

GSMA

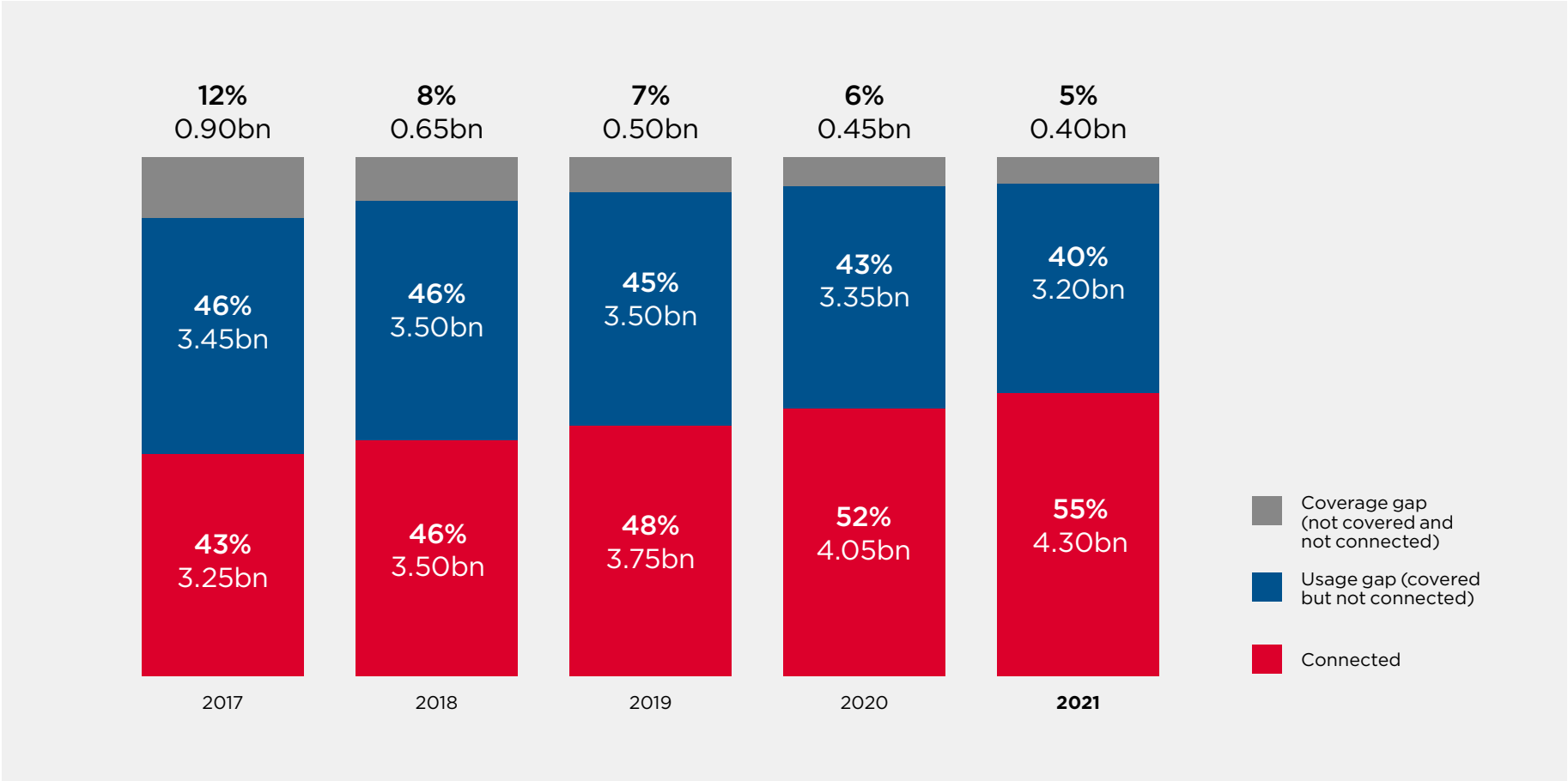
# State of Mobile Internet Connectivity 2022

