



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



SDGs
LEARNING



Accelerating action through digital transformation: strengthening digital skills and capacities for human wellbeing

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Digital skills development will accelerate achievement of SDGs

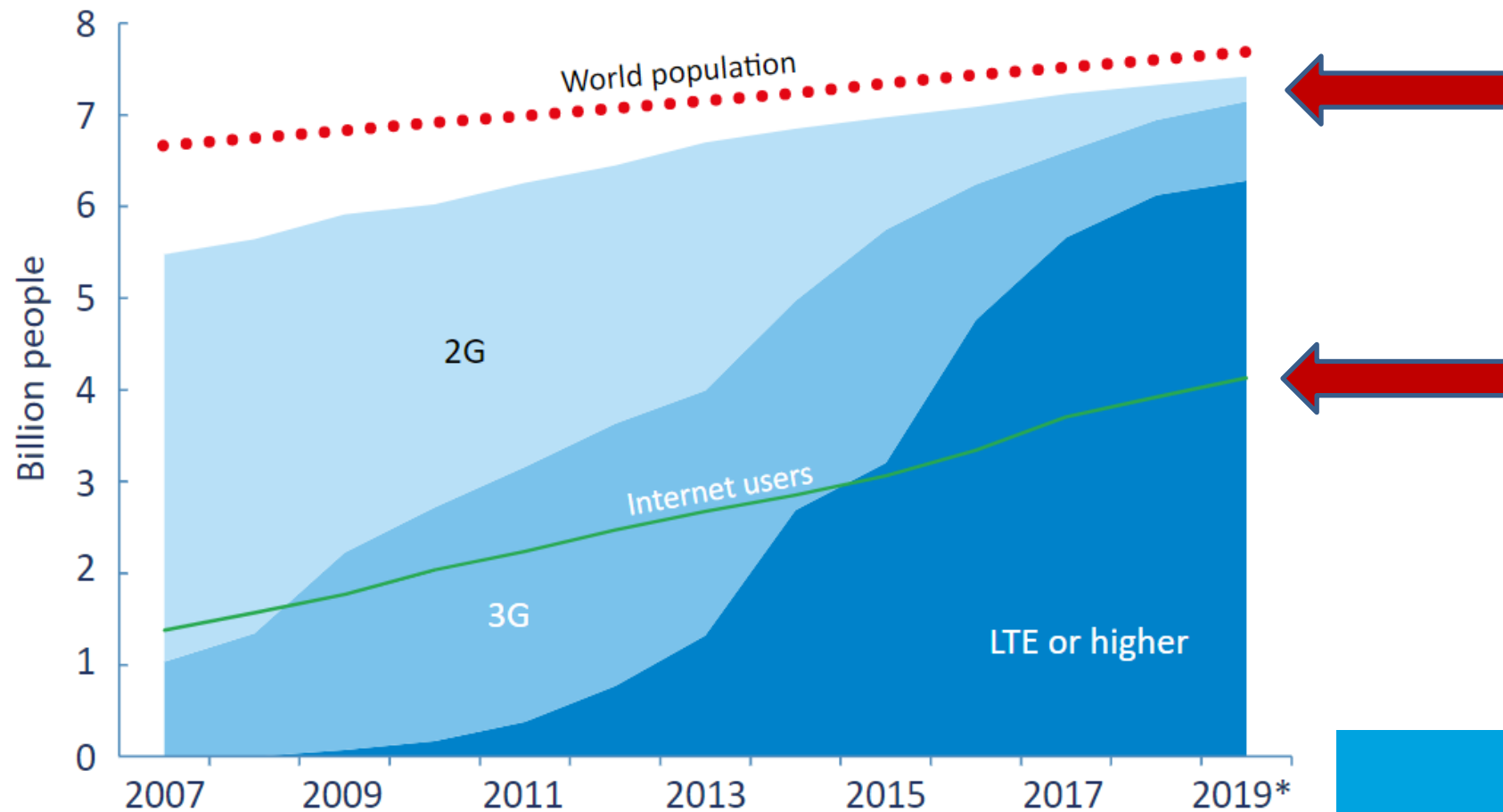


Covid-19 brought to the surface the huge connectivity challenge

- 90% of schools closed (UNESCO) – remote learning?
- 94% of global workforce affected by workplace closures due to Covid-19 (ILO) – remote working?
- Teaching, learning, working from home requires reliable and affordable Internet connection, and digital skills
- But: 44% of the world population is still offline - even where connectivity is available (ITU)

