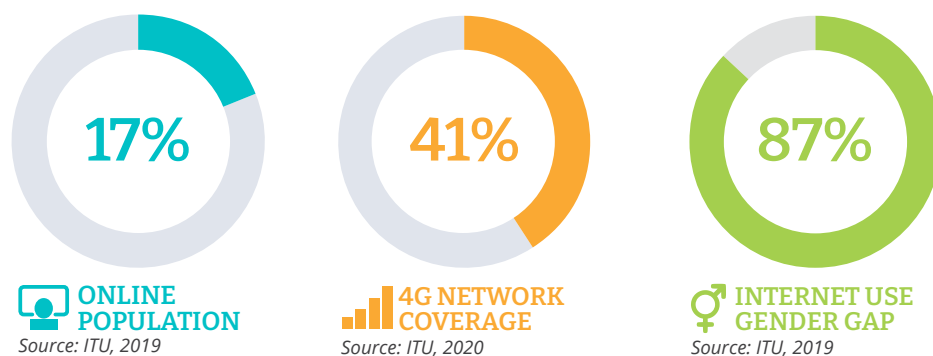# LDCs

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

Affordability Report 2020

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 2020 Affordability Report explores the policy progress made across 72 low- and middle-income countries and 28 Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Among Least Developed Countries...

17%

ONLINE POPULATION
Source: ITU, 2019

41%

4G NETWORK COVERAGE
Source: ITU, 2020

87%

INTERNET USE GENDER GAP
Source: ITU, 2019

Least Developed Countries 2020 ADI Rankings

The **Affordability Drivers Index (ADI)** scores and ranks all 72 countries based on an in-depth analysis of communications infrastructure and access and affordability indicators.

ADI RANK (LDCs)		GLOBAL ADI RANK	COUNTRY	ACCESS SCORE	INFRASTRUCTURE SCORE	ADI SCORE (OUT OF 100)
1	▲ 2	25	Senegal	62.9	54.7	61.9
2	▲ 1	27	Benin	57.6	56.5	60.0
3		29	Cambodia	66.4	46.3	59.3
4	▲ 2	31	Uganda	57.3	54.2	58.6
5	▼ 2	32	Rwanda	64.0	46.6	58.2
6		33	Nepal	56.0	54.6	58.2
7		38	Myanmar	51.7	50.3	53.7
8	▼ 3	41	Tanzania	46.6	53.9	52.9
9	●	42	Mali	53.3	46.4	52.4
10		45	Bangladesh	48.5	46.9	50.2
11	▲ 5	46	Gambia, The	54.4	40.5	49.9
12	▲ 2	48	Zambia	48.3	43.2	48.1
13	▲ 1	50	Burkina Faso	45.1	43.2	46.4
14	▼ 2	51	Mozambique	45.4	40.4	45.2
15	●	54	Malawi	40.0	40.3	42.3
16		57	Madagascar	41.7	33.7	39.7
17		58	Angola	40.3	35.0	39.6
18		59	Niger	43.9	29.4	38.5
19		60	Afghanistan	34.7	36.5	37.4
20		62	Laos	35.8	32.8	36.1
21	●	64	Sudan	34.4	24.6	31.0
22		65	Burundi	34.0	23.4	30.2
23	●	67	Liberia	26.9	19.3	24.3
24	●	68	Sierra Leone	21.9	21.4	22.8
25	▲ 1	69	Ethiopia	21.5	17.3	20.4
26	▼ 1	70	Congo, DR	18.2	20.3	20.2
27		71	Haiti	16.9	20.9	19.9
28		72	Yemen	0.00	0.00	0.00

What is affordable internet?

"1 for 2"

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

How affordable is access in LDCs?