Global Key Trends



# Global mobile internet connectivity

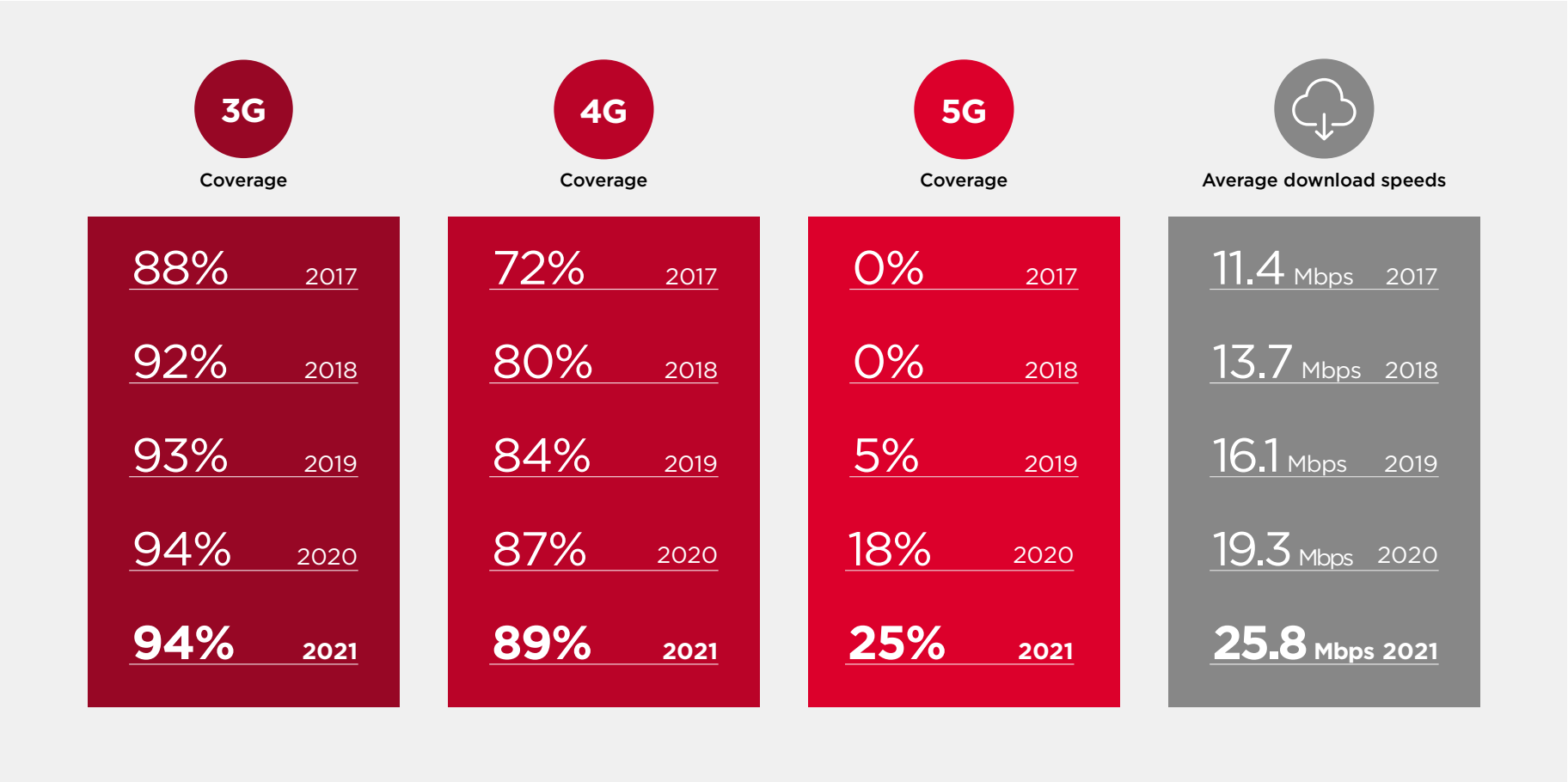
- Almost 300 million more people have started using mobile internet since the end of 2020 with 55% of the world's population now using mobile internet.
- 5% of the world's population are still not covered by a mobile broadband network and progress in closing the coverage gap has slowed since 2018.
- 40% of the world's population – 3.2 billion people – are not using mobile internet despite living in areas with mobile broadband coverage. This usage gap has narrowed from 45% since 2019 but is eight times the size of the coverage gap.



