

Unmasking the Digital Divide

Factors that Influence Affordability and Cost of Internet in Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Major Disparities in International Bandwidth Cost

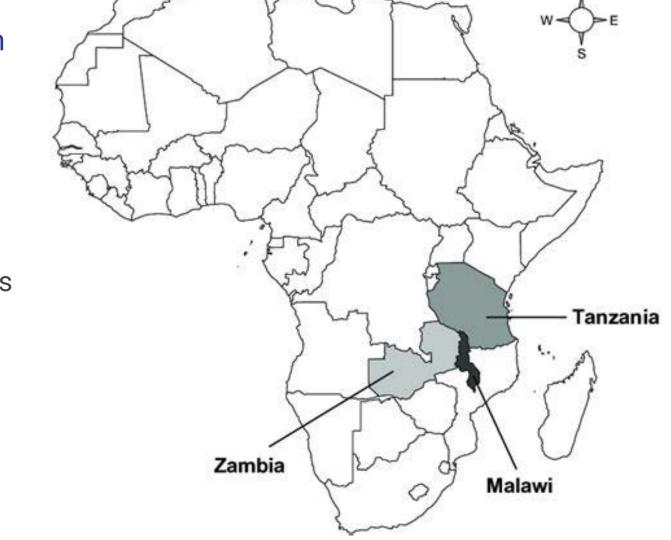
Tanzania:

<\$1/mbps

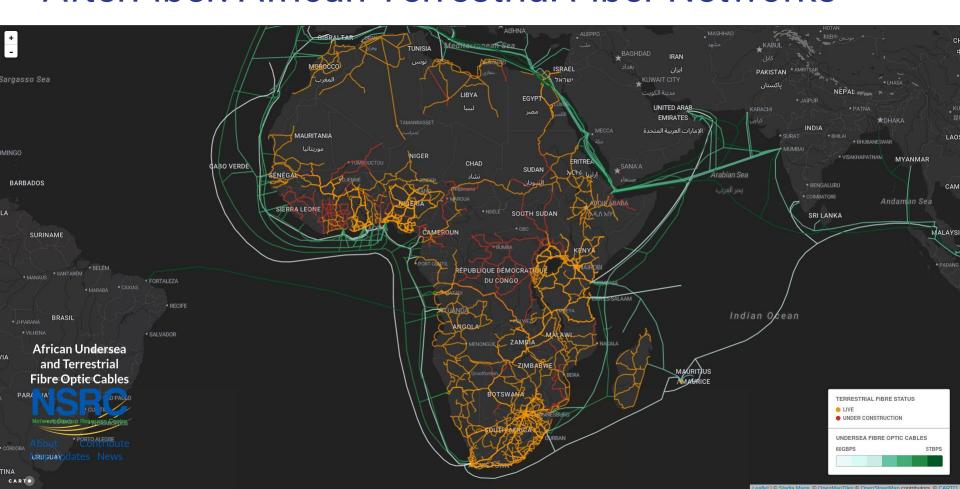
Zambia: <\$3/mbps

Malawi:

<\$30/mbps!



AfterFiber: African Terrestrial Fiber Networks



The problem

Access

Lack of Access to Subsea Cables

Dependence on 3rd Party
Transit "Brokers"

Markets

Small and often fragmented

Little or no competition

Large, dominant operators

Critical Infrastructure

Insufficient or inadequate Internet Exchange Points

Few or no Content Delivery Networks

Challenges deep-dive

Policy Frameworks

Legislation

Regulations

The road to hell...

Failure to act on policy imperatives

Refurbished "copy/paste" approaches which do not go deeper than the surface

Disabling

Majority of legislation is not "tech friendly"

Two Extremes

Absent

Overactive

Solution

Policy & Strategy Formulation & Implementation

"When digital transformation is done right, it's like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly, but when done wrong, all you have is a really fast caterpillar."

