



# April 2016 IEEE Global Connect Stakeholders: Advancing Solutions (GCS) Study

August 2016

# Objective & Approach

- ▶ Objective:
  - The objective of this study is to receive feedback to help identify
    - Connections made as a result of the event
    - Project(s) initiated as a result of the event
      - Scope
      - Region
  - Ideas regarding next event
- ▶ Approach:
  - An online survey was conducted among 180 April 2016 GCS attendees, resulting in **35 completes**

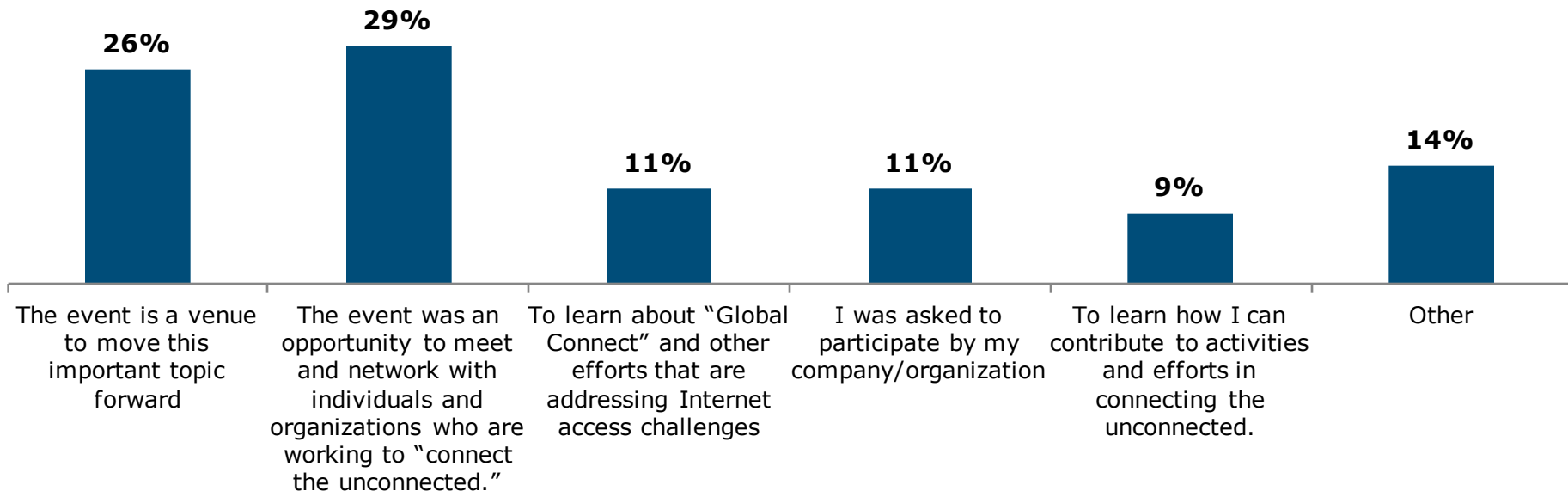
**\*Note: Low Sample Size**

# Key Takeaways

- People who attended GCS are highly vested in “Connecting the Unconnected,” with close to 4 in 5 mentioning they currently work on multiple projects regarding “Connecting the Unconnected”
  - Close to 3 in 10 are currently working on more than 5 projects
  - They also state that “networking” and “finding a platform to move the topic” of “connecting the unconnected” as the noted reason to attend GCS

# Primary Reason to Participate at GCS

- Networking and finding a platform to move the topic of “connecting the unconnected” are the most noted primary reasons to attend GCS

