



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



SDGs
LEARNING



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

8 July 2020

Susan Teltscher, Ph.D.
Head, Capacity and Digital Skills Development Division
ITU



United
Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research



Digital skills development will accelerate achievement of SDGs

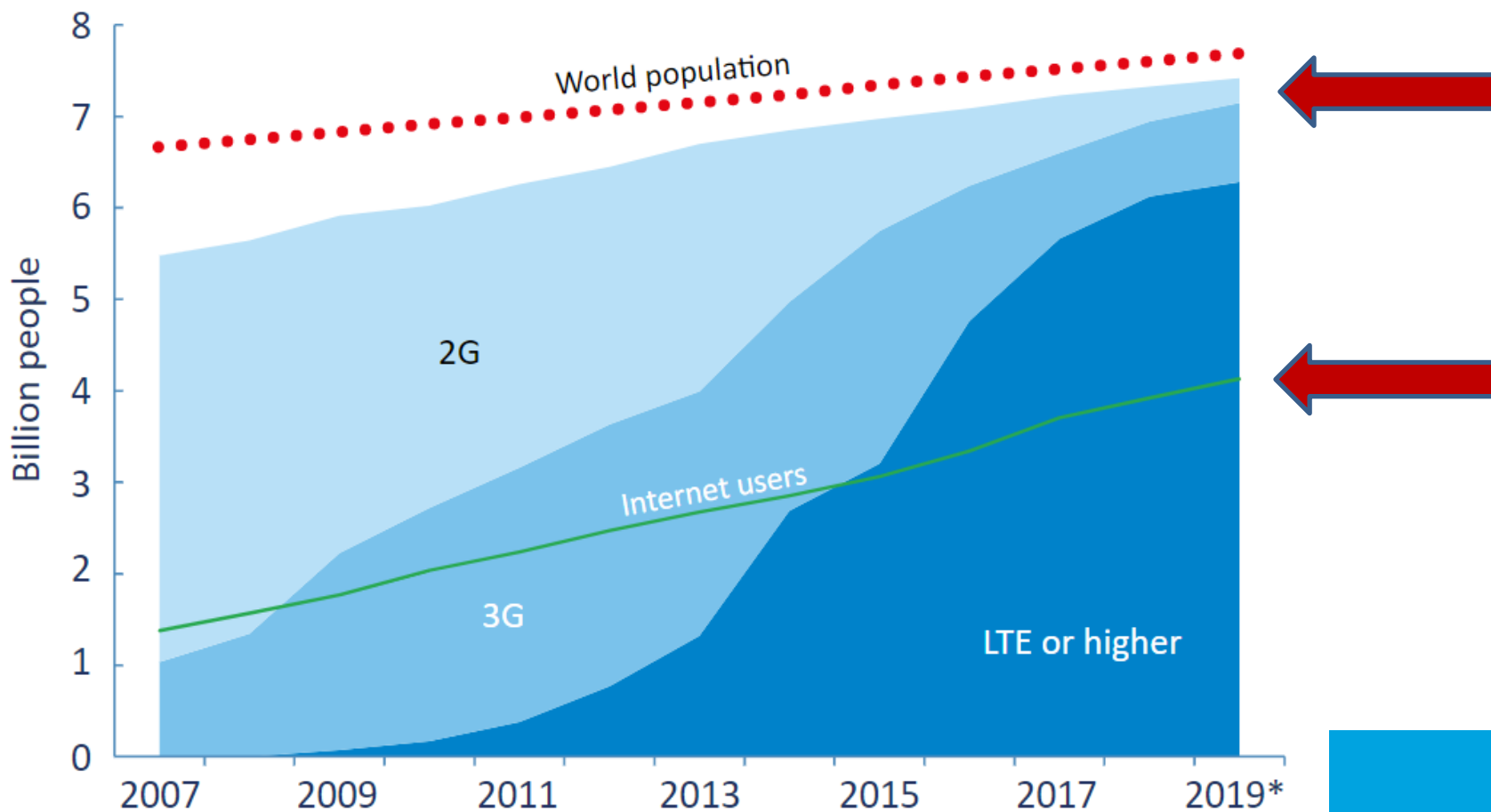


Covid-19 brought to the surface the huge connectivity challenge

- 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:

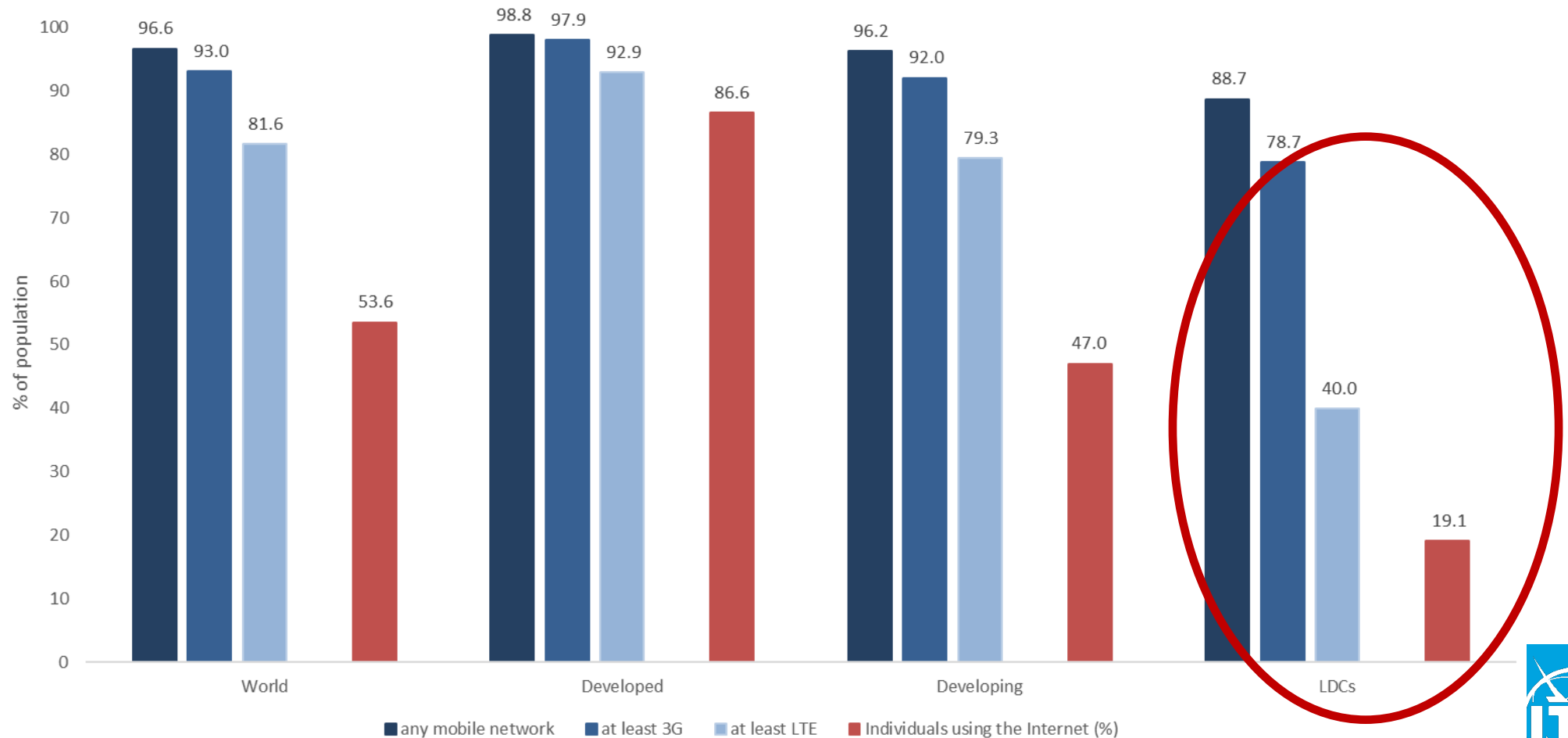
Over 90% of the world population lives in an area that has broadband service coverage whereas only 54% are using the Internet



Gap between Internet availability and usage:

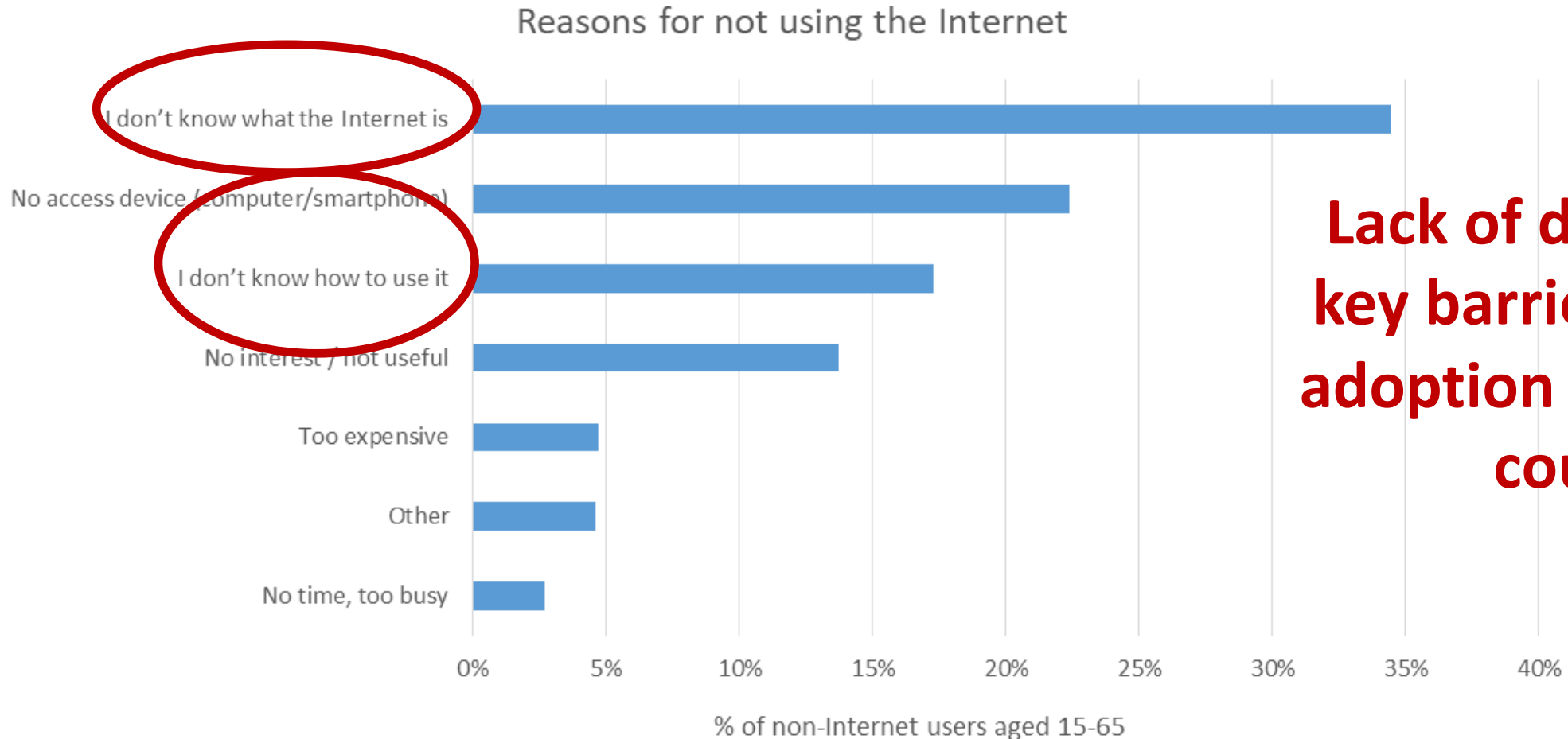
Gap is largest in LDCs – WHY?

Mobile population coverage and Internet usage (2019*)



