A global coalition working to make broadband affordable for all
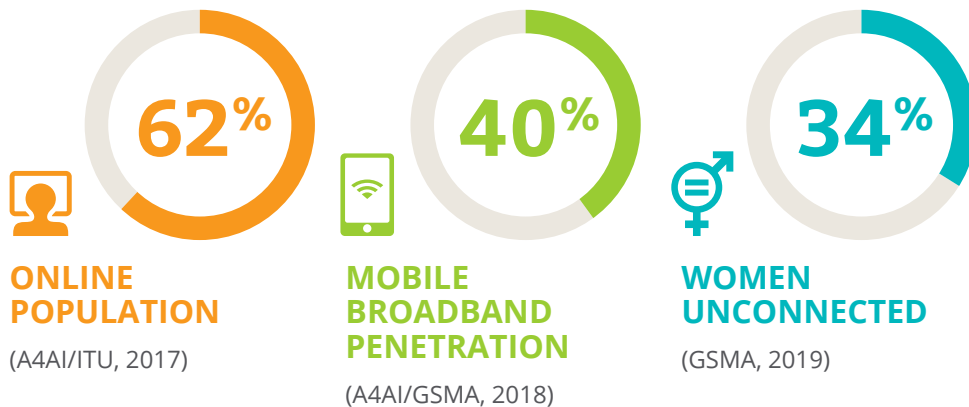
A4AI ALLIANCE FOR AFFORDABLE INTERNET

Latin America
and the Caribbean

Regional Snapshot

2018 Affordability Report

www.a4ai.org

The Affordability Report is an annual report published by the Alliance for Affordable Internet. It examines the policy and regulatory frameworks that have allowed some countries to make broadband internet access more affordable, accessible, and universal and seeks to understand what others can do to catch up quickly. The 2018 Affordability Report explores the policy progress made across 61 low- and middle-income countries and 15 countries in the LAC region.

In Latin America and the Caribbean...

62%

ONLINE POPULATION

(A4AI/ITU, 2017)

40%

MOBILE BROADBAND PENETRATION

(A4AI/GSMA, 2018)

34%

WOMEN UNCONNECTED

(GSMA, 2019)

LAC 2018 ADI Rankings

The **Affordability Drivers Index (ADI)** scores and ranks all 61 countries based on an in-depth analysis of communications infrastructure and access and affordability indicators.

ADI RANK (LAC)		GLOBAL ADI RANK	COUNTRY	ACCESS SCORE	INFRASTRUCTURE SCORE	ADI SCORE (OUT OF 100)
1	●	2	Colombia	83.4	66.0	79.1
2	▲ 1	3	Peru	80.7	63.2	76.2
3	▲ 1	4	Costa Rica	86.2	57.1	75.9
4	▼ 2	5	Mexico	76.1	63.3	73.8
5	▲ 1	7	Argentina	72.0	58.2	68.9
6	▲ 2	10	Dominican Republic	71.4	54.1	66.4
7	●	11	Ecuador	71.5	53.2	66.0
8	▼ 3	13	Brazil	68.1	53.6	64.5
9	▲ 1	17	Jamaica	65.4	48.3	60.2
10	▼ 1	32	Bolivia	52.7	43.9	51.1
11	▲ 1	34	Honduras	51.3	43.7	50.3
12	▼ 1	42	Venezuela	50.7	36.6	46.3
13	▲ 1	47	Guatemala	43.2	33.7	40.7
14	▼ 1	55	Nicaragua	35.1	26.9	32.8
15	●	59	Haiti	9.1	15.6	13.1

● = No Change | ▲ 1 = Up from previous year | ▼ 1 = Down from previous year

What is affordable internet?

"1 for 2"

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

How affordable is access in Latin America and the Caribbean?

7 out of **21** countries surveyed have "affordable" internet:

**Argentina
Brazil
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Jamaica
Mexico
Peru**

1GB

1GB of data costs an average citizen just over

3%

of their monthly income

Progressing Towards Affordability

Latin America and the Caribbean (■) v. Global Policy Scores (■)

■ 2016 LAC Policy Scores

1 Regulatory Environment

Regulatory independence, transparent and evidence-based decision-making, simplified licensing regimes

Latin American and Caribbean countries score higher than the global average

✔ Regional leaders have led in making a large degree of their work available online. In Colombia and Costa Rica, the regulators in each have developed consistent and growing reputations for public consultation including the use of online consultation tools. In Mexico and Peru, both regulators there have built records of strong, evidence-based procedures.

