



DIGITAL CENTRAL ASIA SOUTH ASIA (CASA) PROGRAM

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**Transport and ICT Global Practice
World Bank**

Central and South Asia: Disconnected in the digital age

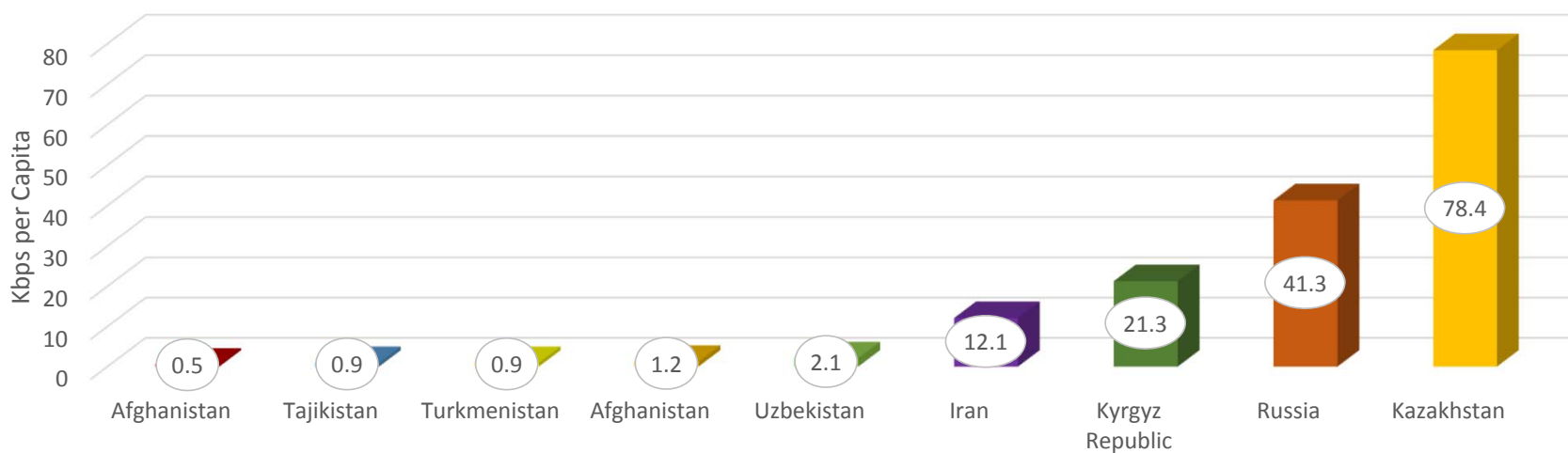


Poor quality and expensive internet connectivity

General reasons:

- Incomplete policy and regulatory environments
- Landlocked, global Internet traffic bypassing Central Asia
- Limited regional integration
- Limited use of ICT
- Low level of private investment

Bandwidth per Capita (Kbps)



