Global Overview of Trends Toward Expanded Access

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Access to Broadband Connectivity in Liberia
in the post-Ebola context:
A Roundtable with Public and Private Sector Stakeholders
Friday, May 15, 2015

Today's Agenda

- A4AI and our mission

- Drivers of Affordability around the world

- Liberia: opportunities ahead

WHO IS A4AI AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Who is A4AI?

We are the
world's broadest technology sector alliance
working to
drive down the price of broadband
to the UN target of less than 5% of average
monthly income by
**transforming policy and regulatory
frameworks.**

How do we work?

We partner with governments, companies and not-for-profits to shift policies and regulations, and deliver open, competitive and innovative broadband markets. This unlocks the power of technology and forces prices down.

We have 70+ members from the private sector, public sector & civil society

We build consensus via a blend of advocacy, research and consultancy

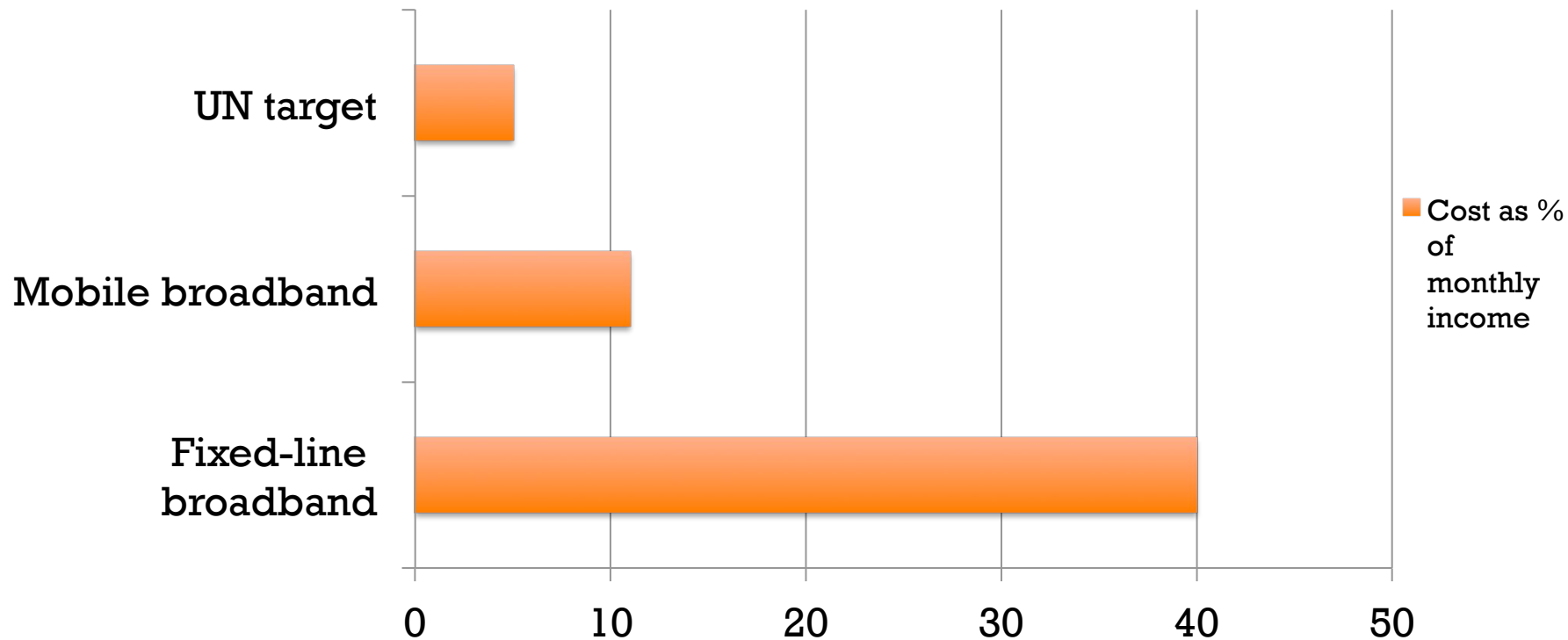We work directly with national governments around the world

We create strong in-country coalitions to develop solutions tailored to local realities

DRIVERS OF AFFORDABILITY AROUND THE WORLD

What is the true cost to connect?