Gap between Internet availability and usage:

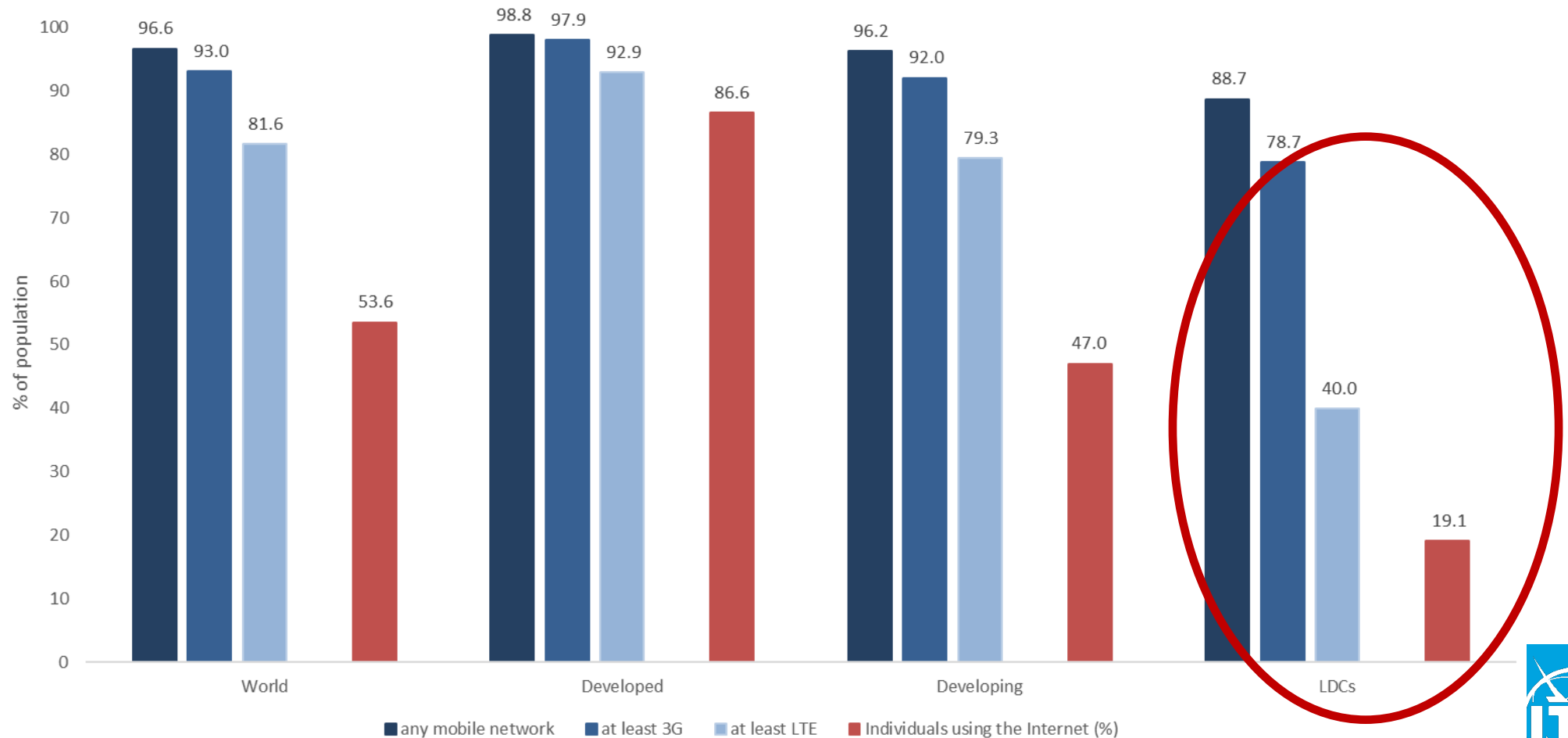
Over 90% of the world population lives in an area that has broadband service coverage whereas only 54% are using the Internet



