ethiopia** and **Burundi** to drive economic opportunities and ensure women participate fully in the digital economy.
- **Smart Villages for Rural Development:** Through this project a range of ICT-enabled solutions have been deployed to the villages in **Niger** by providing connectivity and digital services to the local communities while also promoting cooperation and holistic demand-driven response to the SDG-related needs. Technical assistance on the smart village initiative has also been provided to **Liberia** under the UN Human Security Trust Fund.
- **Capacity building delivered for girls and young women** through the Digital Transformation Center in Zambia and under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund in Senegal supporting education through enhanced access to digital connectivity and devices for 250 girls and 750 boys in the remote and rural communities in Senegal in partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF and UNESCO. Similarly, targeted capacity building activities to bridge the digital divide have been delivered through tailored national programmes under different initiatives such as the African Girls Can Code Initiative, annual Girls in ICT day celebrations.
- **CIRT readiness assessment exercise** conducted for **Sao Tome** to support its national CIRT implementation.
- ITU and UNHCR are collaborating to advance digital inclusion for displaced people and the local host communities through improved connectivity and access to digital services. A mission undertaken in **Ethiopia** to the Melkadia refugee camp highlighted the need to mobilize investments and strengthen policy commitments to include refugees in national frameworks to enable digital access for all.
- ITU and UNFPA teamed up to assist, nurture and support the **local digital innovation ecosystem in Benin** and develop use cases that can be applied for other countries in the region for the development of a sustainable and inclusive initiatives to accelerate inclusive digital transformation.

Technical assistance delivered and engagements at regional level

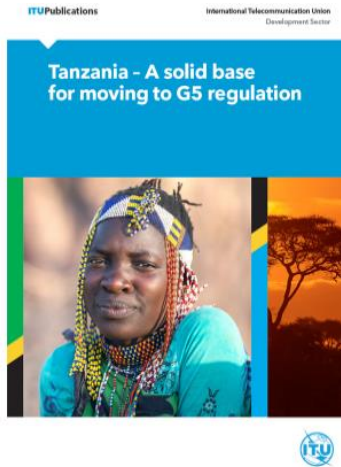
- **Giga Africa supporting connectivity of schools and their communities:** Over 13 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are actively engaged in the ITU-UNICEF joint initiative on knowledge resources, insights and technical support can accelerate their national initiative and ambitions to improve school connectivity.
- **Digital skills for decent jobs for youth:** The ITU and ILO programme in Africa that aims to boost decent jobs and enhance skills for youth in the digital economy has delivered online and face-to-face events, activities and challenges, engaging youth, Government agencies, private sector and civil society in different countries in the region that include South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Nigeria, Ethiopia in alignment with national priorities to empower the youth benefit from opportunities in the digital economy.
- **PRIDA initiative:** Capacity building on spectrum harmonization delivered to various countries across the region on spectrum harmonization and other key topics on spectrum.
- The **Digital Innovation Ecosystem Training** on Building Entrepreneurial Communities and Competitive ICT Industries for Job Creation has conducted in collaboration with Smart Africa.
- Under the **GovStack initiative** different countries are engaged in an effort to support countries design and develop Whole-of-Government Digital Government Services.
- **Creating a circular economy for electronic waste in Africa:** ITU in partnership with UNEP is supporting Governments to develop policies, regulations and strategies including the implementing the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) concept to set the basis for a future implementation of the sound management and measurement of electronic waste.

