



Mobile Internet Connectivity 2020

Sub-Saharan Africa Factsheet



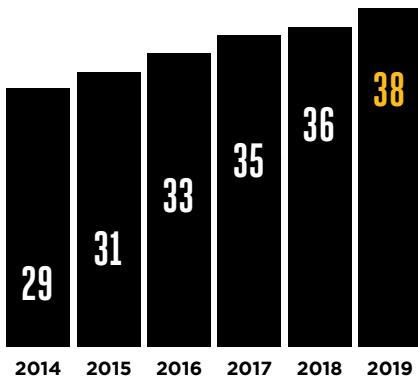
THE MOBILE CONNECTIVITY INDEX

There are now more than 3.8 billion mobile internet subscribers globally, representing 49% of the world's population. However, adoption has not been equitable, with mobile internet adoption standing at 26% in Sub-Saharan Africa at the end of 2019. The region accounts for almost half of the global population not covered by a mobile broadband 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.

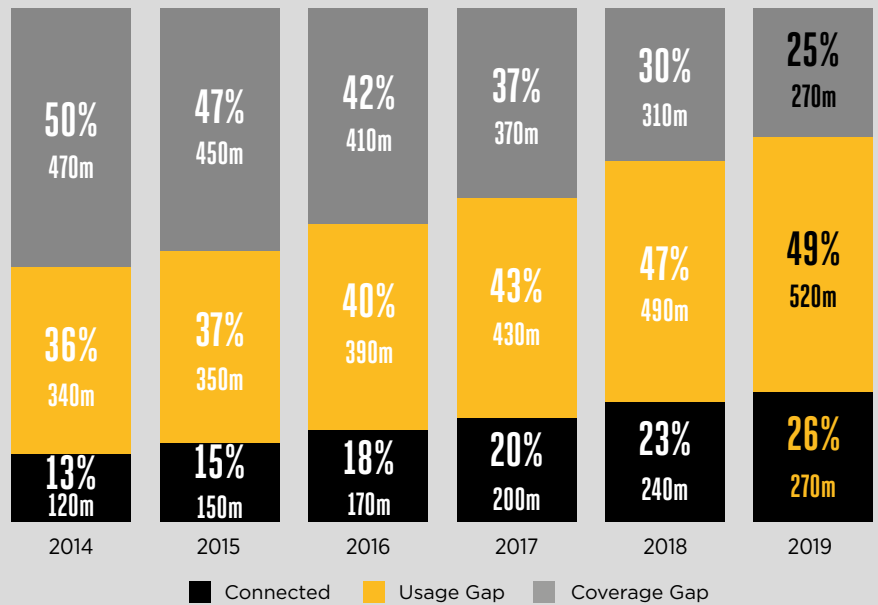
STATE OF MOBILE INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Sub-Saharan African Mobile Connectivity Index scores 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 Sub-Saharan 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.