Gap between Internet availability and usage:

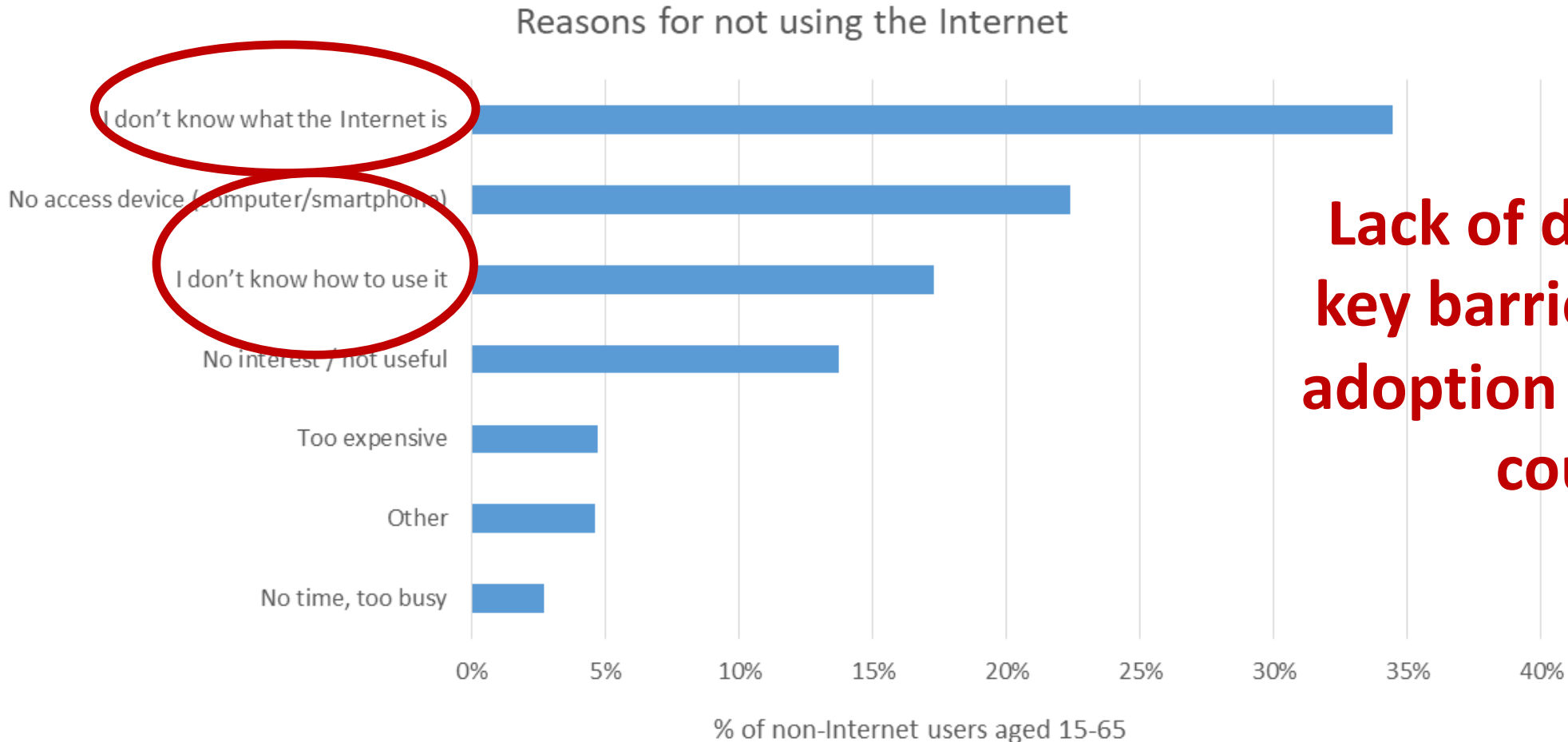
Gap is largest in LDCs – WHY?

