

# UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

AHERI Conference 2022, Arusha 3-4Nov2022

## Showcase Community Networks: Sustainable Internet Connectivity for Africa

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# Mission

# Framework Conditions

# Partnerships





# Africa



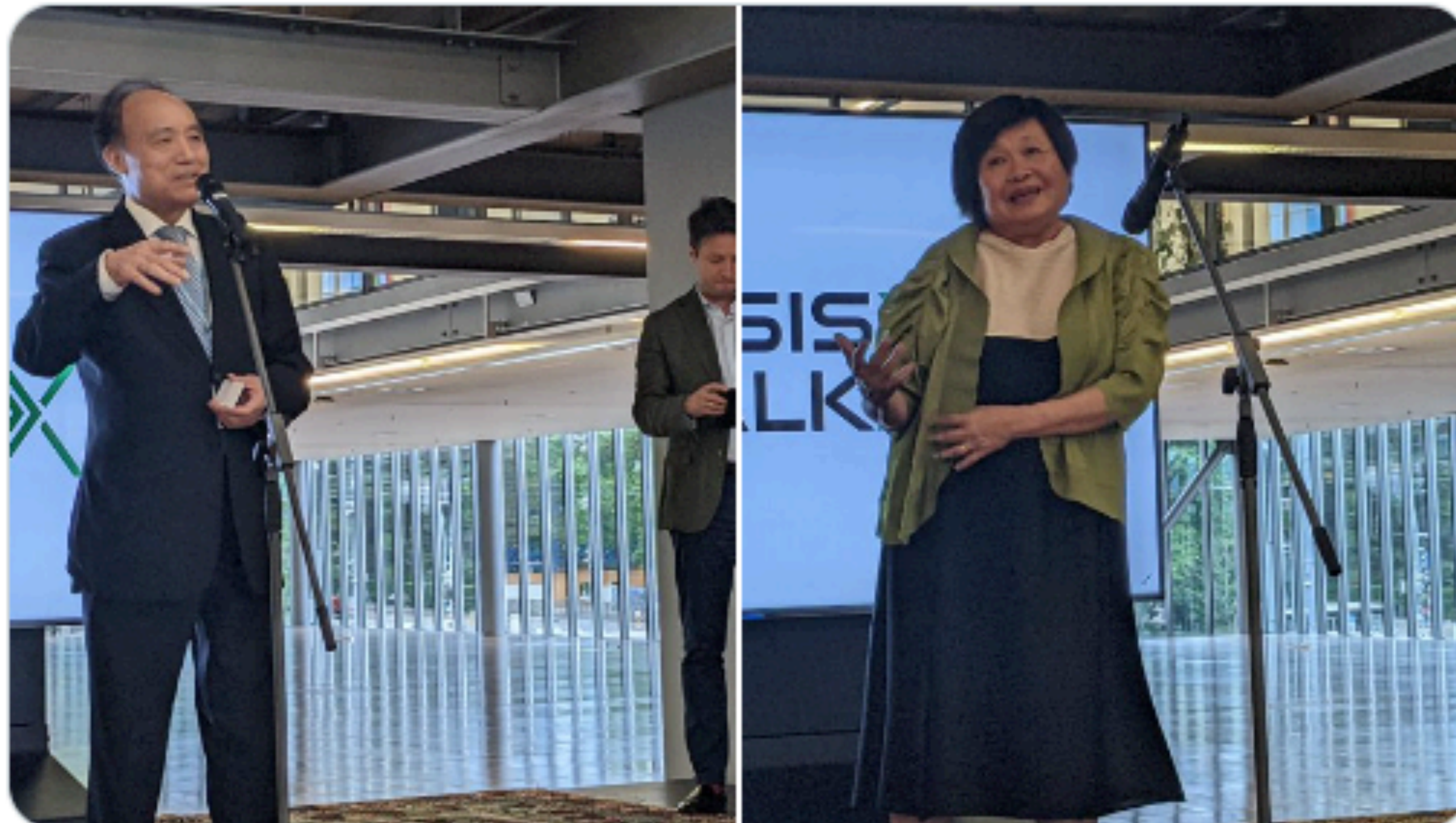
[https://  
www.mylifeelsewhere.com/  
country-size-comparison/  
tanzania/norway](https://www.mylifeelsewhere.com/country-size-comparison/tanzania/norway)



# How can we “Connect The Future”?

Josef Noll @josefnoll · Jun 2

Amazing opening by @ITU @ITUsecGen Houlin Zhao, setting the scene for connecting every single human by 2030, and @meilinfung, addressing the history of the Internet and #NRENs to connect schools. We're in @CateKimambo @RosalynnMworia @UcsafT @AheriNet @cisskisumu @WSISprocess







# Energy & Digital, enablers for the SDGs

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



## People without electricity

SDG 7.1 calls for universal access to ... energy by 2030

1.2  
billion

2010

733  
million

2020

679  
million

2030  
(trend)

[WorldBank 2021]

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/06/07/report-universal-access-to-sustainable-energy-will-remain-elusive-without-addressing-inequalities>

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## People not using Internet

SDG 9c calls for universal, affordable internet access by 2020

4.9  
billion

2010

2.9  
billion

2021

96% in dev countries

0  
billion

2030  
(hope)



WSIS Forum  
2022

[ITU 2010, 2021]

