Liberia ICT Policy 2017-2021

Initial Stakeholders Consultation

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Goals of consultation

❖ To convene under the auspices of the GoL (MoPT), a half day consultation meeting of public and private sector stakeholders to build upon the framework of draft ICT policy for 2017-2021

❖ To incorporate emerging ICT needs since last public engagement into draft policy and close identified gaps

❖ To support the policy framework to ensure improved affordability and access to broadband infrastructure and related services to all citizens

❖ Consensus for action, policy commitment, co--investment in shared infrastructure

Journey so Far….

Recommendations from June 2015 roundtable

- ➢ National ICT backbone
- ➢ Last mile connectivity
- ➢ E-Government
- ➢ affordability commitment
- ➢ policy alignment

Policy Alignment

✓ MoPT must develop a new National ICT policy that prioritises broadband.

✓ The new ICT policy must be developed through deep stakeholder consultation.

✓ MoPT must develop a comprehensive Broadband Plan with time-bound targets.

✓ The new National ICT Policy and the new Broadband Plan must reflect the ways in which ICTs are used in all stages of emergency response.

Outcomes -2nd ICT Round Table Conference, January 15, 2016

❏ Provided insight and knowledge to ensure awareness of ICT status
❏ Identified priority projects in ICT for execution over the next 2 years
❏ To improve collaboration amongst stakeholders to support collective problem-solving
❏ To seek political will to support ICT programs

The Infrastructure Group

Priority projects identified :

1. Building of Metro Fiber Network
2. Building of Redundancy Links
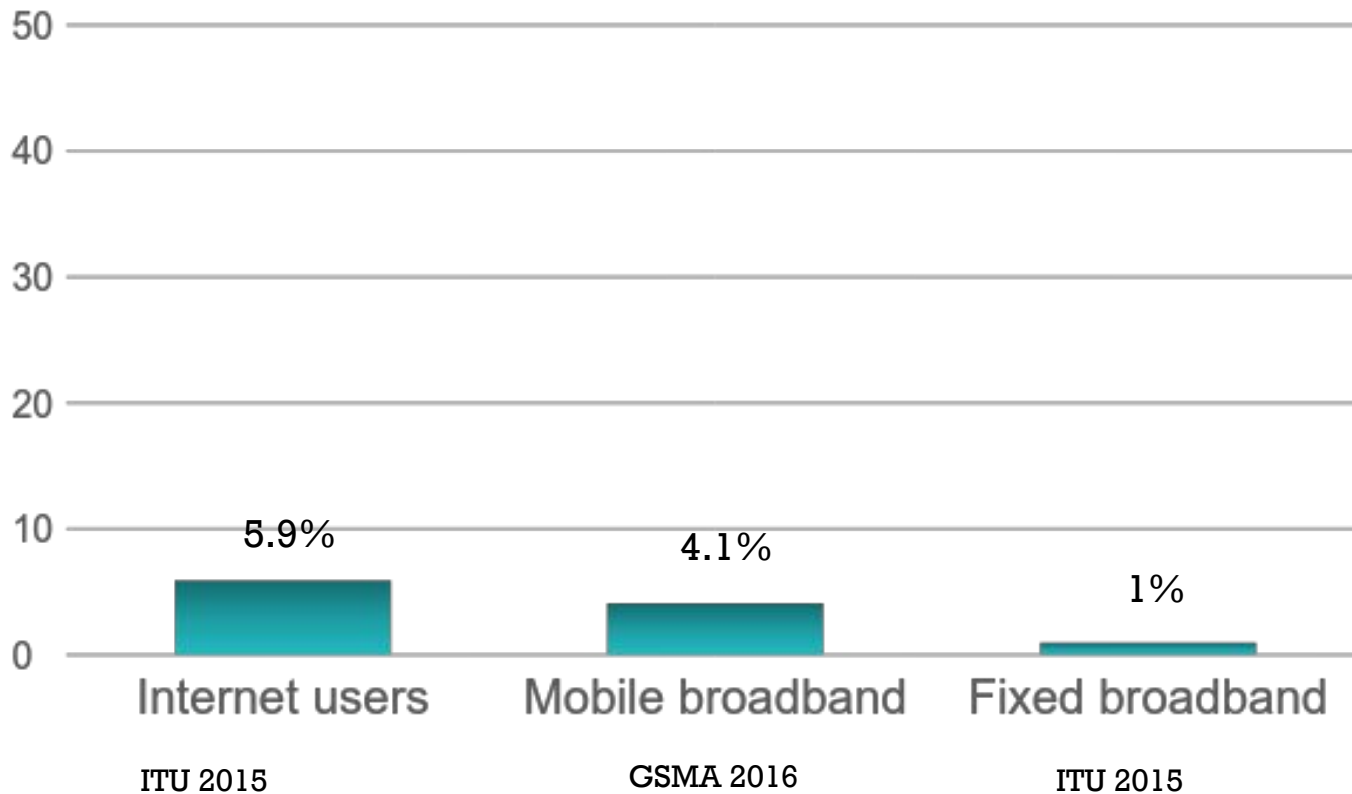3. Establishing National Data Center

