



Global

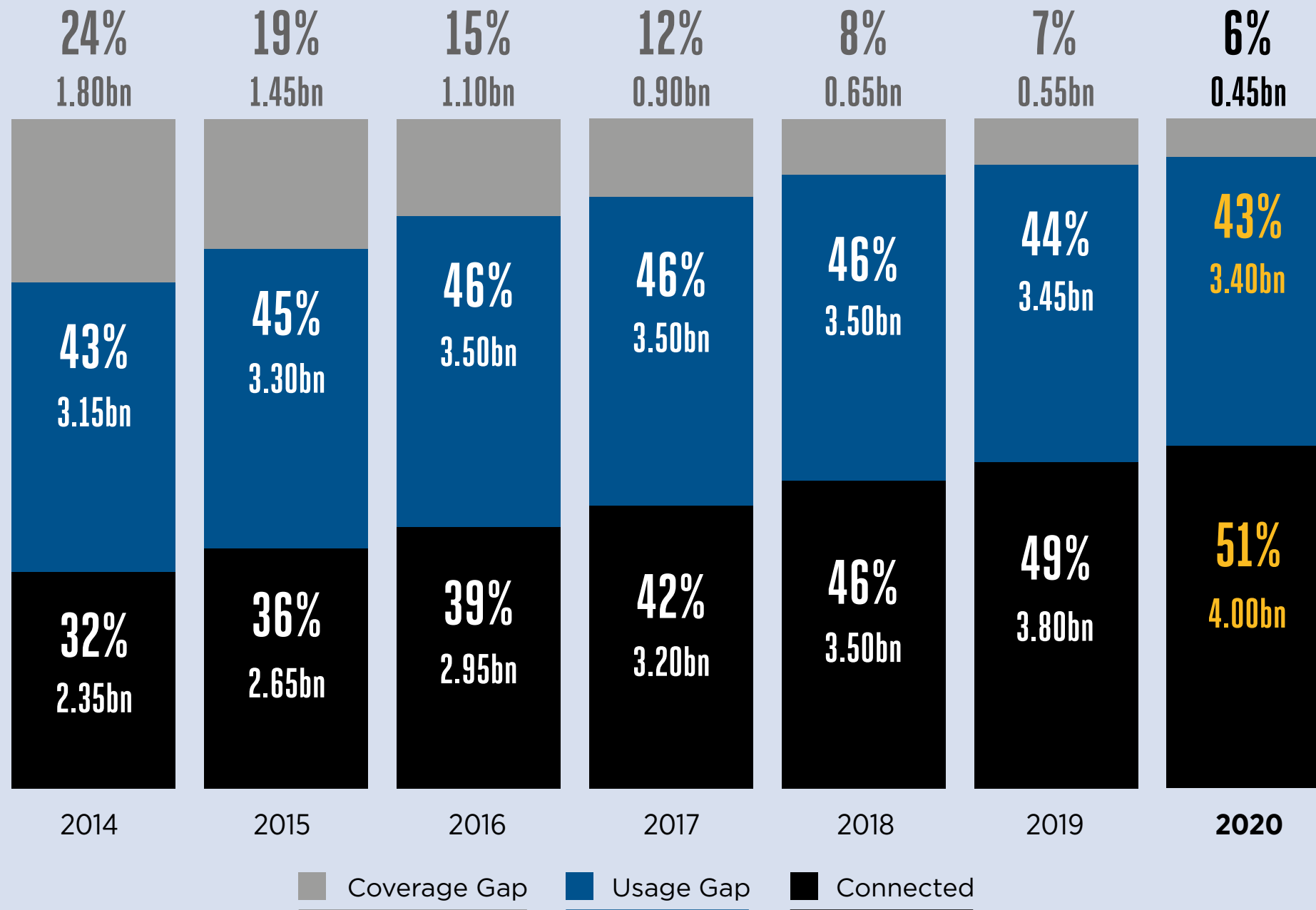


Connected Society

Mobile Internet Connectivity 2021

Global Key Trends

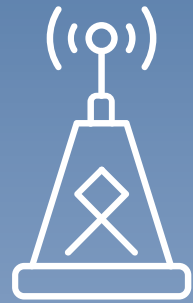




- For the first time, more than half the world's population are using mobile internet.
- Global coverage continues to grow, with 94% of the world's population covered by mobile broadband networks, but progress has slowed.
- 3.4 billion people are not using mobile internet, despite living in areas with mobile broadband coverage.

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.