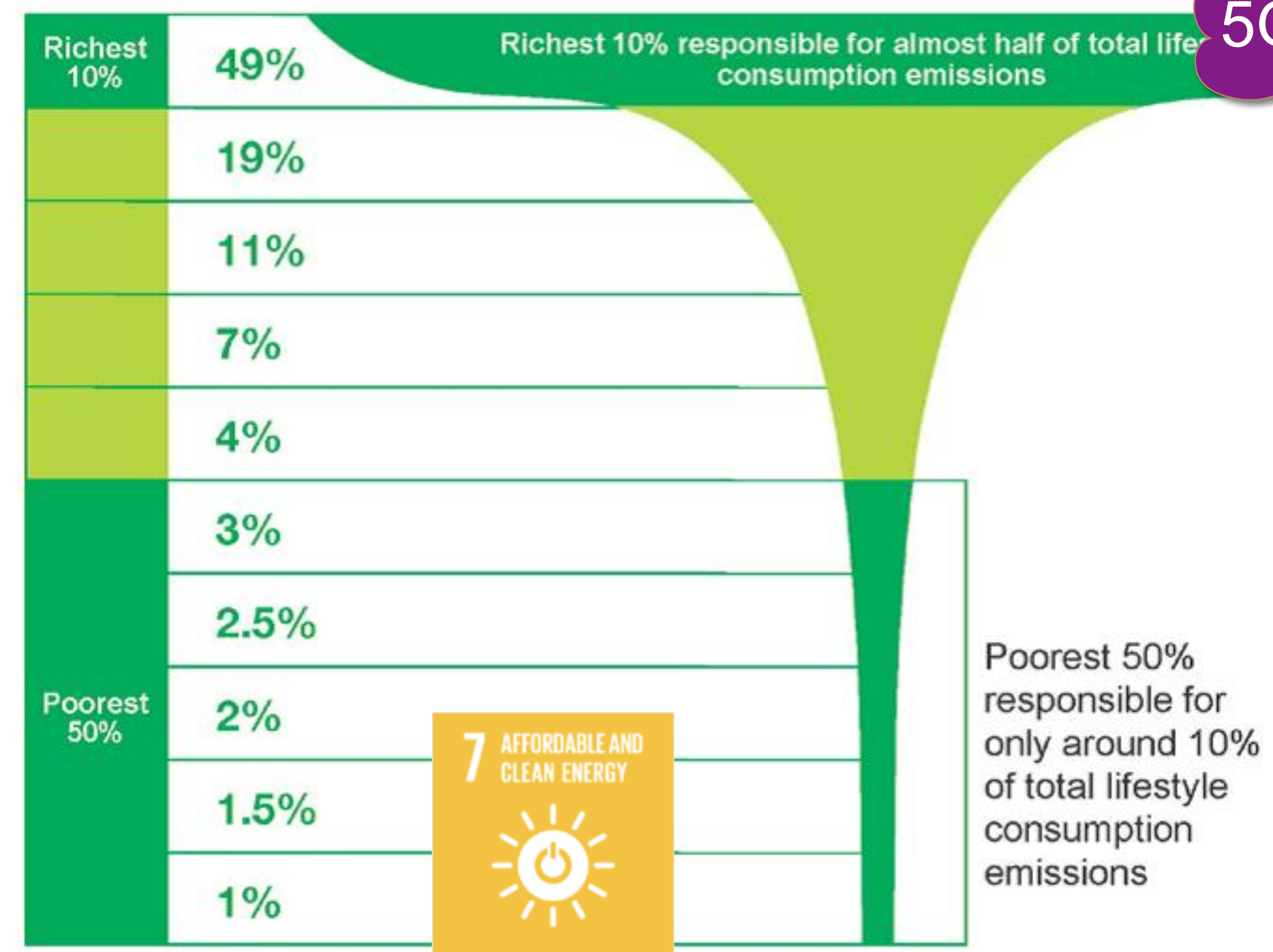
<https://www.itu.int/hub/2021/11/facts-and-figures-2021-2-9-billion-people-still-offline/>





# Inequality in Energy & Digital Access

Percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by world population



5G,6G



9%

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY  
(2021, BASED ON PILLARS' AVERAGE)



ESTIMATED TO HAVE 4G SPEEDS



ESTIMATED TO OWN A SMARTPHONE



ESTIMATED WITH UNLIMITED ACCESS



ESTIMATED TO HAVE DAILY INTERNET USE

[Source: Oxfam.org, 2015]

[[https://webfoundation.org/docs/2022/02/MC\\_Rwanda\\_FS\\_Screen\\_V1.pdf](https://webfoundation.org/docs/2022/02/MC_Rwanda_FS_Screen_V1.pdf)]



“Our mission is to improve the life of **every human** through **access to basic information** on the Internet....”

“This mission is carrying us forward every single day. We **solved** the **challenge of access**, and are focusing now the **local Knowledge Portal** to **empower** individuals, societies and nations. Through **free access** to the portal we address **access, skills, regulations and inclusion**”



**Basic Internet**  
— **FOUNDATION** —  
*Connect The Future*





**Mission**

**Framework Conditions**

**Partnerships**



# The Game Changer



105 schools  
(Q2.2022)

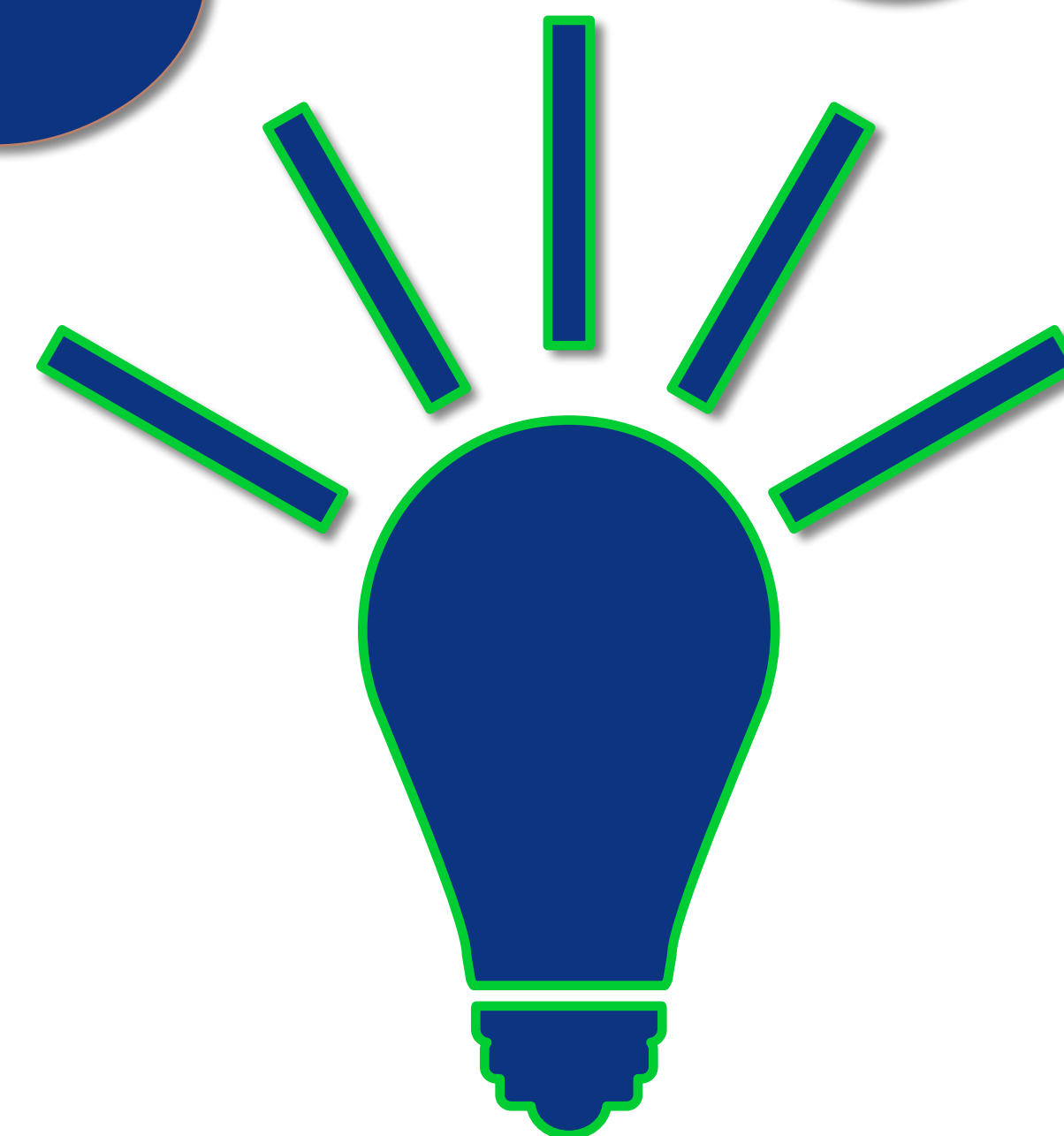
77 632  
students  
(Q2.2022)

