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Policy and Regulation to Provide ICT Access to Communities through Common Access Points

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Policy and Regulation for Rural Connectivity

A range of policy and regulatory measures that are driving rural access, including but not limited to:

Falling price of handsets – e.g. Ghana tax on services not equipment

Mobile operators' licenses stipulate that they must strive to achieve universal access and provide services in underserved areas

Encouraging infrastructure sharing – leading to more and more innovative business models

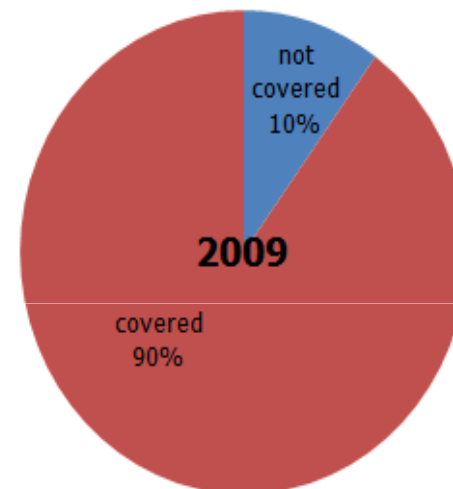
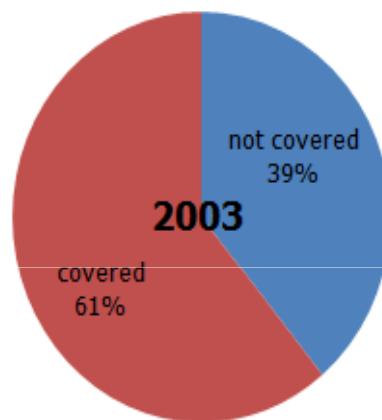
Liberalisations and competition – (87% of mobile markets)

Governments are developing mechanisms to militate against market failures e.g. Universal Service Access Funds

Improve assessment of access gaps e.g. Access Gap Studies

Growing Rural Access

- Percentage of global population covered by mobile signal increases from 61% to 90% between 2003 and 2009 – increasing number in rural areas
- GSMA predicts that 6.2 billion people will have access by 2013

