



Priorities on Capacity Development Africa

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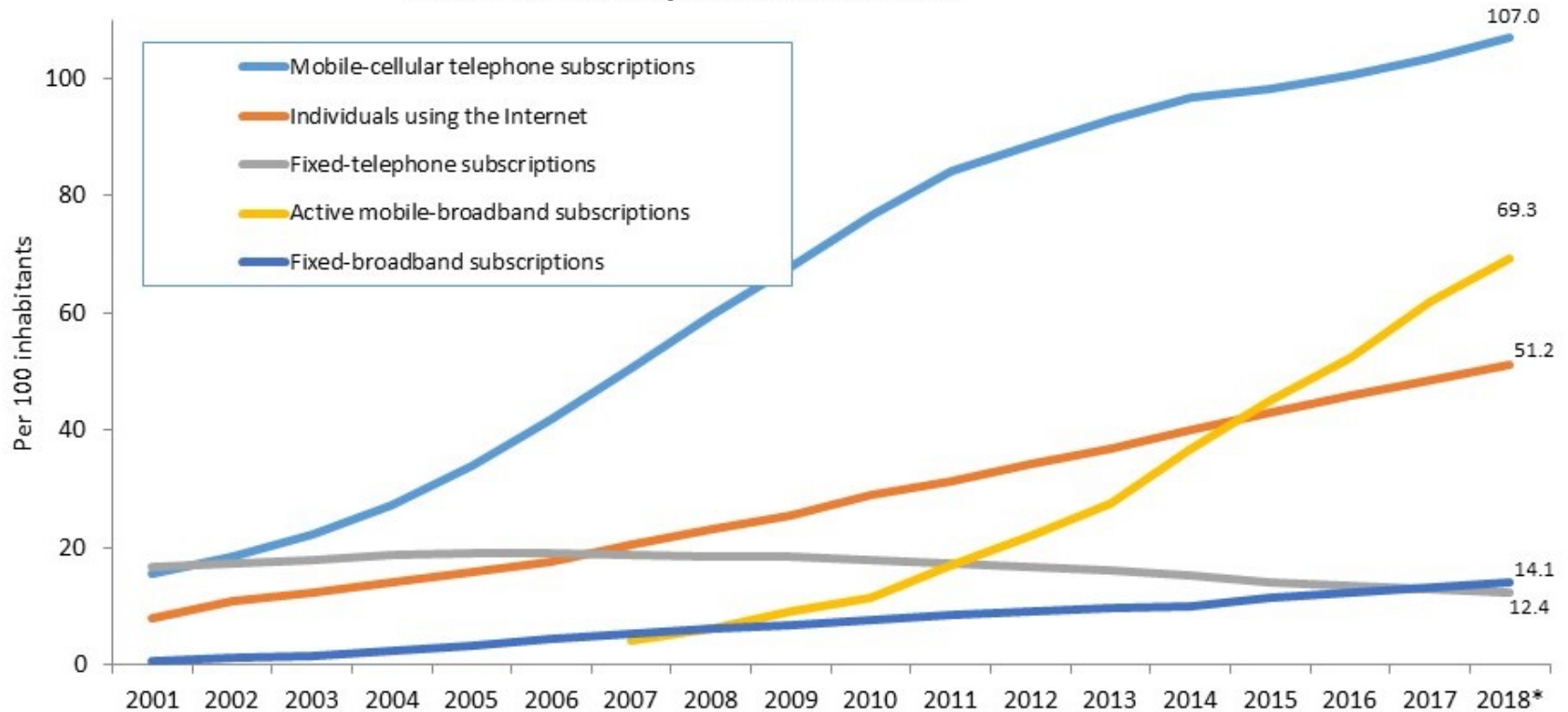
Agenda

- PART 1: The trends – from 1900s to present (3 eras)
- PART 2: What are the priorities
- PART 3: Proposals for strengthening engagement of regional stake holders in identifying skills gaps and needs
- PART 4: Priority areas for capacity development & training
- Part 5 : Suggestions on how ITU an engage different stakeholders in the region in identifying priorities for capacity & skills dev initiatives



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Global ICT developments, 2001-2018*



Note: * Estimate

Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database

1. The Trend ...1990 – early 2000s

- Development focused on **information and communication** technology.
- It concentrated on bridging the digital divide through overcoming:
 1. Connectivity
 2. Access barriersfor more & more of Africa's population



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The Trend ...1990 – early 2000s

- This provided connections to the rest of the world and therefore helped overcome the “**last mile**” challenge faced in Africa



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2. Late 2000s – early 2010

- Penetration of ICTs increased across Africa
- Focus started to shift to uptake and impact of these ICTs in order to:
 1. Transform lives
 2. Transform societies
 3. Transform economies



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2. Late 2000s – early 2010

- It was clear that enhancing information flow is not sufficient to grasp **development opportunities**



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3. From 2017 going forward...

