

GSMA

# State of Mobile Internet Connectivity 2022

Middle East & North Africa  
Key Trends



# Mobile internet connectivity in Middle East & North Africa

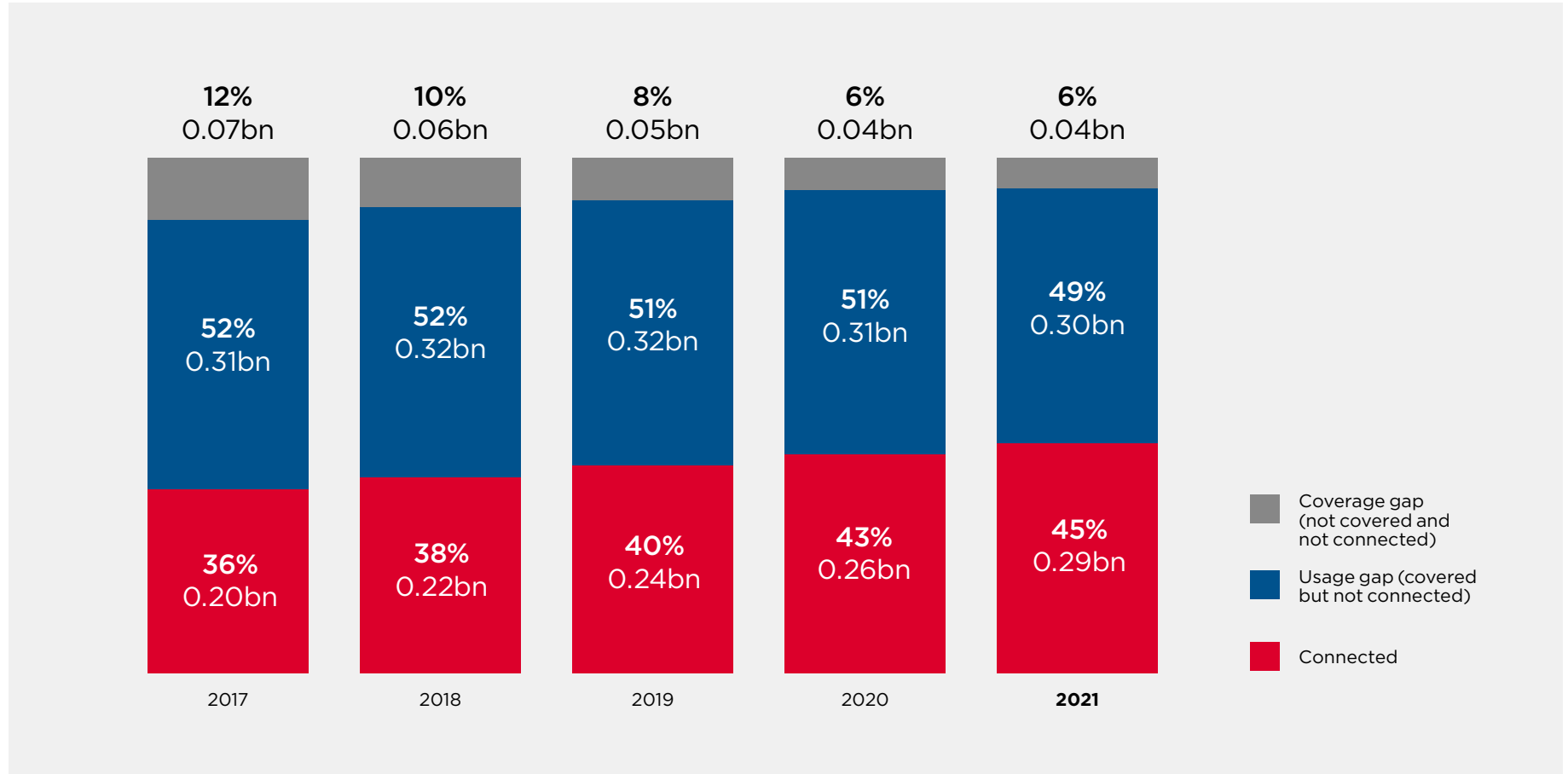
- Growth in mobile internet use increased more in the high-income countries than the low-income countries.
- The usage gap is higher than the global average and remains broadly unchanged over the past five years.



