



**Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI)
2nd Meeting, 2019-2022 Cycle**

Virtual Meeting, 1 - 2 June 2020



**Shaping The Post Covid-19 New Normal with Skills
An Arab Region Perspective**

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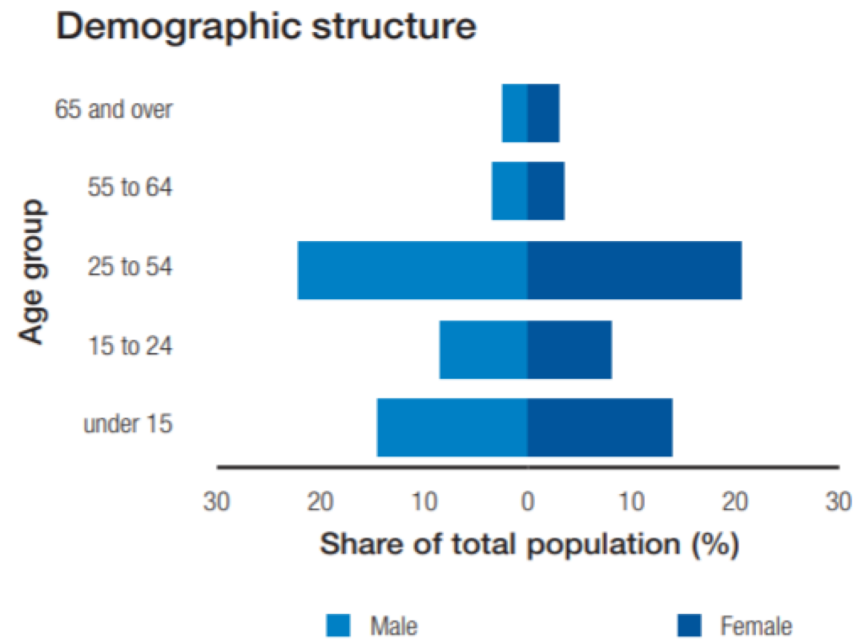
Agenda Items



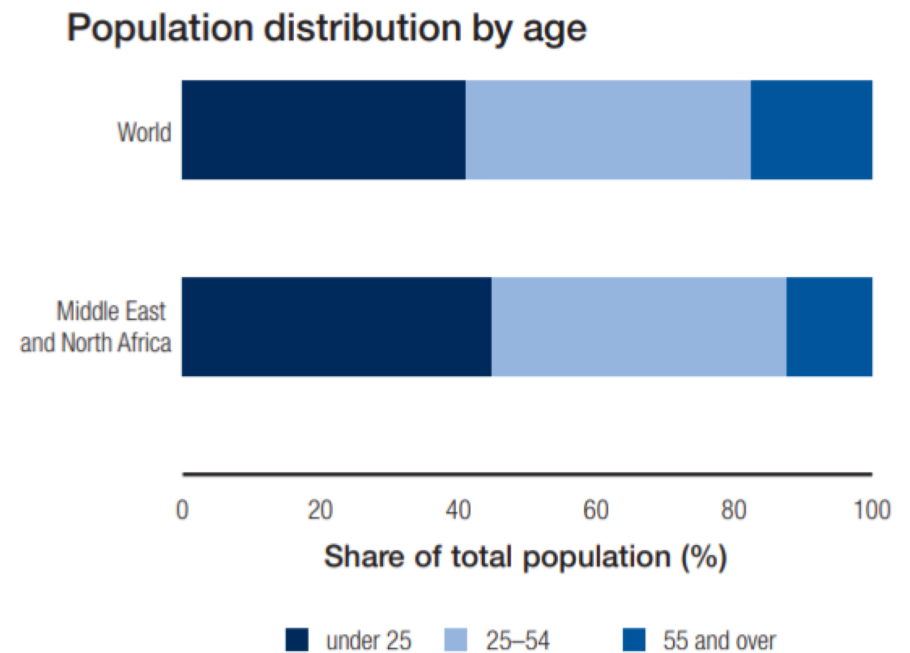
- Digital priorities in the region - Impact of Covid-19
- Digital capacity and skills needs/gaps in the region - Impact of Covid-19
- Regional strategies and priorities to address the skills gap - Impact of Covid-19
- Challenges and opportunities faced as a result of Covid-19
- Recommendations for ITU and Future work for GCBI



22 States with a population of 400+ Millions 1 Common Language



Source: United Nations Population Division.



