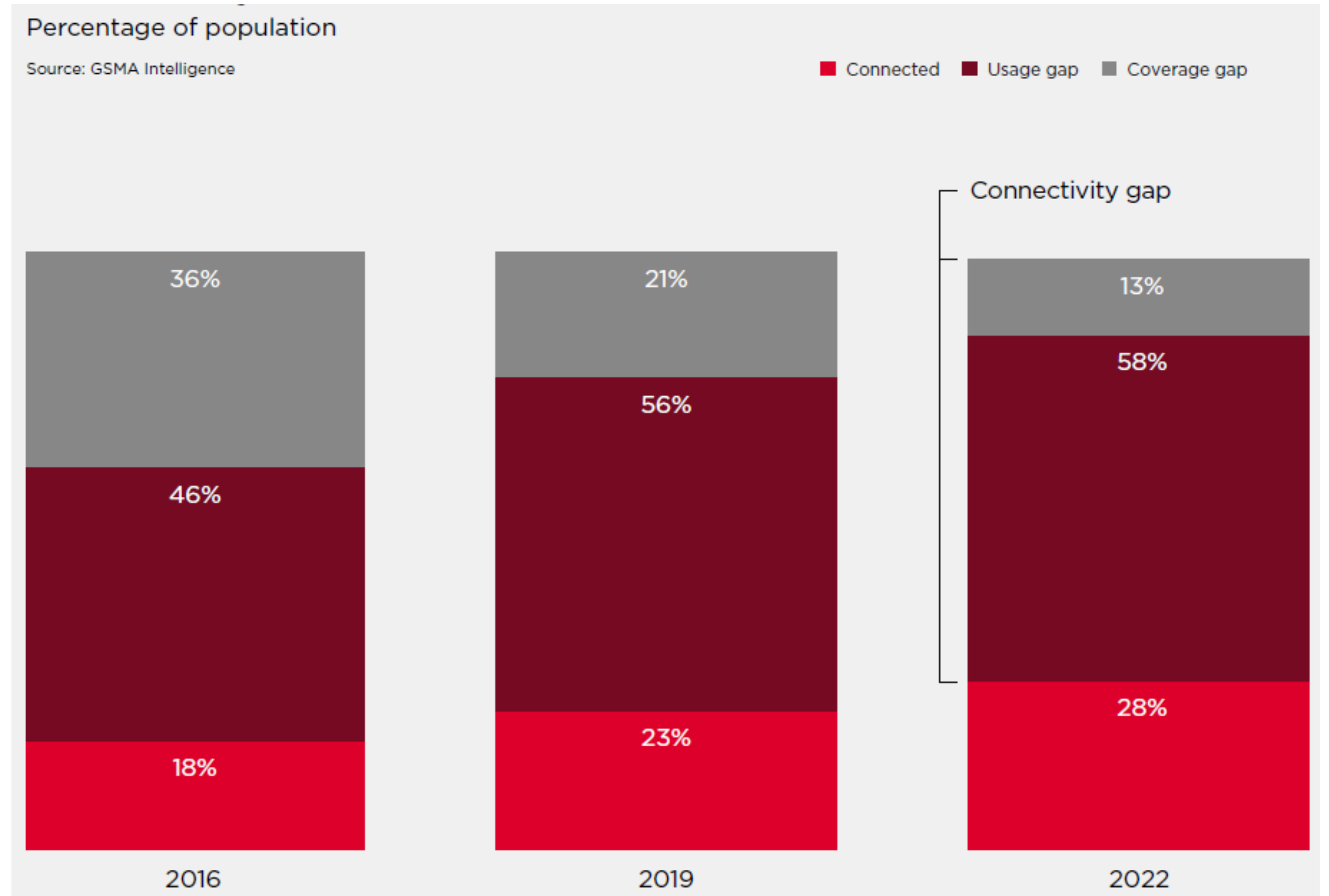


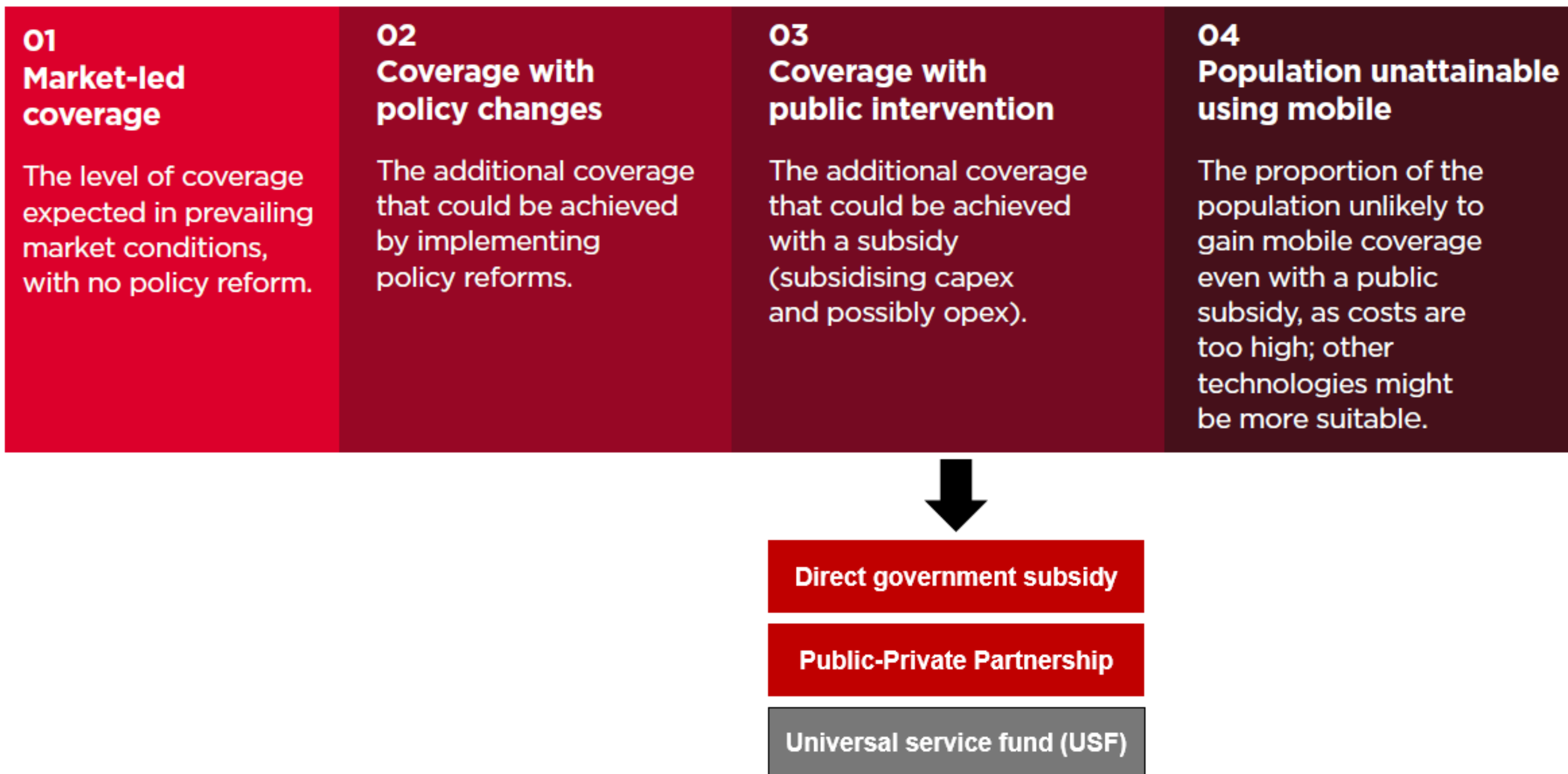
Leveraging Universal Service Funds to Drive Inclusive Connectivity in Africa.

Caroline Mbugua HSC.
Senior Director Public Policy and Communications.
08th April 2024

