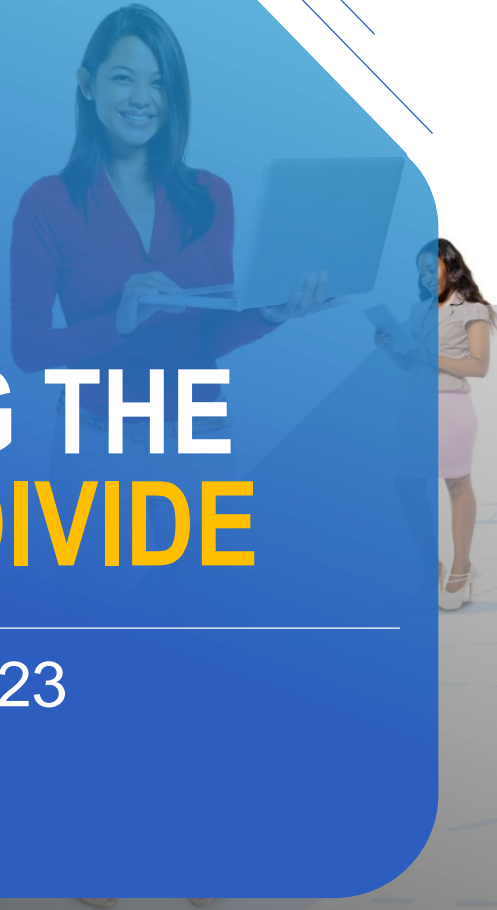




BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

February 2023



Outline

- **The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago**
- **The concept of Universal Service**
- **The Digital Divide**
- **Digital Inclusion Survey (2021)**
- **Universal Service Initiatives**

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago – About Us



Objects of the Act (Section 3)

Creating an Open Telecommunications Market

With Conditions for Fair Competition

Ensuring the Orderly Development of Telecommunications

To safeguard, enrich and strengthen society's social, cultural and economic well being

Protecting and Promoting the Public Interest

Accessibility

Affordability

Quality of Service

Facilitating Universal Access to Telecommunications

Encouraging Investment in Telecommunications

Regulating Broadcasting Services



The concept of Universal Service

The concept of Universal Service

Universal service is achieved when ICTs are available, accessible and affordable and are delivered on either a household or individual basis.

Universal Service is therefore based on three fundamental principles:

1. **ICT Availability:** the service is available to all inhabited parts of the country;
2. **ICT Accessibility:** all citizens can use the service, regardless of their location, gender, disabilities and other personal characteristics; and
3. **ICT Affordability:** the service is affordable to all citizens.

The Legal and regulatory framework in Trinidad and Tobago:

- Telecommunications Act
- Universal Service Regulations,
- Universal Service Framework



The Digital Divide

WHY **MEASURE** DIGITAL INCLUSION?

“

What is **not measured**,
quickly becomes
invisible.

What **is invisible** is
lost.

and what is lost,
cannot be acted on or
remedied. ”

The Digital Divide

The digital divide is the gap that exists between those who have access to Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and those who do not. This gap occurs between and within:

- **Population groups** e.g., PWDs, age groups, socioeconomic status (income level, employment)
- **Geographic areas** e.g., municipalities, communities, urban/rural classification
- **Regions and Countries**

The Digital Divide

The primary methodology for measuring the digital divide is the: **ICT Development Index (IDI)**

The IDI is a composite index that combines 11 indicators into one measure.

It is used to monitor and compare ICT developments between countries and over time.

Developed by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) - the United Nations' specialized agency for ICTs

List of IDI Indicators

ICT Access Sub-index
1. Fixed-telephone subscriptions/100 inhabitants
2. Households with a computer (%)
3. Households with Internet access (%) – by type of service
4. International Internet bandwidth (bit/s) per Internet user
5. Mobile cellular subscriptions/100 inhabitants
ICT Usage Sub-index
6. Individuals using the Internet (%) – by location, by device, by access type, and type of activity
7. Fixed (wired) broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (by speed tier)
8. Wireless broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants
ICT Skills Sub-index
9. Mean years of schooling
10. Secondary gross enrolment ratio (%)
11. Tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%)

The Digital Inclusion Survey (2021)

METHODOLOGY – SAMPLING DESIGN

1



DIS 2021 was a cross-sectional survey, using a multi-stage, stratified random probability sample methodology designed to produce estimates at the national, municipal and community levels.