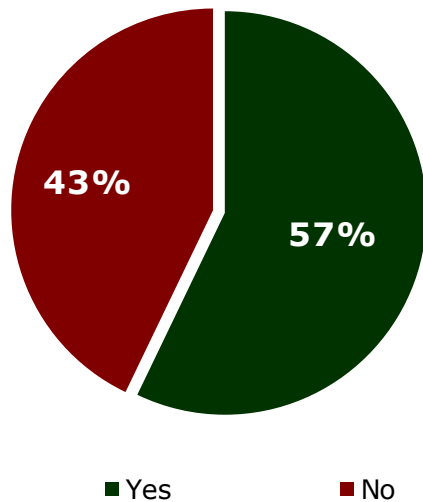


1. What was your Primary purpose of participating in Global Connect Stakeholders (GCS) on April 13, 2016?

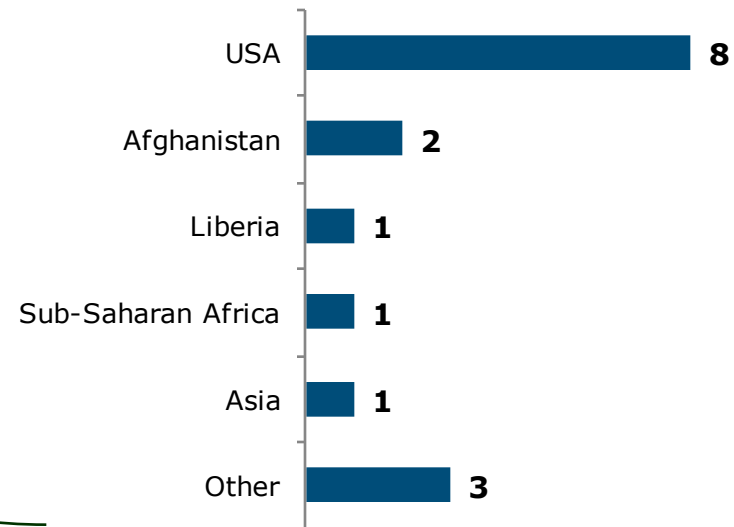
# Collaboration as a Result of GCS

- More than half collaborated with others they met at GCS
  - Most of the projects initiated are in US

Collaborated



Location of Collaboration



2. Since the GCS event on April 13, have you collaborated with others that you met at the event in efforts to address "Connecting the Unconnected"?
3. Please briefly describe your collaboration(s) in the space below.

# Description of Collaborations

Name of Effort	Project Lead	Location	Details
Monrovia metro-fiber	USAID, private sector partner, Government of Liberia (MoPT)	Liberia (West Africa)	Investment in broadband communications infrastructure for connecting schools, hospitals, and government facilities in Monrovia and urban Montserrado County
World Bank/IEEE/Global Connect	IEEE	USA	Oct. 5-6 meeting planning
Afghan ICT sector development by Afghan government seniors	Office of the President, Special Advisor for ICT, GCI	Afghanistan	Leveraging last 12 years' work on Afghan ICT to improve connectivity points of presence to expand Internet access across Afghanistan
Building Partnership	Facebook	USA	How to partner together for connecting the unconnected
Education projects and connectivity(women and girls, rural and urban communities), RENS	NSRC, Google, AFREN, AFCHIX	Sub-Saharan Africa	Connectivity to EDU projects at all levels
Libraries WhiteSpace Project	Gigabit Libraries Network	USA	International consortium of innovation libraries and other community institutions to advocate for use of TV-band open spectrum to provide public access to the greatest number for least investment in shortest time
Engaging with regional ICT associations and with some of the National and Regional Initiatives of the IGF	mCADE llc - ICT Strategies	Multiple	
Connectivity and security	World Bank, State	Asia Pacific	Technical training

3. Please briefly describe your collaboration(s) in the space below.

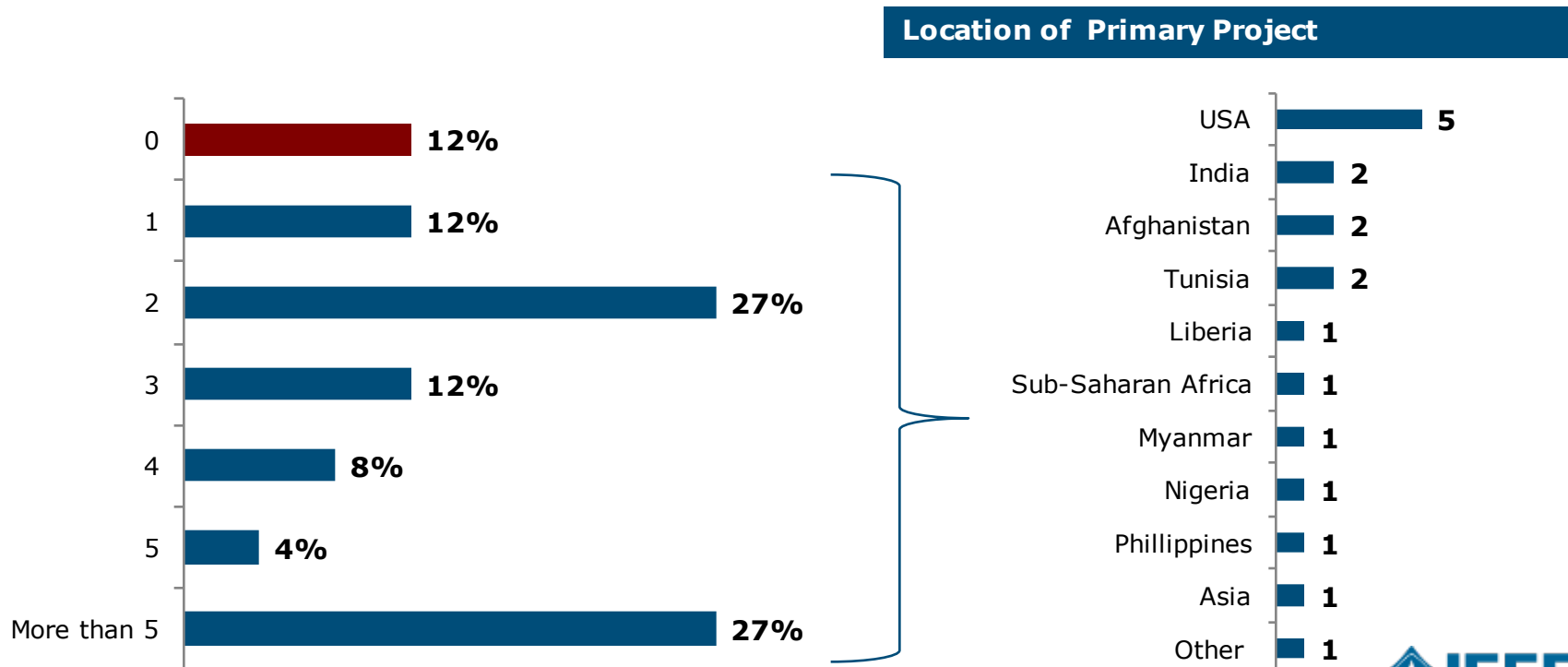
# Description of Collaborations (*continued*)

