

Universal and Meaningful Connectivity (UMC) – Policy, Data, and Institutional Coordination

*Prepared on behalf of the Eswatini
Communications Commission (ESCCOM) and
the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF)*

OUTLINE



STATUS

MEANINGFUL ACCESS

BARRIERS

Trends & Insights - Subscriptions

1,576,465

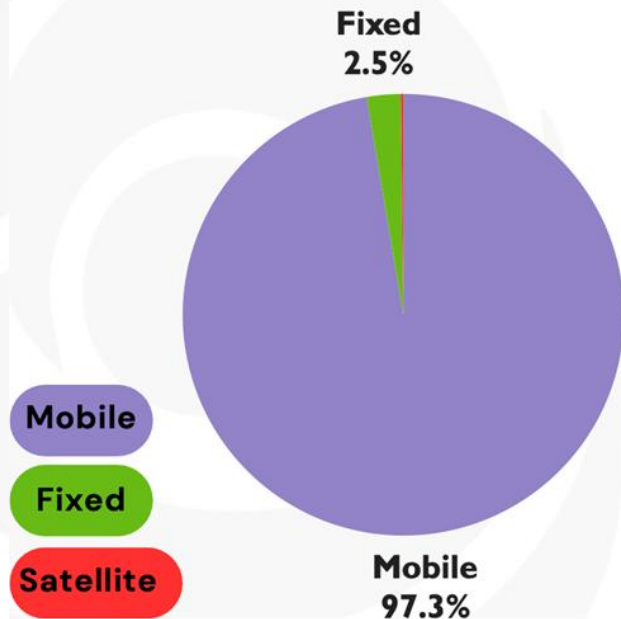
Mobile Subscribers

40,091

Fixed Subscribers

3,000

Satellite Subscribers



Mobile



97.3%
of total subscribers

...Mobile is the dominant technology

Fixed



2.5%
of total subscribers

...Positive Developments in fixed ,