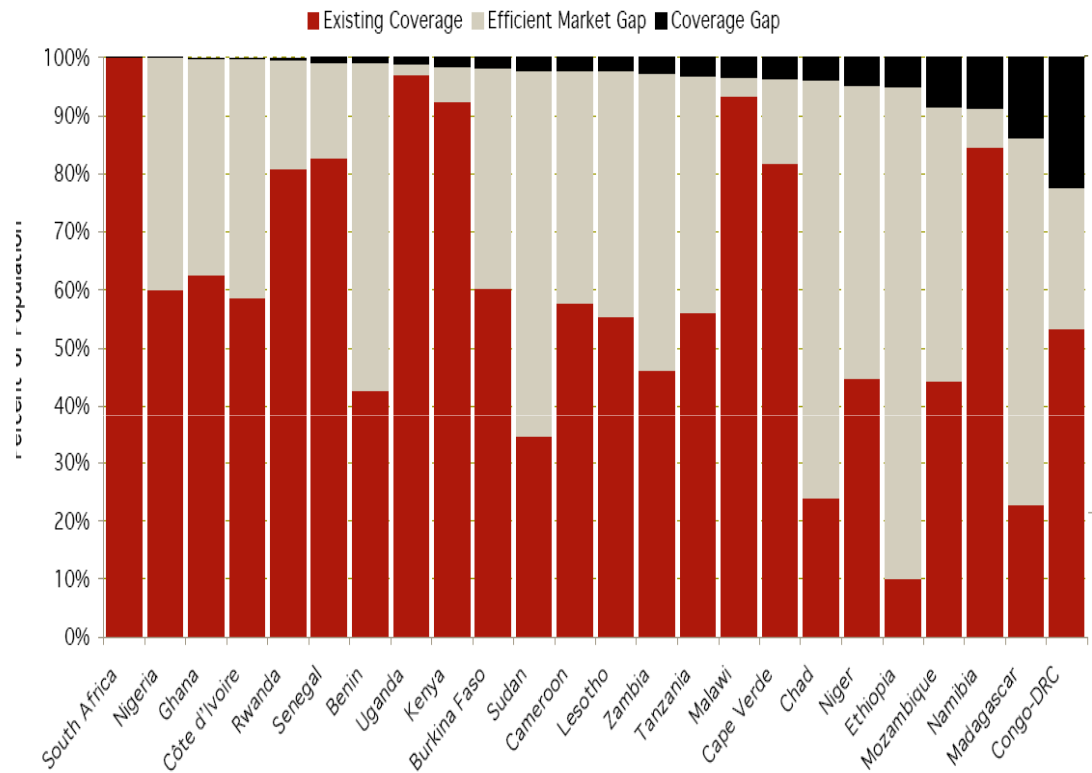


Market Will Not Meet All Demand

Analysis of 24 African countries suggests 95% of the population live in the **Efficient Market Coverage** and given the right policy and regulation the market will provide access and meet the demand.

The 4.4% living in the **Coverage Gap** will require incentive. Therefore there is a need for initiatives, such as COMARCI, to meet the needs of those harder to reach.

Initiatives such as COMARCI can improve the drive to commercially meet this demand.



COMARCI Recommendations

Recommendations for each partner:

Policymakers i.e. Governments

- Encourage participation of local workforce in implementation of ICT programmes
- Equip academic institutions with modern ICT hardware and high-speed internet connections
- Focus on ICT literacy and related training programmes for schools and local people

Regulators

- Provision of incentives to operators for infrastructure sharing
- Consider allocation of unlicensed spectrum to encourage development and use of innovative technologies
- Establishment of independent dispute resolution body

USF Agency

- Disburse funds by competitive tender, ensuring the optimal distribution where they are needed most
- Prioritise “rural packages” in the disbursement of USFs

COMARCI Recommendations

Operators

- Assess cost of infrastructure and services rollout to rural communities accurately when bidding for USFs
- Cooperation and share infrastructure
- Prioritise provision of service to rural local government headquarters, educational institutions, health facilities and other public services or access points

Financial Institutions

- Seek potential entrepreneurs at the bottom of the pyramid to bring ICT services to their rural communities
- Follow the “Equator Principles” sustainable banking principles when financing the rollout of telecommunications infrastructure

Technology Manufacturers

- Increase Research and Development in technologies relevant to rural connectivity
- Develop technologies using renewable energy, e.g. biomass or solar, to assist provision of ICT services, particularly in rural areas with no electricity grid

COMARCI Recommendations

- Public-Private Peoples Partnership (PPPPs)
 - Implement national ICT strategies, within the wider national development policy agenda, and with specific provision to rural connectivity
 - Identify workable business models that leverage various roles of different ICT stakeholders and consumers for rural connectivity
 - Test innovative technologies, financial schemes and identified business models in rural areas
 - Implement and scale up successful rural ICT pilot projects
 - Strive to nurture local ownership throughout the implementation of ICT initiatives in order to keep the local communities enthusiastic
 - PPPP model is a deeper level of partnership through the additional emphasis on “people” – the local community – by nurturing local ownership, management and participation
 - to maintain community enthusiasm
 - relevant to the diversity of local needs

COMARCI Workshops



Nigeria - 3 Workshops:
Adamawa State, February 2010
Oyo State, March 2010
Anambra State, March 2010