3 out of **39** countries surveyed have affordable internet prices
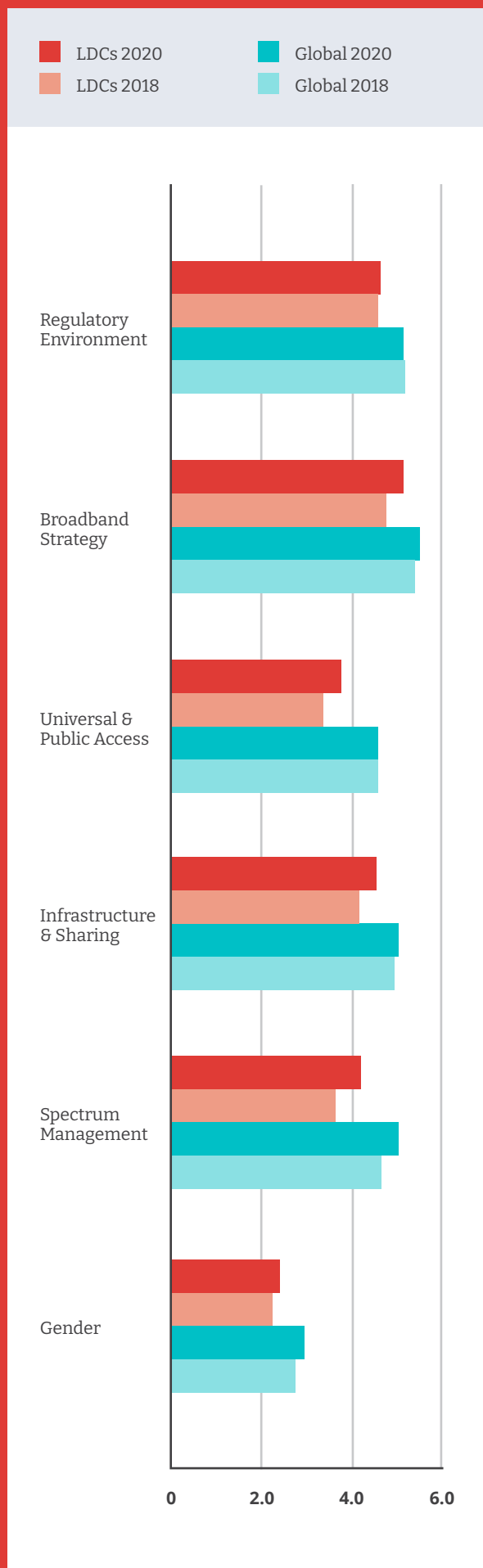
Myanmar

Bangladesh

Cambodia

1GB of mobile data costs the average person just over **7%** of their monthly income.

Regional policy trends

Legend:
- LDCs 2020
- LDCs 2018
- Global 2020
- Global 2018

Categories (top to bottom):
- Regulatory Environment
- Broadband Strategy
- Universal & Public Access
- Infrastructure & Sharing
- Spectrum Management
- Gender

X-axis: 0, 2.0, 4.0, 6.0

Policy highlights from LDCs

DR Congo
In the DRC, licenses are awarded to network operators only after payment for each generation of technology they use: this puts an extra cost on network upgrades that could lead to a higher quality of service.

Madagascar
With a first-come-first-serve strategy for spectrum allocation, incumbent operators have taken up to hoarding large tranches of spectrum, leaving it underutilised and crowding out potential competitors.

Senegal
The Digital Senegal plan includes a high-level commitment to mainstream gender in all broadband policy decisions and also sets a clear target for a 33% rate of use of e-commerce and public services by the rural female population by 2025.

Haiti
High licensing fees for the late 4G/LTE switchover in Haiti derailed industry plans for deployment of the new technology and deferred a better quality of service for consumers.

Rwanda
Rwanda's Digital Ambassadors Programme, with 50% representation for women, addresses the challenges of digital literacy in an aim to unlock the transformative powers of technology for all.

Uganda
Together with regular industry consultations, the Ugandan regulator made developed new infrastructure sharing regulations to support the country's growing mobile sector and reduces infrastructure conflicts through its new infrastructure exchange platform.

A4AI ALLIANCE FOR AFFORDABLE INTERNET

A global coalition working to make broadband affordable for all

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