

Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to have 1 billion mobile subscriptions by 2025

In 2015, mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 people were 75.7 in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), about 17 points below China's rate of 93.2. In 2012, China had a total of 1.11 billion mobile subscriptions at a rate of 80.8 subscriptions per 100 people. Assuming SSA will follow China's trend in terms of population growth and mobile cellular subscriptions, it is estimated that SSA will have around 1 billion subscriptions by 2025 when the continent's total population is projected to be 1.24 billion people.

The Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of unique subscribers in Africa is currently the highest in the world. According to the GSMA, unique subscribers grew at an average annual rate of 11% over the 2010-2015 period, the fastest growth rate globally and higher than the global average of 8%. As the continent's subscriber growth converge with the global rates, Africa's average annual growth rate for 2015-2020 is expected to drop to 6% followed by Asia Pacific at 5% while the global average will be 4%.