The state of mobile internet connectivity in Africa

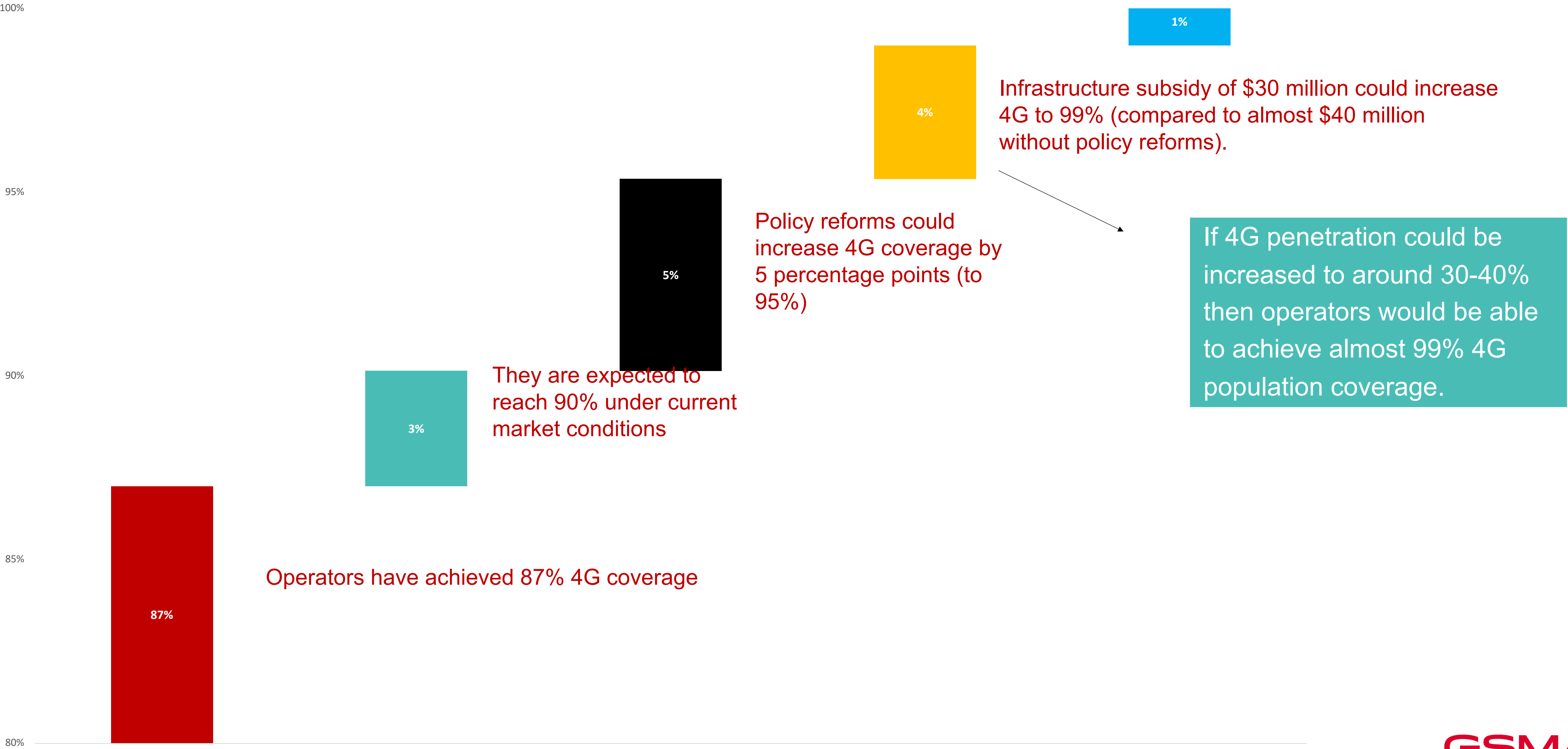


