

Digital Governance in Africa with a focus on SADC

YARIK TURIANSKYI

21 MARCH 2021

- Working, studying, socialising from home
- Possibilities are vast, thanks to Email, WhatsApp and Zoom
- Laptop, smartphone and broadband are required
- Eliminate just one of these and you have a problem
- This is where the 'digital divide' comes in

- **Uneven access to/distribution of Information and Technology**
- **Different levels of analysis:**
- **Primarily a socio-economic issue – haves and have nots**
- **Can be examined through lenses of gender, race, etc**
- **Global problem, but especially pronounced in developing world and the African continent**

- **Globally internet users account for 51% of the population**
- **Africa 29%**
- **Asia Pacific 45%**
- **Arab States 55%**
- **Former Soviet States 73%**
- **The Americas 77%**
- **Europe 83%**

- **Top 3:**
- **Seychelles 59%**
- **South Africa 56%**
- **Mauritius 55%**

- **Bottom 3:**
- **Malawi 14%**
- **DRC 9%**
- **Comoros 8%**

What is affordable internet?

“1 for 2”

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



1GB of data costs an average person just over

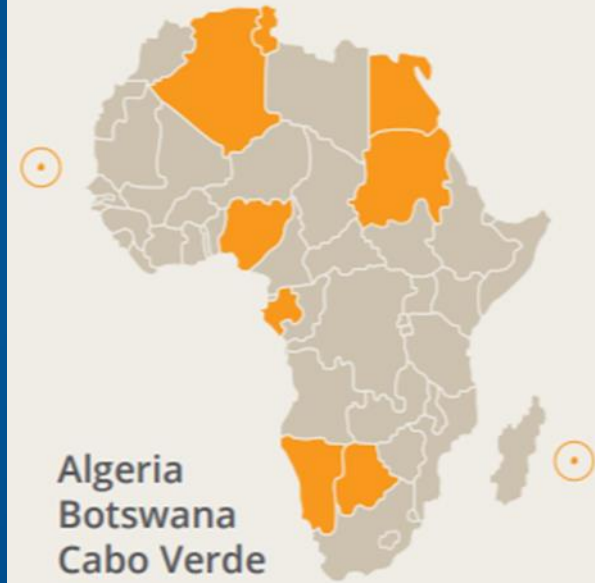
7.1%

of their monthly income

How affordable is access in Africa?

10 out of 45

countries we track have affordable internet:



Algeria
Botswana
Cabo Verde
Egypt
Gabon
Mauritius
Namibia
Nigeria
Sudan
Tunisia

ALLIANCE 4 AFFORDABLE INTERNET

[HTTPS://A4AI.ORG/](https://a4ai.org/)

- In Africa ICT compensates for the lack of other infrastructure
- Talk of leapfrogging into 4IR, as 3IR wasn't fully achieved
- ADB: to deal with infrastructure backlog, \$4 billion - \$7 billion annual investment into ICT needed
- The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) identifies the 'funding gap' at \$3 billion a year

- The AU adopted its Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection in 2014
- To enter into force, it requires ratification by at least 15 member states
- As of June 2020, only 8 countries have ratified and another 14 have signed it, out of 55 AU member states
- In SADC, Angola, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia have signed and ratified, while Comoros, Zambia have only signed

- **ICT infrastructure needed for SADC countries to participate in 4IR**
- **SADC countries should also prioritise protecting personal data of citizens, safeguarding them from cybercrime promoting their digital rights and internet freedoms**
- **SADC countries should also apply peer-pressure to discourage the use of internet shutdowns. In 2019 these occurred in the DRC, Malawi and Zimbabwe**

THANK YOU

Yarik.Turianskyi@wits.ac.za

[linkedin.com/in/yarik-turianskyi/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/yarik-turianskyi/)