Mobile population coverage and Internet usage (2019*)



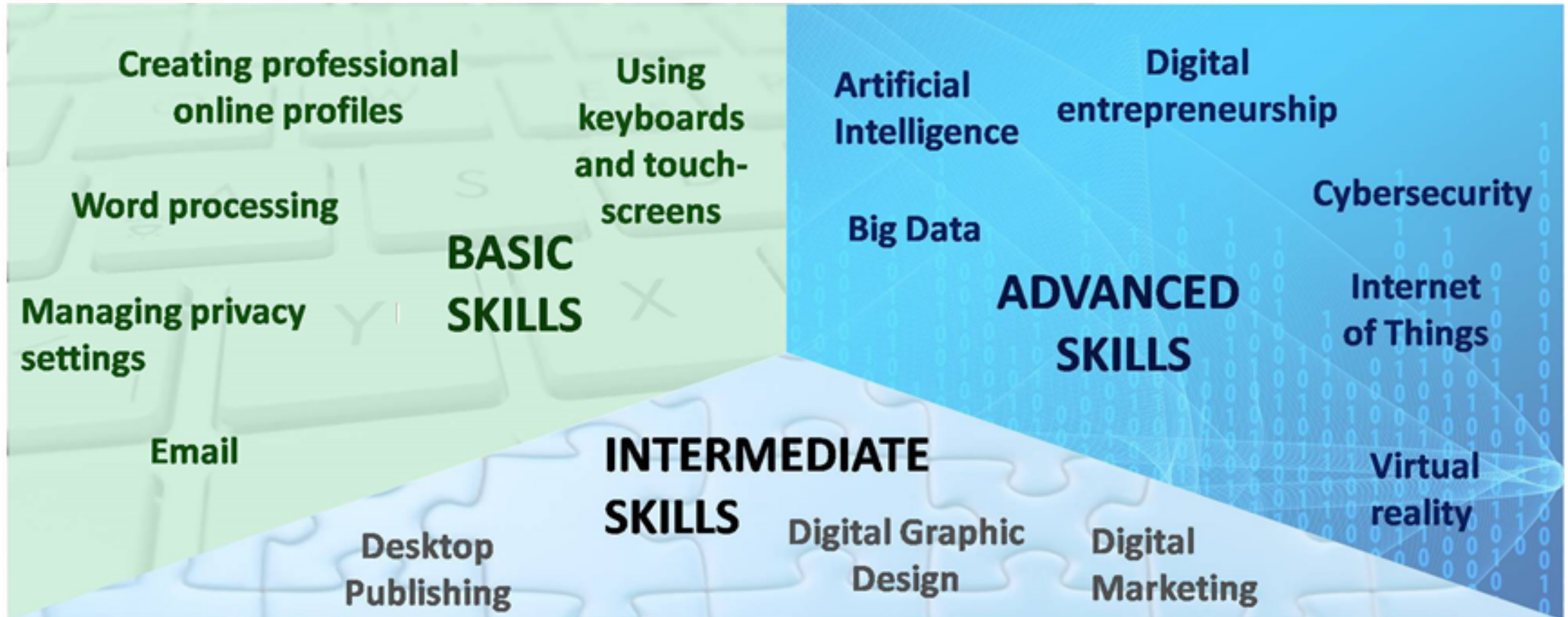
Barriers to Internet usage

65% of answers related to education and skills



Lack of digital skills is key barrier to Internet adoption in developing countries