Source: The Future of Jobs and Skills in the Middle East and North Africa –May 2017 -WEF



Fast growth rate in smartphone connections and mobile broadband connections



Smartphone connections

will increase from **49%** of total connections in 2017 to

74%

by 2025

Mobile broadband connections

will increase from **59%** of total connections in 2017 to

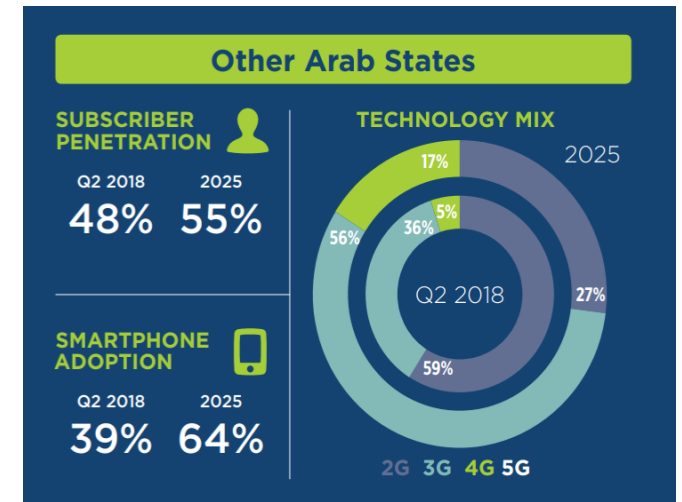
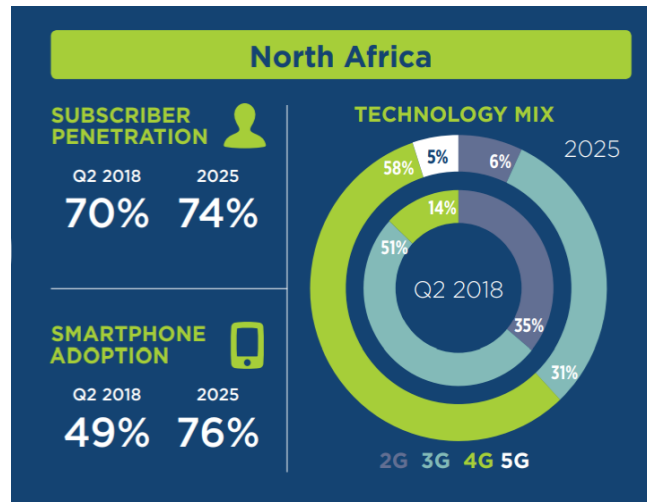
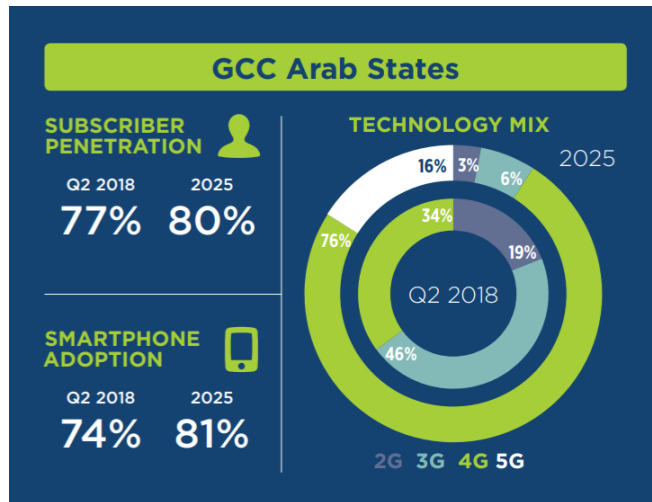
90%

in 2025





Significant variation among countries in the region in smart phone adoption



Source: The Mobile Economy Middle East and North Africa 2018, GSMA



Facts Driving Digital Priorities – Impact of Covid-19

- Covid-19 defined a new normal disrupting the status quo.
- Innovative technological solutions are the way forward.
- Covid-19 was the world's number one enemy. World vs Covid-19.
- Staff Productivity was a question mark.
- Technological infrastructure was tested.
- Regulations were tested (MENA, VPN and VoIP).
- eCommerce-ready business flourished.