Source: GSMA Intelligence.

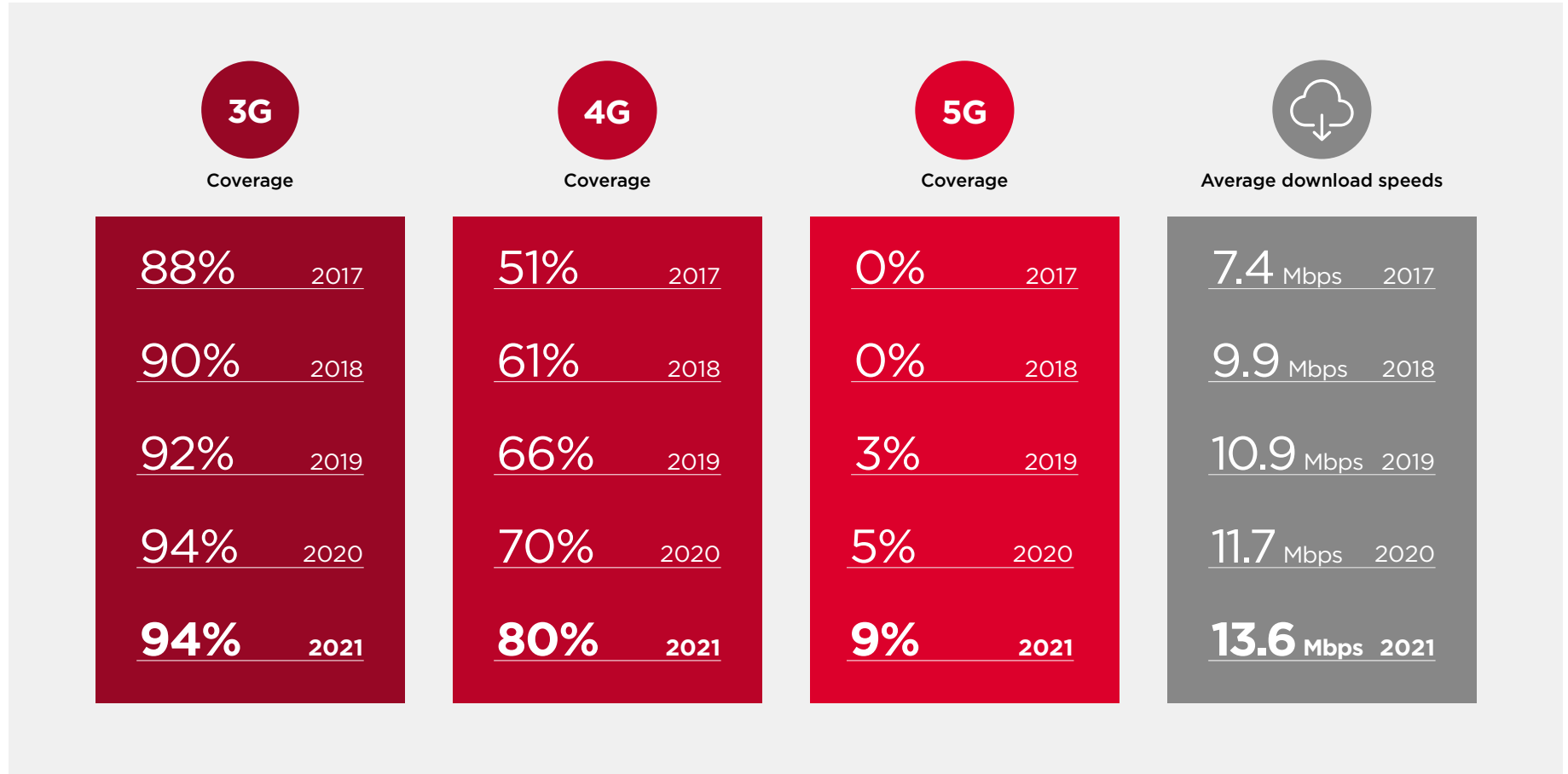
'Usage gap' refers to populations that live within the footprint of a mobile broadband network but who are not using mobile internet. 'Coverage gap' refers to populations that do not live within the footprint of a mobile broadband network (3G or above).

