

Bridge the Digital Divide in Rural Communities for A Better Connected Ghana

Abraham Kofi Asante

CEO , GIFEC

27th Feb, 2018

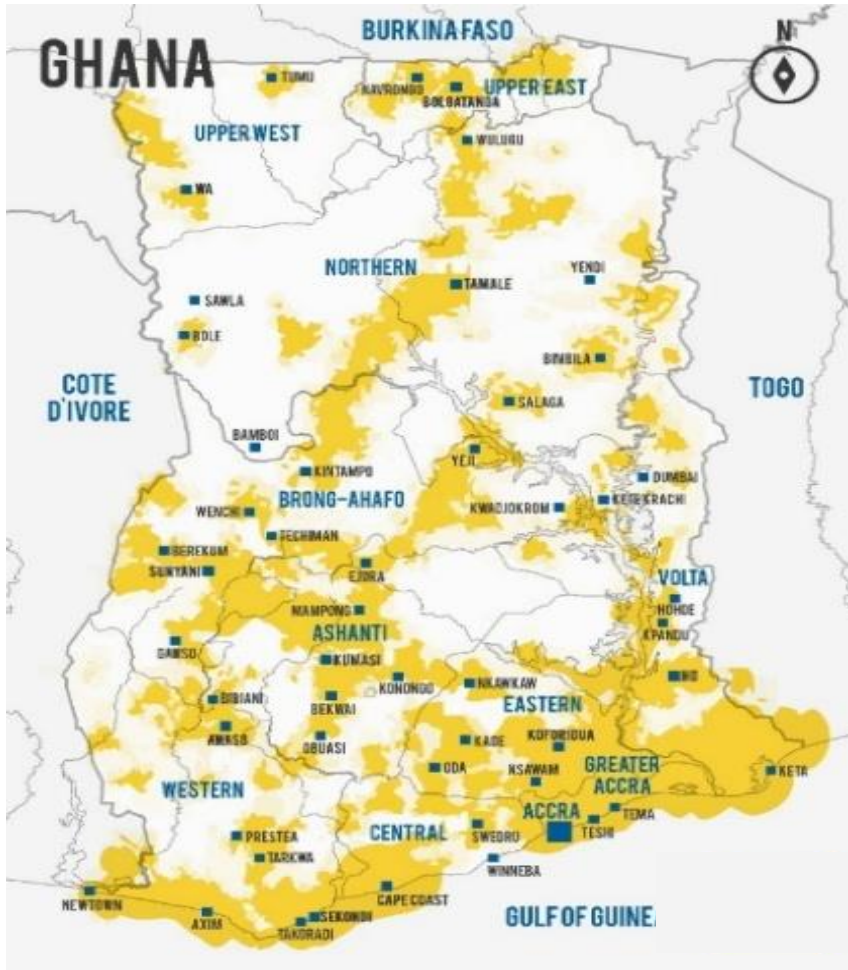


Outline

- • Overview of Ghana and GIFEC
- • Benefits of Rural Connectivity for Ghana
- • Rural Telephony Project of GIFEC
- • Challenges and Innovation in Rural Coverage
- • Way Forward



Ghana: A Thriving Country with Great Potential



- ✓ Population: **27 million**, per capita GDP: **\$1380**
- ✓ Mobile penetration: **127.6% (Voice)**, **81.54 (Data)**
ARPU: **\$3.3 (NCA, 2017)**.
- ✓ About **20%** of the population, **5.4 million** people are unconnected.
- ✓ Rich in natural resources , people in rural area have a stable source of income.



GIFEC: Enable the Universal Service for Everyone

- ✓The Fund was launched in November, 2004. However, operations of the fund started in January 2005.
- ✓The Electronic Communications Act, 2008, Act 775 provides the legal framework (mandate) for the activities of the Fund.
- ✓The mission of the Fund is to provide financial resources for the establishment of universal service and access for all communities and facilitate the provision of access to telecommunication services.



Expand Rural Coverage: Empower More People by ICT Applications

ICT and Education



- Designed the Senior High School Certificate Examination **Revision Assistance Programme** to improve student preparation and performance.
- All Senior High Schools, Colleges of Education, National Vocational Training Institute have been supported.

ICT and Health



- Support to Community-based Health Planning Services (CHPS) in rural communities with blood analyzers for routine lab test.
- Supported Nursing Training Schools and Health Assistant Training with computers and internet facility.

ICT and Agriculture



- Notable Agric research stations such as Okumani Oil Palm Research Institute and Nungua Livelihood and Breeding Station have been supported with ICTs.

eGovernment Services



- Deprived public institutions like the Birth and Death Registry, Passport Office and other Security agencies (Police, Military, Fire Service, Prison Service) have been supported with ICTs to improve information services to the citizenry.

