

Internet Infrastructure and Pricing

Enabling affordability for inclusive development

Eleanor Sarpong
Policy and Advocacy Lead
Alliance for Affordable Internet
eleanor.sarpong@webfoundation.org

What is A4AI?



We are the world's broadest technology sector alliance working to drive down the price of broadband transforming policy and regulatory frameworks.

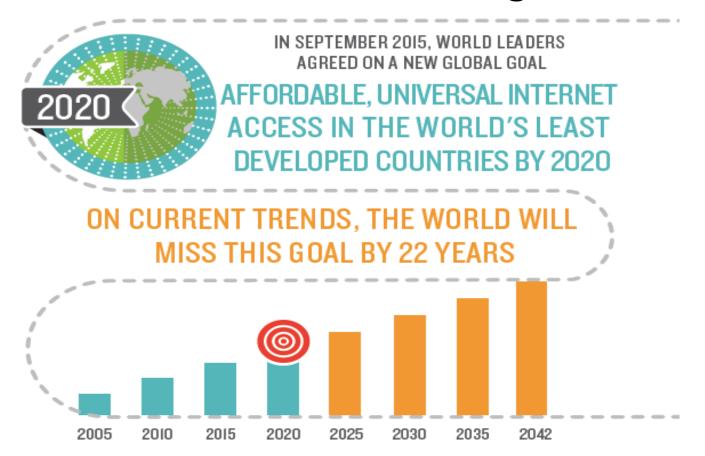
Direct support & action: Where are we working?





Internet access around the globe





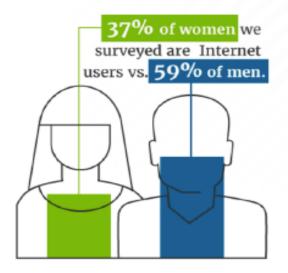
4+ billion people still offline today

Exploring the true extent of the gender digital divide (WRO, data2X)



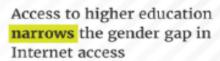


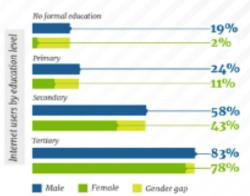
WOMEN ARE ABOUT 50% LESS LIKELY
THAN MEN TO USE THE INTERNET IN
POOR URBAN COMMUNITIES





Women who are **politically** active offline are twice as likely to use the Internet.



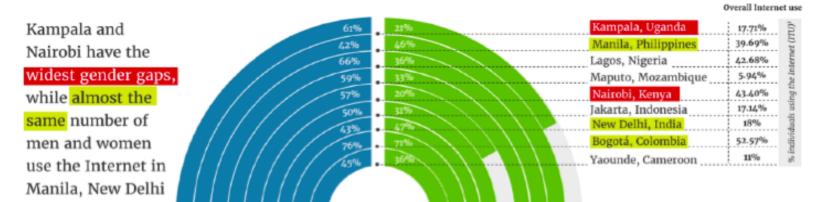


What is the gender gap in access?

Youal of male internet users

and Bogota.