Name of Effort	Project Lead	Location	Details
Access Panel at the IGF-USA	IGF-USA	USA	This panel will focus on emerging best practices to expand digital inclusion and broadband access and adoption to areas of the country that have been historically underserved, including rural, remote, and indigenous communities; people with accessibility challenges; and low income populations. The success of extending universal, affordable connectivity depends on the shared expertise, experiences, and creativity of the technology, technical, and policy communities. Ensuring affordability is a key shared challenge across markets. The panel will explore the divergent challenges in bringing broadband to underserved populations, and should help increase this understanding through its focus both on the needs of the remote, rural, and indigenous communities, as well as the disabilities and special-needs communities. We will hear a first-hand experience of the struggles of the Native American communities in obtaining Internet access, including the lack of the fundamental infrastructure that hampers efforts to bring broadband to these communities. We will also hear from two private-sector companies about their innovative approaches to offering broadband connectivity to these areas, especially the use of white-space and other promising solutions that can offer lower cost solutions to bringing broadband to these communities.
Internet2 and US UCAN engagement in California, Maryland, Rhode Island, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Texas to connect the unconnected	Internet2, US UCAN, LEARN, OSHEAN, KINBER	USA, expanding to Mexico, Latin America, Europe	Discussions in Texas to connect Latino/Latina hispanic history archives from Texas to Mexico, Latin America, and Spain; in the US, connecting rural communities and student to hubs of research and education
Coordination of civil society groups	Public Knowledge, Access Now, APC	USA and Global	

3. Please briefly describe your collaboration(s) in the space below.

# Other “Connecting the Unconnected” Projects

- People attending GCS are highly vested in “Connecting the Unconnected,” with close to 4 in 5 mentioning they currently work on multiple projects regarding “Connecting the Unconnected”
  - Close to 3 in 10 are currently working on more than 5 projects