Elements of coverage expansion



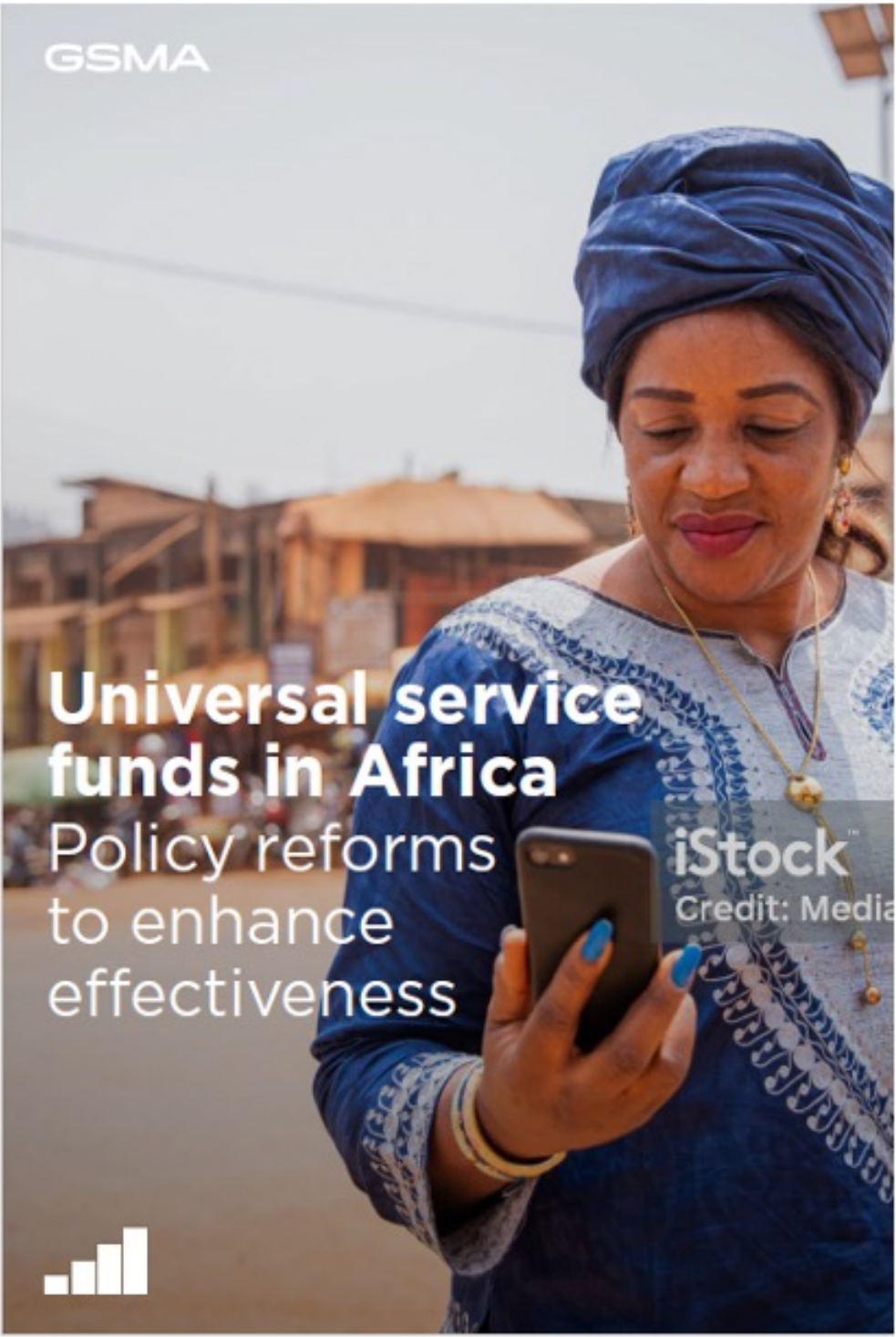