The E-Services Group

"The outcomes of the deliberation of the E-Services Group did not identify services that should be prioritized but it instead identified actions that must be taken to address the provision of enhanced e-Government services in Liberia."
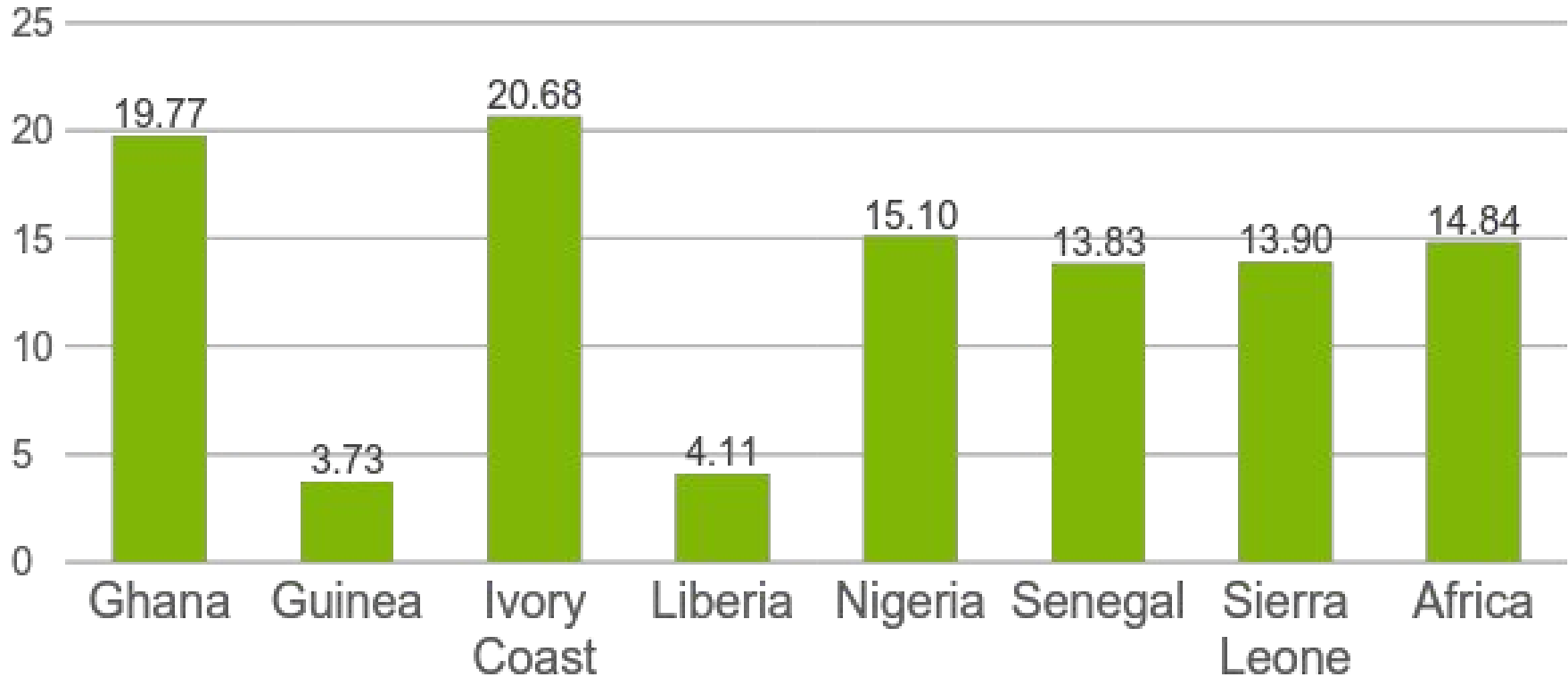
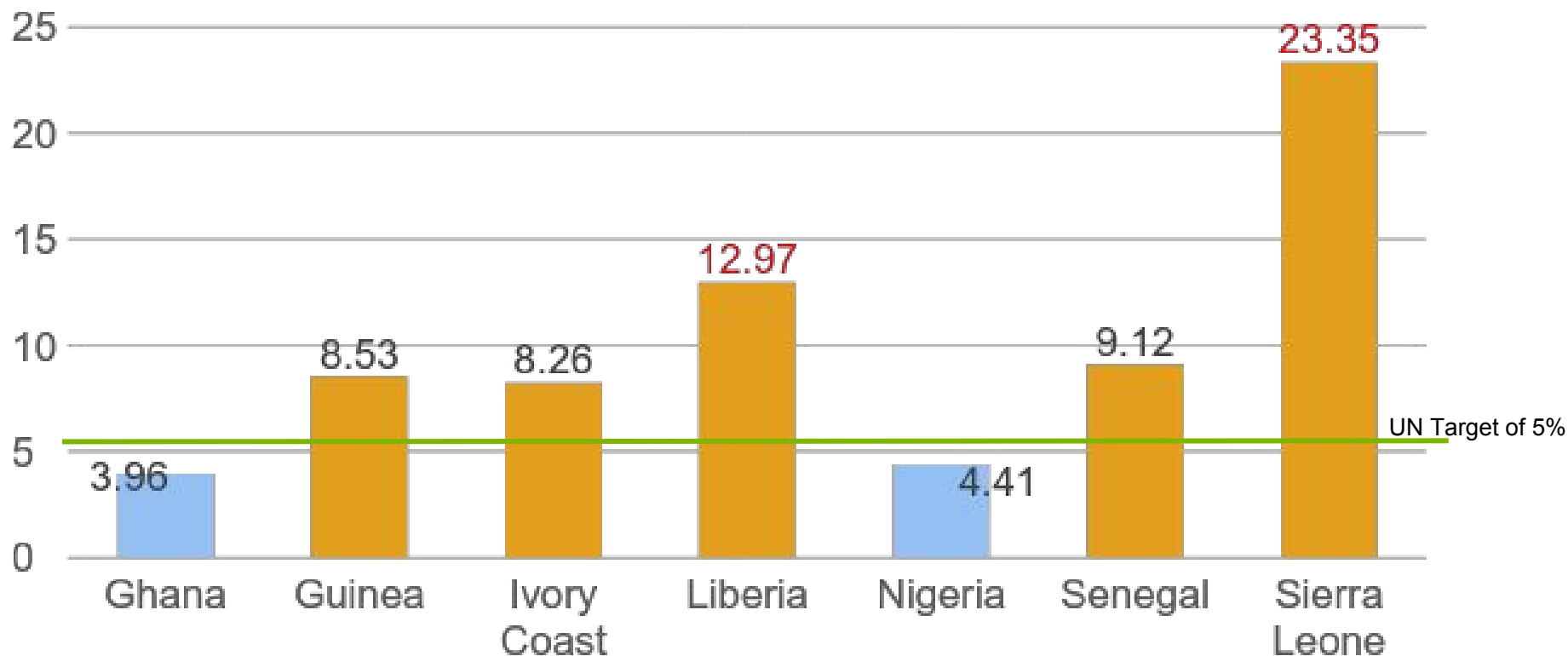# Broadband penetration

Internet penetration & use in Liberia

Internet users	Mobile broadband	Fixed broadband
5.9%	4.1%	1%
ITU 2015	GSMA 2016	ITU 2015

Unique subscribers of mobile broadband (3G+4G) as a % of population, Q3, 2016 (Source GSMA)

Country	Value
Ghana	19.77
Guinea	3.73
Ivory Coast	20.68
Liberia	4.11
Nigeria	15.10
Senegal	13.83
Sierra Leone	13.90
Africa	14.84