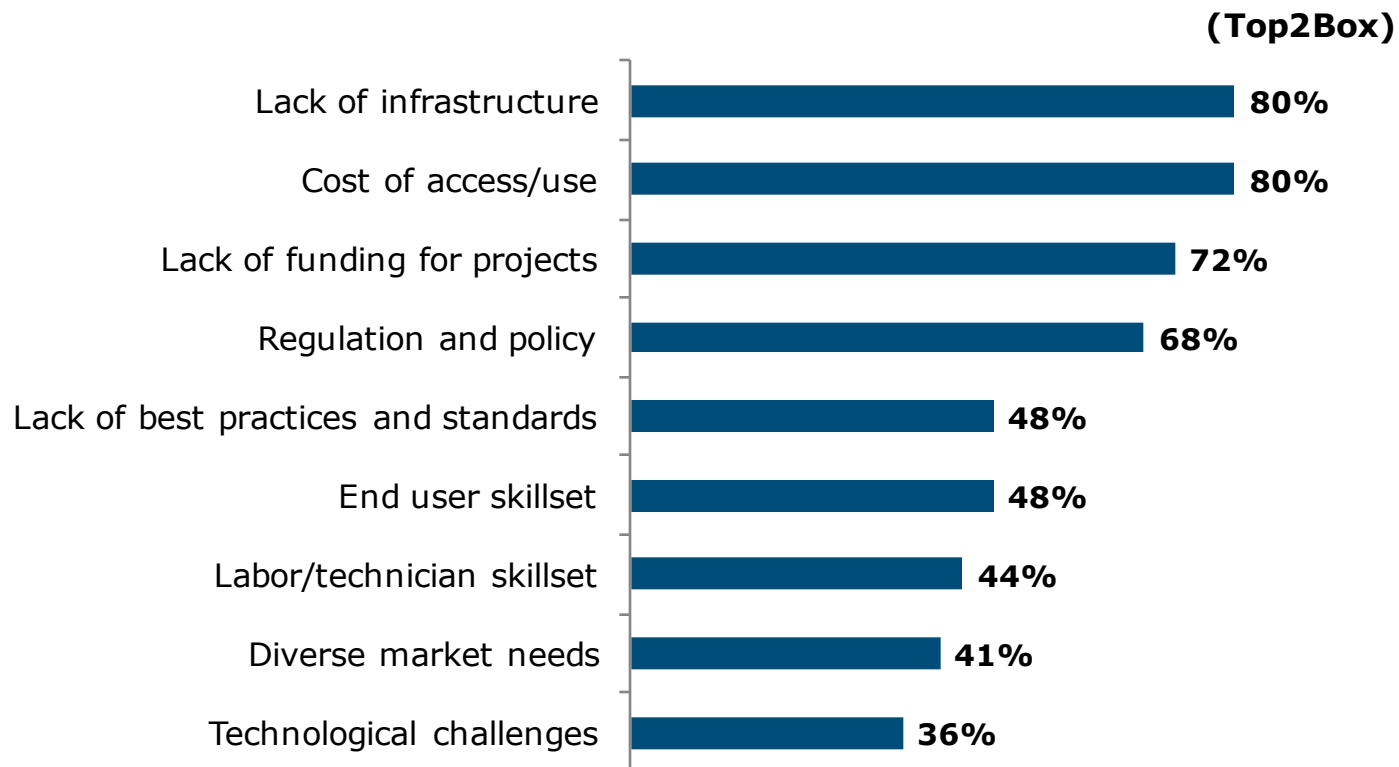
4. Independent of connections made at GCS, how many project(s) or initiative(s) related to “Connecting the Unconnected” are you currently working on?

5. For the project that you work on Primarily, please share the project title and briefly describe its scope?



# Barriers to Adoption/Use of the Internet

- “Cost” and “Lack of infrastructure” are the top 2 barriers to adoption



6. One result of the 13 April 2016 GCS event was a list of barriers regarding global access to and adoption/use of the internet. Please rate the importance of each of those barriers using a one to five scale, where one is "not important at all" and five represents "extremely important."

# Additional Barriers

*"Political and market incumbency barriers to extending use of unlicensed/dynamic spectrum in Africa."*

*"Government Seniors' understanding of the importance of developing ICT as the underlying infrastructure engine to enable improvement in expansion of POPs for Internet access."*

*"Lack of market competition, and use of telecom industry lobbyists to advance legislation to support status quo."*

*"Cost of devices. Basic knowledge of value and potential uses. Lack of appreciation by existing users (political support) on challenges for the yet connected."*

*"Continuity of efforts/so that projects that are launched have at least a 3-year timeline for support... to ensure sustainability... attitude at the top needs to be devolved down into the managerial levels, at policy and operational levels"*

*"While lack of funding is noted above, the challenge isn't simply a lack of funding it is a lack of comprehensive and holistic funding. These challenges are intermingled; likewise the solutions need to be multi-faceted. Instead, funding streams tend to address silos; infrastructure needs, the lack of local tech expertise, and the needs for end-user skill development are funded in silos (if funded at all)"*

*"Lack of understanding of the technical community"*

*"Yes, digital literacy and capacity building"*

*"Geographic/topological barriers, weather"*

*"The challenge of promoting a new business model (i.e., mobile money transaction fees) for how to pay for broadband. Also, in some markets (e.g., Cuba), devices for end users."*

*"Lack of locally relevant content and applications, in local languages."*

*"Language, user device cost, local organizations that will take responsibility to provide services, continuous tech and maintenance support costs, software costs, and upgrading costs to provide service."*

# Ideas for October GCS

*"The role of satellites (you had sub cables at the April event, but not satellites). -- The unique challenges of the Arctic."*

*"1) Out of the box ideas. 2.) Fitting the solution to the place, i.e., solutions when fiber is not economic"*

*"I would shift discussion from general challenges and solutions, e.g., cross-ministerial engagement towards an identification of target areas, projects, requirements, next steps, etc."*

*"Importance of analyzing the situation region by region and pay special attention to the specificities and the lessons learnt (positive and negative)"*

*"Can we design a low-cost platform to provide services, and also low-cost devices to access such services?"*

*"Include more civil society voices in the program"*

**Thank You!**