Participation  
in the Internet  
Society

Changing  
the lives of  
many

USD 1800  
per school

ready installed







# Histories

“My mobile is more important than a weapon”

Head of Mbaash, TZ



Catherine R Kimambo connecting her first village

<https://vimeo.com/368147538> - 2020



Mount Kenya - our cultural heritage

Usingo Secondary School, KE







# Scalable connectivity for meaningful access tailored towards the needs & capabilities

Self-actualisation  
Entertainment

Empowerment, Work  
Digital Transformation

Explore, Affection  
Opportunities

Value creation  
Trust & confidence



Mobile Broadband  
20 USD/month/person



Community network  
50-100 Mbps  
200-500 USD/month



Narrowband  
~5 Mbps  
58 USD/month



InfoSpot  
10 GB/month  
<20 USD/month



# Framework Conditions - the Integrated Approach

## Access

- Wireless information spot
- Rural areas

## Skills

- Decentralised Internet
- Local School Server
- Trusted information

## Regulations

- Authority contacts
- Internet Lite
- Freemium (free + premium) model

## Inclusion

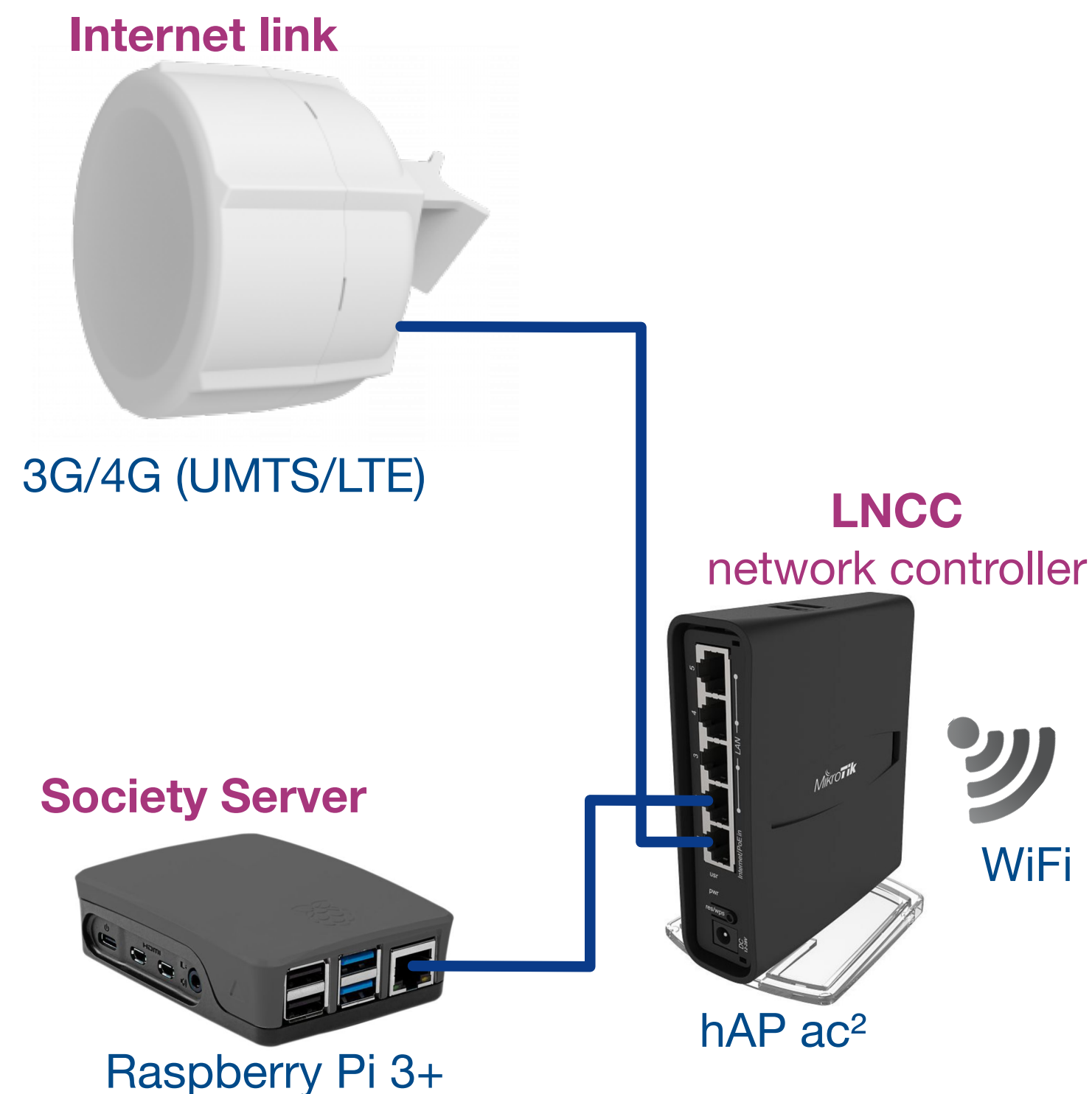
- Girls & women
- Special Needs





# Solving the Access

- wireless information spot (InfoSpot)
- Reaching out  $>20$  km to mobile network
- Affordable solution: OPEX  $<20$  USD/month