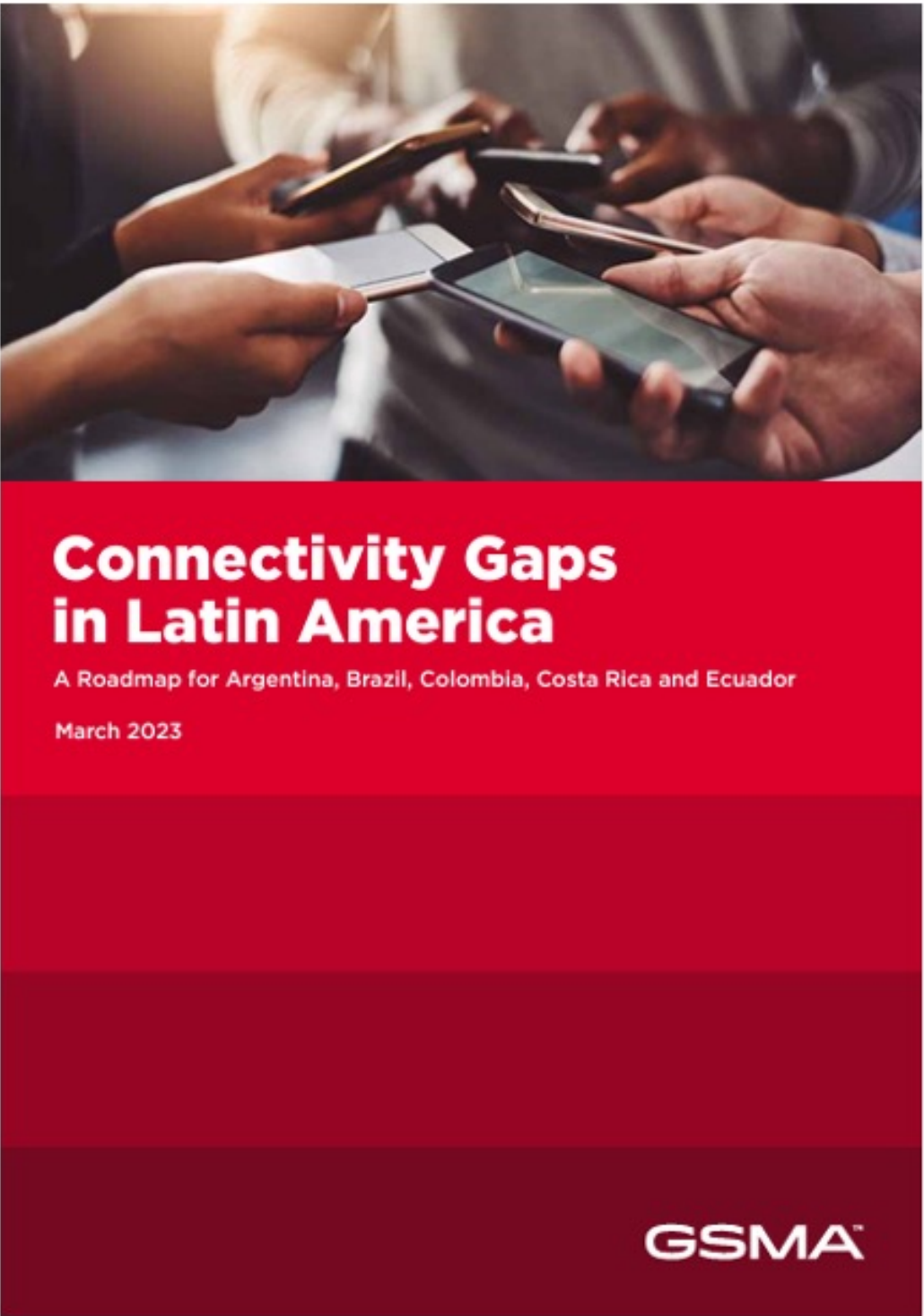
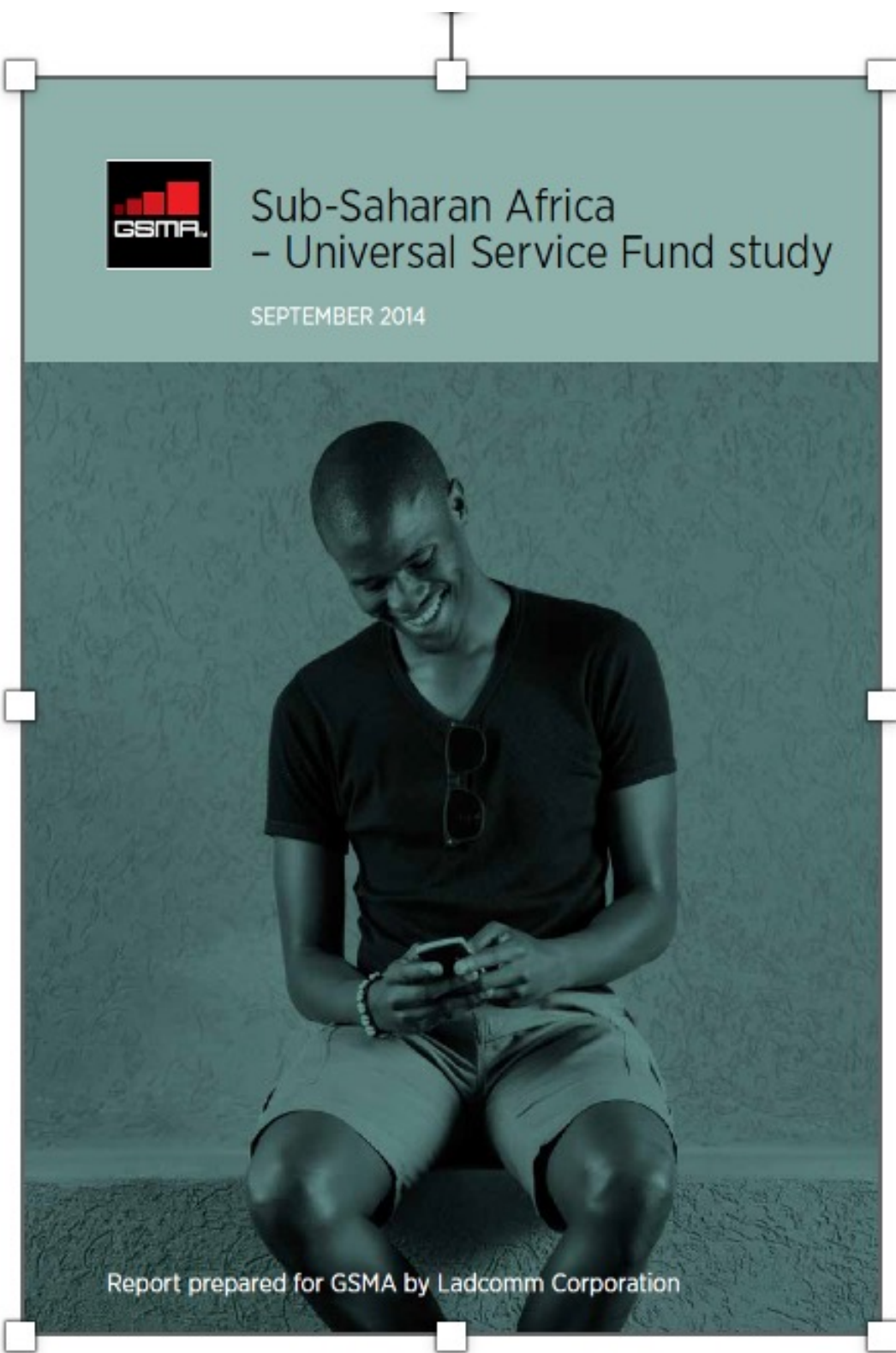
Expanding 4G Coverage in Benin

