

The conundrum of closing the mobile internet usage gap without theft or counterfeiting

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Fourth ITU Regional Workshop for Africa “Strengthening ICT Integrity: Combating Counterfeits, Testing Challenges, and Fraudulent Communications in the Africa Region”

(1 October 2025 in Tunis, Tunisia)



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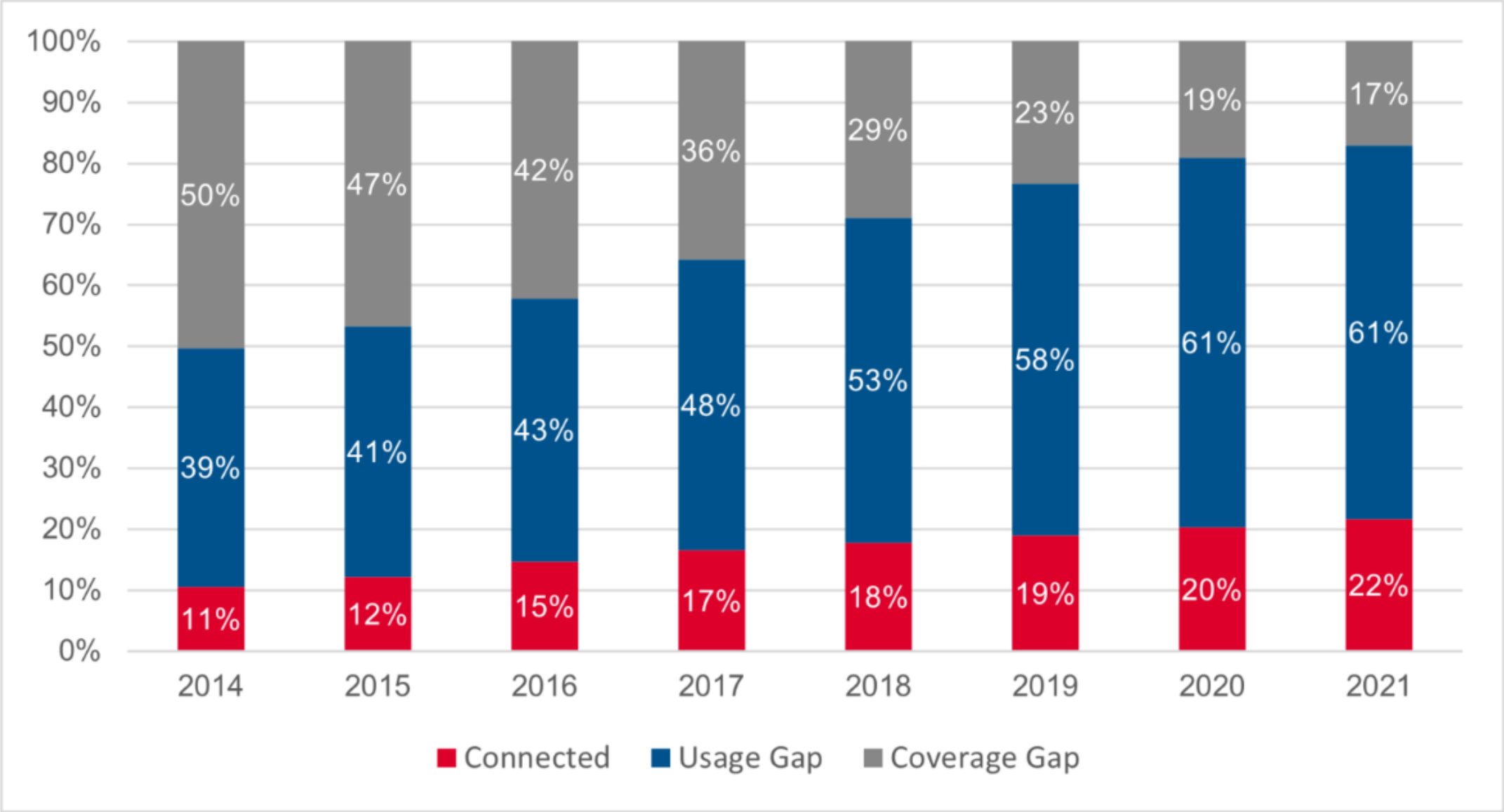