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



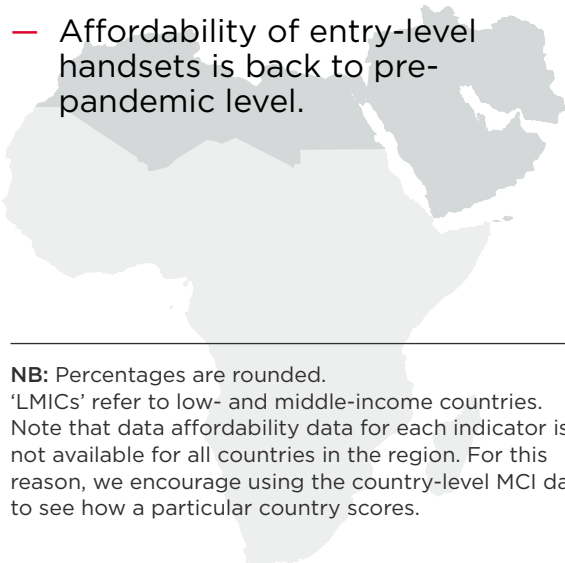
# Coverage and download speeds in Middle East & North Africa

- 4G and 5G coverage continue to increase, while 3G remained flat in 2021.
- Average download speeds continue to improve.

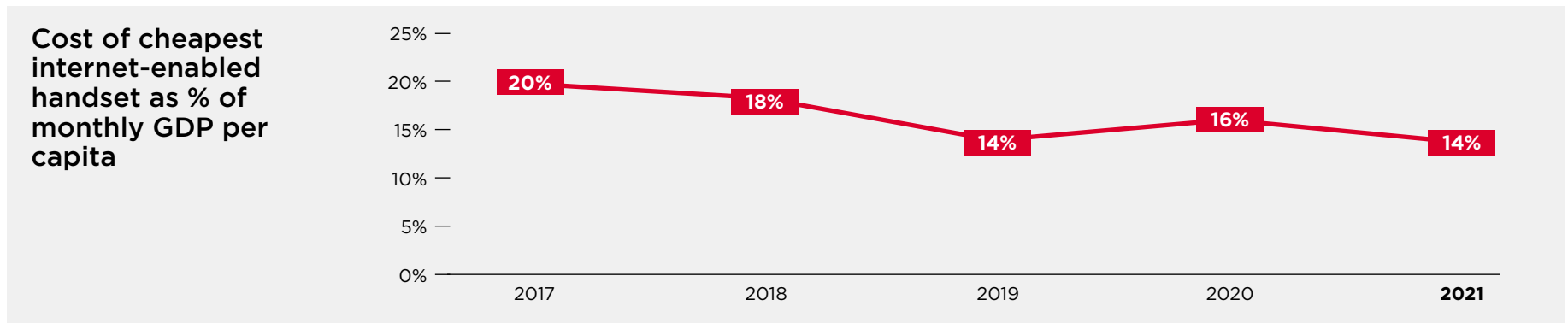
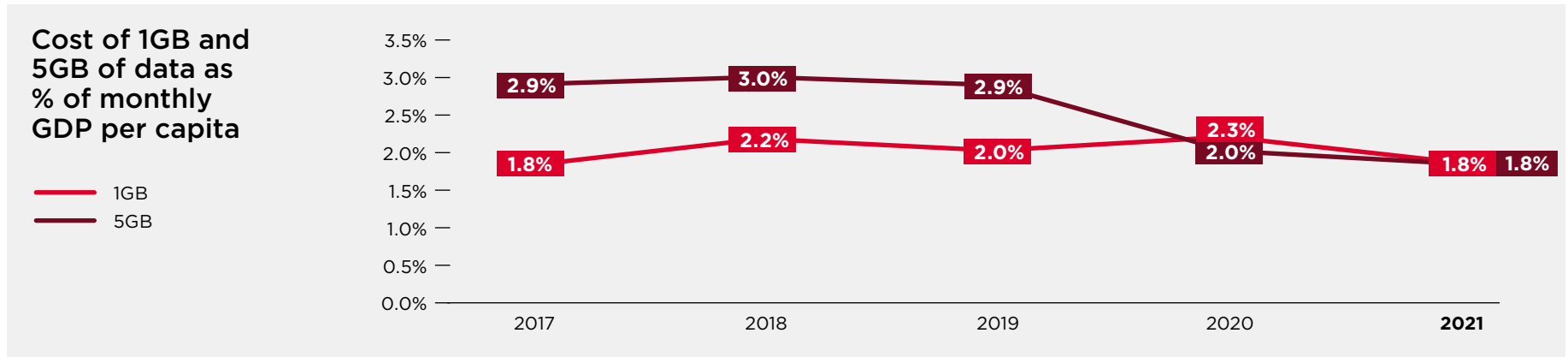