2



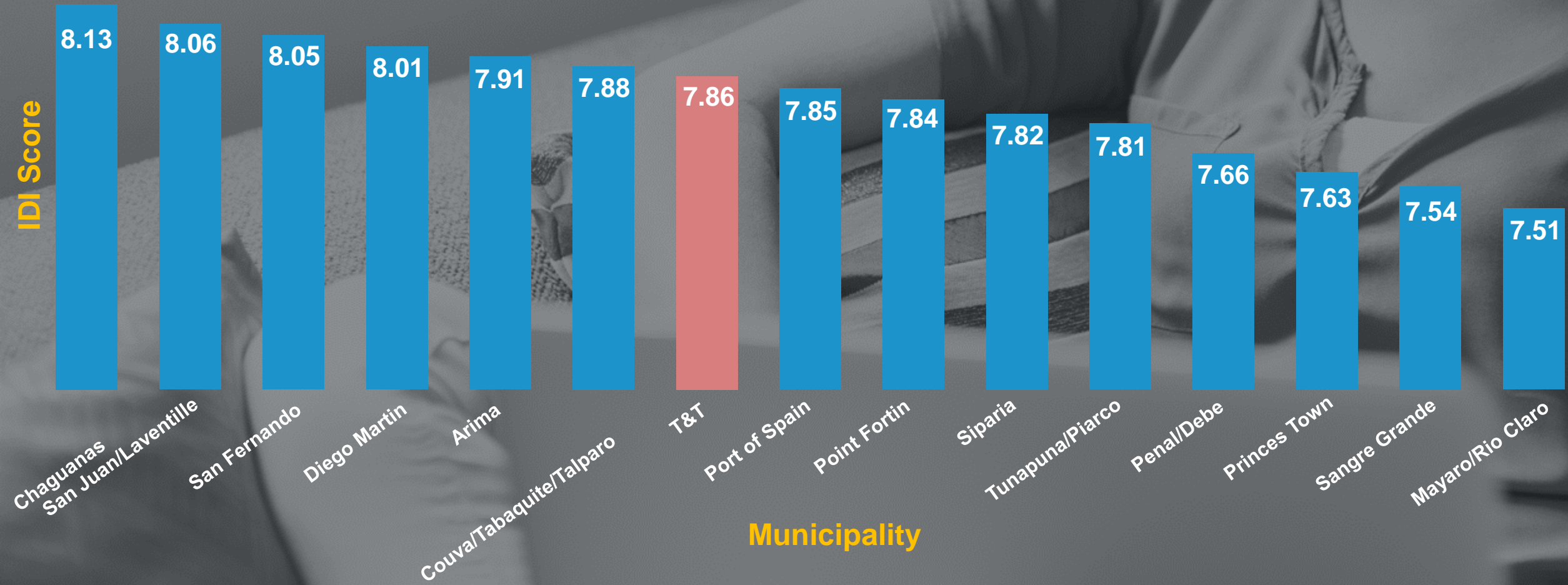
Questionnaire based on indicators prescribed by the International Telecommunications Union.
Administered the survey to over 6000+ households or approx. 17,000 persons throughout Trinidad and Tobago over 3mths.

