

# **Mobile Internet Connectivity 2020**

## Middle East and North Africa Factsheet



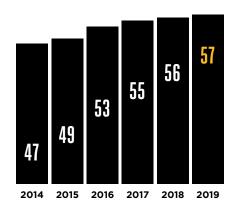
#### THE MOBILE CONNECTIVITY INDEX

There are now more than 3.8 billion mobile internet subscribers globally, representing 49% of the world's population. In the Middle East and North Africa, the proportion of the population not covered by a mobile broadband network fell by two thirds between 2014 and 2019 and now stands at 9%. However, almost half of the population are not connected to the mobile internet even though they are covered by a 3G or 4G network.

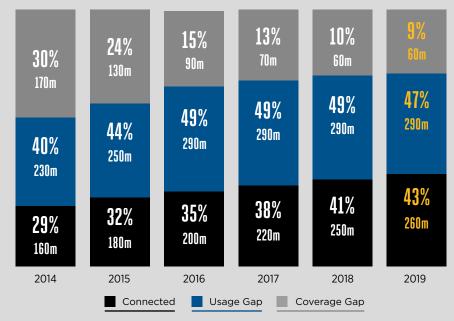
The GSMA Connected Society's Mobile Connectivity Index (MCI) supports the mobile industry's commitment to connect everyone and everything to a better future by measuring the performance of 170 countries – representing 99% of the global population – against the four key enablers of mobile internet adoption: infrastructure; affordability; consumer readiness; and content and services. The data the MCI provides can help focus the deliberate and strategic efforts that are required by the mobile industry, governments and the international community to accelerate mobile internet uptake.

#### STATE OF MOBILE INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Middle East and North Africa Mobile Connectivity Index score over time



The index is built up through 41 indicators feeding into 14 dimensions that are aggregated to give a score for each of the four enablers. Scores fall within a range of 0-100. Percentage of the Middle East and North African population connected to mobile internet



Source: GSMA Intelligence. 'Usage gap' refers to populations that live within the footprint of a mobile broadband network but who are not using mobile internet. 'Coverage gap' refers to populations that do not live within the footprint of a mobile broadband network (3G or above).

NB: totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

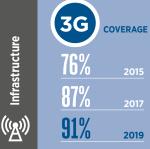
The GSMA Connected Society programme works with the mobile industry and key stakeholders to increase access to and adoption of mobile internet and all the benefits that it can deliver. Get in touch to find out more: **connectedsociety@gsma.com** 

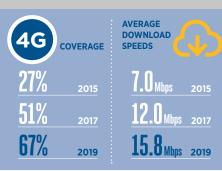


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### **KEY STATISTICS**







Consumer Readiness

60



**29**%

46%

46%

0 2019



Average affordability of 1GB
(% of monthly GDP per capita)











MOBILE SUBSCRIBER PENETRATION



**∦**⊖ Affordability

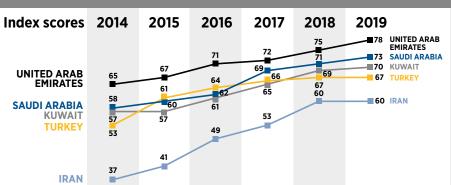
Overall

- Operator infrastructure investment in 4G has driven coverage to reach two thirds of the region's population.
- Almost 60% of mobile connections in the region use 4G, driving significant improvements in mobile download speeds.
- Low-cost smartphones and feature phones have driven significant reductions in device affordability in the region.
- In low- and middle-income countries, women are 21% less likely than men to use mobile internet, and rural populations are 36% less likely to use mobile internet than urban populations.

### **Top Five Countries by Index and Enabler (2019)**

<b>∜</b> Index	(偽)) Infrastructure	⊙ <b>≫</b> Affordability	COnsumer Readiness	Content and Services
United Arab Emirates Qatar Israel Saudi Arabia Bahrain	United Arab Emirates Qatar Saudi Arabia Turkey Bahrain	Qatar United Arab Emirates Israel Oman Kuwait	Israel Turkey Bahrain Kuwait Saudi Arabia	Israel United Arab Emirates Turkey Qatar Saudi Arabia

### **Most Improved Countries (2014-2019)**



2 Interr		2019 Mobile Internet Penetration	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	54%	•	75%
SAUDI ARABIA	64%		73%
KUWAIT	50%		54%
TURKEY	37%		53%
IRAN	32%		51%