Subsidy
\$30m



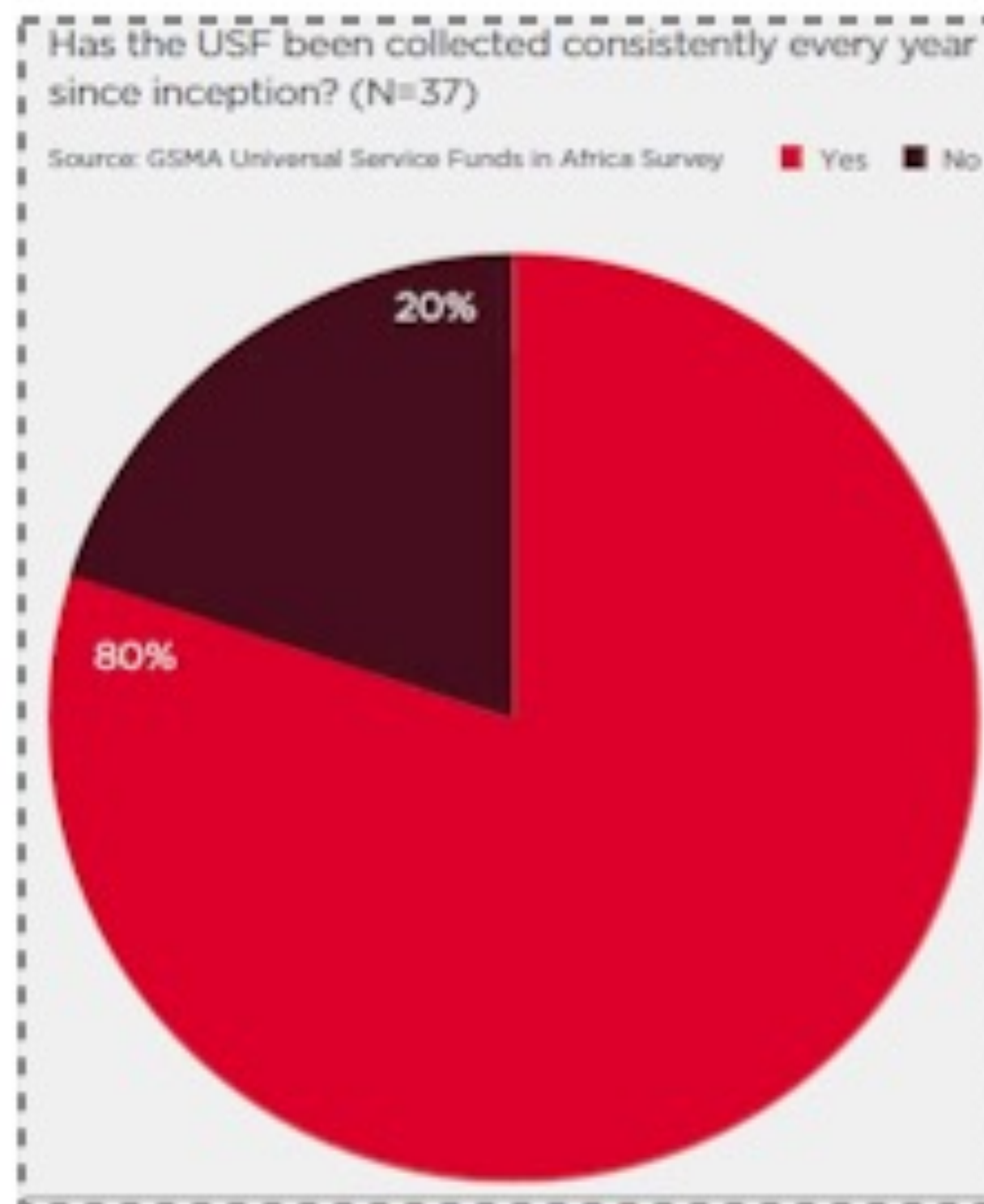
Source: GSMA and World Bank (2022), Using Geospatial Analysis to Overhaul Connectivity Policies: How to Expand Mobile Internet Coverage and Adoption in Sub-Saharan Africa

Extensive studies on universal service funds



Funding and implementation

USFs have been collected consistently since inception in the majority of countries



Most funds are disbursed by directives from authorities

Please describe the mechanism for disbursement (N=34)