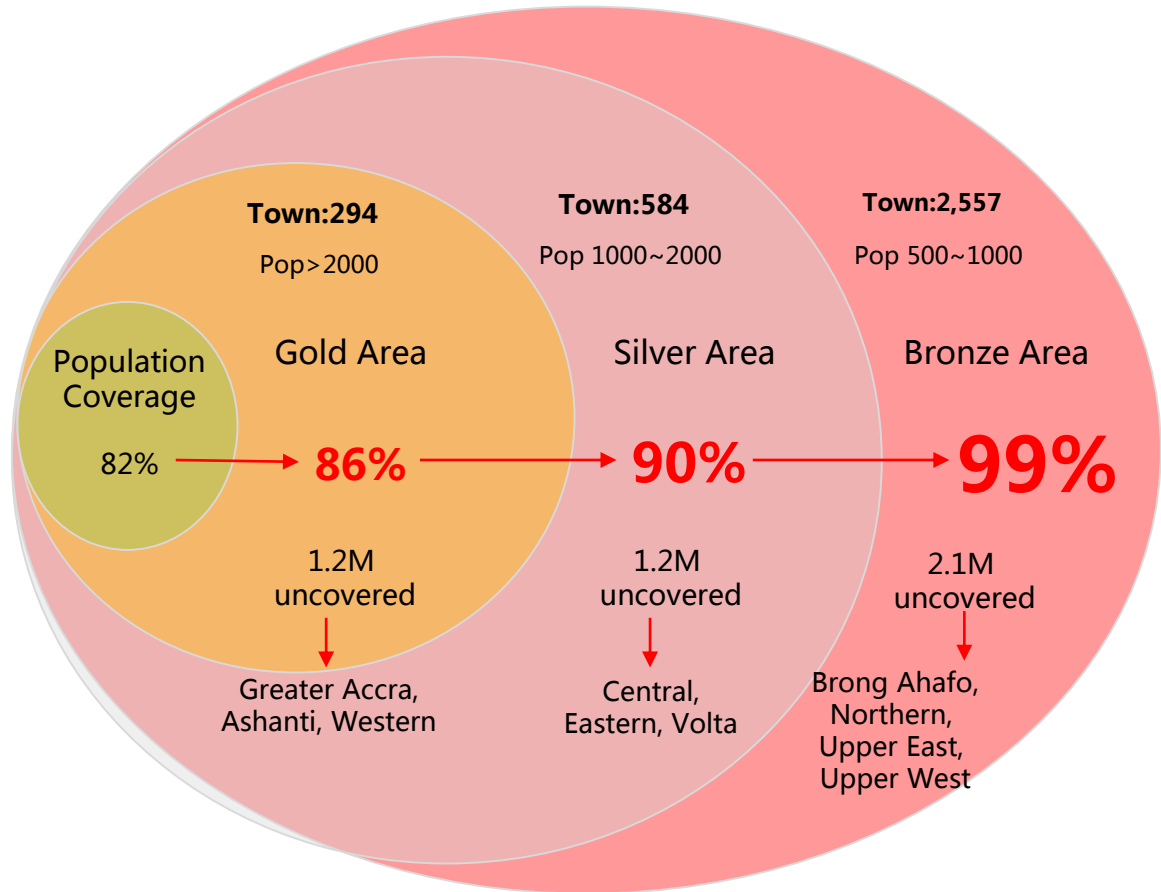


Expand Rural Coverage in Ghana: Rural Telephony Project

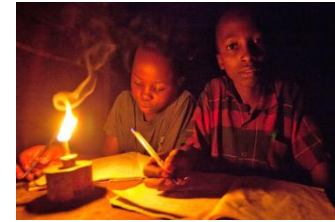


- ✓ The objective of the **Rural Telephony Project** is to support telecommunication operators to extend their services into locations of less commercial viability.
- ✓ **331 Rural telephony sites** have been constructed in deprived communities without communication facilities in the country.
- ✓ Resulting in massive expansion of telecommunication services to about **1,655 unserved communities** in Ghana.

Challenges in Extending Rural Coverage in Ghana



- Lack of Infrastructure (Road, Power, and etc.)



- Scattered Settlements and Low Revenue



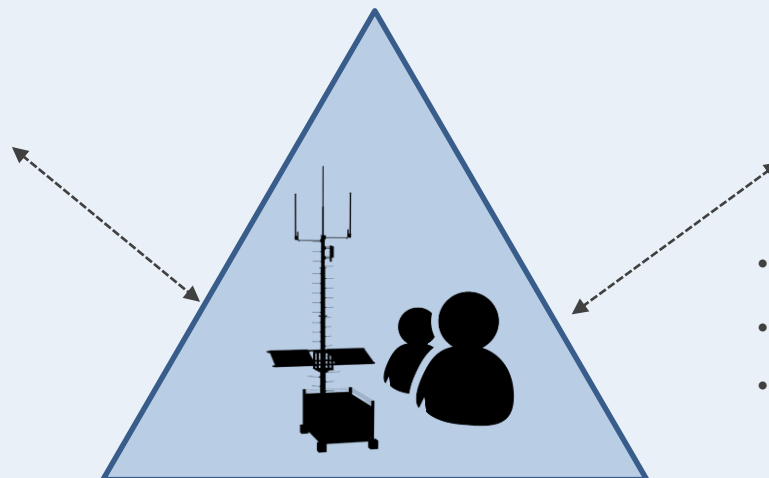
- High CAPEX and OPEX



Tripartite Cooperation Model for Rural Coverage

GIFEC

- Site Acquisition and permitting
- Joint Site survey based on nominal selection
- Custom' s waiver for equipment clearance
- ECG facilitation for selected sites



Vendor

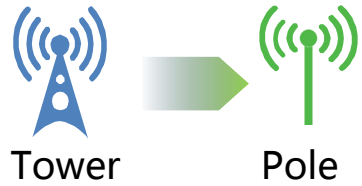
- Innovative solution offering
- Site build implementation and telecom works
- Site operations and maintenance

Telco

- Site selection and Planning
- Site integration and marketing activities
- Sales and Distribution



Tech. Solution Innovation: TCO Saving and Speed Up Rural Coverage



58% TCO Saving

Traditional Solution VS Innovative Solution

CAPEX **150,000**
USD

59,000
USD



OPEX **12,200**
USD

8,400
USD



Way Forward For GIFEC

- ✓ • Adopt more Public, Private, Partnerships (PPPs) in developing the necessary communications infrastructure for the country.
- ✓ • Improve collaboration with key stakeholders particularly the Telco, Vendor and the Ministry
- ✓ • Address Policy and Regulatory bottlenecks to improve rural connectivity.



THANK YOU