FTTH developments

Satellite

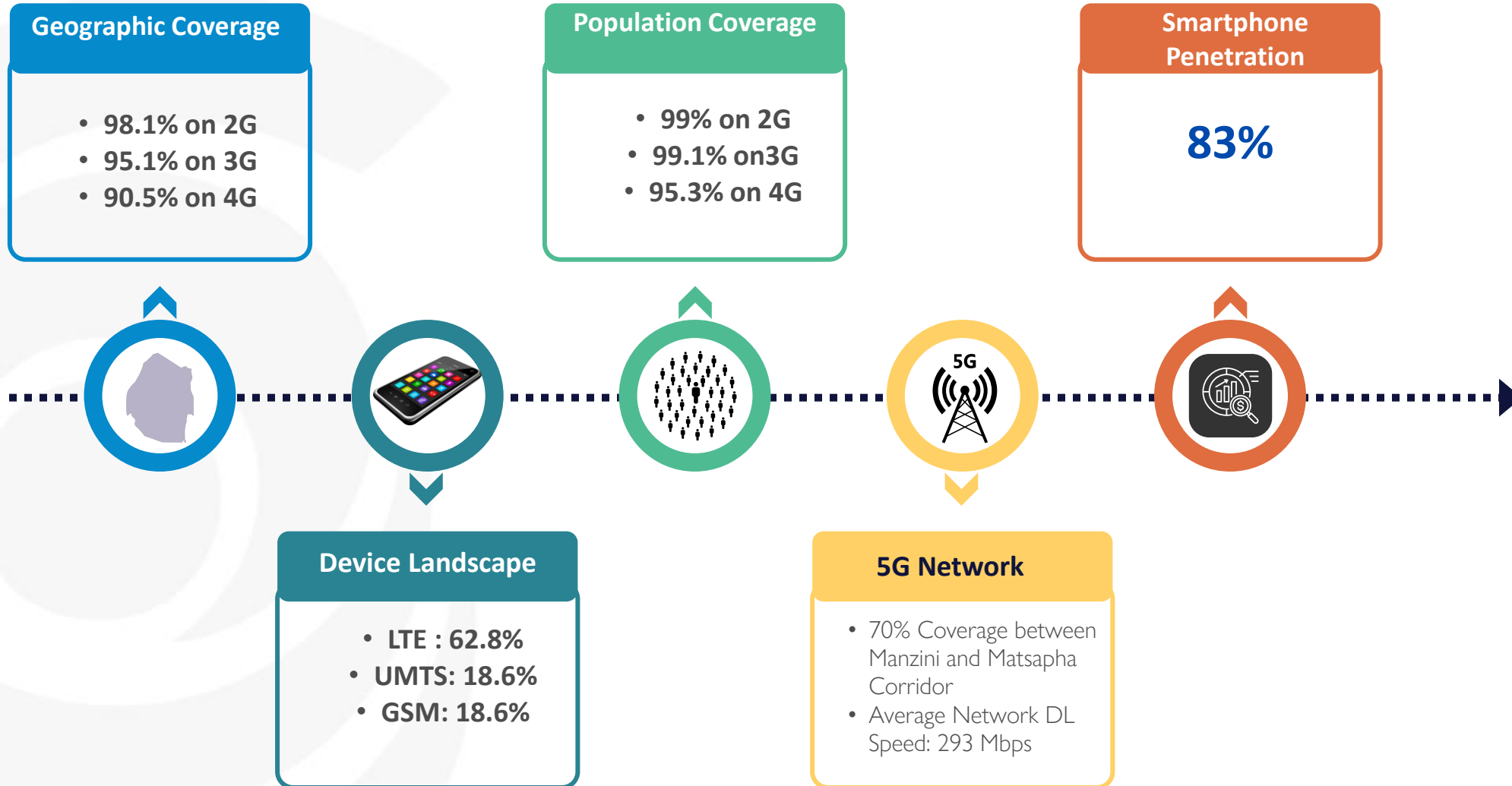


0.2%
of total subscribers

...Satellite services beginning to emerge
with advancements in non terrestrial
technologies

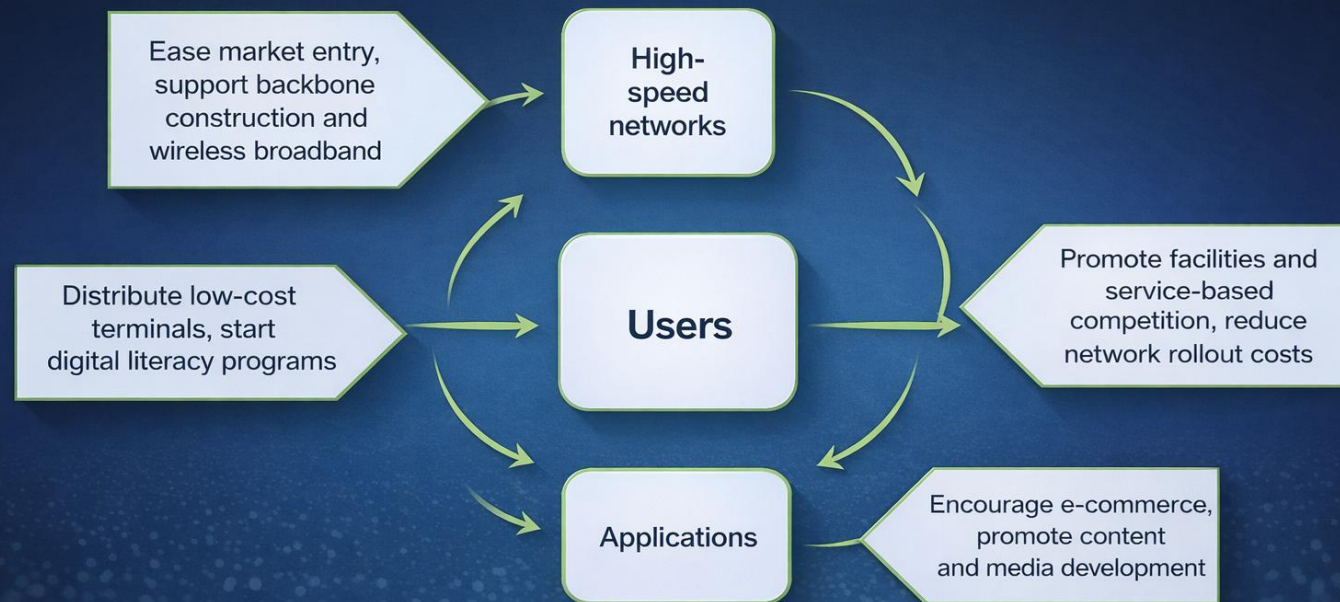
...whilst the industry has achieved significant growth in terms of infrastructure development, internet services adoption particularly in the mobile sector, huge concerns still remain around the cost of internet services. The Commission working together with industry stakeholders is working towards addressing these concerns.