- The importance to foster digital opportunities and social inclusion by enhancing the use of ICTs for:
 - Capacity building
 - Empowerment
 - Governance and
 - Social participation



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From 2017 going forward...

- To strengthen capacities for:
- scientific research
- information sharing
- exchange of knowledge
- enhance learning opportunities thru access to diversified contents and delivery systems to support the transformation to knowledge



1. Priorities on capacity building in telecommunications

i) Cyber Security

- Due to significant increase in number of connected information assets especially financial services, hacking and cybercrime has become attractive and rewarding
- Absence of existing legal framework, policies and updated strategies to deal with this menace has contributed to this problem.
- Cybercriminals are busy cashing on the opportunity before relevant bodies fix the loops and close the window of opportunity
- In Kenya despite massive financial losses, the information bill is still under discussion and urgency to enact relevant laws is not visible
- The industry need Cyber Security skills to deal with this emerging threat as well as secure business interests within the economy.



Priorities on capacity building in telecommunications

ii) Data Science

- Decrease in cost of connectivity and devices has resulted in a huge number of connected devices
- These devices are generating data that needs analysis, processing to generate relevant business insights to help in timely decision making
- Internet of Things technology is just around of corner. Over a billion devices/things will be connected.
- Skills are required to serve this emerging opportunity.
- Business that will generate and analyze information in a timely manner will achieve competitive advantage by effectively responding to ever changing business dynamics in the spaces they operate.



Priorities on capacity building in telecommunications

iii) Automation/Coding

- Automation skills will be required to reduce complexity and simplify business processes for the benefit of customers
- Today's customer is swamped with too much information and marketing opportunities and seek simple, relevant products
- Business that will deliver simple, compelling products in the market will survive the digital disruptions.



Priorities on capacity building in telecommunications

- iv. Digital Broadcasting
- v. Digital economy
- vi. Wireless and fixed Broadband, 5G...
- vii. ICT and the environment (e-waste, renewable energy)
- viii. Digital skills for the citizenry



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2. Proposals for strengthening engagement of regional stake holders in identifying skills gaps and needs

- i. Regular curriculum review through effective collaboration between academia and Industry.
- ii. Government can subsidize digital academies in technical/high education institutions.
- iii. Legal framework to safeguard intellectual rights/innovations & patents.
- iv. Establish fund to support startups and market linkages.
- v. Digitize education by encouraging coding at primary school level.
- vi. Subsidize cost of broadband in the region by utilizing the universal service fund to bridge the digital divide.



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Priority areas for Capacity development & Training

- i. Cloud computing
- ii. Cyber security
- iii. Data science
- iv. Coding/Automation



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Suggestions on how ITU can engage different stakeholders in the region in identifying priorities for capacity & skills dev initiatives

- i. Regular curriculum review through effective collaboration between academia and Industry.
- ii. Government can subsidize digital academies in technical/high education institutions.
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Suggestions on how ITU can engage different stakeholders in the region in identifying priorities for capacity & skills dev initiatives

- vii. ITU can provide support inform of trainers/consultants; financial grants; running ToTs ; use of the ITU Platform for online programmes; benchmark studies; impact assessments on interventions
- viii. ITU could do a skills gap analysis by engaging the regulatory agencies, or using the CoE network
- ix. A pilot study could be carried out for the African region on the level and extent of skilling



Conclusion

Given the diversity within Africa, capacity building should aim to:

- provide insight into the practices and **applications** of ICT
- identify **problems** and barriers
- present context-specific findings and solutions and illustrate how ICT is **enabling development** in Africa
- only support **future development-focused ICT research** efforts in and on Africa and help unleash the human potential on the African continent



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