Source: GSMA Universal Service Funds in Africa Survey

Directive from authorities



Competitive bidding and reverse auction



Rural rollout subsidy at operators' request



Pay or play



Direct implementation by USF authority

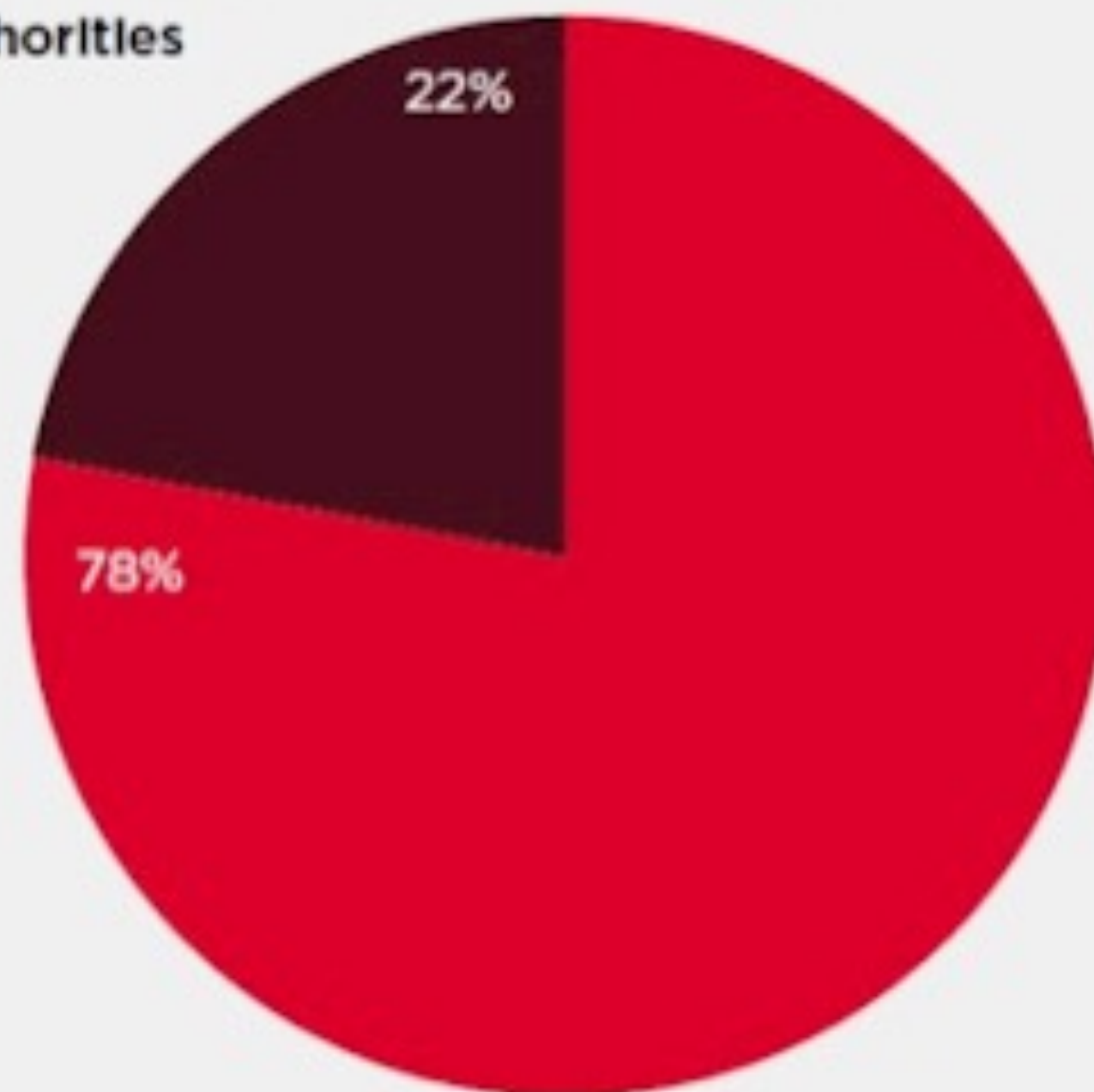