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.

# Global coverage and download speeds

- The gap between 3G coverage and 4G coverage continues to narrow from 17 percentage points in 2017 to 5 percentage points in 2021.
- At the end of 2021 one in four people worldwide were covered by a 5G network.
- Average download speeds have more than doubled in the last five years.

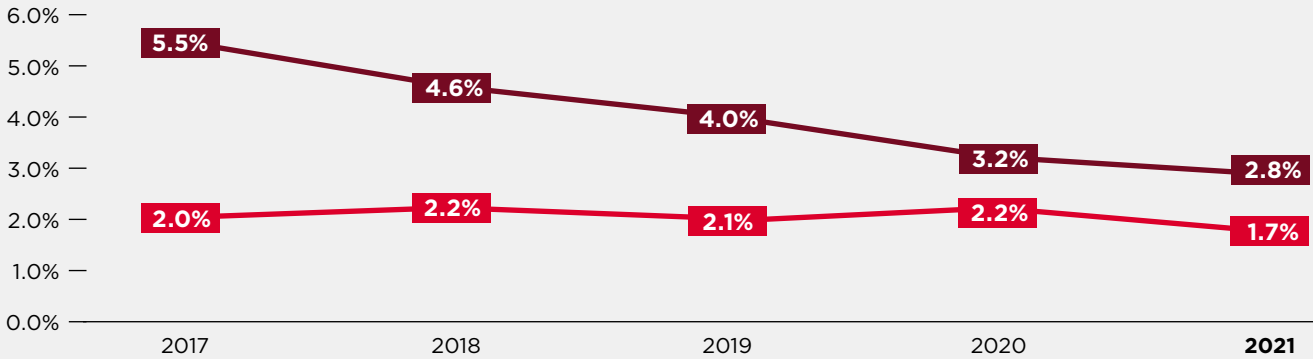


# Affordability of data plans and cheapest internet-enabled handsets across LMICs

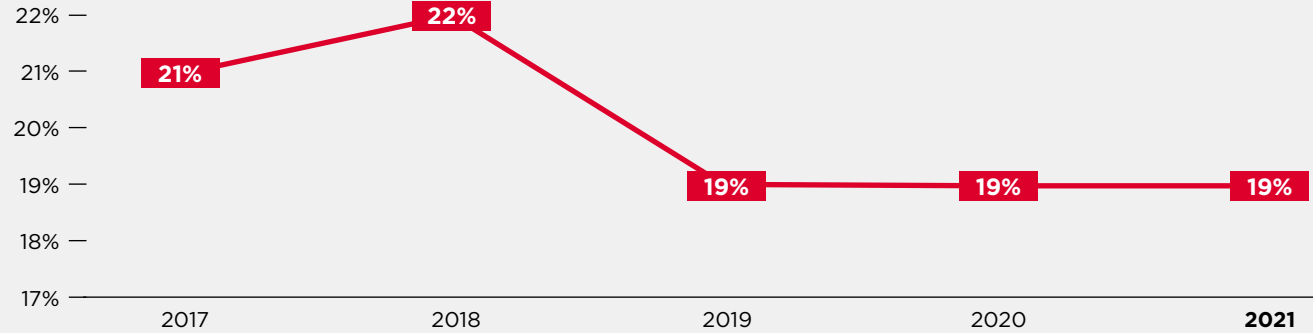
- Affordability of 1GB is now less than 2% of average monthly income in most LMICs, in line with the UN Broadband Commission’s target.
- The affordability of an internet-enabled handset has either improved or remained flat in all regions except for LMICs in Europe and Central Asia.

Cost of 1GB and 5GB of data as % of monthly GDP per capita

1GB  
5GB



Cost of cheapest internet-enabled handset as % of monthly GDP per capita

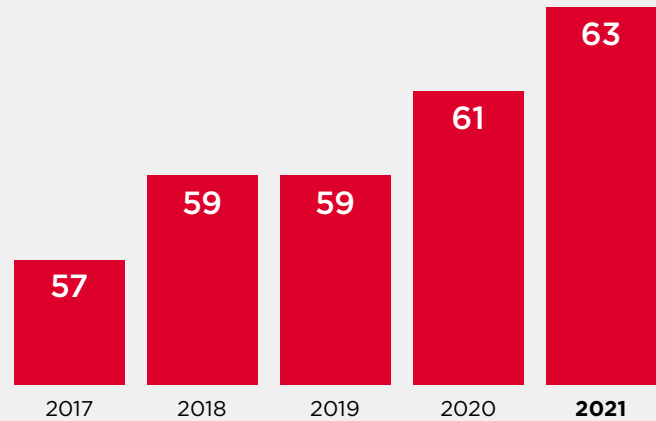


NB: Percentages are rounded.  
‘LMICs’ refer to low- and middle-income countries.