Mobile Network Reach



Shift from Access → Meaningful Connectivity

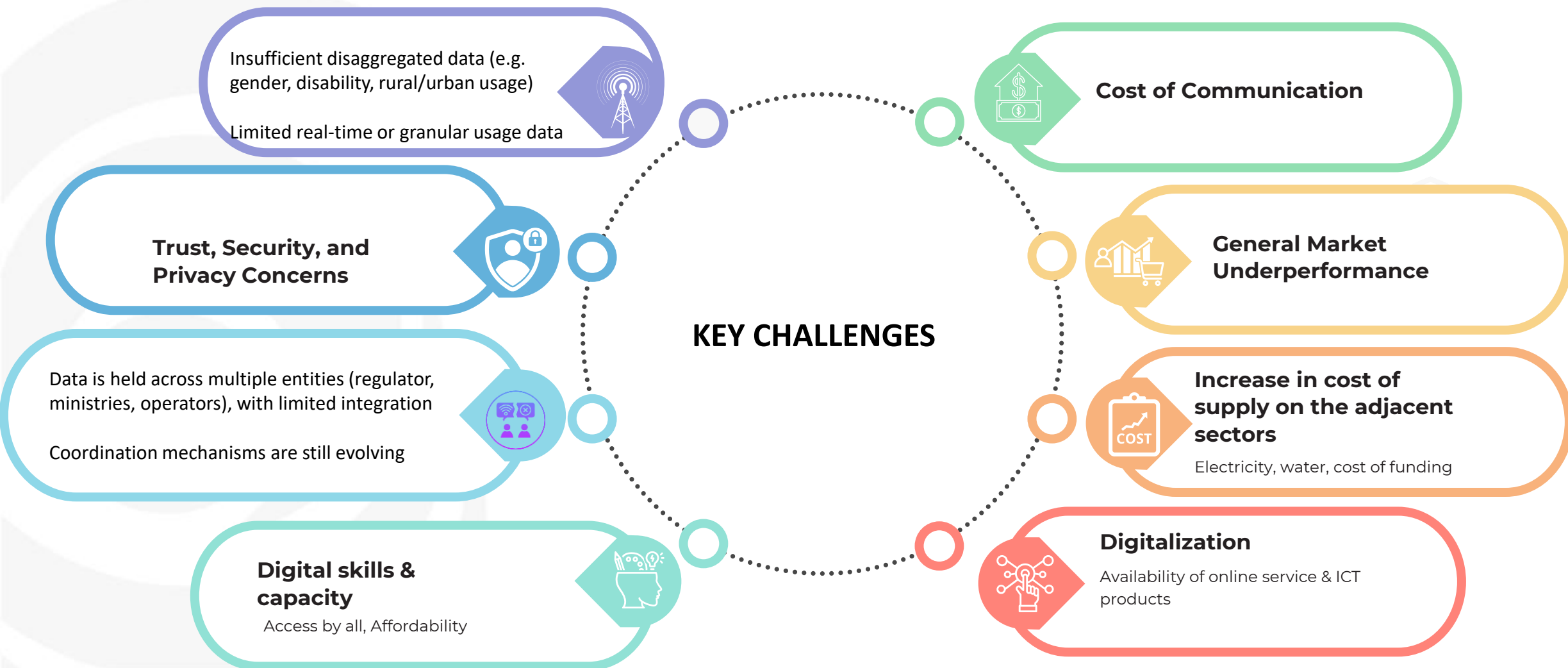
Developing the Broadband Ecosystem



UMC Policy Integration

- Infrastructure: rural connectivity, co-funded rollout
- Affordability: public Wi-Fi, operator engagement
- Devices: targeted support (PWDs, community centres)
- Skills: youth digital programmes, e-learning platforms
- Security: frameworks in place, strengthening ongoing

Barriers



Collaboration with Producers of Statistics

Eswatini adopts a multi-stakeholder approach to data production and utilisation.

Key Actors

- **Central Statistical Office (CSO):**
National surveys and household ICT data
- **ESCCOM:**
Administrative and regulatory data (coverage, subscriptions, QoS)
- **Sector Ministries** (ICT, Education, Health) Sector-specific digital indicators
- **Private Sector** (MNOs, ISPs):
Network and usage data
- **Development Partners** (ITU, World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP):
Technical support and global benchmarking

Collaboration Mechanisms

- Ongoing institutional coordination between ESCCOM and the CSO
- Data sharing with operators for regulatory and planning purposes
- Participation in international frameworks (ITU DataHub, UMC indicators, Giga initiative)
- Integration of ICT indicators into national development and sectoral planning

Opportunities for Strengthening

- Formalisation of data-sharing frameworks across institutions
- Establishment of a national digital data coordination platform
- Increased alignment with international statistical standards
- Leveraging alternative data sources (e.g. geospatial, operator data)