COVERAGE

75% 2014

80% 2015

85% 2016

88% 2017

90% 2018

92% 2019

94% 2020



COVERAGE

40% 2014

54% 2015

64% 2016

71% 2017

80% 2018

84% 2019

87% 2020



COVERAGE

0% 2014

0% 2015

0% 2016

0% 2017

76% 2018

4% 2019

16% 2020


DOWNLOAD
SPEEDS

3.3 Mbps 2014

4.9 Mbps 2015

6.7 Mbps 2016

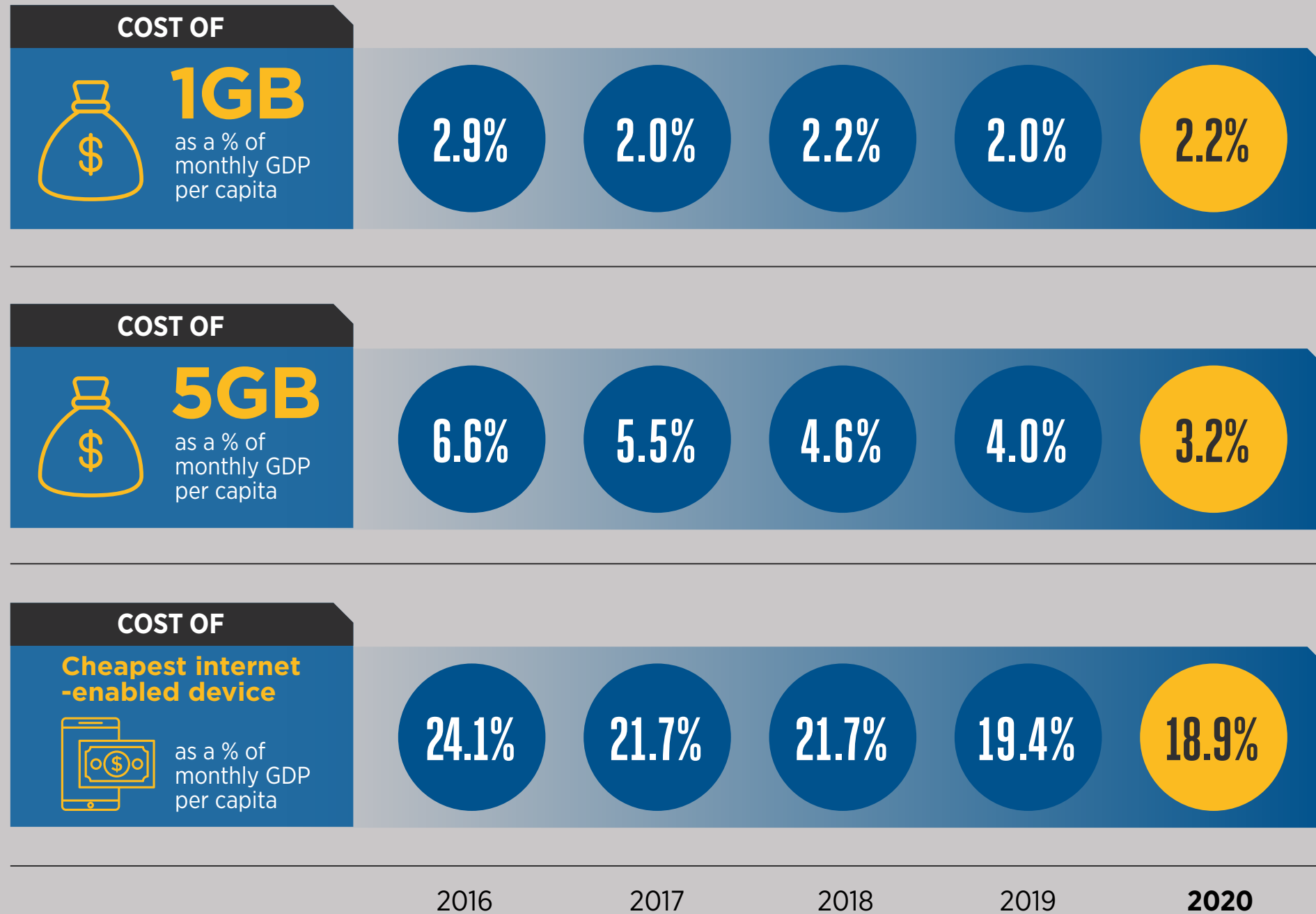
8.0 Mbps 2017

9.3 Mbps 2018

10.8 Mbps 2019

12.5 Mbps 2020

- 4G network coverage continues to expand, while a number of countries have also seen significant increases in 5G coverage.
- Across LMICs, 4G coverage increased to 84% by the end of 2020 – only eight percentage points less than that for 3G.



- Despite the fall in costs, internet-enabled handsets and data became less affordable in many LMICs in 2020 due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The GSMA represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, uniting more than 750 operators with nearly 400 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem, including handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and internet companies, as well as organisations in adjacent industry sectors. The GSMA also produces the industry-leading MWC events held annually in Barcelona, Los Angeles and Shanghai, as well as the Mobile 360 Series of regional conferences.

For more information, please visit the GSMA corporate website at www.gsma.com

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GSMA Connected Society

The Connected Society programme works with the mobile industry, technology companies, the development community and governments to increase access to and adoption of mobile internet, focusing on underserved population groups in developing markets.

For more information, please visit www.gsma.com/connected-society

To get in touch with the Connected Society team, please email connectedsociety@gsma.com



This document has been financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. Sida does not necessarily share the views expressed in this material. Responsibility for its contents rests entirely with the author.

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Published: September 2021