



Large Infrastructure

Access to Internet services

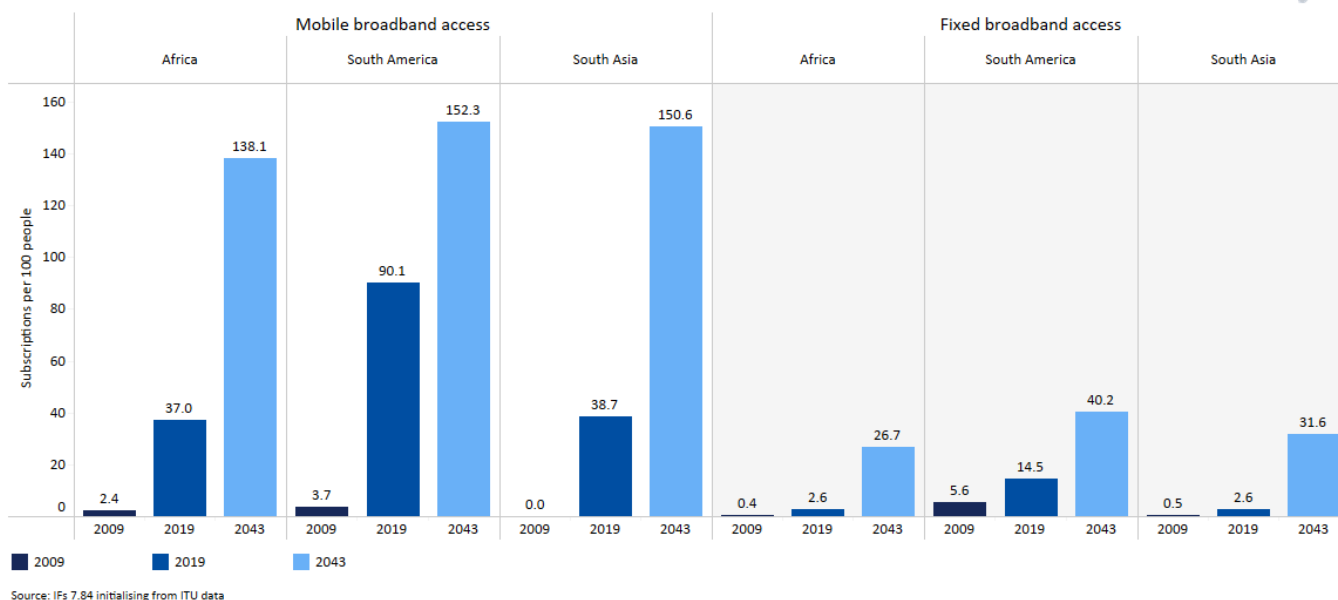
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Access to Internet services

ICT infrastructure is becoming easier and cheaper to expand across the continent, which explains why the roll-out of mobile broadband is accelerating, even in the Current Path forecast. The availability and adoption of broadband services plays an important role in connecting people on the continent, fostering economic development and enabling access to information and social development. Africa is expected to have at least one mobile broadband subscription per person by 2043. Gabon and Algeria are the only two African countries that reached this goal by 2019.

Chart 9: Access to Internet, fixed & mobile broadband in Africa, 2009, 2019 & 2043



However, fixed broadband subscriptions lag far behind. Chart 9 shows that the low number of fixed broadband subscriptions in Africa has been mitigated by expanded mobile broadband coverage, which is expected to surpass that of South Asia and South America by 2043.

Although access to mobile broadband is [improving in Africa](#), data remains prohibitively expensive for most. In Africa, 1 GB of data costs nearly 18% of the average income, whereas the same amount of data costs only 3% of the average income in Asia. The gap in ICT infrastructure and the potential to catch up are discussed in the theme on [Leapfrogging](#).

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About the authors

Dr Jakkie Cilliers is the ISS's founder and former executive director. He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees, head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the Institute, and is an extraordinary professor at the University of Pretoria. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

Dr Blessing Chipanda joined the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme in January 2023. Before joining the ISS he worked as an assistant lecturer/research assistant at the University of Pretoria, Department of Economics. He is particularly interested in tasks within the wider realm of international trade, development economics, public policy, monetary policy, and econometric modelling. Equally interested in economic and socio-economic activities that impact social welfare. Blessing has a PhD in economics from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

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