The new digital divide is not between online and offline but between observer and participant.

To understand this divide, the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) conducted a mobile phone survey in nine low and middle income countries to estimate the state of connectivity in each of these countries and understand more about meaningful connectivity.

Meaningful connectivity is a framework and policy target to increase internet access within a country. It measures four key pillars of access: 4G-like speeds, smartphone ownership, an unlimited access point at home, work, or place of study, and daily use.

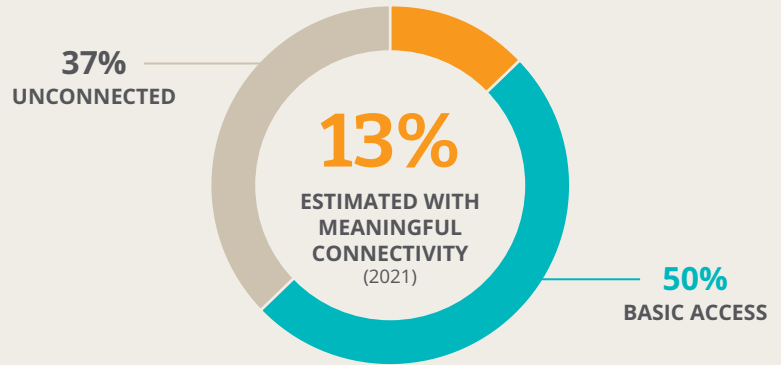**4G-LIKE INTERNET SPEEDS**

SMARTPHONE OWNERSHIP

UNLIMITED ACCESS POINT

DAILY USE

South Africa

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY FACT SHEET

37% UNCONNECTED

13%
ESTIMATED WITH MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY (2021)

50% BASIC ACCESS

41% NATIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY
(2021, BASED ON PILLARS' AVERAGE)

30%
ESTIMATED TO HAVE 4G SPEEDS

58%
ESTIMATED TO OWN A SMARTPHONE

27%
ESTIMATED WITH UNLIMITED ACCESS
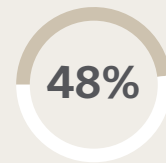
48%
ESTIMATED TO HAVE DAILY INTERNET USE

Setting the policy agenda for the new digital divide with meaningful connectivity

1 Include meaningful connectivity measures within key ICT statistical data collection exercises.

2 Embed meaningful connectivity and its four pillars within the country's national broadband plan, universal access policy, and other key ICT regulations.

Who in Rwanda has meaningful connectivity?

	NATIONAL	MEN	WOMEN	URBAN	RURAL
% with Meaningful Connectivity	**12.8%**	**16.4%**	**12.1%**	**15.9%**	**5.7%**

Due to incomparability and variance between available data sources of internet use by gender and geography, some percentages may contain a margin of error and cannot be used to make projections on demographic estimates of population size.

Our access profiles are built on assumptions within the then latest available data for estimating internet access in South Africa and using our survey data to estimate the kinds of access among South Africa's internet users. This means the following table relies on Afrobarometer's 2018 data on ICT indicators, along with ITU's WTID and the Inclusive Internet Index.

What happens when South Africans have meaningful connectivity?

To understand the impacts of meaningful connectivity, we asked survey participants how confident they felt about finding pieces of information and if they had used the internet to do a range of activities in the past three months. **These are the results:**

	NATIONAL		MEN		WOMEN		URBAN		RURAL	
	MC	Basic	MC	Basic	MC	Basic	MC	Basic	MC	Basic
From finding information online...										
How to book a medical appointment online	82.0%	69.3%	80.5%	69.8%	83.9%	68.8%	82.9%	71.0%	76.7%	64.9%
How to open a mobile money or bank account	87.0%	77.9%	87.6%	80.1%	86.2%	75.8%	88.2%	80.9%	80.0%	70.2%
How to report a crime	82.5%	74.4%	81.4%	74.9%	83.9%	73.8%	82.9%	75.5%	80.0%	71.5%
When the next election is	82.0%	77.3%	85.8%	80.1%	77.0%	74.6%	82.4%	79.9%	80.0%	70.6%
Where to find someone for a professional service	87.5%	77.1%	85.0%	75.7%	90.8%	78.5%	87.6%	79.0%	86.7%	72.4%
...to taking action online.										
Accessed healthcare	35.5%	22.9%	32.7%	25.6%	39.1%	20.3%	36.5%	24.7%	30.0%	18.4%
Bought something	60.0%	34.3%	59.3%	39.8%	60.9%	29.1%	63.5%	38.5%	40.0%	23.7%
Looked for job	68.5%	69.5%	62.8%	68.2%	75.9%	70.7%	66.5%	71.0%	80.0%	65.8%
Made a payment	81.5%	64.8%	81.4%	69.3%	81.6%	60.5%	81.2%	66.4%	83.3%	60.5%
Sold something	30.5%	20.9%	31.9%	24.3%	28.7%	17.7%	32.4%	22.6%	20.0%	16.7%
Looked up government services	72.0%	58.5%	74.3%	61.8%	69.0%	55.4%	71.2%	60.5%	76.7%	53.5%
Took a class	50.0%	29.9%	46.0%	34.1%	55.2%	25.9%	51.8%	30.9%	40.0%	27.2%