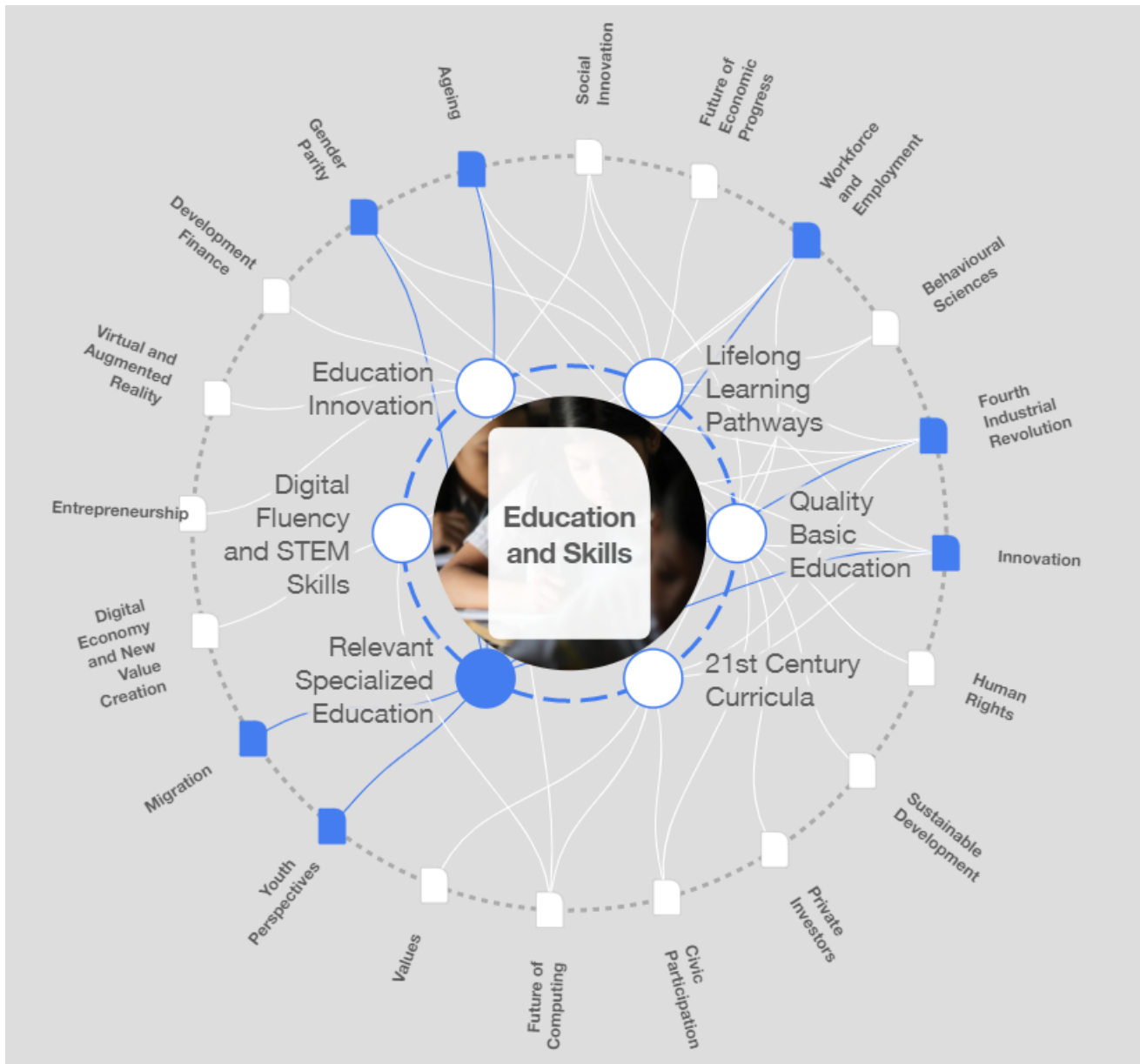


Digital Capacity and Skills Needs & Gaps Impact of Covid-19

Education and Skills

Relevant Specialized Education

- Youth Perspective
- Innovation
- Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Workforce and Employment



Source: World Economic Forum – Strategic Intelligence



Post Covid-19 Educational Challenges and Opportunities

the COVID-19 pandemic is causing more than 1.6 billion children and youth to be out of school in 161 countries. This is close to 80% of the world's enrolled students.

https://blogs.worldbank.org/education/educational-challenges-and-opportunities-covid-19-pandemic/?cid=EXT_WBBlogTweetableShare_D_EXT via @WBG_Education |



Shaping the New Normal with (Soft) Skills

Foundational Literacies:

- Scientific Literacy
- Tech Literacy
- Financial Literacy

Competencies:

- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration

Character Qualities:

- Adaptability
- Leadership
- Social and Cultural Awareness
- Empathy
- Growth Mindset



Shaping the New Normal with (Technical) Skills

Technical Skills

3D Printing

Advanced materials

Architecture & programming

Horticulture Tech

Advance programming

Computer science

Data science

Advanced Statistics

Cybersecurity

Bioelectric medicine

Nano-medicine

Visual design

A.I.