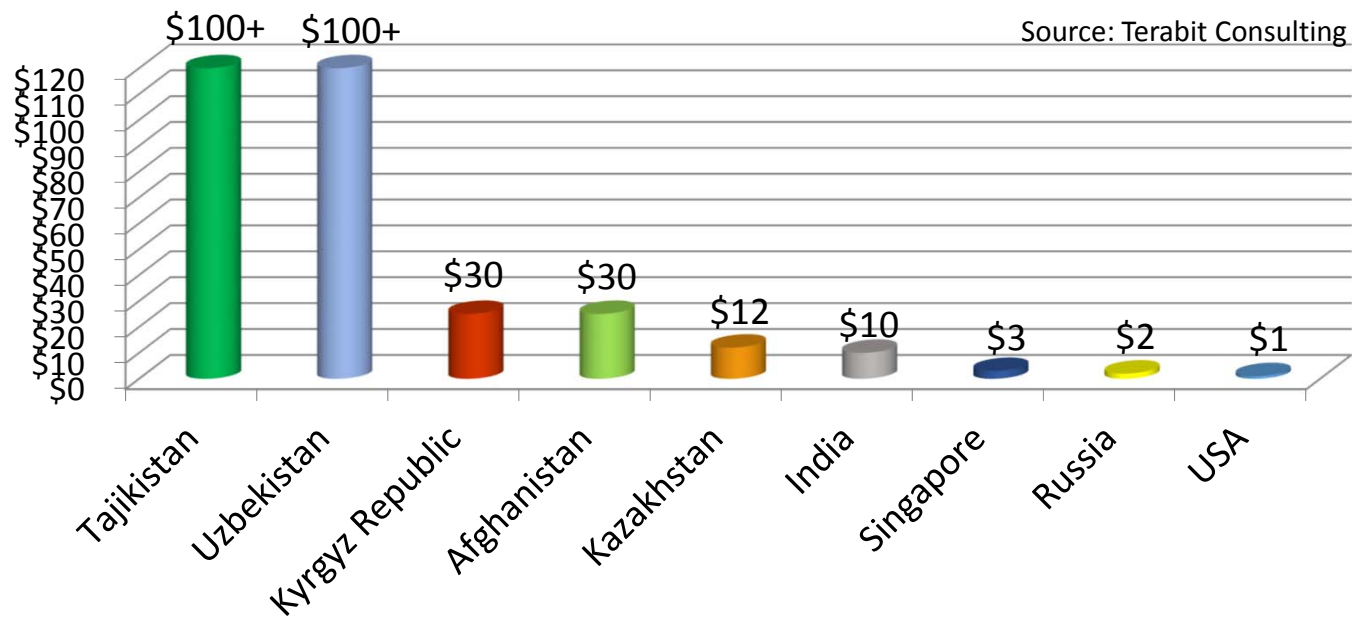
Source: Terabit Consulting



Wholesale Bandwidth Prices

- Wholesale bandwidth prices are 10 to 100+ times higher in Central Asia than in America or Europe

2016 Wholesale Transit Pricing per Mbps (\$USD)



ICT HUB between East-West, North-South



Conditions are ripe for regional collaboration:

Afghanistan
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan



- Open economy
- Competitive telecom sector
- Eurasian EU
- Links to China, Central and South Asia
- Qualified IT professionals
- Access to cheap green energy
- Strong political will
- **BUT we must work collectively with regional partners**

Low International Bandwidth & Weak international infrastructure has a High Cost Across Central and South Asia

