

Overview of Access Gap Study to assist the setting up of the Universal Service Fund of Sierra Leone for NATCOM

The CTO was contracted by Sierra Leone National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) to undertake an Access Gap Study. Amongst other things, the study should enhance the operations of the Sierra Leone's Universal Service Fund, the Universal Access Development Fund (UADF). The project called for the CTO team to assist NATCOM fulfil one of its primary goals, the development of access to ICTs for remote, rural, and underserved communities of Sierra Leone in a rational, timely and effective manner.

The CTO team worked closely with their counterparts at NATCOM, and other stakeholders in the ICT sector, to collect data, develop a useful analytical model, and study the findings of the modeling process. This work enabled the CTO team to obtain a clear understanding of the true status of the various ICT markets – actual and potential – in Sierra Leone.

Using the findings of the model calculations, together with additional research inputs and market data, the CTO team conducted an in-depth analysis of the various ICT market segments in Sierra Leone, with emphasis on those locations and populations for which facilities and services are either not available or not utilized. Upon conclusion of the project, the CTO also provided comprehensive training to NATCOM staff on how to use the analytic Model it developed for future access gap exercises thus ensuring long term benefits of the project