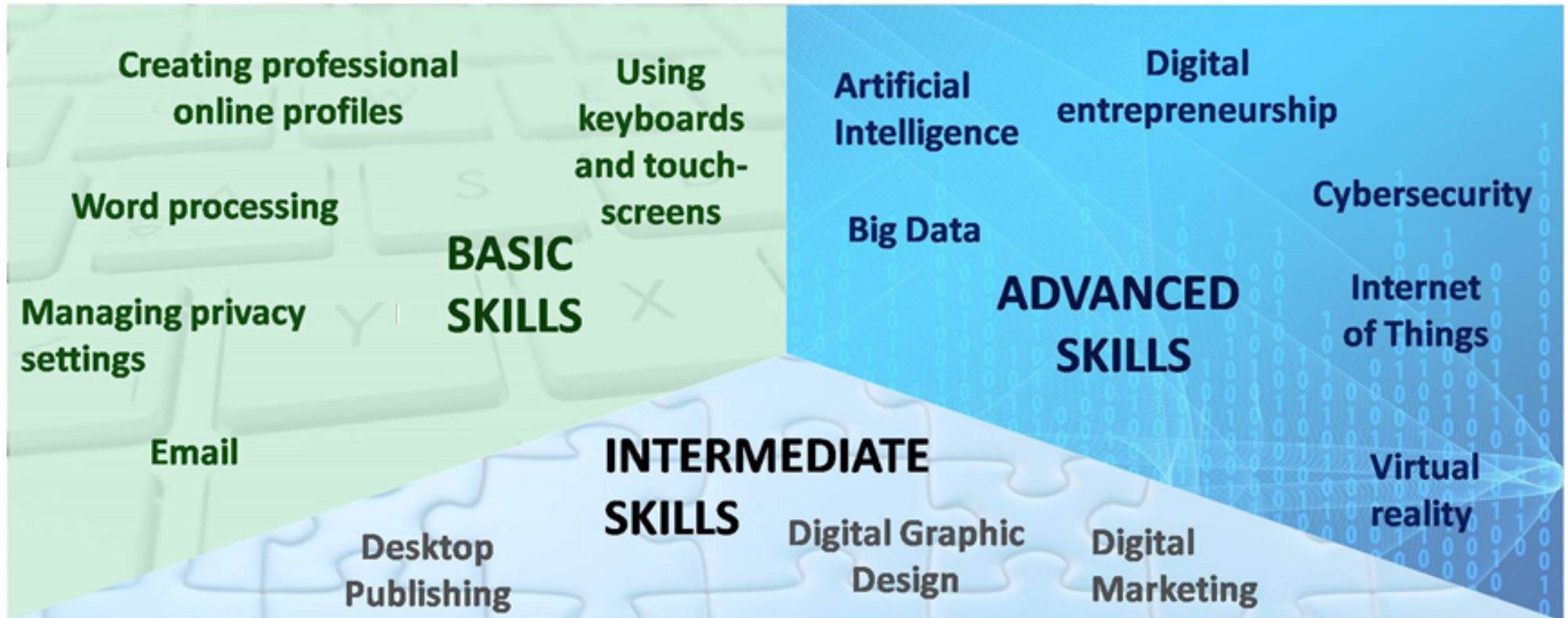
Barriers to Internet usage

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



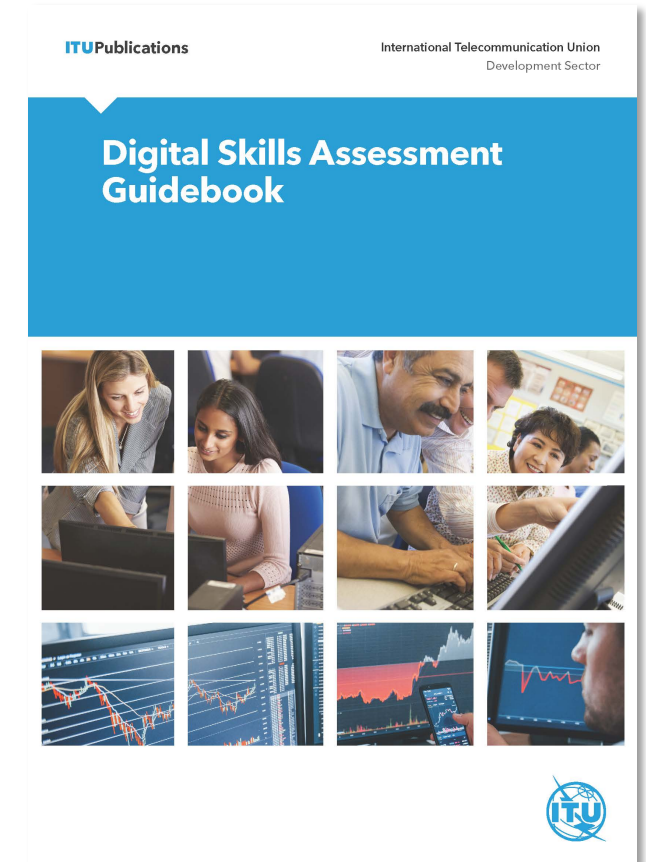
Source: ITU Digital Skills Toolkit 2018

There is an urgent need to address the digital skills gap

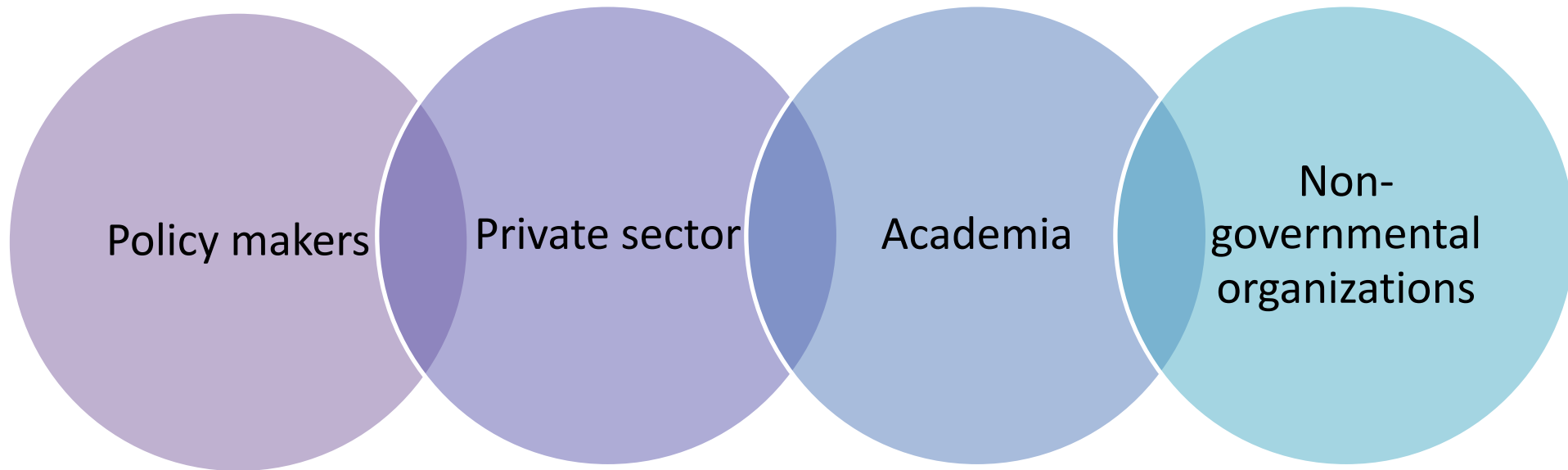
- Digital inclusion requires digital skills training
- The digital economy requires a workforce fit for purpose
 - Basic digital skills education in schools is a must
 - Reskilling and upskilling (workforce)
 - Lifelong learning – involve actors outside the formal education system