3



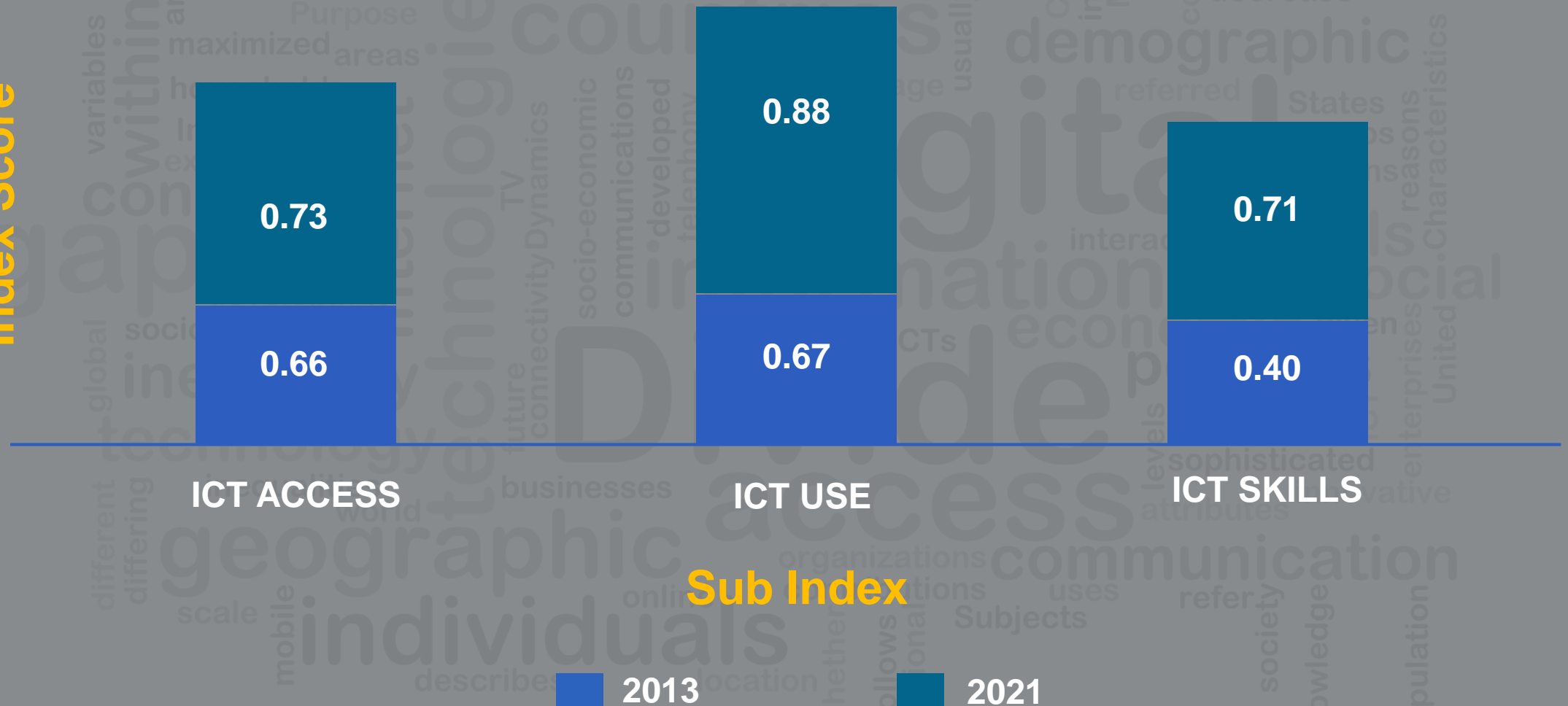
To measure the digital divide, we used the internationally recognised ICT Development Index (IDI) created by the ITU. The IDI ranges from 1 to 10 with 10 signifying that there is no digital divide exists.

FINDINGS - IDI



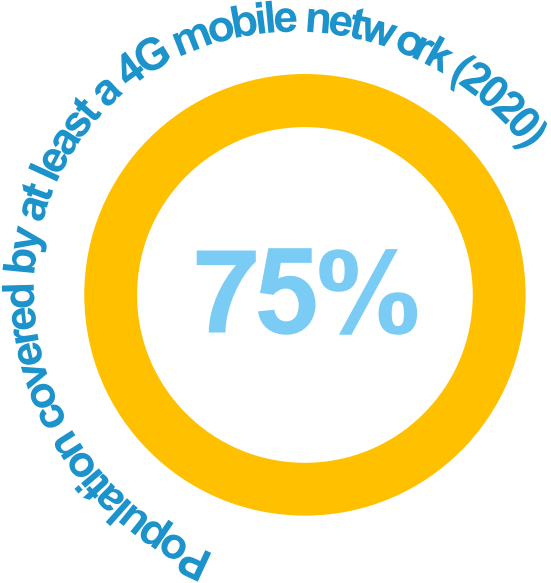
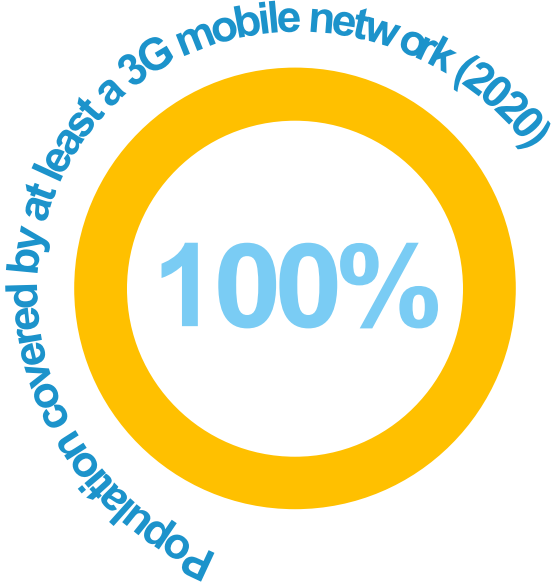
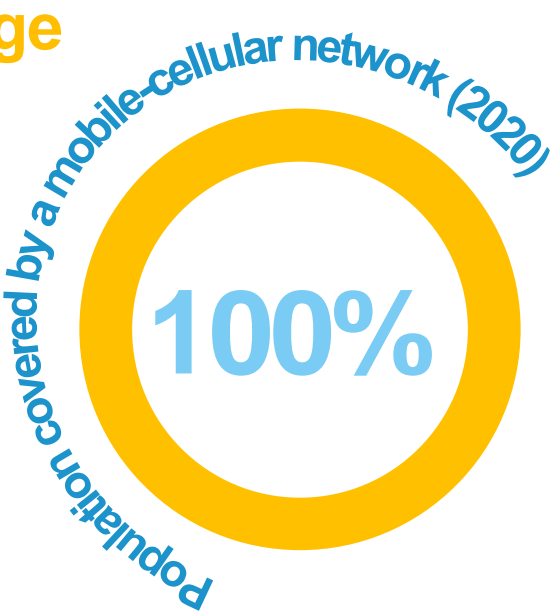
FINDINGS - IDI