Digital skills gaps exist at all levels



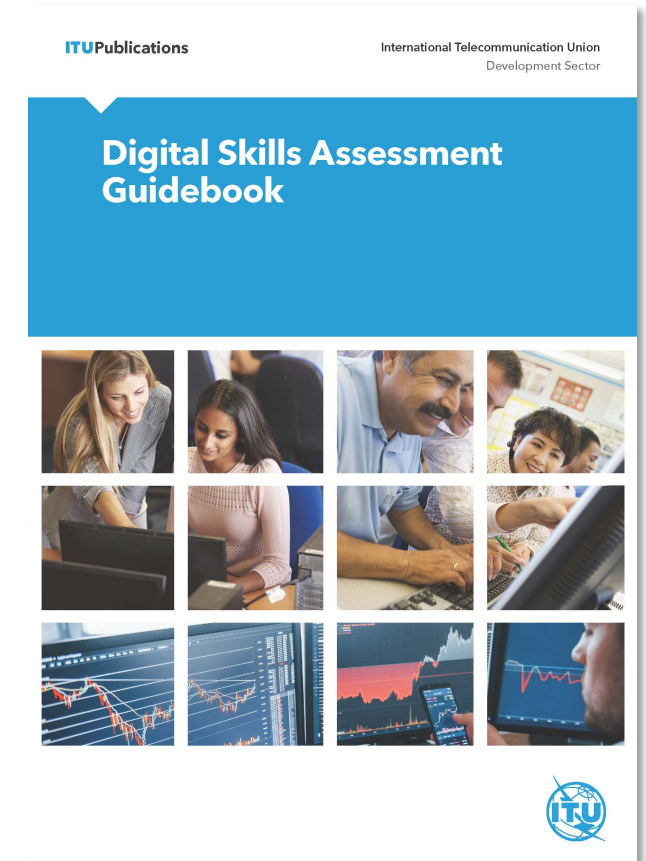
Source: ITU Digital Skills Toolkit 2018

There is an urgent need to address the digital skills gap

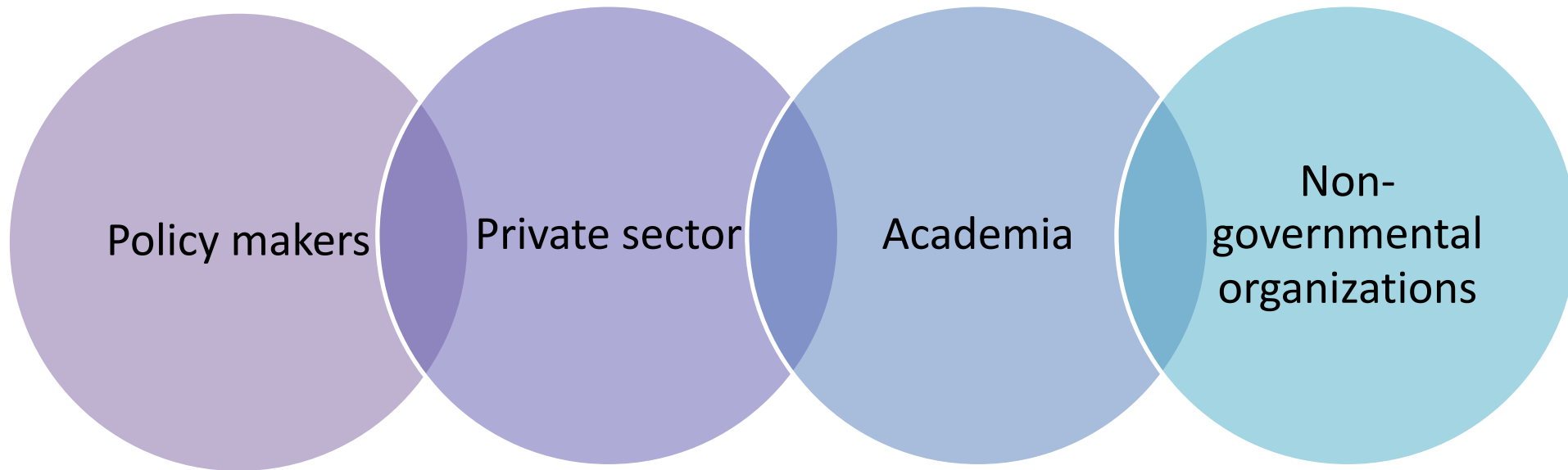
- Digital inclusion requires digital skills training
- The digital economy requires a workforce fit for purpose
 - Basic digital skills education in schools is a must
 - Reskilling and upskilling (workforce)
 - Lifelong learning – involve actors outside the formal education system
- Digital skills strategies and policies need to be based on **comprehensive needs assessment** and training of policy makers