Not one of the 51 developing or emerging countries surveyed for the Affordability Report can claim to meet the UN target of broadband priced at less than 5% of monthly income for those 2 billion people living in poverty (on less than $2 a day).
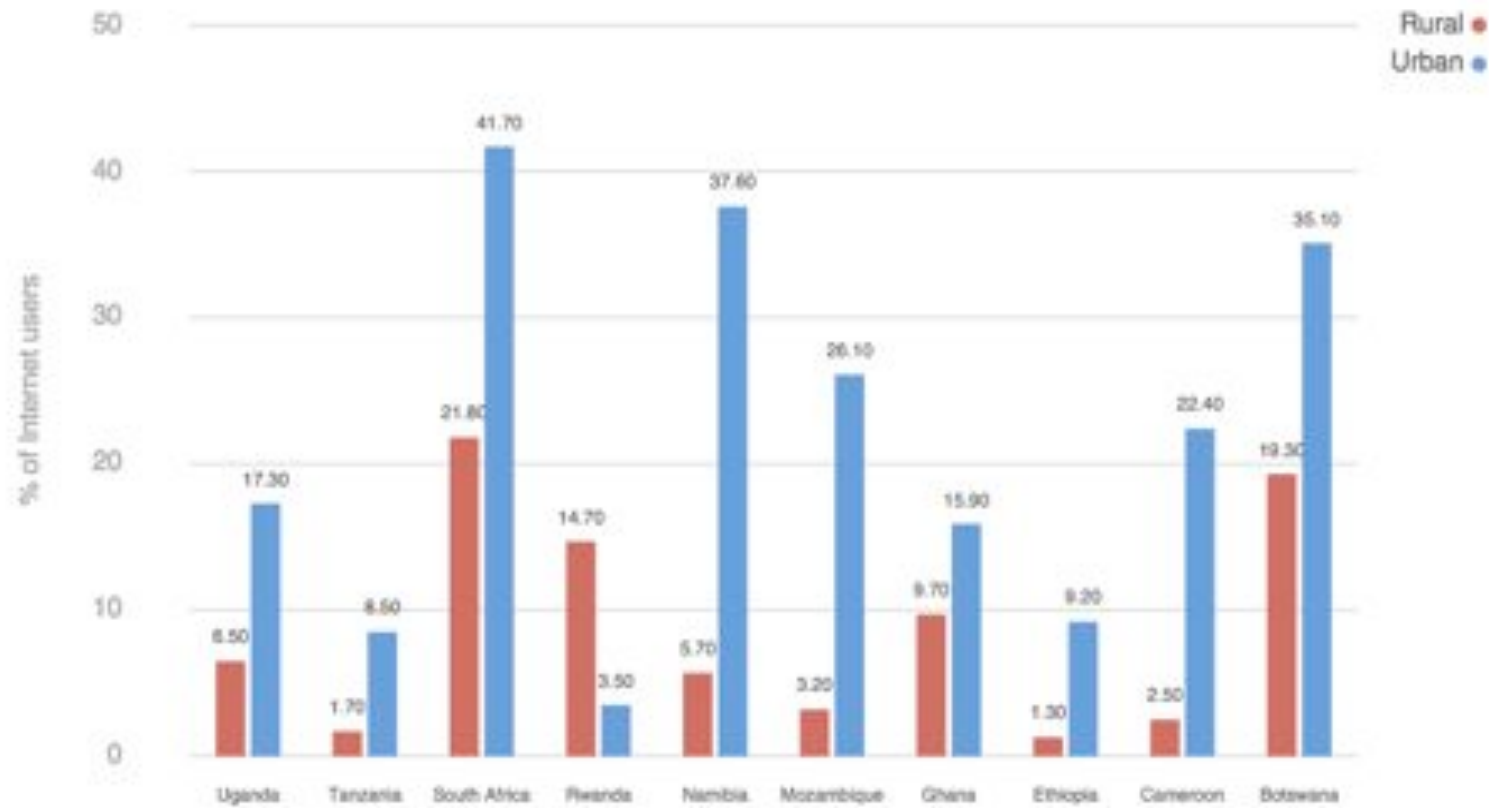
Who is hit the hardest?

- Women and rural populations

- Number of countries studied: **51**

  – Number living in poverty (< $2/day): **2 billion+**

  – Number able to access Internet affordably: **0**

  – Average cost of entry-level mobile broadband: **25%**

Urban-rural divide particularly acute in Africa

Figure 1. Internet Users: Urban vs Rural

The foundations of affordability

Liberia faces challenges but also the opportunity to move ahead

- Update the ICT Policy to include a clear vision for affordable broadband access for all Liberians
  - Addressing challenges associated with low incomes and low literacy levels
- Develop regulatory incentives for broadband infrastructure deployment and sharing
- Approve and implement the UAF, as one option to finance public access in rural and un-served areas
- Develop a broadband strategy that incentivizes investment from private and public sectors

Thank you!

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