



Sub-Saharan
Africa

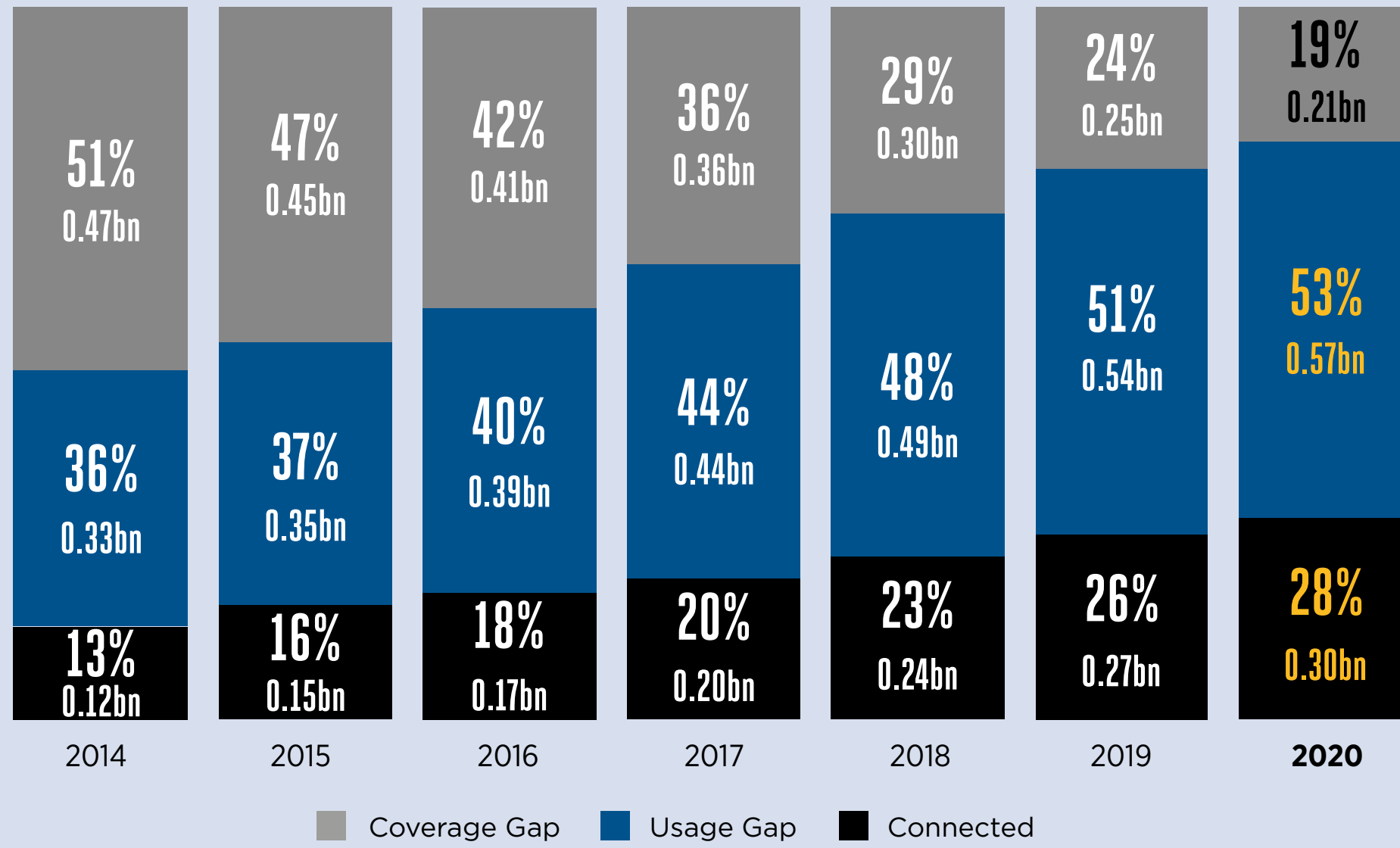


Connected Society

Mobile Internet Connectivity 2021

Sub-Saharan Africa Key Trends

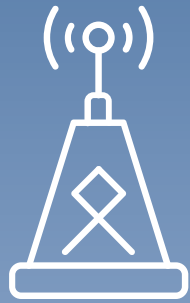




- Over half a billion people who are living in areas with a mobile broadband network are not using mobile internet, despite substantial increases in mobile broadband coverage since 2014.
- Significant gender and rural-urban gaps persist. Women are 37% less likely to use mobile internet than men.