Technical assistance delivered and engagements at regional level

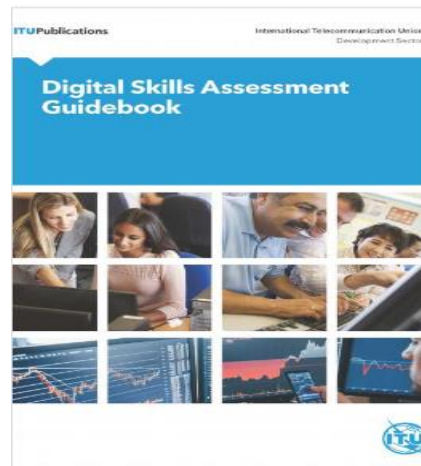
- **ICT Benchmarking for Central Africa** project that aims to enhance ICT infrastructure across government sectors and is supporting different countries across the region that include Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe.
- The **ITU and United Kingdom's FCDO partnership** has supported digital inclusion in Digital Access Partnership countries in Africa, namely support toward a strengthened enabling policy and regulatory environment, sustainable connectivity models, partnerships, and digital skills in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.
- **Digital health:** ITU in collaboration with WHO have delivered capacity building on the use of digital technologies in the health sector and delivered the forum on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other technologies in digital health. During the Seventy-second session of the WHO Regional Committee meeting for Africa, a ministerial meeting was organised that aimed to identify approaches to strengthen institutional capacity and enable cross-sectoral collaboration for enhanced health care in Africa were highlighted and different projects delivered that include the ITU-WHO digital retinopathy screening project in Senegal.
- **National Emergency Telecommunications Plans and the Early Warning For All initiative:** ITU in collaboration with partners has supported countries across the region to develop guidelines to empower countries to respond effectively and timely in case of emergencies or natural disasters. ITU is supporting the development of NETP model for the SADC sub-region and is the lead for Pillar 3 Warning, Dissemination and Communication under the Early Warning for All initiative where the Action Plan for Africa has been developed and launched.
- **Capacity building;** Through different platforms that include the ITU Academy online platform, the Digital Transformation Centres (DTCs) and the Academy Training Centers (ATCs), ITU delivers capacity building at different levels to empower all people with knowledge and skills on digital technologies

Examples of reports, guidelines and toolkits

Collaborative regulatory studies undertaken in different countries across the Africa Region to advance digital transformation



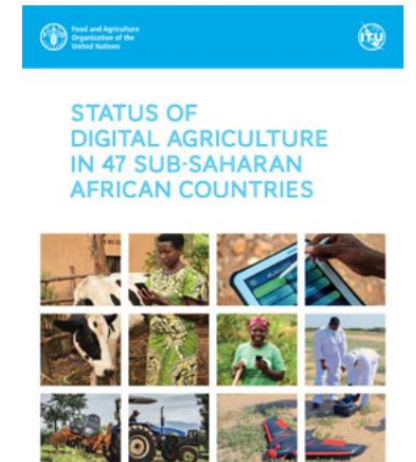
ITU-ILO national digital skills demand and supply assessment developed in Nigeria and South Africa, and ongoing in Kenya.



Regional good practises to accelerate innovation, entrepreneurship with Digital innovation profiles for Mali and Niger developed with national ecosystems stakeholders and provided recommendations to accelerate the digital innovation.



Status of Digital Agriculture in Africa that provides a holistic view of digital transformation in agriculture and highlights the role of leveraging digital technologies to transform the agriculture sector.



Key events in 2022, 2023 and 2024



2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in Africa region: The event for the first time was held in Africa region in Kigali Rwanda, **6-16 June 2022** and attracted the largest delegation from African countries to explore new avenues to connect the unconnected for sustainable development. Partner2Connect (P2C) digital coalition and global pledging platform rallied support .



The **ITU Plenipotentiary conference** is the highest policy making body that meets once every four years to set the Union's general policies, adopt the 4 year strategic plan and financial plans and elect the senior management team of the organization, Member States of the Council and the members of the Radio Regulations. The last ITU PP took place in Bucharest, Romania, 26 September-14 October 2022.



Generation Connect Global Youth Summit during WTDC-22: Empowering Africa young leaders to solve regional digital challenges: Africa's youth (ITU youth envoys, community workers, entrepreneurs, researchers, students and young professionals) from various backgrounds shared best practices on youth-led digital innovations at the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit in Kigali.



Girls in ICT
Digital Skills for Life

International Girls in ICT day celebrations 2023
It was held in Zimbabwe as part of the Transform Africa Summit 2023 under the theme Digital Skills for Life in coordination and collaboration with the Postal and Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (OTRAZ) and Smart Africa. The event addressed different topics related to digital skills role models, education, mentorship and youth participation in a collaborative effort to achieve digital gender equality.



Key events in 2022, 2023 and 2024



SDG Digital was held on 17 September 2023. The event focused on bringing digital SDG solutions to scale, including new High Impact Initiatives for sustainable, inclusive digital transformation.



World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) is held every four years and defines the next period of study for ITU-T. WTSA-24 is planned to take place from 15 to 24 October 2024 in New Delhi, India. Preparatory meetings leading to the event are underway led by Africa Telecommunications Union (ATU).



World Radio Communication Conference (WRC) is held every 3 to 4 years to review and if necessary revise the Radio regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary satellite and non-geostationary satellite orbits. WRC-23 will take place from 20 November to 15 December 2023 in Dubai, UAE. Preparatory meetings have been conducted in the Africa Region led by Africa Telecommunication Union (ATU).



Thank you