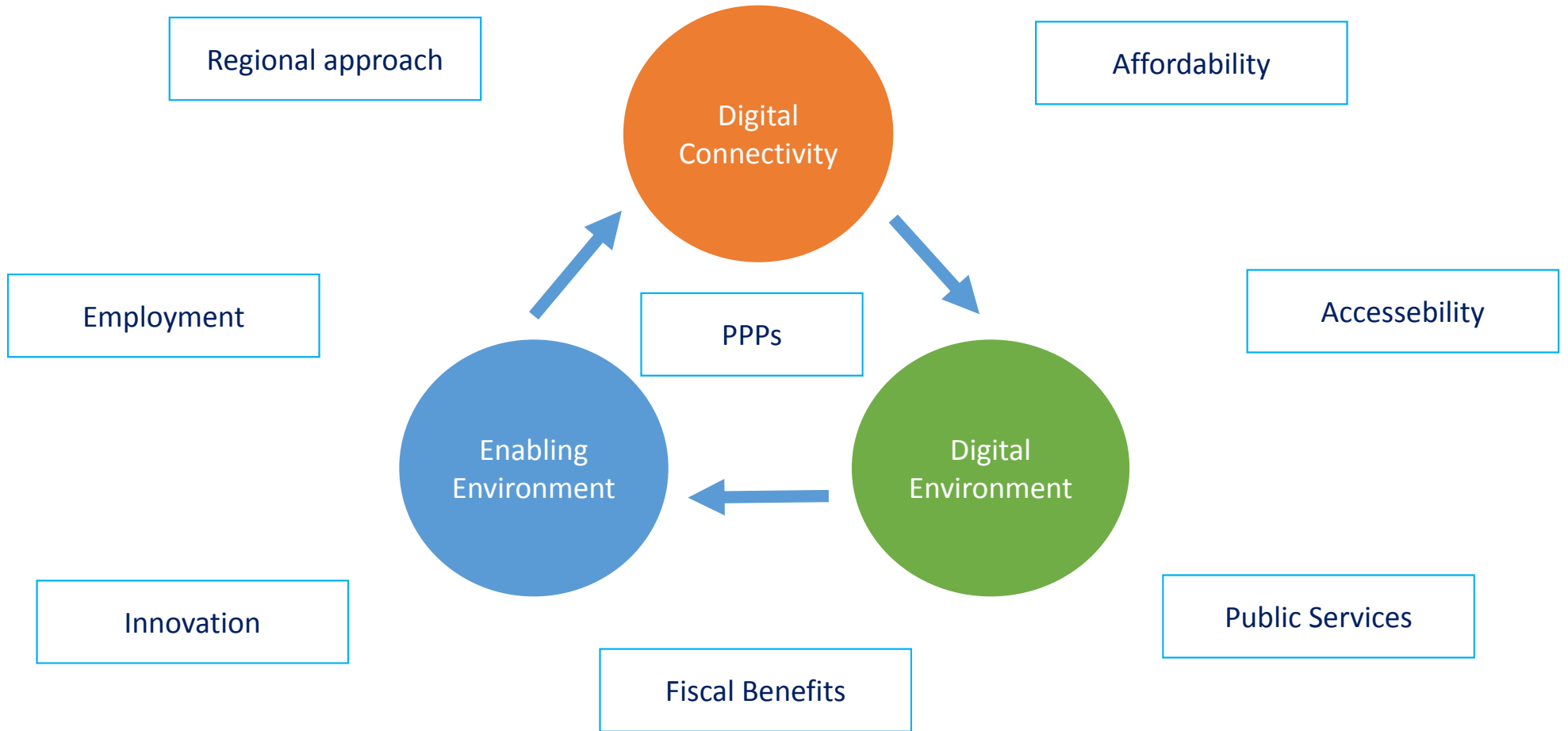


- **At the macro level: a major obstacle to economic and human development**
 - Detachment from digital economy
 - Continued economic inefficiencies and restrained growth
 - Lack of access to critical social development tools including telemedicine, distance learning, scientific/research networks
- **More specifically within the telecom environment: higher wholesale and consumer prices, and lower broadband adoption rates**



Digital CASA Program

Proposed Digital CASA Program



Proposed Digital CASA Program



Digital CASA Program will increase access to more affordable internet services, improve government's capacity to deliver digital public services and facilitate opportunities for digitally-enabled income generation.

In line with the findings of the World Development Report 2016 “Digital Dividends”, the project is expected to lead to:

- increased economic growth,
- improved employment opportunities
- better service delivery by government and the private sector.

First countries to join:

- Afghanistan (\$75 mln)
- Kyrgyz Republic (\$50 mln)
- Uzbekistan, Tajikistan (currently in discussions)

Specific components of Digital CASA Program are tailored to each country on the basis of a broad Menu of Options

Examples of Components of Digital CASA-Afghanistan Project



Component 1. Digital Infrastructure

- Regional and domestic connectivity infrastructure (including pre-purchase of international bandwidth)
- Government network “Gov-Net”
- Internet exchange point (IXP)

Component 2: E-government

- Shared E-government infrastructure
- Digital platforms, shared services and “smart solutions”

Component 3: Enabling Environment / Skills, Jobs and Innovation

- Policy, Regulatory and Legal Frameworks
- ICT Skills Development, job creation and innovation

Component 4. Project Management

- TA for M&E, communications, procurement, FM, environmental and social safeguards, audits and incremental operating cost
- Institutional strengthening and Digital Leadership capacity development

Examples of Components of Digital CASA-Kyrgyzstan Project



Component 1. Digital Infrastructure

- Improving regional connectivity: Regional backbone networks and domestic fiber-optic networks
- Increasing the capacity and reach of the government network “G-Net” (high-speed Internet in government agencies, IT and communications equipment)
- Bridging the rural connectivity gap

Component 2: Digital Platforms and Smart Solutions

- Digital government infrastructure and shared platforms including “cloud computing” data centers, secure identification, data integration and sharing infrastructure and portals
- E-services and data innovations in key sectors (transport, agriculture, health, education, extractives, etc.)

Component 3: Enabling Environment for Digital Economy

- Creation of a favorable legal, regulatory and institutional enabling environment for digital transformation
- Partnerships for digital leadership, ICT Skills Development and digital Innovations

Component 4. Project Management and Communications

- Project management activities, partnerships development and citizen engagement.
- Project Implementation Unit (PIU) establishment, various operating costs

Outcomes of Digital CASA Project



The outcomes of Digital CASA Regional Program include:

1. Increase in the number of people provided with access to the Internet.
2. Significant social benefits related to more efficient delivery of services and enhanced citizen participation, including in health, education, among others.
3. Increase in the number of e-Services and Applications Utilizing the Shared Services Platform.
4. Development of the ICT sector and digital job opportunities through increased productivity of firms, technological innovations across industries.
5. Facilitation of cross-border trade of knowledge, products (e.g. e-commerce) services across the region.
6. Generation of indirect government revenue sources.

Thank you!



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