Index Score

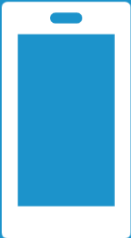


INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS

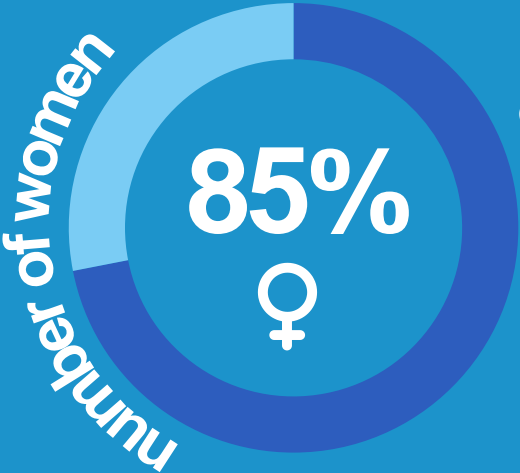
Network Coverage



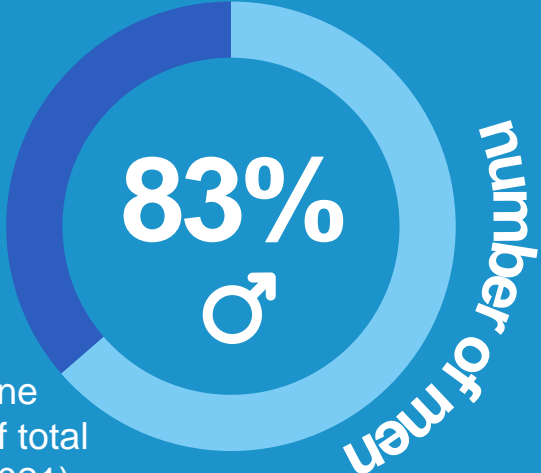
Mobile Phone Ownership



Individuals owning a mobile phone (2021) **83.9%**



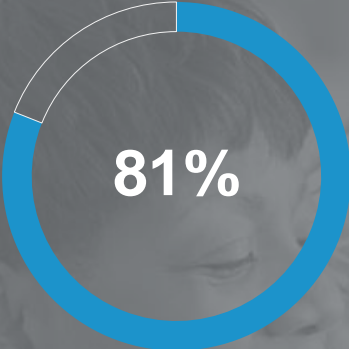
Female mobile phone ownership as a % of total female population (2021)



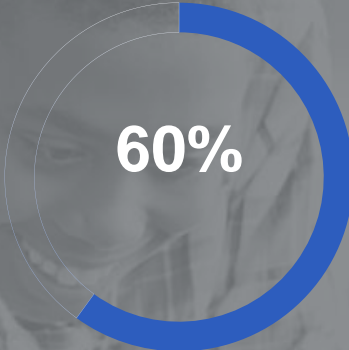
Male mobile phone ownership as a % of total male population (2021)

INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS

ICT Access at Home



Households with Internet access at home (2021)



Households with computer access at home (2021)

Households with Internet access at home, rural (2021)



Households with Internet access at home, urban (2021)



MOBILE AND FIXED TELEPHONE SUBSCRIPTIONS



Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (Q3, 2022)

145



Fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 households (Q3, 2022)

71%

MOBILE AND FIXED BROADBAND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Active mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (Q3, 2022)



58



Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 households (Q3, 2022)

90

226

International bandwidth per Internet user (kbit/s) (2021)



FIXED BROADBAND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Total Fixed Broadband Subscriptions (Q3. 2022) **377,600**

Fixed Broadband (% of total): **2%**
256kbit/s-<2Mbit/s (Q4. 2021)

Fixed Broadband (% of total): **10%**
2 to 10Mbit/s (Q4. 2021)