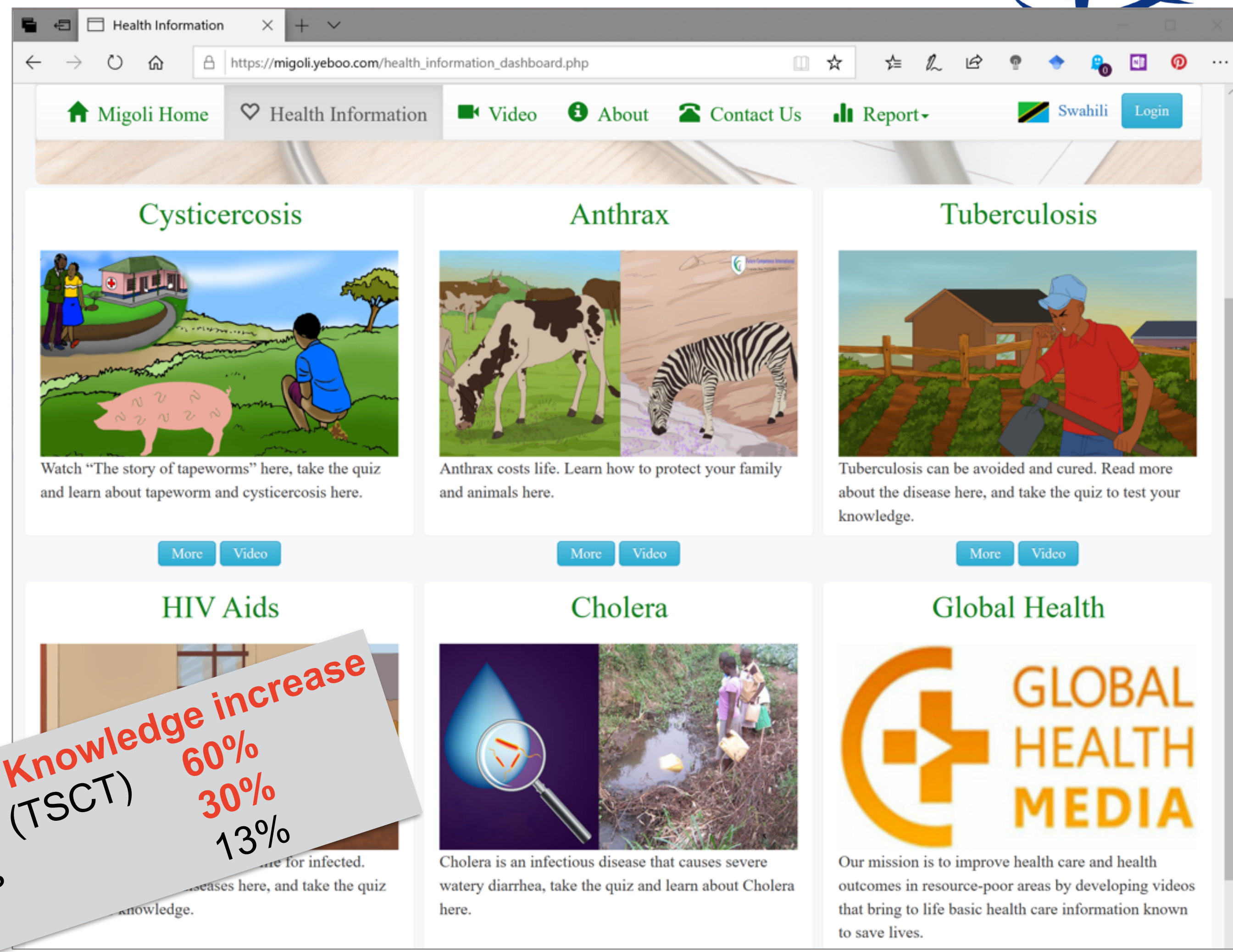
# School server: yeboo.com

## Example: Health package

 School server with locally stored information on health care etc.

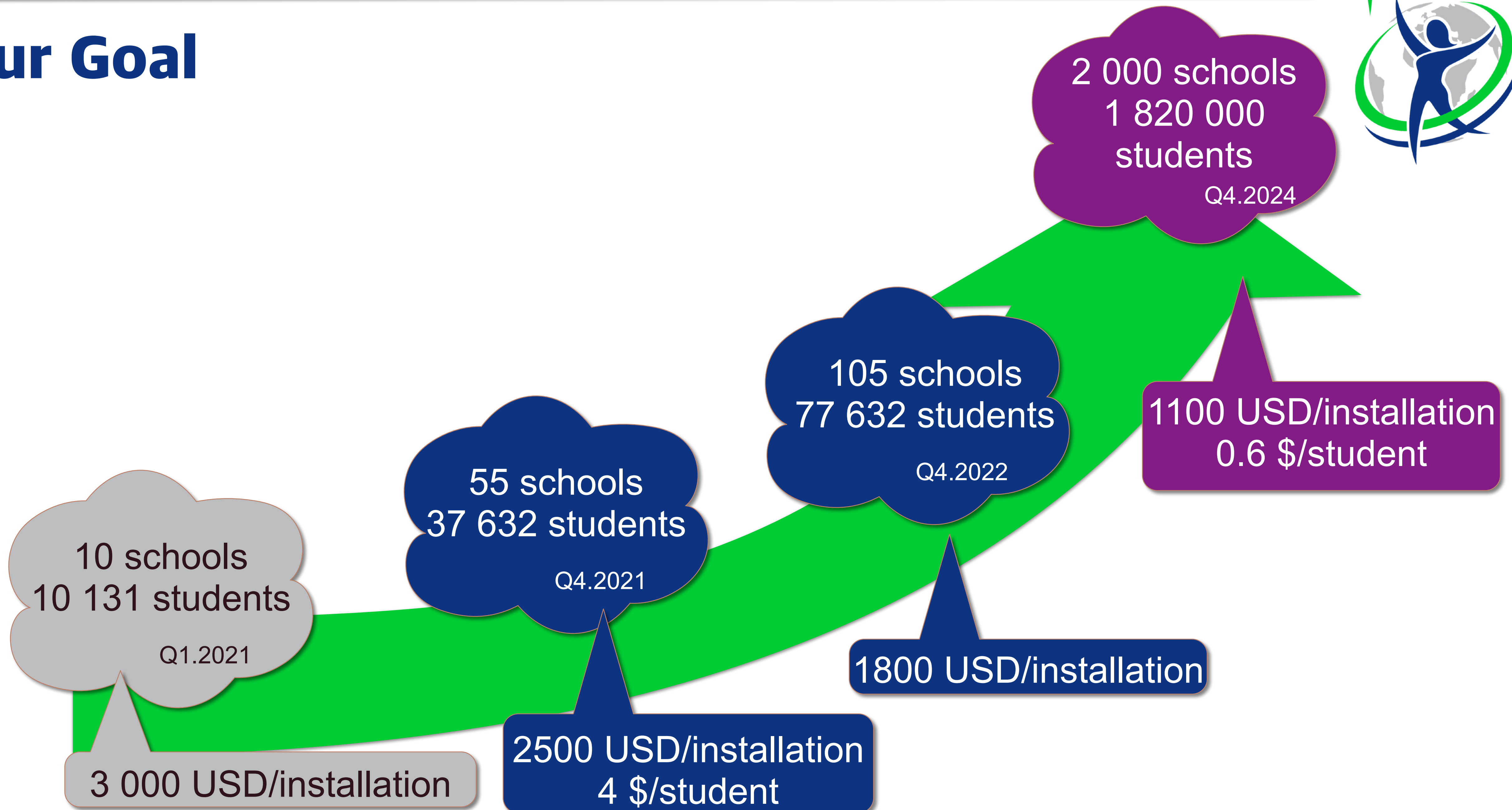


Results in TZ: **Knowledge increase**  
Cysticercosis (TSCT) 60%  
Tuberculosis 30%  
HIV/AIDS 13%