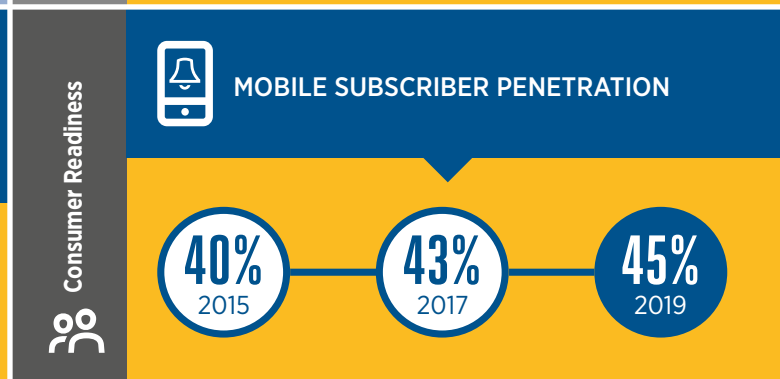
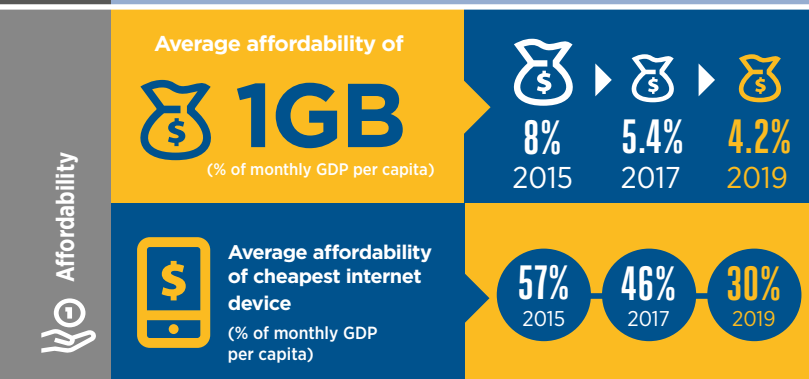
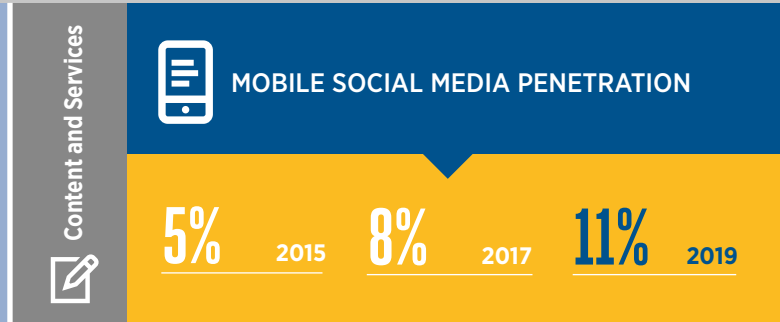
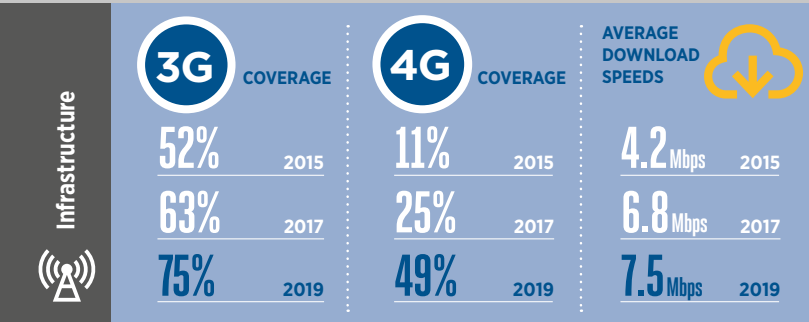
The GSMA Connected Society programme works with the mobile industry and key stakeholders to increase access to and adoption of mobile internet and all the benefits that it can deliver. Get in touch to find out more: connectedsociety@gsma.com



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KEY STATISTICS



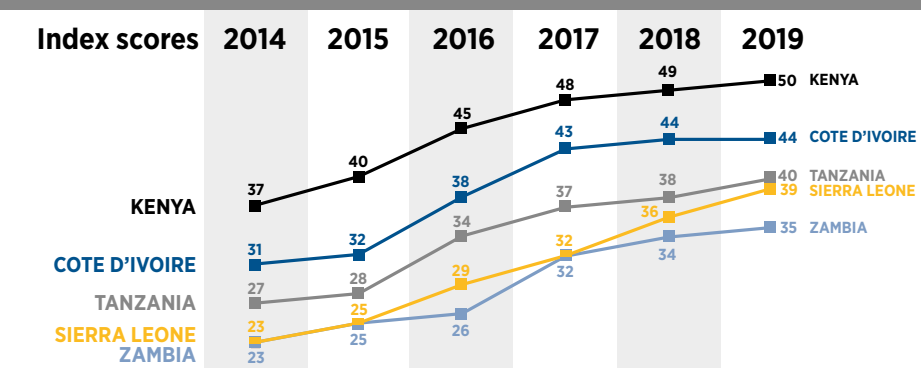
Overall

- There has been a continued acceleration in mobile broadband coverage, as operators upgrade existing 2G sites to 3G and 4G (with 4G networks now covering almost half the regional population).
- 2019 marked the first year that there were more mobile broadband connections than 2G, as consumers benefitted from more affordable smartphones and smart-feature phones.
- A large gender gap and rural-urban gap in mobile internet use persist, standing at 37% and 60%, respectively.
- The biggest barrier to mobile internet adoption reported by consumers who are aware of it is a lack of digital skills, especially for women and rural populations.

Top Five Countries by Index and Enabler (2019)

Index	Infrastructure	Affordability	Consumer Readiness	Content and Services
Mauritius	South Africa	Mauritius	South Africa	Mauritius
South Africa	Lesotho	Nigeria	Mauritius	South Africa
Ghana	Rwanda	Botswana	Namibia	Cabo Verde
Botswana	Mauritius	South Africa	Botswana	Ghana
Kenya	Kenya	Ghana	Cabo Verde	Kenya

Most Improved Countries (2014-2019)



	2014 Mobile Internet Penetration	2019 Mobile Internet Penetration
KENYA	16%	27%
COTE D'IVOIRE	15%	28%
TANZANIA	9%	18%
SIERRA LEONE	13%	27%
ZAMBIA	13%	26%