George Westerman

Challenges deep-dive

Policy Framework

Bold & Meaningful

Must speak to realities "on the ground" and not be idealistic and/or "copy/paste"

Strategies

Meaningful & Relevant

Bottom-Up

Customized to local conditions

Disruptors

Courageous

Shatter cross-border barriers

Transcend geographical/regional constructs

SADC Digital Transformation Strategy

Policy Framework for DTS SADC vision the EU-AU Joint African Union's (AU) Communication on 2050 Agenda 2063 Digital coop EU Multiannual Indicative African Union's Digital Transformation Programme (2021-2027) for Sub-Regional Indicative Strategic Strategy and the STI Strategy for Africa Saharan Africa (MIP-SSA Development Plan (RISDP) 2020/30 (STISA 2014-2024) Support SADC Industrialisation implementation Aligned and Other partners articulated with (WB,AfDB, etc) SADC Digital **Transformation Strategy** Supports, create Member states synergies **National Digital** and harmonizes Agendas

Figure 1: DTS policy alignments

SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030

SADC Education & health

Support MS Education and Health reform/plans

E-education / ehealth / EMIS / HMIS plan

Data and connectivity Infrastructure for schools and health

Agricultural Sector plan

Support MS Agriculture modernisation plans

E-agriculture smart farming plan

Services other sectors

Connectivity in fields, sensors and data processing inf.

SADC Industrialisation Strategy

MS and regional Industry sectors modernisation, value chains plan

ICT industry /igital services / e-commece advanced Big data Al Tech capacities / fintech

Affordable telecom services, trained workforce and data infrastructures etc Digital single market inf/fwk

SADC DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

Digital infrastructures, backbones and backhaul, IXPs, data centers, affordable services and devices, universal access (adoption), digital inclusion, basic digital skills, Cybersecurity, Data protection, IP rights, Privacy and online safety. e-governance, network and access resiliency, online human rights

SADC DTS type of interventions (1) example for connectivity, universal access and digital inclusion

SADC Regional Digital Transf. Strategy Supports MS national capacity to implement

Implements regional actions

National connectivity Policies, broadband plans, upgrade ICT related regulatory frameworks (incl. Cybersecurity, licensing, spectrum, fiscal, inf sharing, fiscal, Etc) Digital inclusion and Rural connectivity programs (PPPs, USF, Public access, subsides, community networks), Digital Skills + relevant for local content, apps and services + affordable devices

Regional Connectivity plan/actions: backbone interconnection, cross border links, Regional IXPs CDNs Data centres - Regional Digital competencies framework. Regional digital content, regional Data processing centre - Regional centre of excellence / training Regional apps/ e-services (for E-gov, PKI)

Regional affordable devices program

That Incentivizes and guides private investment (90% of inv.) for

To Ensure Infrastructure, coverage, universal access, Quality, Affordable services for citizens, public services and business, increase demand, skills for adoption and innovation etc

Effective digital adoption and meaningful use

Country Level Initiatives: Malawi

CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MINING





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Malawi launches Diplomatic Data Corridors project

06 March 2023

Malawi has launched the Diplomatic Data Corridors project to address the high cost of internet and data services, as well as the country's low internet penetration.

Malawi's government has entered negotiations with Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia to consider directing their internet traffic into Malawi.

Daud Suleman, director general of the Malawi
Communications Regulatory Authority (Macra), said
that the country wants to double the current internet penetration rate to 40% in
three years and leverage connections from undersea cables into Malawi to
ensure a reduction in the cost of data services.

He cited Malawi's geographical position as a major challenge and said this has resulted in high IP-transit and international bandwidth costs, "We are ready to sign agreements that will give us cheaper data through fibre networks," said Suleman.

In addition to the data corridors, the increase in competition in local telecommunications will help to drive down data costs, and the licensing of StarLink will usher in affordable broadband through satellite services.

Hansford Chaaba, corporate communications manager at the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), said that "ZICTA welcomes the initiative by Macra and is committed to a continued spirit of mutually beneficial co-operation and collaboration between the two regulators."









Policy Driven Initiatives

Diplomatic Data Corridors

- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Botswana
- Namibia
- Mozambique
- Angola
- Major Subsea Cable Operators

Community Broadband Operators

- District-Based
- Special License
- Cooperative Union Model
- Specially Structured Funding
- Universal Service
 Fund support

Critical Infrastructure

Internet Exchange Points

Push for Content Delivery Networks

Aluta Continua Thank You!

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