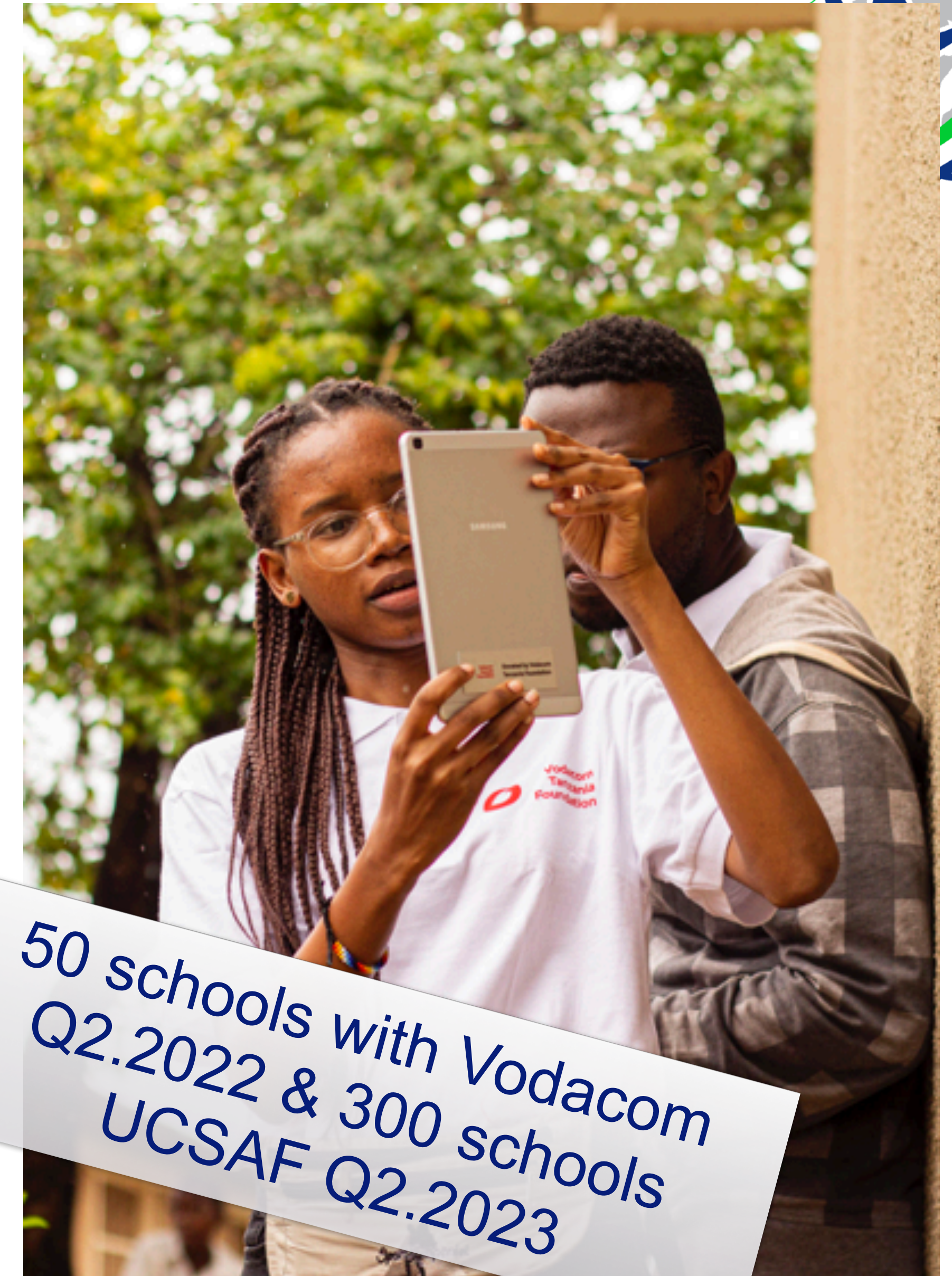
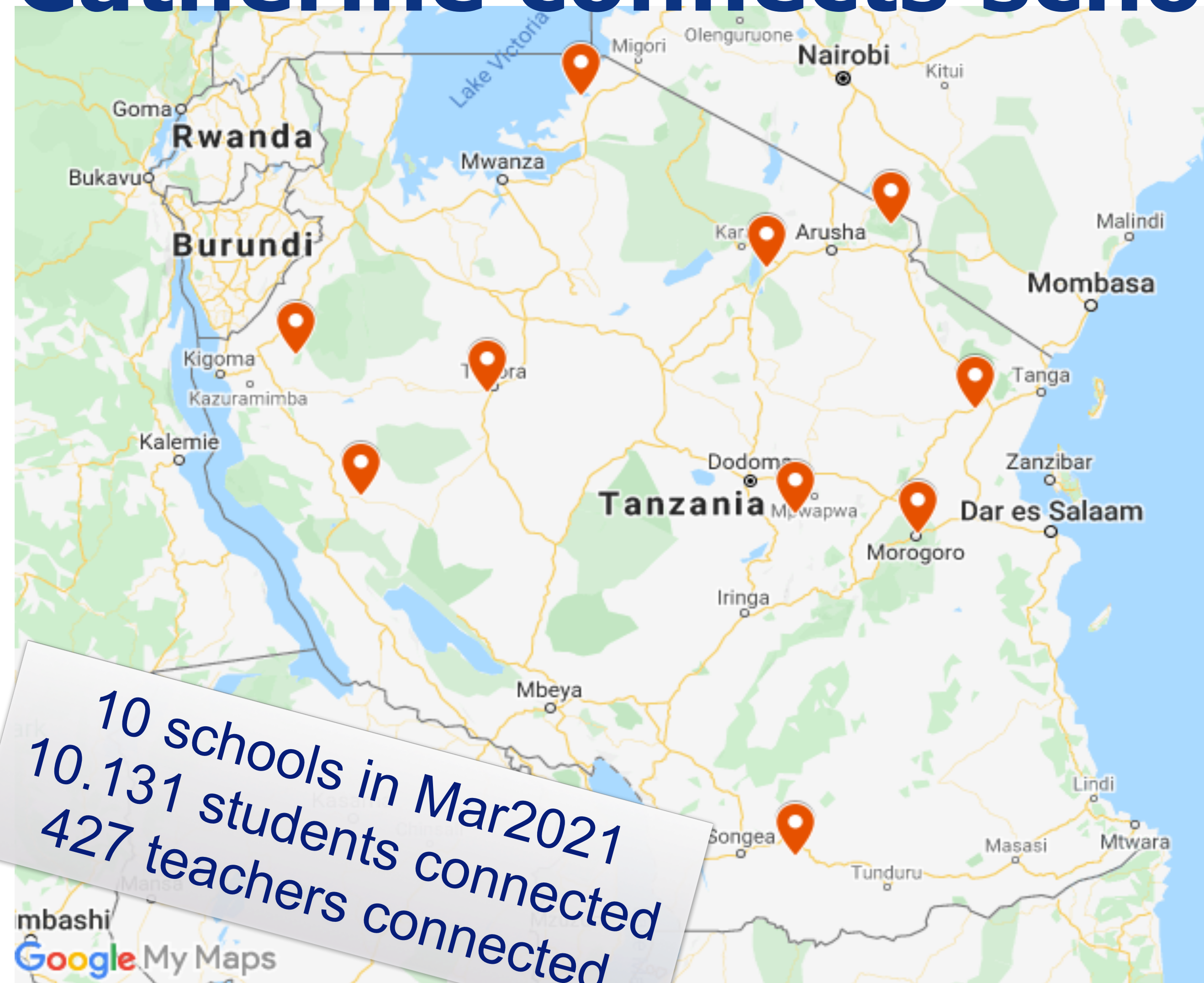
# Our Goal





