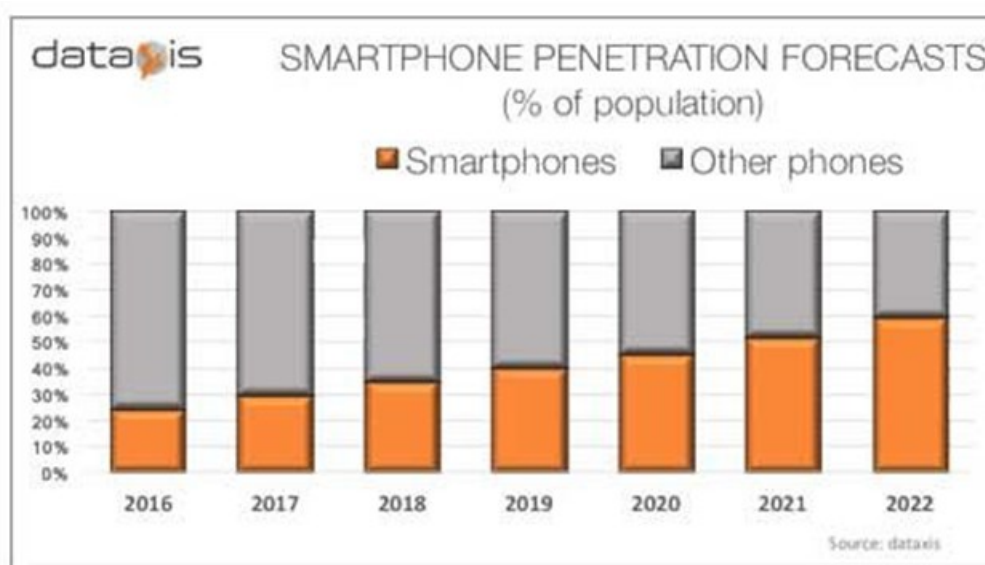


4G subscriptions continue to grow in Africa

According to Dataxis, in 2016, most 4G subscribers came from a few leading countries in northern and southern Africa. Significant disparities in 4G development and adoption still exist depending on the country, for instance, Morocco, with its 3.4 million 4G subscribers, accounts for 14% of total 4G subscribers in Africa.

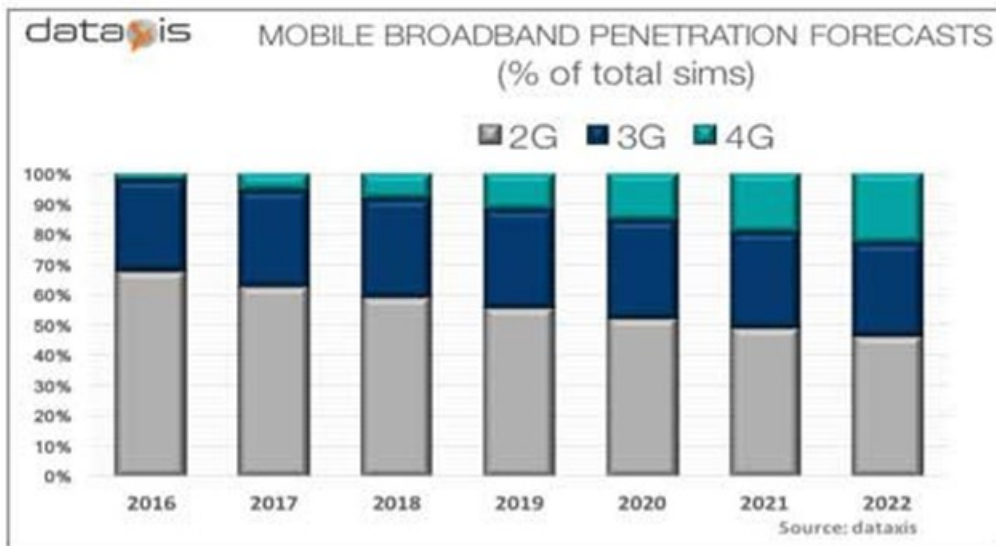
4G penetration remains low in the rest of Africa and the company forecasts that 4G subscribers in sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa) will reach 58% of total 4G subscribers (296 million) in Africa in 2022 compared to only 3% in 2016 (24 million).

The adoption of 4G goes along with another relevant change which is the increase in smart device penetration. The research outlines a surge from 24% of the population in 2016 up to 60% of the population in 2022.



Forecasts also show that 4G network will be accessible in all 54 countries.

The number of 3G enabled SIMs will reportedly continue to rise simultaneously, particularly in countries with low broadband connectivity, but the growth rate will slowly decrease with the arrival of 4G network. Mobile broadband subscribers are therefore expected to grow into the main part of mobile subscribers with 54% of total mobile SIMs.



Dataxis' analysis sheds light on the importance 4G technology accessed through smartphones will acquire in the next five years. Broadband connectivity in Africa will be achieved almost exclusively through mobile, with only a few households equipped with PCs and wireline broadband. This growth in broadband connectivity will enable new players such as OTT and SVOD platforms to thrive and reach their end-user in an environment where data access is no longer a hurdle.

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