Price as a proportion of average monthly income

[What a 500MB mobile (handset) prepaid / average monthly income (2015)]

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Country	Value
Ghana	3.96
Guinea	8.53
Ivory Coast	8.26
Liberia	12.97
Nigeria	4.41
Senegal	9.12
Sierra Leone	23.35

UN Target of 5%

Source ITU

Population Distribution v. Population Density

2008 National Population and Housing Census

County	Persons per Square Mile
Bomi	109
Bong	97
Gbarpolu	22
Grand Bassa	73
Grand Cape Mount	65
Grand Gedeh	31
Grand kru	38
Lofa	70
Margibi	198
Maryland	154
Montsserado	1,553
Nimba	105
Rivercess	30
Rivergee	34
Sinoe	27
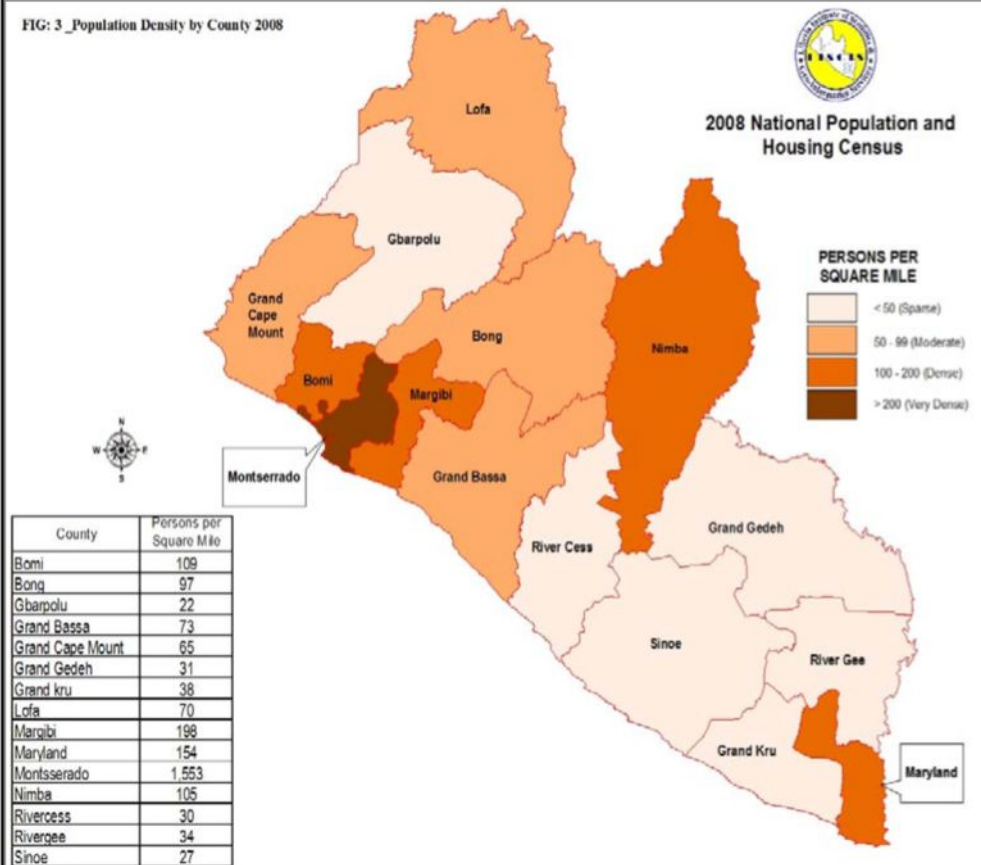
Existing ICT Infrastructure

➢ Telephony
➢ Fixed
➢ Mobile

➢ Submarine Cable
➢ Backbone infrastructure by Libtelco
➢ Base Stations

➢ IXPs
➢ Broadcasting
➢ Postal service

Draft Policy's Vision and Mission

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Vision

To make Liberia regionally competitive by building an inclusive information society that supports economic, social, political, cultural and environmental development. This vision will be anchored on building a resilient infrastructure that supports expanded connectivity, attracts investment, and promotes employment opportunities. It will also promote human capital development, with a specific focus on providing specialization in ICT programs. These kinds of interventions will facilitate sustainable development in the sector and will also provide Liberia a comparative advantage in its development endeavors.