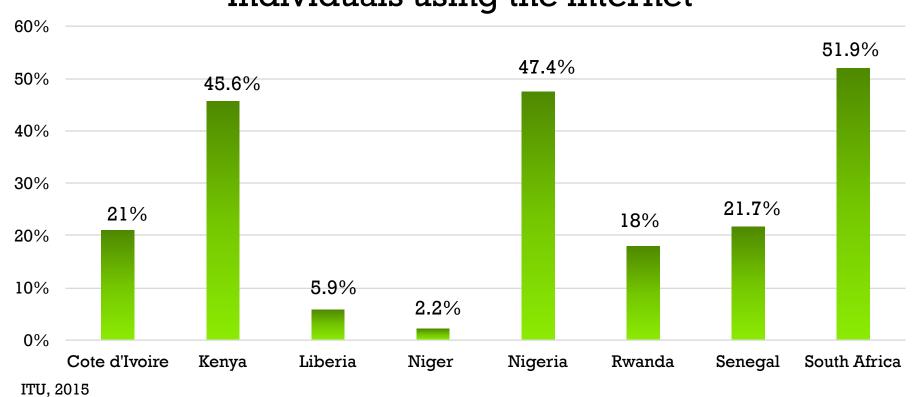




Internet use across Africa



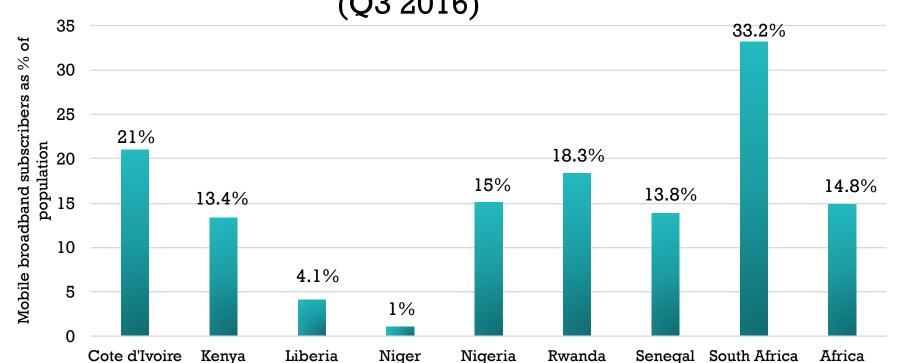
Individuals using the internet



Mobile broadband penetration in Africa (Q3 2016)



Unique mobile broadband subscribers (Q3 2016)



What is the state of affordability?



The high cost to connect is excluding billions from the digital revolution

Over half the world's population is still offline

111 countries have met the UN affordability target of basic broadband priced at 5% or less of average monthly income

YET

Just

9 countries

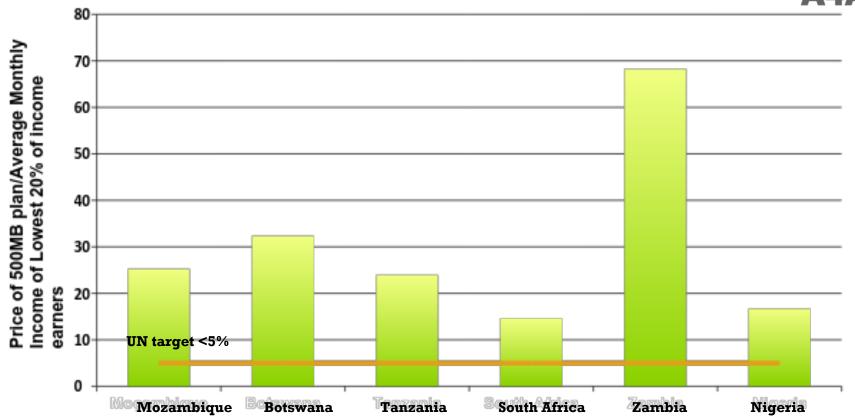
meet this target for the bottom 20% of income earners

0 countries

meet this target for those living in poverty

Accessibility: The price of a broadband for lowest 20% of income earners



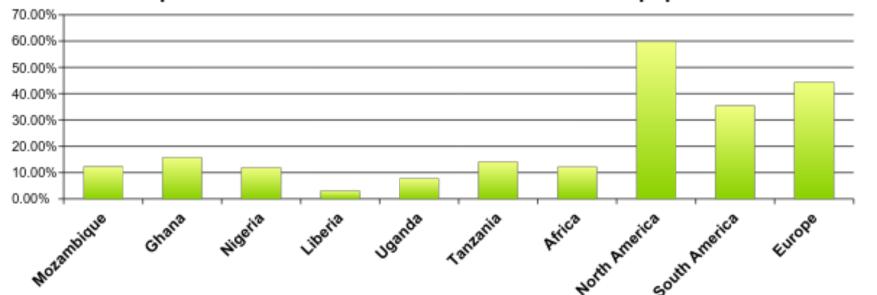


What about device costs?



• If we consider a smartphone of around US\$50 then on average 20% of the population can no longer afford the phone + data

Mobile Broadband Penetration :
Unique subscribers of mobile broadband as a % of population



Factors that affect affordability



- Infrastructure cost.
 (Duplication of infrastructure)
 -Wireless/wireline
- > Spectrum
- > End user device cost
- Lack of demand driven initiatives –(*E-services*, *Content*)
- Earning potential power
- > Taxation



Public consultation workshop on infrastructure Sharing in Ghana- 25th October 2016

What action must we take to make universal access a reality?



Commit to a new "1 for 2" affordability target

1GB of mobile data priced at 2% or less of average monthly income

Prioritise & expand public access initiatives (USFs) Critical to bringing connectivity to the most marginalized

Design policies with a gender focus Closing the digital gender gap will require policies to reduce barriers for women

Integrated approach to policymaking balanced policies: Demand/ supply; regulation/ competition



Thank you!

Eleanor Sarpong
Policy and Advocacy Lead
Alliance for Affordable Internet
@A4AI_internet
eleanor.sarpong@webfoundation.org
@ellasarpong