# Affordability of data plans and cheapest internet-enabled handsets across LMICs in Middle East & North Africa

- On average, improvements in affordability of 5GB continue but this is not equal between countries. For example, a 5GB data package costs over half of monthly income in Yemen.
- Affordability of entry-level handsets is back to pre-pandemic level.

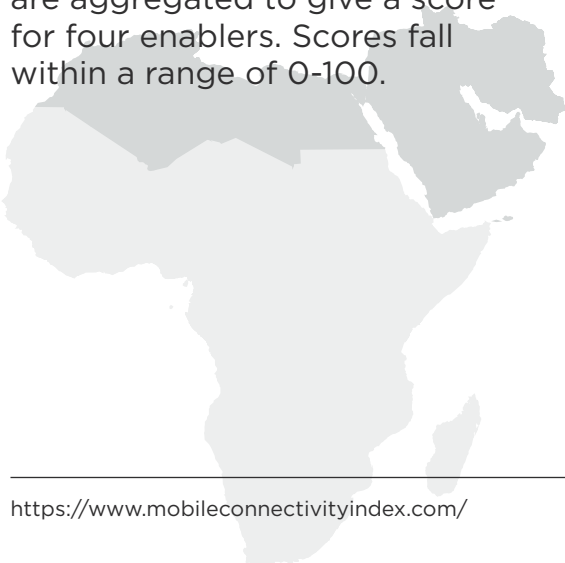


**NB:** Percentages are rounded.  
 'LMICs' refer to low- and middle-income countries.  
 Note that data affordability data for each indicator is not available for all countries in the region. For this reason, we encourage using the country-level MCI data to see how a particular country scores.

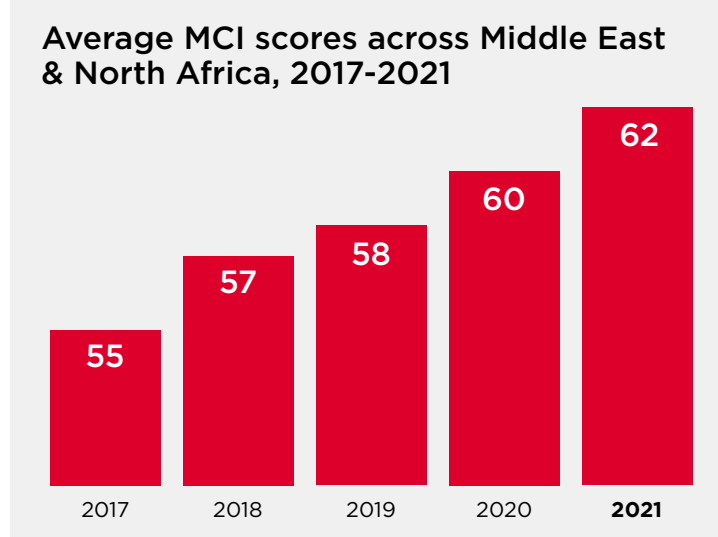


# Mobile Connectivity Index scores in Middle East & North Africa

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.