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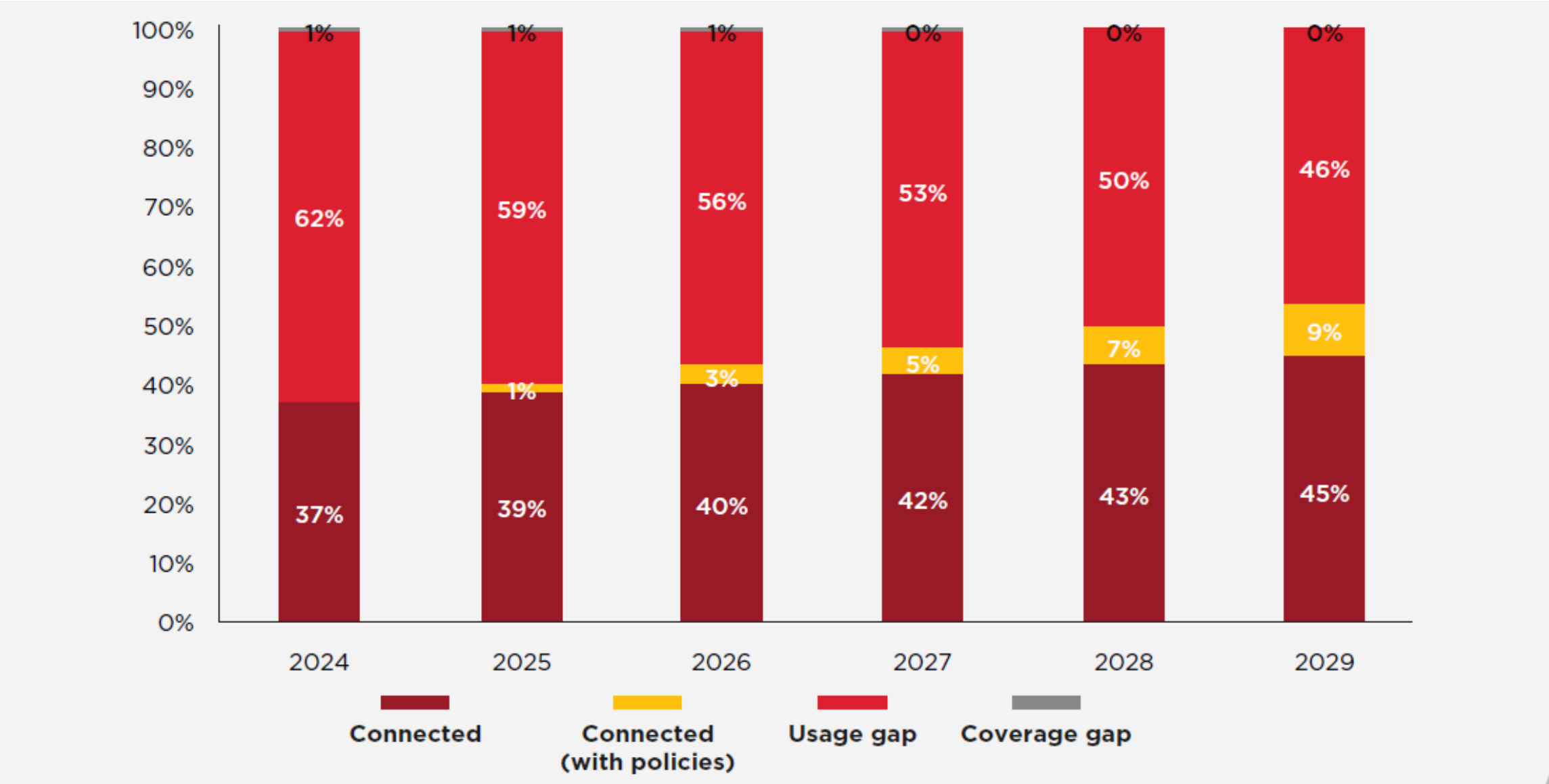
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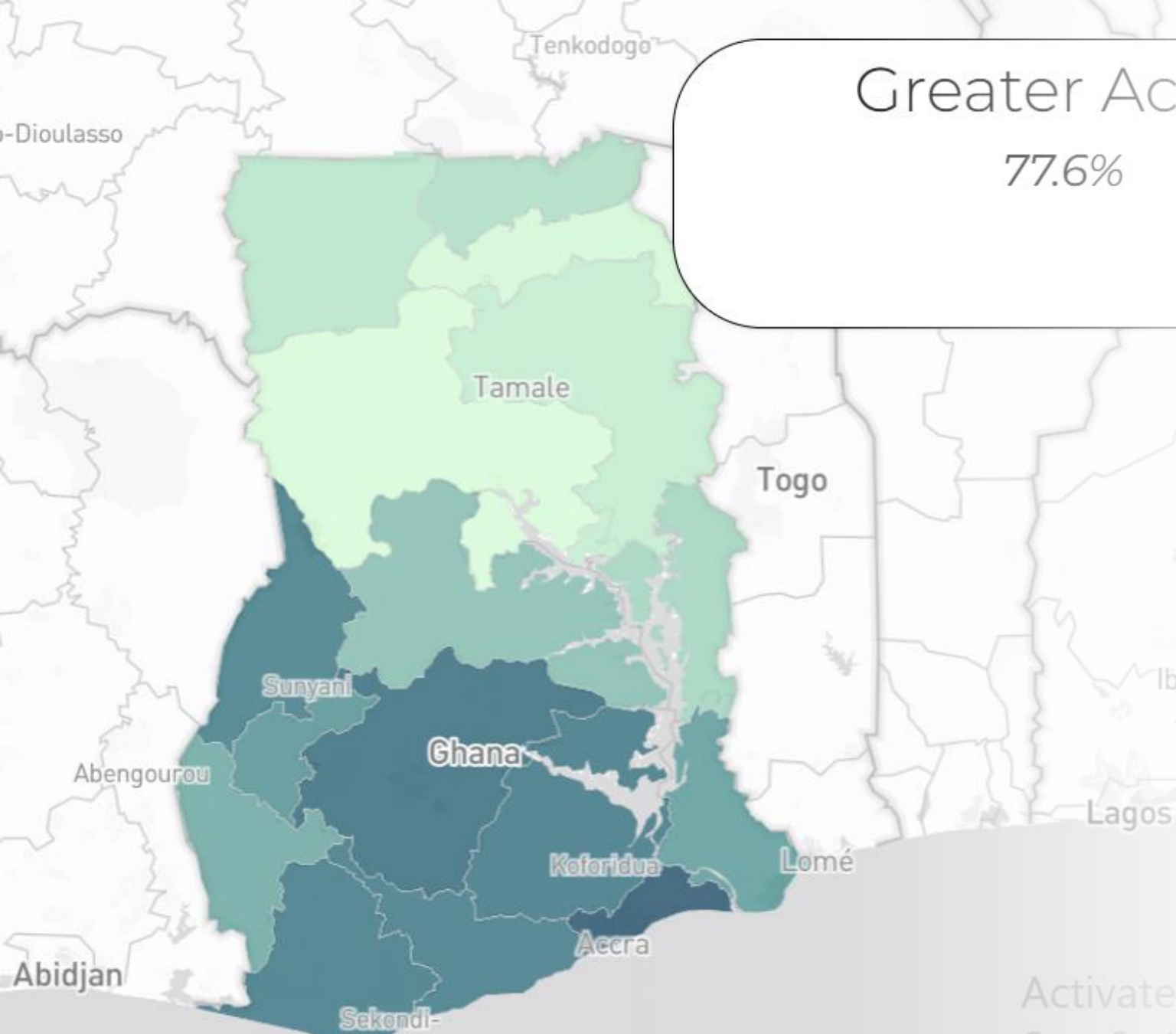
MOBILE FOREST