# Scale-up Tanzania

## Catherine connects schools



50 schools with Vodacom  
Q2.2022 & 300 schools  
UCSAF Q2.2023









# 14 countries in Africa



Ethiopia:  
Koye Secondary School



Tanzania:  
scale up to  
360 schools





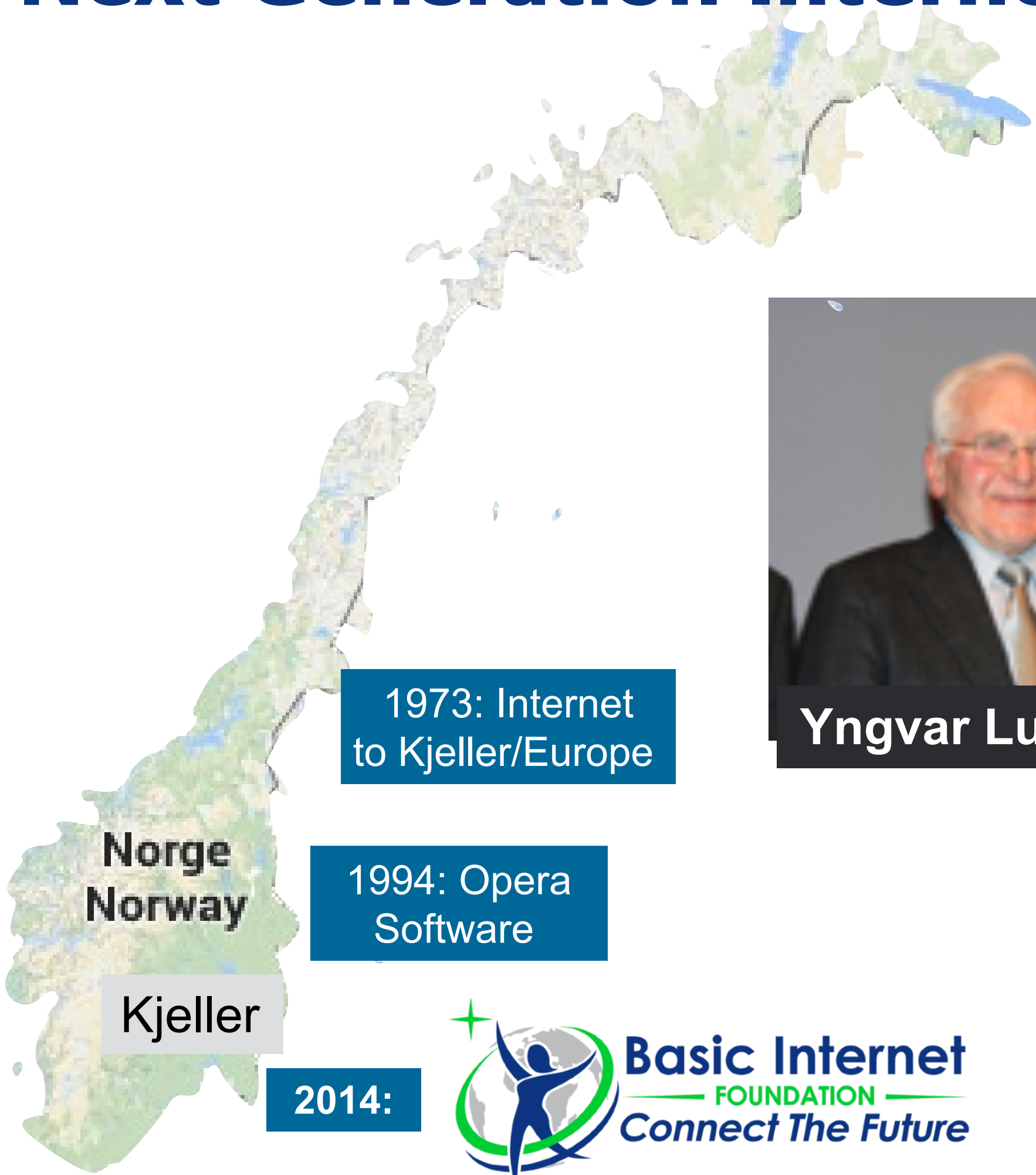
# Sustainability Internet

- Stable equipment (and network provision)
- Affordable costs, value for money
- Trouble shooting: why is my network not working?
- Content locally available