✖ A number of weak regulatory environments in the region impede some of the market efficiencies that can translate into more affordable access. The regulators in Haiti and Nicaragua rely on outdated regulations that struggle to match with fast-paced innovation. Limited institutional capacity in Honduras and Nicaragua inhibits their ability to support improved market competition.

2 Broadband Strategy

Lays out clear, time-bound targets and interventions for reducing costs and increasing access

Latin American and Caribbean countries score around the same as the global average

✔ Effective broadband strategies combine regular review and clear, time-bound targets. Countries like Colombia and Costa Rica measure their progress against iterative and transparent performance assessments in comparison to the targets set in their National Broadband Plans.

✖ By comparison, a number of countries lack a National Broadband Plan to give direction on expanding access for those left unconnected. Countries like Haiti and Nicaragua have no plan yet. In Guatemala, the regulator has joined with A4AI to undertake the development of a new NBP.

3 Universal & Public Access

Support for and use of public access programmes and Universal Service and Access Funds (USAFs) to expand access, support local content development, and increase digital skills

Latin American and Caribbean countries score higher than the global average

✔ Leaders like Colombia and Peru transparently report USAF activities online to demonstrate the potential impact and benefits of universal internet service. Other countries, like Argentina, have taken innovative approaches towards supporting community networks and employing a range of complementary plans to expand access.

✖ A number of countries throughout the region, such as Brazil and Mexico, reserve USAF funds predominantly or entirely for telephony, passing on the opportunity to invest and expand internet access for millions, particularly for women and other marginalised groups. Instead, where there are resources for public investment, it is provided through alternative avenues.
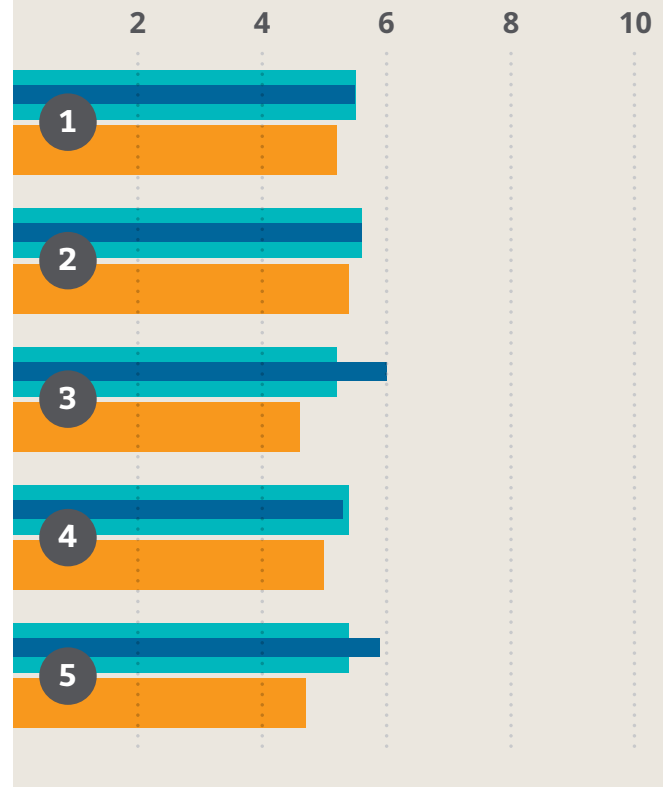
4 Infrastructure Sharing

Government actively encourages and facilitates resource sharing across operators

Latin American and Caribbean countries score higher than the global average

✔ Regional leaders like Mexico and Peru have used public-private partnerships for wholesale backbone networks. Countries like Colombia and Ecuador have regulations that give regulators authority to encourage positive practices through binding and non-binding regulations.

✖ A number of countries such as Guatemala and Nicaragua lack clear regulations to enable regulators to support this positive practice.

5 Spectrum Management

Detailed plan outlining the timely release of sufficient spectrum to meet projected increases in demand

Latin American and Caribbean countries score higher than the global average

✔ Regional leaders are active in meeting market demand, refarming spectrum, and allocating spectrum transparently. Innovations include Colombia's addressing TV white spaces. In Costa Rica, spectrum management is a national broadband plan component.

✖ Other countries do not follow good practices. No plans are publicly available in Nicaragua or Haiti to allow for transparency. In other countries, like Guatemala, there is a clear and unmet demand for more spectrum for mobile broadband.

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WORLD WIDE WEB FOUNDATION