Mission

To facilitate economic development through private sector participation and ensure social inclusion to raise the quality of life of all Liberians.

Objectives as stated in draft policy

✓ Facilitate further investment in infrastructure

✓ Ensure infrastructure is shared and operated cost effectively

✓ Adopt a national interconnection strategy that promotes service affordability

✓ Facilitate the expansion of and access to affordable broadband and ICT services

✓ Promote universal access through effective programmes

✓ Adopt number portability

✓ Promote consumer interest & encourage fair business practice

✓ Ensure systems interoperability

✓ Harmonise national ICT policies with ECOWAS and ITU

✓ Support human capital development in the field of ICT

✓ Promote innovation in ICT services

✓ Implement e-services

✓ Promote the adoption of Liberia's country code top-level domain

✓ Ensure the safe disposal of IT equipment

✓ Encourage ICT literacy nationwide

✓ Adopt ICT as a platform for improving education quality

✓ Drive improvement in health programmes using ICT platforms

✓ Adopt a strategy to use ICT as an emergency response requirement

✓ Adopt a robust national cybersecurity strategy

✓ Collaborate with all stakeholders in building a viable ICT sector

Ecosystem Stakeholders

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Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications

Liberia Telecom Authority (LTA)

Service providers/ operators (public and private; incl. local players)

Sector Ministries and agencies (e.g., education, health, finance, economy)

ICT4D Research & Academic Institutions (e.g., University Consortium)

Civil Society Organizations (e.g., Consumer protection, gender advocates, ICT4D orgs)

Are we missing key stakeholders?

Key thematic areas to be addressed

Supply-side: Access & availability

➤ spectrum management

➤ Infrastructure sharing

➤ National universal access programme (including Fund)

➤ Priority infrastructure plan (e.g.. National Fiber Terrestrial Backbone, Metro Rings, Fiber Ring for Monrovia, National Data Centre)

Data & Consumer protection. Cybersecurity

➤ National identification system

➤ Data protection and privacy

➤ Cybersecurity policies and mandates

➤ Quality of service

Demand-side: Growth

➤ Governance and supply of public services

➤ E- Commerce/ Education/ Health Services

➤ Content development

➤ Digital skills and digital literacy programmes

Legal and regulatory framework

➤ Institutional reforms, objectives and targets across various sectors

Affordability

➤ Gender-responsive policies w/ targeted interventions for marginalized/poor

➤ Set affordability target at "1 for 2" (1 GB < 2% monthly p.c. income)

Measuring progress

➤ Research and development policy

➤ Results-based systems for M&E

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Developing gender-responsive ICT policy

- Integrate gender considerations in all aspects of policy analysis, development and implementation
- Involve gender advocates + experts in the policy and planning process from the start
- Establish time-bound targets to achieve gender equality in access across all areas of policies and plans, from skills building to adoption and use.
- Allocate a percentage of available resources to support women-centred activities (e.g., digital literacy training for women + girls, targeted public access solutions).
- Develop skills building + training programmes considering the needs of women + girls across all educational levels, offering courses from basic skills to more advanced coding + design.
- Establish quotas to ensure the equal participation of women and other marginalised groups in all programmes supported by national policies and plans.

Thematic areas discussion

Objectives:

(1) Identify gaps
(2) Refer to Leading Questions Sheet

Consultation process

Objectives:

- (1) Identify gaps
- (2) Develop new ideas to shape policy
- (3) Stakeholder feedback

Break into working groups

❖ Group 1: **Supply-side: Access and availability**
❖ Group 2: **Data, consumer protection & public awareness**
❖ Group 3: **Demand-side growth**
❖ Group 4: **Legal and regulatory Framework**
❖ Group 5: **Affordability**
❖ Group 6: **Measuring Progress**

Group Activity:

❖ Use Leading questions to guide discussions per group
❖ Select a leader to facilitate group and report back to everyone
❖ Select a recorder to take notes and submit to workshop facilitators
❖ Review Goal, Objectives and Strategies: Record input, suggestions for modification
❖ Prepare summary of recommendations to present

Thank you!

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