

**ALLIANCE FOR
AFFORDABLE INTERNET**



Enabling Affordability for Inclusive Development

Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)

a4ai.org

[@a4a_internet](https://twitter.com/a4a_internet)

What is A4AI?



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

Hosted at the Web Foundation



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The Web Belongs to All of Us

In 1989, Sir Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web. Then, he gave it to the world for free. Now, it's up to all of us to protect and enhance it. Find out more about [Sir Tim](#), the [history of the Web](#) and how the Web Foundation is [creating a better Web](#) for all.

Expanding Access

[Read more](#)

Raising Voices

[Read more](#)

Enhancing Participation

[Read more](#)

A global multi-stakeholder coalition



- 80 members from across the private, public & non-profit sectors
- Member organisations come from developed & emerging countries
- Particular focus on local partners based and working on the ground in countries of engagement (currently close to 250 partners across the countries)

Aligned around policy and regulatory best practices



All member organisations have endorsed a set of nine best practices

- Aim to ensure open, competitive markets
- Policies & regulations needed in place to lower cost structure for the industry
- Grounded on principles of Internet freedom & the fundamental rights of expression, assembly, and association online

Direct support & action: Where are we working?



How do we work in member countries?



In each member country, we form a

national multi-stakeholder coalition



civil society



public sector



private sector

to

IDENTIFY KEY BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE ACCESS

&

DEVISE TAILORED SOLUTIONS TO DRIVE PRICES DOWN

Conducting robust original research to underpin evidence-based policy



Annual Affordability Report

Newest edition published March 2016

Case studies

Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Peru, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Myanmar, Bangladesh

Thematic briefings

Universal Access & Service Funds; Zero-rating & other mobile data plans

International advocacy through global partnerships



Working together to expand access & achieve the SDGs

- Operationalizing recommendations from the 2016 WDR report to close the digital divide & expand digital dividends (World Bank)
- Building capacity to develop strong ICT & gender policy (ECOWAS, CRASA & other regional organizations)
- Advocate for gender responsive policy and better & improved gender data and indicators (UN-Women, GSMA)
- September 2016: Inaugural event! Unlocking Africa's Digital Future: Women & Girls in Technology Summit (UN Women, AfDB, AITI-KACE)

Advancing women's rights online



New initiative with the Web Foundation's Women's Rights Online program & UN Women

Breaking the affordability barrier:

- Policies to ensure that inability to pay does not stop anyone from getting online & using full online access in a transformative way

Breaking the gender barrier:

- Policies & programs that advance women's active citizenship and civic participation through technology.



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

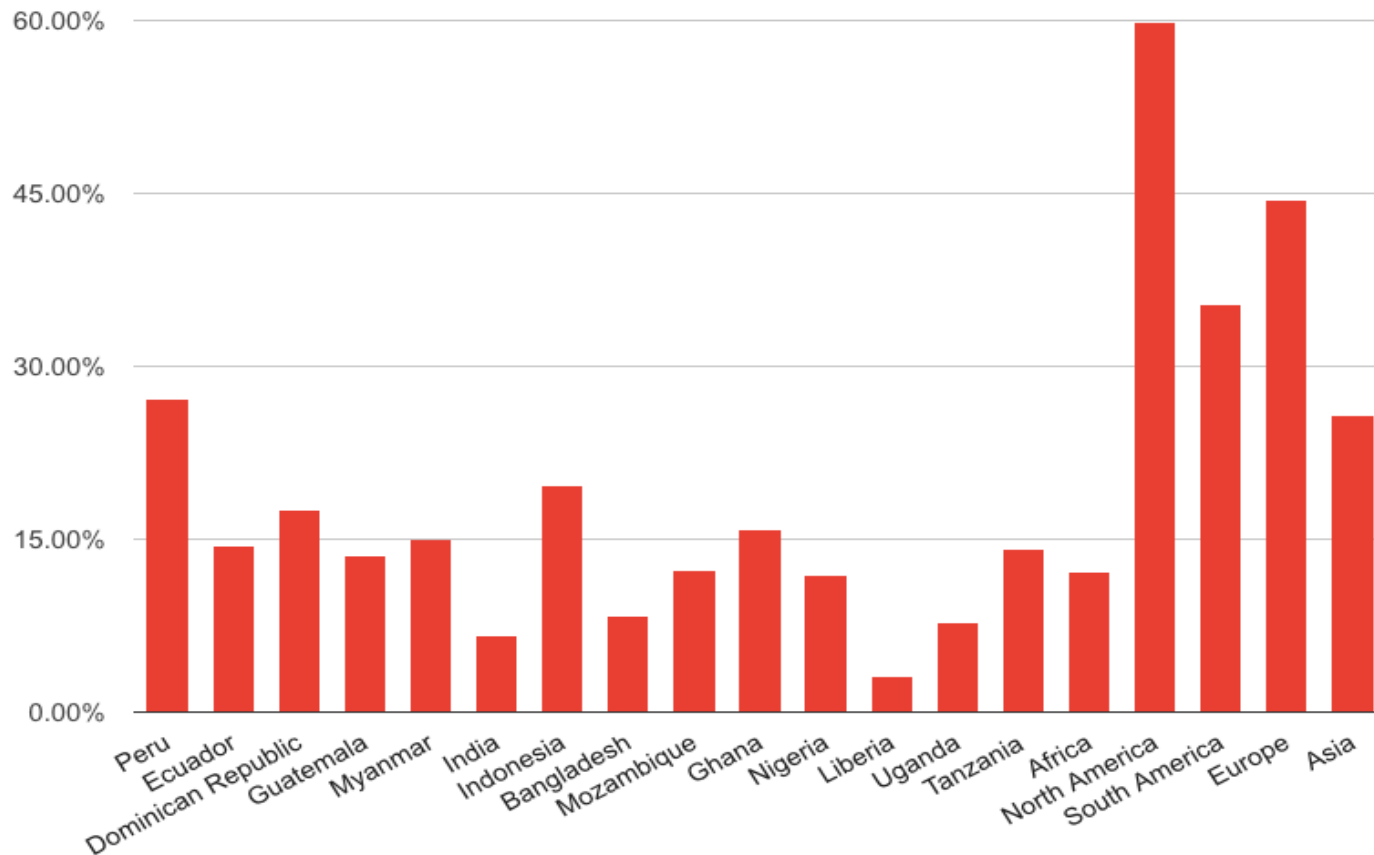
meet this target for those living in poverty

