

Mobile Operator Connects and Protects Uganda's Rural Communities

ABOUT

A large Mobile Network Operator (MNO) that is part of a multinational telecommunications group and offers vital voice, data and digital services to retail customers, as well as enterprise solutions to the corporate and public sectors, partnered with the Uganda Communications Commission to bring modern communications infrastructure to rural communities.

CUSTOMER CHALLENGE

More than 80% of Uganda's population lives in isolated rural areas, with poor or nonexistent broadband connectivity. Motivated by a desire to bring the social and economic benefits of reliable connectivity to these communities, the government of Uganda launched an ambitious strategy: To facilitate access at speeds of at least 3 Mbps to 100% of rural areas by 2020.

In the past, operators have been unable to provide connectivity in these scattered settlements. The long distances between sites and the lack of adequate power infrastructure made terrestrial backhaul too costly to sustain.



Provide reliable broadband coverage for the rural areas of Uganda, despite challenging terrain and no power grid

HOW WE HELPED

Intelsat worked with the MNO on a turnkey solution and commercial model that would bring resilient, high-performance connectivity to Uganda while minimizing implementation and operating costs.

With a business plan in place, Intelsat implemented a satellite-based low-cost, turnkey, solar-powered solution for expanding 2G and 3G, providing data and voice services to thousands in Bufundi and Kibuku.

The fully outdoor, small-cell system – implemented with satellite equipment, small-cell RAN and solar power and batteries – delivered fast, affordable internet services and reduced the need for maintenance and management.



A turnkey, satellite-based, low-cost solution for 2G/3G voice and data services



RESULTS

Business growth via capture of market share in remote areas



A quickly deployed pilot program (using a cost-effective solution reaching rural areas) gave the MNO a competitive advantage in a new market.



Dynamic bandwidth sharing between sites combined with high-throughput satellite delivered profitability and a quality user experience for voice and data.



Scalable business model without capex constraints enabled the MNO to adapt bandwidth on demand

Safer, more secure communities with thriving economies



People of the two isolated communities in Uganda where the connectivity were deployed were able to make phone calls for the first time, giving them access to the outside world and enhancing health and well-being across the region



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