Significant variation in views of authorities and service providers on USF monitoring and evaluation

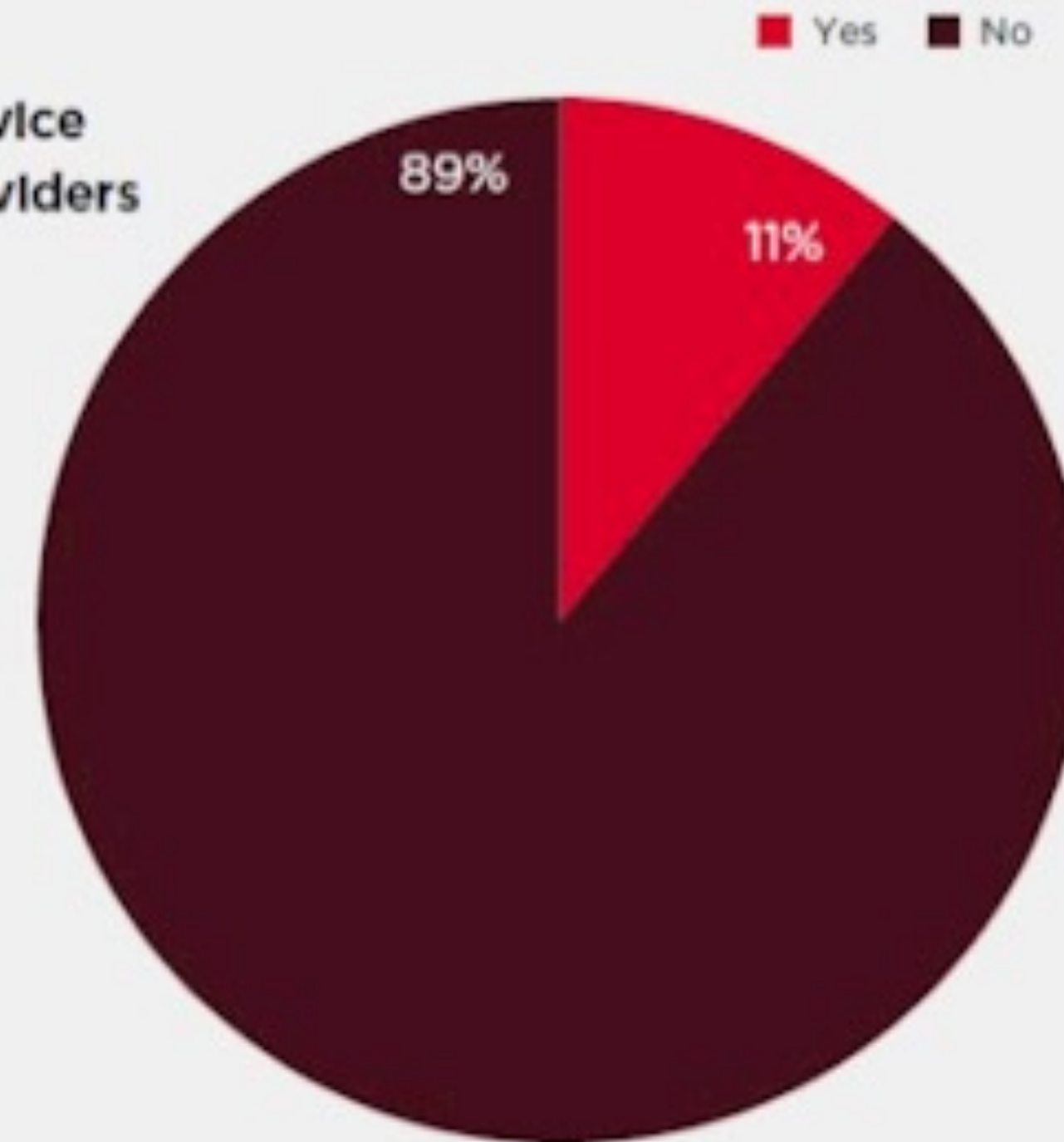
Is there a monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place to assess the performance of disbursed funds?