Just how widespread is mobile broadband?



Mobile Broadband Penetration : unique subscribers of Mob. BB (3G, 4G) as a percentage of the population

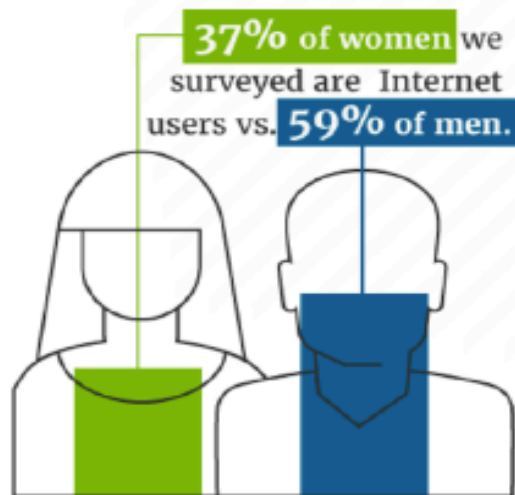
Source: GSMA Intelligence, Q42015



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

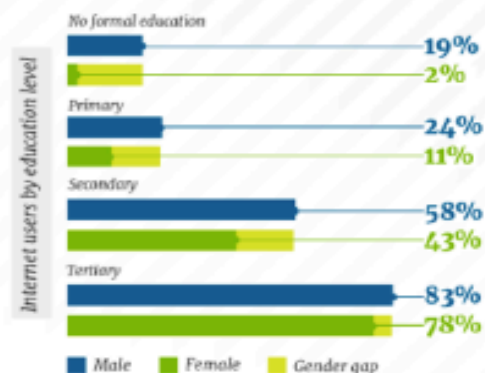


WOMEN ARE ABOUT 50% LESS LIKELY THAN MEN TO USE THE INTERNET IN POOR URBAN COMMUNITIES



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

Access to higher education narrows the gender gap in Internet access



Internet for all by 2020?



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



Commit to a new “1 for 2” affordability target

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

Prioritise & expand public access initiatives

Critical to bringing connectivity to the most marginalised

Design policies with a gender focus

Closing the digital gender gap will require policies to reduce barriers for women

How is A4AI working to tackle these gaps?



Encouraging the adoption of ambitious affordability targets to drive down prices & increase access

Working with national coalitions & stakeholders on the ground to develop policies needed to improve affordability

Improving collection of gender- and poverty-disaggregated data to track progress

Advocating for expanded public access initiatives

Designing gender-responsive policy

National Coalitions: Selected engagement areas



Country	Identified Priority Issues (1 st Phase)
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection/research to develop solid evidence for policy decisions • Taxation • Infrastructure sharing & open access • Pricing transparency; user awareness of services <p>Win: 20% import tax on smartphones reduced</p>
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pricing transparency; consumer awareness • Open access framework and infrastructure sharing • Spectrum policy: availability, allocation & innovative uses of free/unlicensed spectrum • Data collection and indicators (M&E) <p><i>New Minister appointed in November 2015 & joined Coalition meeting</i> <i>NCC has new head</i></p>
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection/research to develop solid evidence base for policy decisions • Taxation (<i>submission to reduce import taxes on devices & BB infrastructure inputs</i>) • Infrastructure sharing (<i>draft infrastructure sharing regulations being developed</i>) <p>Win: inclusion of ICT indicators in 2017 National Census</p>

National Coalitions: Selected engagement areas



Country	Identified Priority Issues (1 st Phase)
Dominican Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a Digital Agenda• Data collection/research to develop solid evidence base for measuring progress toward Digital Agenda goals and & for sound policy decisions• Taxation and fiscal policy in general• Infrastructure sharing and open access <p>Win: Revived Digital Agenda development process, had been dormant for 5+ years; got the attention of Presidential candidates</p>
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Universal Access and Service Fund (<i>first UASF workshop identified options ahead</i>)• Open access framework and infrastructure sharing• Taxation• Data collection and indicators (M&E)
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support ICT Policy development with multi-stakeholder approach and policy advice (<i>Draft policy for consultation in March 2016</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Targeted approach and advice



Thank you!

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www.a4ai.org

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