Fixed Broadband (% of total): **88%**
>10Mbit/s (Q4. 2021)



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

INTERNET USE

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION USING INTERNET

Individuals using the Internet total (2021)

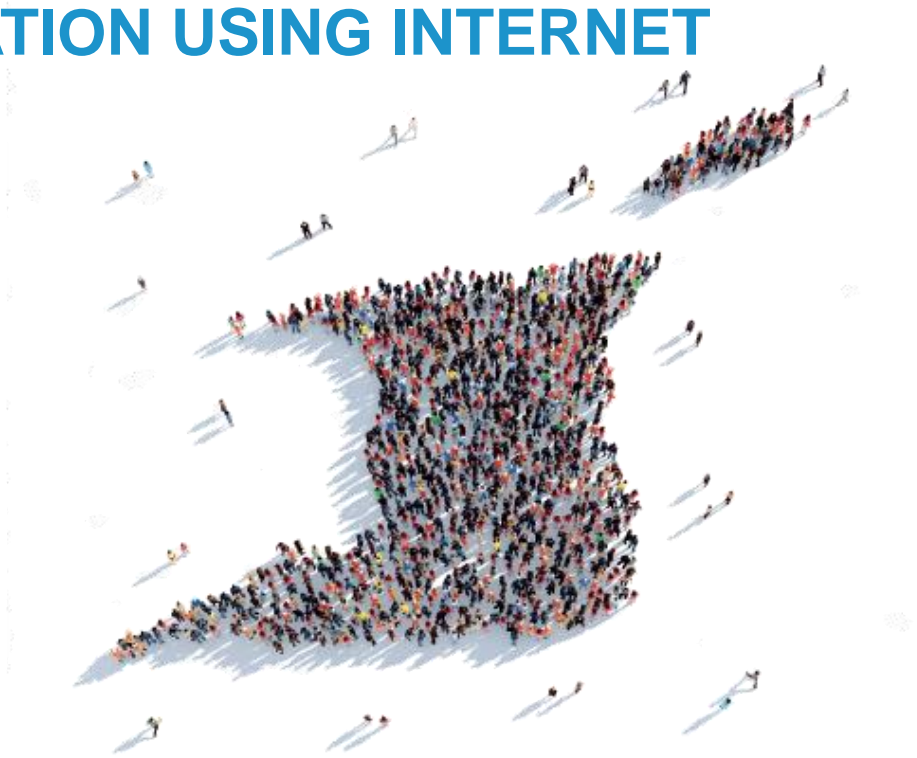
79%

Female Internet use as a % of total female population (2021)

82%

Male Internet use as a % of total male population (2021)

76%



<15 years as a % of all <15 years (2021)

67%

15-24 years as a % of all 15-24 years (2021)

94%

25-74 years as a % of all 25-74 years (2021)

83%

75+ years as a % of all 75+ years (2021)

37%

BROADBAND TRAFFIC



Average monthly fixed broadband Internet traffic per fixed broadband subscription (MB) (2020)

234,074



Average monthly mobile broadband Internet traffic per mobile broadband subscription (MB) (2020)

9039

ENABLERS & BARRIERS

ICT Prices

Mobile data and voice basket (low consumption) as a % of GNI p.c.

2.3%

Mobile data and voice basket (high consumption) as a % of GNI p.c.

2.3%

Mobile broadband basket as a % of GNI p.c.

2.3%

Fixed broadband basket as a % of GNI p.c.

1.5%

Mobile cellular basket as a % of GNI p.c.

1.0%

ICT Skills

Individual with basic skills

73%

Individual with standard skills

30%

Individual with advanced skills

4%

The Digital Inclusion Survey

How can we use the results of the survey to help bridge the divide?

We can build out universal service projects which are funded through the USF to provide services to underserved communities throughout the country.

PURPOSE OF TTWIFI

A GORTT initiative to allow the general public to access “free” quality broadband Internet to be productive, whilst they wait for service at a public location.

TATT is responsible for the roll out of TTWiFi at:

- public libraries
- public transport hubs
- schools without connectivity
- public waiting areas in health institutions (hospitals, health centres)

PURPOSE OF PWDs INITIATIVE

This initiative seeks to promote digital inclusion for persons with disabilities in Trinidad and Tobago. It was launched in September 2020.

The goal of this initiative is to provide subsidised mobile phones containing assistive features to persons who are visually and/or hearing impaired or have a disability and in receipt of a disability assistance grant from the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services.

TATT provides a subsidy of **TT\$600**.

ICT Access Centres

TATT is seeking to implement an ICT access centres as part of the GORTT initiative throughout Trinidad and Tobago



THANK YOU!



www.tatt.org.tt