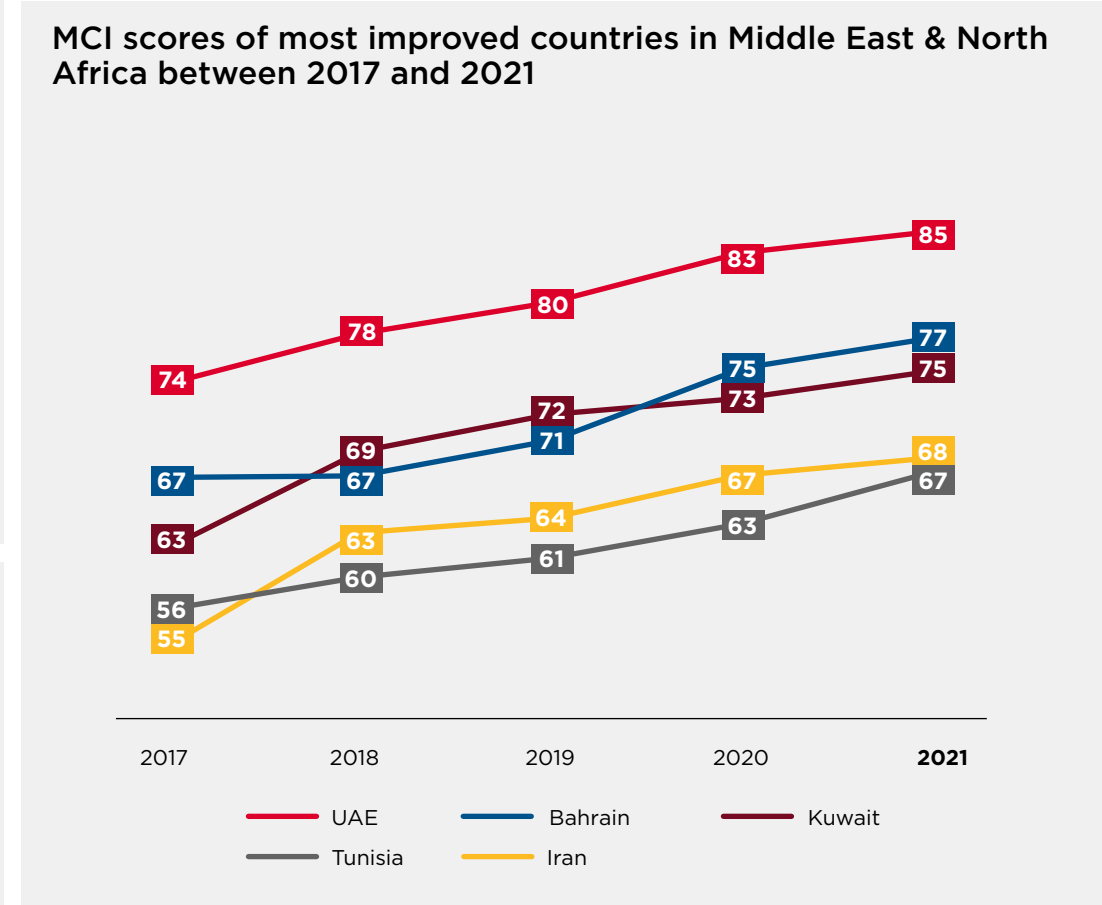


<https://www.mobileconnectivityindex.com/>



### Countries at the top of the MCI in Middle East & North Africa in 2021

1	UAE
2	Israel
3	Qatar
4	Bahrain
5	Saudi Arabia



## GSMA

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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

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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.



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## GSMA Connected Society

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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

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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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