- Digital skills strategies 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)

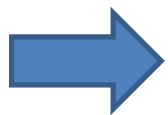
Chapter 3:
Assessment of skills
needs and gaps
(demands)

Chapter 4:
Forecasting future
skills requirements

Appendix:
List of knowledge
resources on skills
assessment

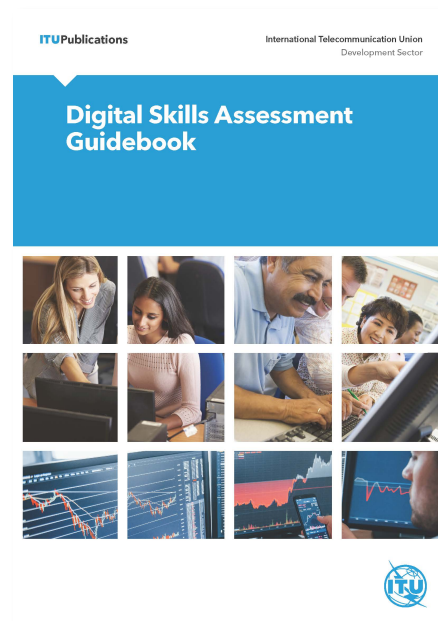
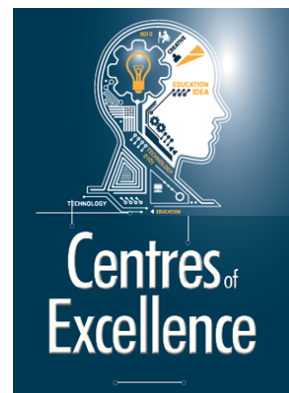
Summary and conclusion

- 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



**Digital
Transformation
Centres**

ITU Academy
Empowering minds



THANK YOU

<http://academy.itu.int>