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

49%	2014
52%	2015
58%	2016
64%	2017
71%	2018
76%	2019
81%	2020



COVERAGE

5%	2014
8%	2015
16%	2016
19%	2017
28%	2018
41%	2019
51%	2020



COVERAGE

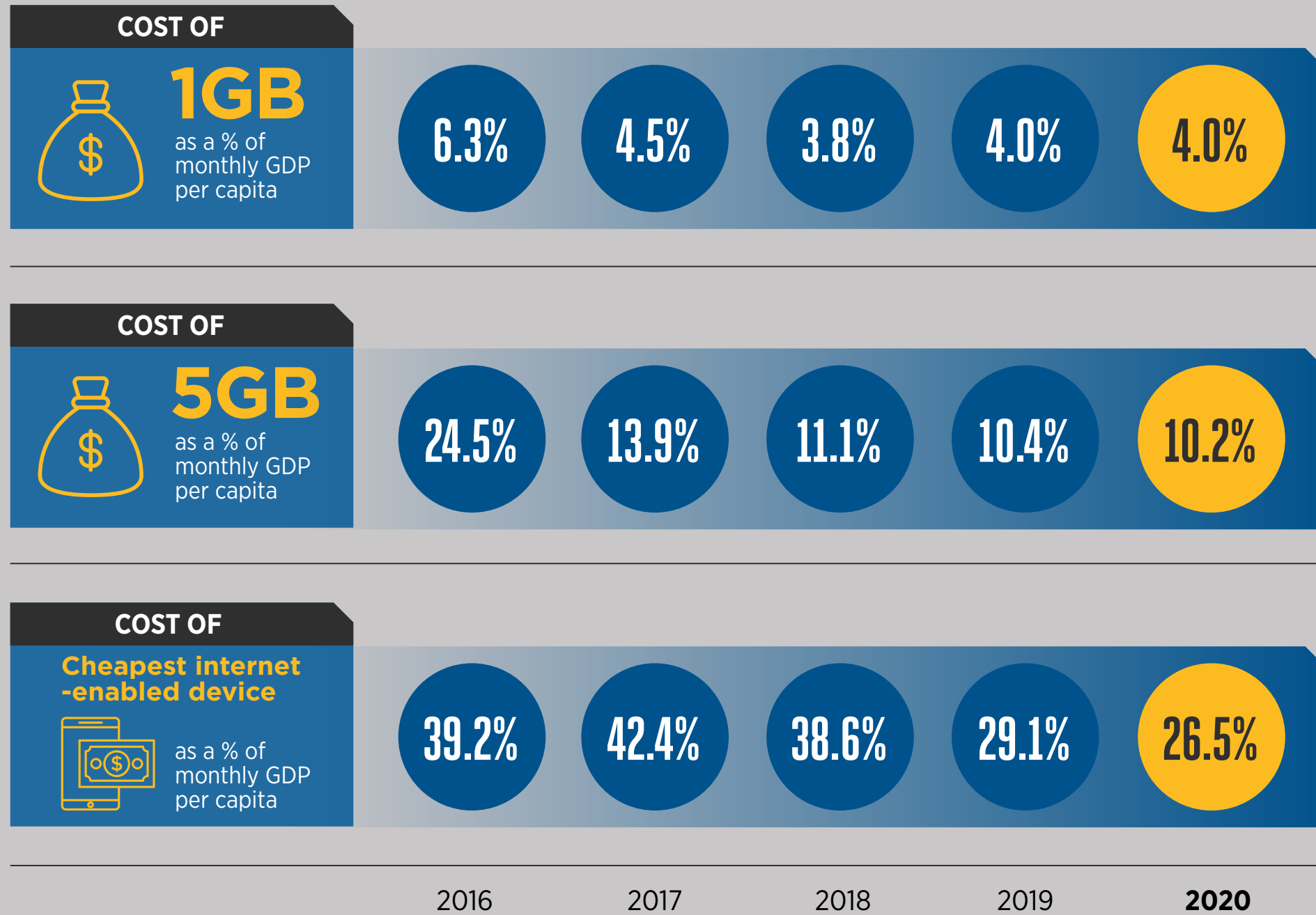
0%	2014
0%	2015
0%	2016
0%	2017
0%	2018
0%	2019
0.4%	2020



DOWNLOAD SPEEDS

2.7 Mbps	2014
4.0 Mbps	2015
5.4 Mbps	2016
6.5 Mbps	2017
6.9 Mbps	2018
8.3 Mbps	2019
9.0 Mbps	2020

- Significant gains have been made in both 3G and 4G coverage since 2014, yet in 2020 only half the population had access to a 4G network.



- Affordability has improved substantially but remains a key barrier, especially handset affordability.
- Smartphone adoption is increasing but smartphones still account for less than half of total connections.



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

Follow the GSMA on Twitter: [@GSMA](https://twitter.com/GSMA)



This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK government; however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.

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.

GSMA Intelligence

GSMA Intelligence is the definitive source of global mobile operator data, analysis and forecasts, and publisher of authoritative industry reports and research. Our data covers every operator group, network and MVNO in every country worldwide – from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. It is the most accurate and complete set of industry metrics available, comprising tens of millions of individual data points, updated daily.

GSMA Intelligence is relied on by leading operators, vendors, regulators, financial institutions and third-party industry players, to support strategic decision-making and long-term investment planning. The data is used as an industry reference point and is frequently cited by the media and by the industry itself.

Our team of analysts and experts produce regular thought-leading research reports across a range of industry topics.

www.gsmaintelligence.com
info@gsmaintelligence.com

Lead authors: Anne Delaporte, Calvin Bahia

Supporting authors: Isabelle Carboni, Nadia Jeffrie, Claire Sibthorpe, Stefano Suardi, Melle Tiel Groenestege

Published: September 2021