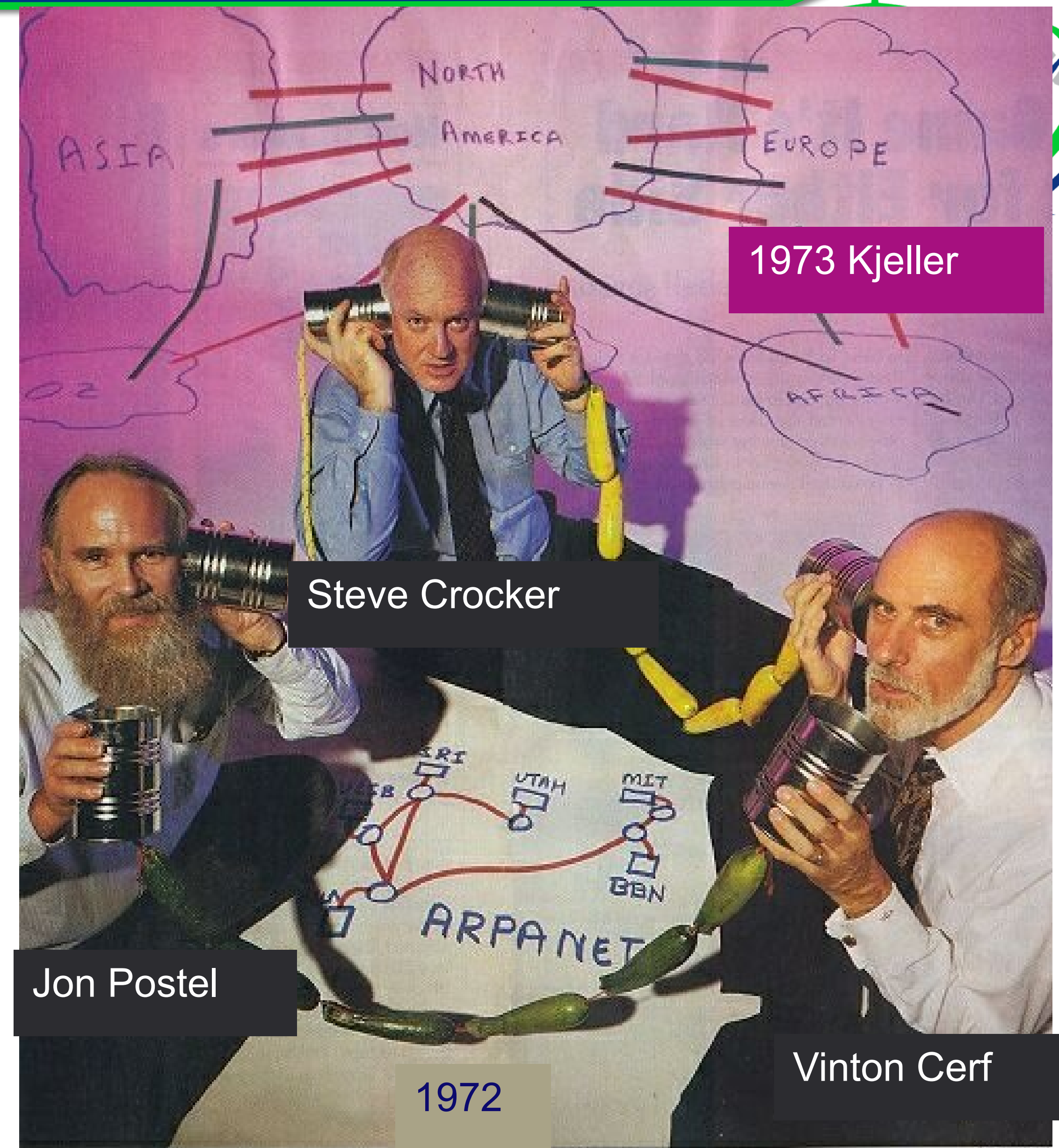


# An inclusive Next Generation Internet



Yngvar Lundh

Pål Spilling



1973 Kjeller

Steve Crocker

Jon Postel

Vinton Cerf

1972



Source: <http://www.michaelkaul.de/History/history.html>

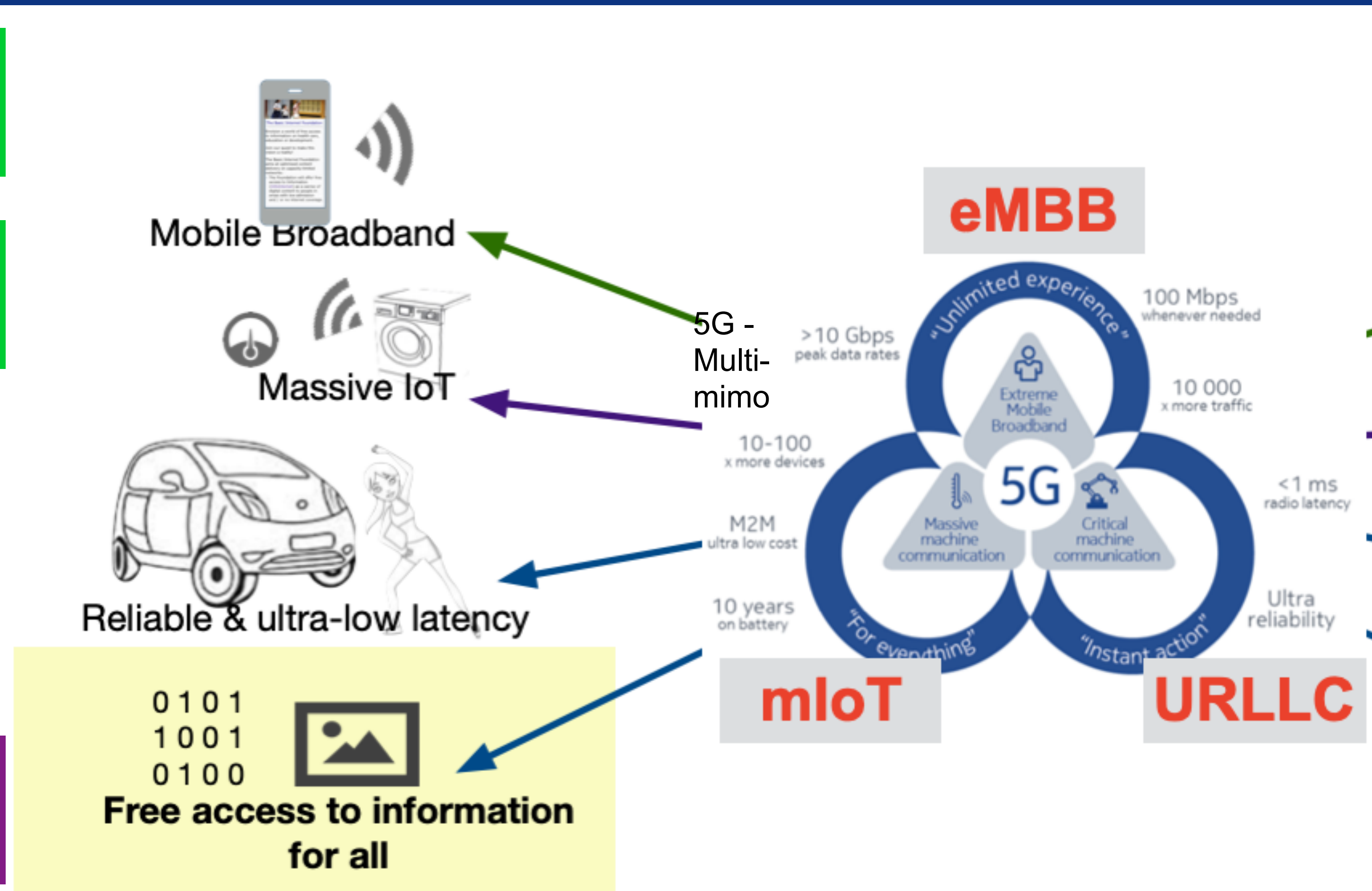


# What do we need to change?

Road model: pedestrians & cyclists

Internet: text & pictures

Internet Lite





# AfricaConnect3 and the role of Universities

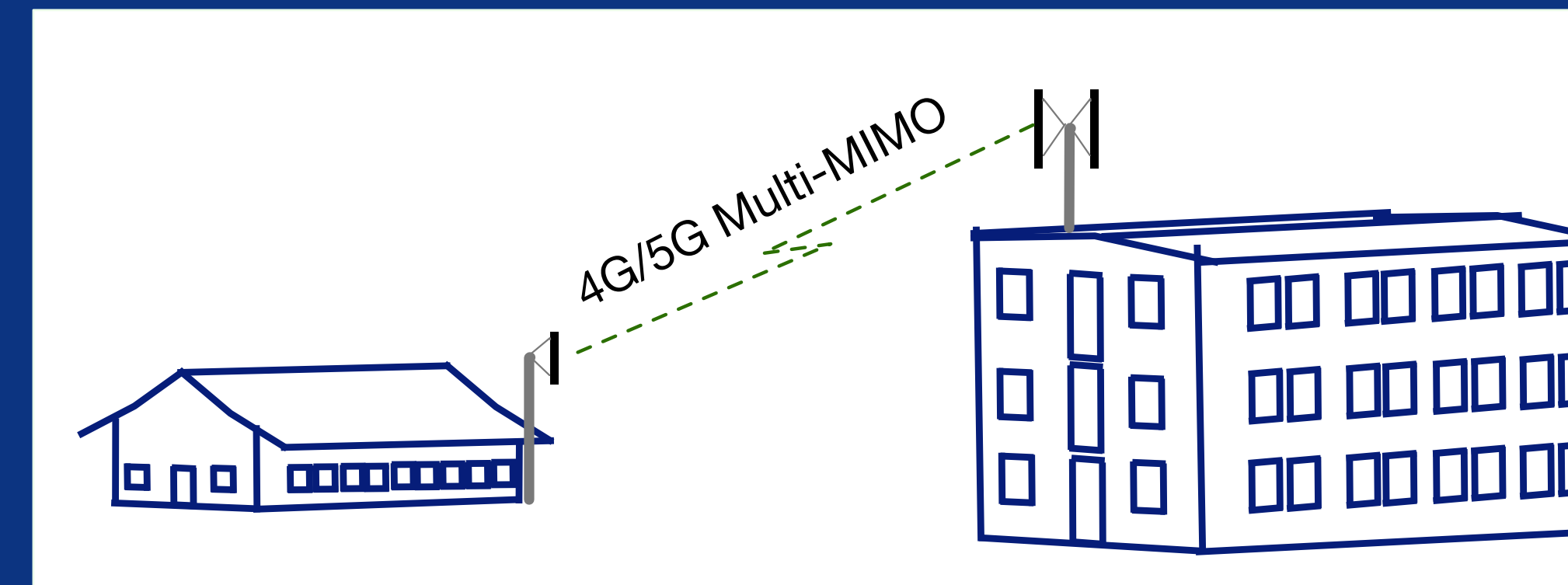


AfricaConnect3 project is co-funded by the European Union

The AfricaConnect3 project receives funding from the European Union under Grant Contract DCI-PANAF/2019/411-583.