Sub-Saharan Africa still has the biggest mobile internet usage gap



The situation in Ghana mirrors this trend based on a recent report launched in September 2025





Greater Accra

77.6%

Affordability of devices is one of reasons for the usage gap...

GSMA research from 2024 found that:

- The entry-level smartphone device price in Ghana was USD 50;
- This equates to 27% of monthly GDP per capita and 76% of monthly GDP per capita for the poorest 40% of the population;
- Taxation accounts for 30% of smartphone device costs - amongst the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Access to device financing is in its nascent stages and not widespread

The high demand for known brand-phones may be driving handset theft and the trading of counterfeit devices

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Ghana Confronts Rising Mobile Theft Epidemic Amid Systemic Enforcement Gaps

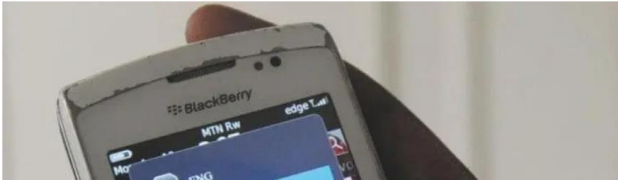
By News Ghana - July 14, 2025

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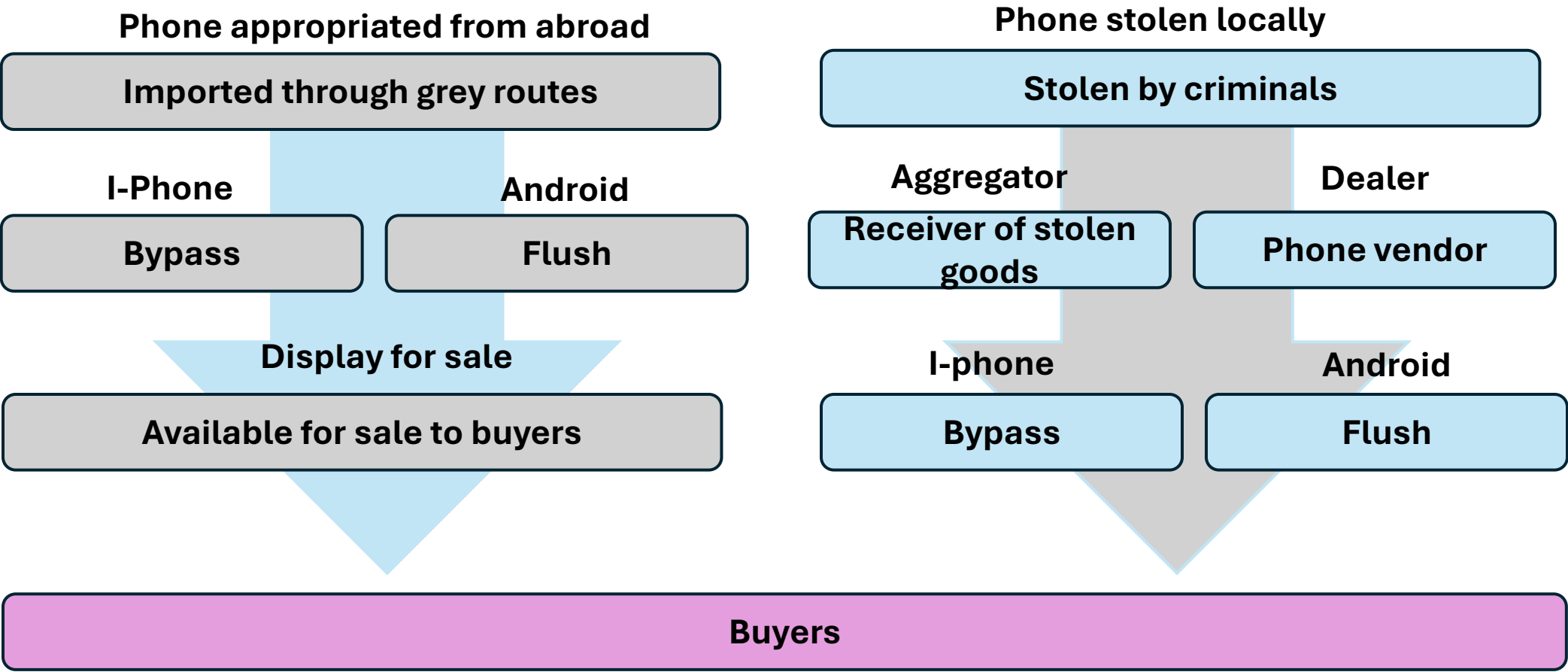
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The high demand for known brand-phones may be driving handset theft from abroad and locally



CEIR alone cannot address the diverse nature of the challenges of theft and counterfeiting

Reactive

CEIR



- Incorporate feedback and make necessary adjustments to strategy

Law enforcement



- Synergise roles of diverse law enforcement agencies
- Little to no collaboration exists

Grey routes



- Block or minimise grey routes
- Tackle cross-border criminal collaboration

Preventive

Taxes



- Reduction of taxes and fees ie. VAT, import duties, surtaxes, customs fees

Device finance



- Expand scope of device financing using momo
- Cover known brands

Orientation



- Young people prefer known brands and doubt quality of less established brands even if genuine

Technology sunsets



- Accelerate mobile technology sunsets