ITU Digital Skills Assessment Guidebook

- Launched in May 2020
- Helps governments assess skills supply and demand and determine existing and future skills gaps
- Practical tool to guide policy makers in their digital skills strategies and education policies
- Focus is on national level skills assessment



Target audience



ICT policy makers working in close collaboration with other stakeholders

What does the Guidebook cover?

Chapter 1:
Review of existing
skills assessment
frameworks and
approaches

Chapter 2:
Assessment of
current national skills
levels (supply)

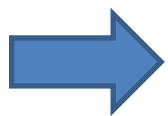
Chapter 3:
Assessment of skills
needs and gaps
(demands)

Chapter 4:
Forecasting future
skills requirements

Appendix:
List of knowledge
resources on skills
assessment

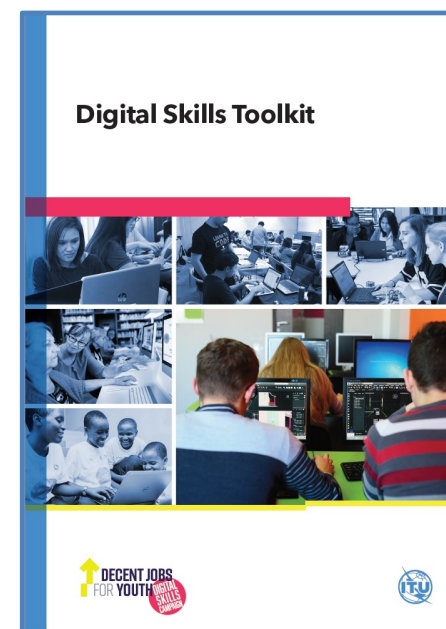
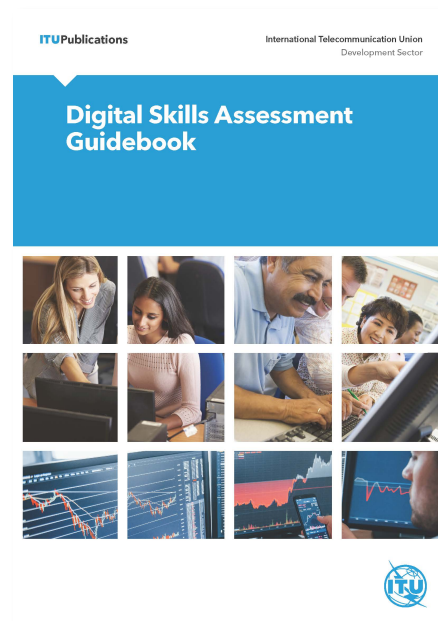
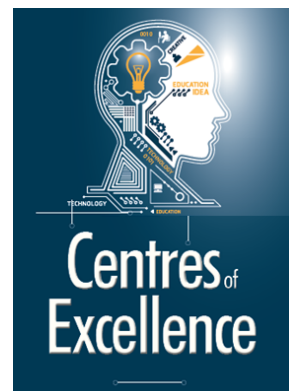
Summary and conclusion

- The Guidebook is designed to provide as much flexibility as possible for each country to choose an approach that fits its resource constraints and unique goals.
- Each country has different digital skills needs and requirements based on its level of technological development and its economic sectors.
- Assessment methods will depend on a country's resources and stakeholder engagement.
- Policy-makers should engage with partners in the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia to craft the assessment approach that matches the country's needs and goals.



ITU can provide further advice to countries interesting in using the *Guidebook* for implementing national digital skills assessments

ITU's work on digital skills



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THANK YOU

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