- **Research for the (digital) Society**
- **Competence for the Digital Transformation**
- **Connect Schools & unconnected Communities**  
practical experiences
- **Real world search based on needs from the communities**



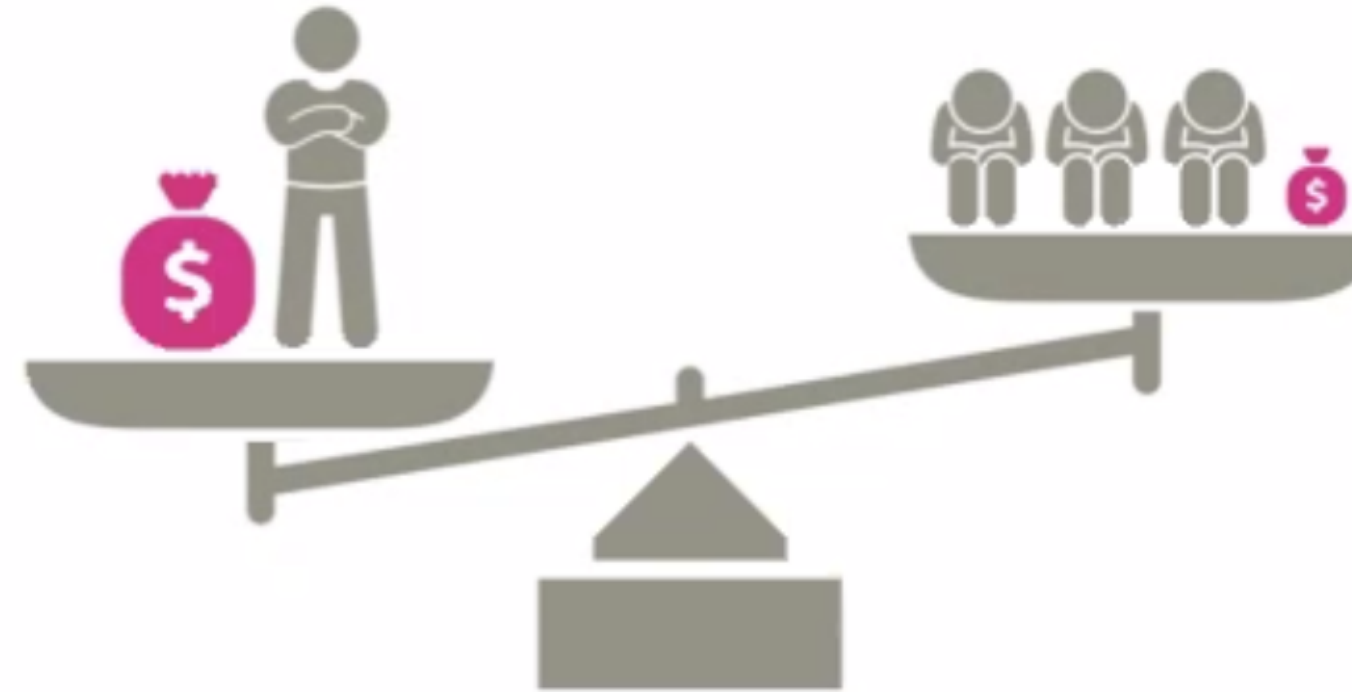


# COVID-19 HAS LED TO THE FIRST RISE IN EXTREME POVERTY IN A GENERATION

AN ADDITIONAL **119-124 MILLION PEOPLE** WERE  
PUSHED BACK INTO **EXTREME POVERTY** IN 2020



THE PANDEMIC  
IS LIKELY TO REVERSE PROGRESS  
MADE IN REDUCING INCOME INEQUALITY  
SINCE THE FINANCIAL CRISIS



COVID-19  
ESTIMATED TO INCREASE THE AVERAGE GINI  
FOR EMERGING MARKET AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
BY 6%

COVID-19  
HAS WIPE OUT 20 YEARS  
OF EDUCATION GAINS

AN ADDITIONAL 101 MILLION OR 9% OF CHILDREN  
IN GRADES 1 THROUGH 8 FELL BELOW  
MINIMUM READING PROFICIENCY LEVELS IN 2020

Talking: Caroline Stratton



The Sustainable Development Goals Report  
2021

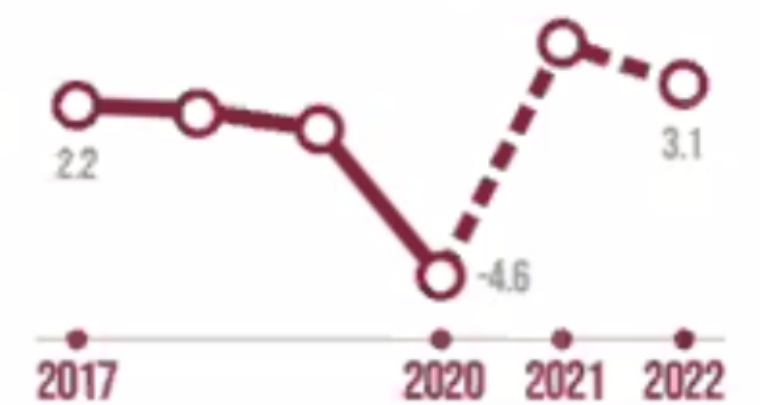
THE PANDEMIC  
HAS LED TO THE LOSS OF THE EQUIVALENT OF  
**255 MILLION FULL-TIME JOBS**



ABOUT **4X** THE NUMBER LOST DURING  
THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS (2007-2009)

ECONOMIC RECOVERY  
IS UNDER WAY

GLOBAL REAL GDP PER CAPITA  
(2017-2022)



BUT FOR MANY COUNTRIES, ECONOMIC  
GROWTH IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO PRE-  
PANDEMIC LEVELS ONLY IN 2022 OR 2023



# Conclusion

## Partnership for Sustainable Internet Connectivity

2 000 schools  
1 820 000  
students

Q4.2024



- Universities
  - Real-world knowledge
  - Decentralised, empower the communities
  - Knowledge4Africa, 5GforPeople
- Community Networks
  - extension of NRENs?
- Commercial actors
  - Mobile operators: Research with 5G as backbone
  - ISPs, satellite
- Government, ITU, UNICEF, UNESCO, ...
  - Framework conditions (spectrum, Internet Lite)