Psychology

Multimedia design

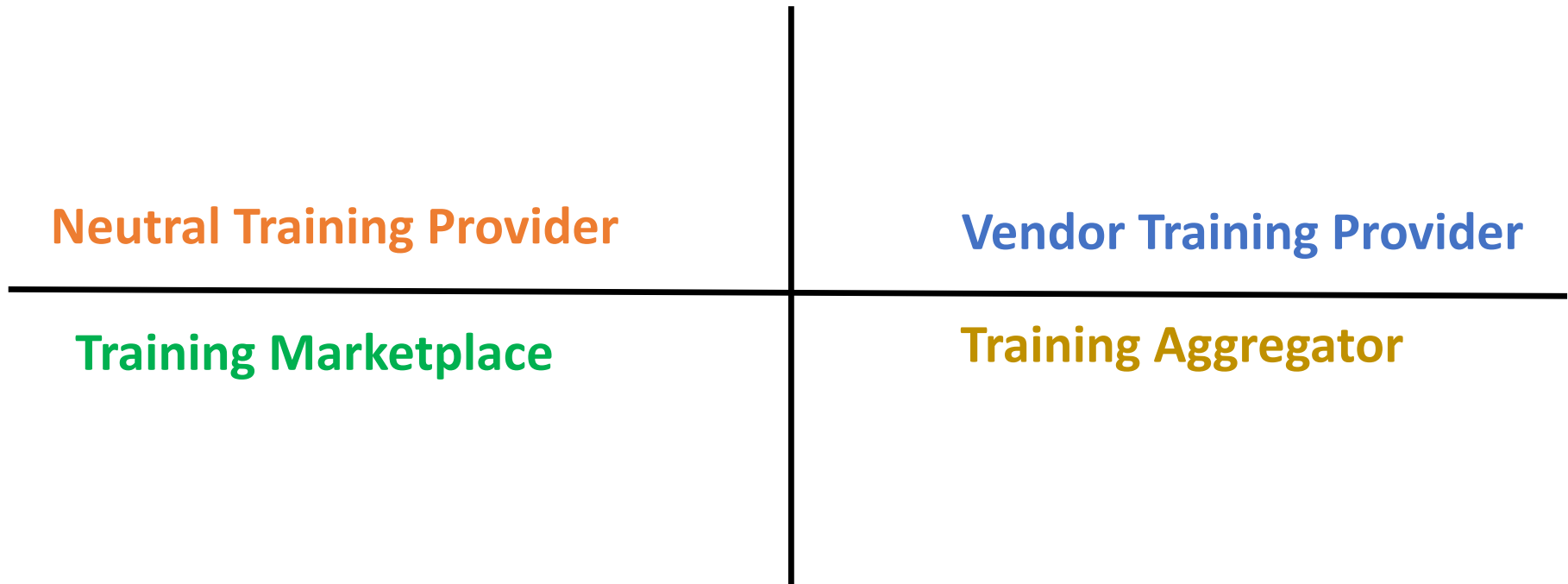
Design thinking

Digital branding

Source: National Program For Advanced Skills - UAE



The Rise of Free Online Learning





Strategies and Priorities for Skills Gap Impact of Covid-19

Challenges:

- New Remote Working Policies.
- VPN Effectiveness.
- Broadband capacity due to recreational internet.
- Upgrading legacy networks.
- Digital divide within the same region (digital transformation, cloud, IoT, 5G, ...).

Opportunities:

- Re-assess the potential impact of possible future regulatory changes.
- Determine whether existing infrastructure needs to be upgraded.
- Drive innovation and encourage the development of local digital platforms.



Recommendations for ITU and Future Work for GCBI

- Covid19 United the World and formed a new normal. Shouldn't we learn from this ?
- If Covid19 was an earthquake; what could be the Tsunami following the earthquake?
- With all the leniency in regulations and technical exposures to cope with Covid19 new norms; is the next pandemic digital?
- ...

Thank you

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Gracias

Merci