Sierra Leone - 1 Workshop:
Makeni, March 2010

Ghana - 2 Workshops:
Sunyani, August 2010
Ho, August 2010



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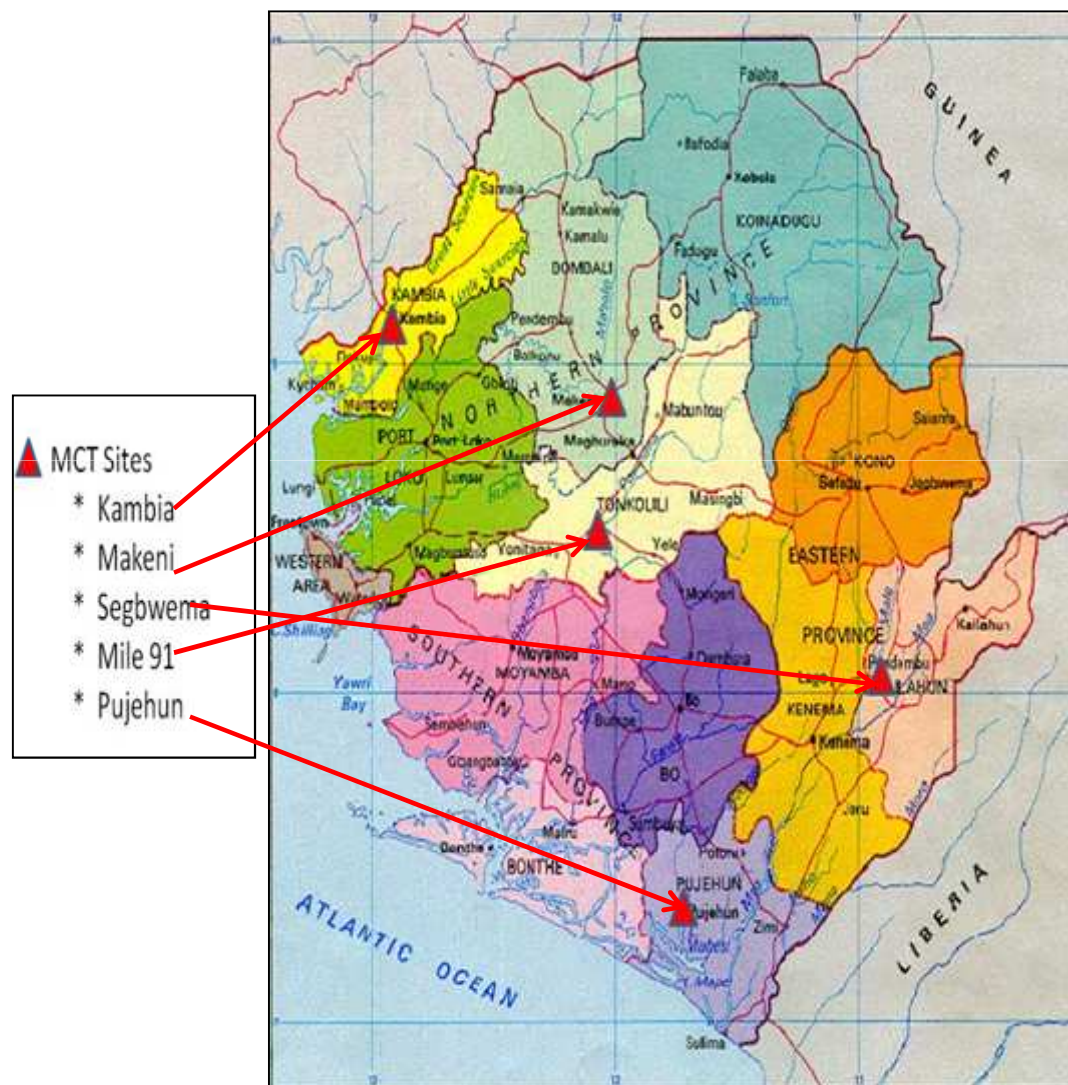
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Building on Success and Lessons Learned: Development of MCT

Partnership agreement with the CTO and ITU for the establishment of Multipurpose Community Centers (MCTs) in strategic locations throughout the country.

Following detailed feasibility study and consultative workshop an agreement for implementation of 5 MCTs was signed

MCT centres will **operate on a partnership basis** through the collaboration of local community groups, and the public and private sectors



CTO and Rural Connectivity

CTO Undertaking a range of actions to facilitate improved policy, regulation and implementation for rural connectivity

- COMARCI Workshops
- Conferences- CRC Asia
- Rural Connectivity Event – Southern Sudan
- Pilot projects – Ericsson
- Continue to Support African Universal Service and Access Fund Association (AUSAFA)

M4D Applications, Content and Services (Mobiles for Development Report)

Content and applications are critically important to CTO's work. They drive sustainability and ensure the most vulnerable and hard to reach have access to services.

Policy and regulatory measures must facilitate the development and use of M4D.

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Thank You!

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