# Global Mobile Connectivity Index scores

The **Mobile Connectivity Index (MCI)** measures the performance of 170 countries against the four key enablers of mobile internet adoption: infrastructure; affordability; consumer readiness; and content and services. The index is built up through 41 indicators feeding into 14 dimensions that are aggregated to give a score for four enablers. Scores fall within a range of 0-100.

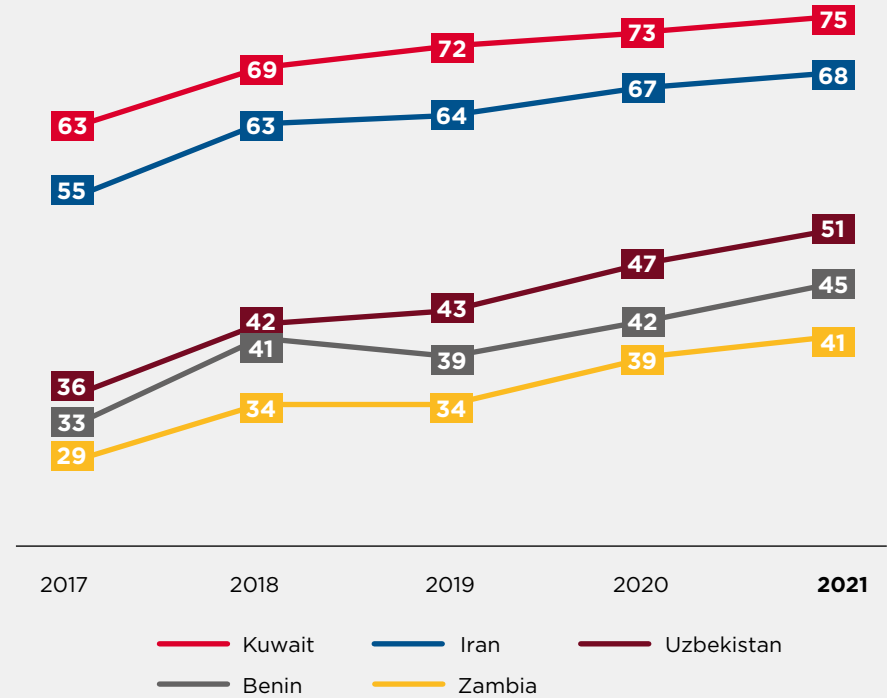
Average Global MCI scores, 2017-2021



Countries at the top of the MCI in 2021

1	Australia
2	Singapore
3	Finland
4	Norway
5	Switzerland

MCI scores of most improved countries between 2017 and 2021



<https://www.mobileconnectivityindex.com/>



## GSMA

The GSMA is a global organisation unifying the mobile ecosystem to discover, develop and deliver innovation foundational to positive business environments and societal change. Our vision is to unlock the full power of connectivity so that people, industry and society thrive. Representing mobile operators and organisations across the mobile ecosystem and adjacent industries, the GSMA delivers for its members across three broad pillars: Connectivity for Good, Industry Services and Solutions and Outreach. This activity includes advancing policy, tackling today's biggest societal challenges, underpinning the technology and interoperability that make mobile work and providing the world's largest platform to convene the mobile ecosystem at the MWC and M360 series of events.

We invite you to find out more at [gsma.com](https://www.gsma.com)  
Follow the GSMA on Twitter: [@GSMA](https://twitter.com/GSMA)

## FCDO

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/connectedsociety](https://www.gsma.com/connectedsociety)

To get in touch with the Connected Society team, please email [connectedsociety@gsma.com](mailto:connectedsociety@gsma.com)

## SIDA

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## 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.

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