Source: GSMA Universal Service Funds in Africa Survey

Authorities



Service providers



Key performance challenges

Dormancy

More than half of funds collected have not been used in some markets

Flexibility

Lack of flexibility to account for changes in the telecoms landscape

Consultation

Lack of stakeholder consultation on the management of funds

Reallocation of Funds

Use of funds for activities unrelated to connectivity

Independence

Interference from other government agencies affects performance

Institutional capacity

Lack of personnel with the right project skills

Supporting infrastructure

Poor infrastructure affects implementation

Operating expenses

Expensive ongoing site maintenance costs

Reliable data

Lack of reliable data affects planning and execution of projects

Transparency

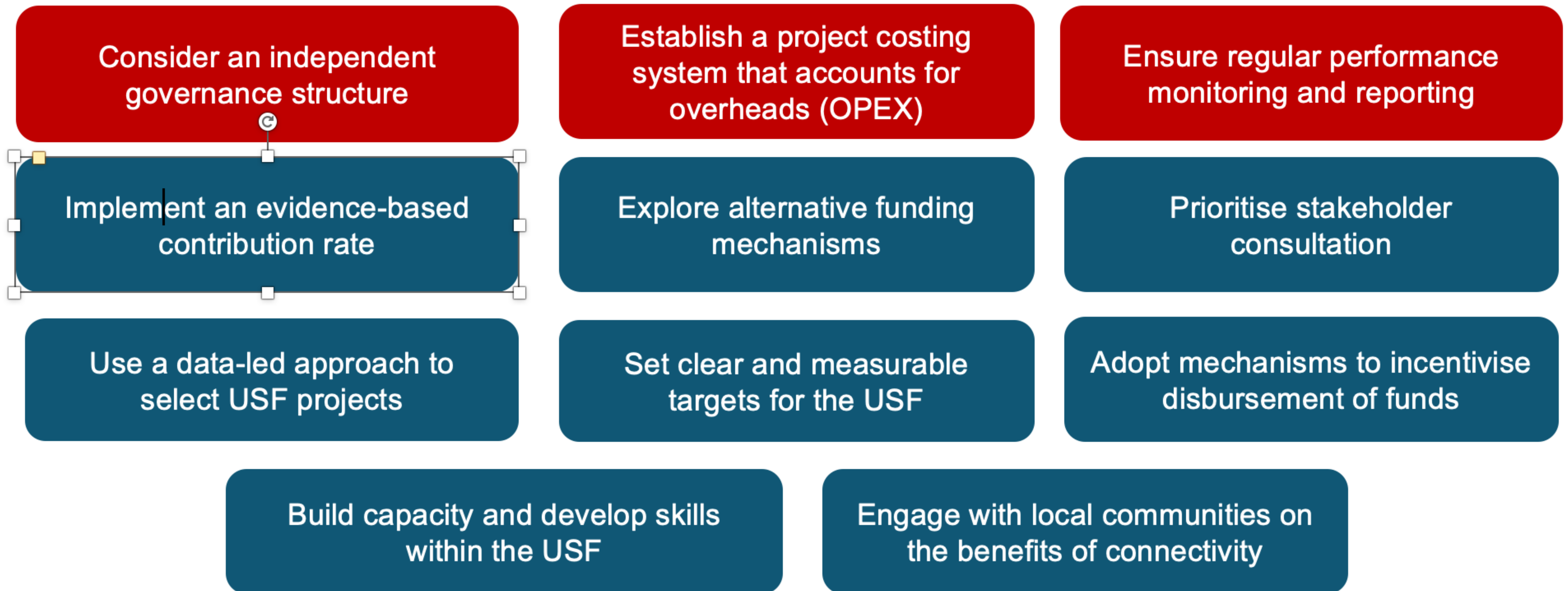
Lack of public reporting denies contributors visibility of fund usage

Clear objectives

Some USF frameworks sound vague and contradictory

Monitoring and evaluation

Lack of impact assessment informed decisions



Measures to improve the effectiveness of USFs

Thank you