

Spectrum and Rural Connectivity

In low- and middle-income countries, adults in rural areas are



25% less likely
to use mobile internet
than their urban
counterparts

Rural populations are up to



30% less likely
to engage in online activities:
messaging, calls, banking,
education



Low-band spectrum is essential for rural networks:

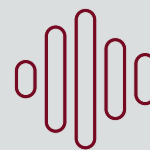


Rural users spend
2× as much time
connected to low bands
as urban users

An additional 50 MHz of
sub-1 GHz spectrum is linked to

7 PERCENTAGE-POINT
increase in 4G coverage

11 PERCENTAGE-POINT
increase in 5G coverage



Lower spectrum cost boosts network deployment

A reduction of
spectrum cost-
to-revenue
ratio by

**10 PERCENTAGE-
POINTS...**



increases
4G coverage by
4 PERCENTAGE POINTS



increases
5G coverage by
6 PERCENTAGE POINTS



increases
speeds by up to
8%

The rural connectivity gap can be reduced by improving
affordability and network quality in rural areas. Spectrum
policy can play an important part in advancing both.



Governments can support rural development by lowering network rollout costs for operators



Lowering the regulatory costs (including site access)



Ensuring long-term regulatory certainty of access to spectrum



Lowering the barriers to voluntary network sharing