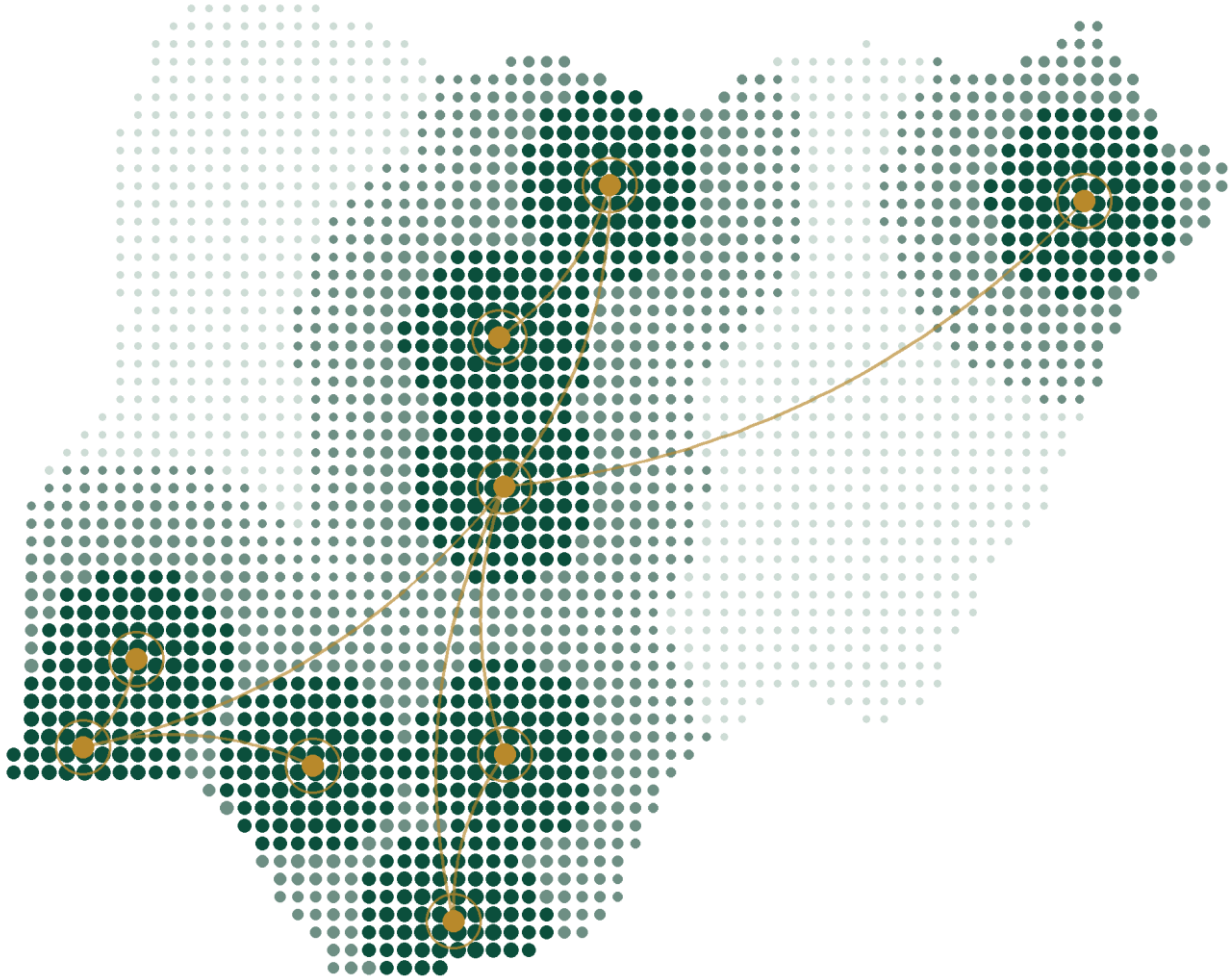
Nigerian Communications Commission
Network Improvement Programme



Connectivity Report: Geospatial Urban–Rural Performance

Q3 2026 Public Report | Data: January 2025 – August 2026

02

CONTENTS

This report compares mobile performance in Nigeria's cities and rural areas.

What this report covers

03 Key findings at a glance

04 Urban vs. rural speed by operator

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06 Operator profiles

07 The role of each technology

08 How we classify urban and rural

Source: Speedtest® by Ookla® crowdsourced data, analysed by Ookla Advanced Analytics Services for the NCC.

03

AT A GLANCE

Urban areas still lead, but rural download speeds keep improving and now sit within about 11% of urban speeds.

Rural speeds keep improving. Operator choice matters as much as location.

984,172

speed tests analysed, split almost evenly between urban and rural areas

17.8 Mbps

rural median download speed, up from 16.4 Mbps in March 2026

19.7 Mbps

urban median download speed, about 11% ahead of rural

634 vs 1.4

tests per km² in urban vs. rural areas

Source: Speedtest® by Ookla® crowdsourced data, analysed by Ookla Advanced Analytics Services for the NCC.

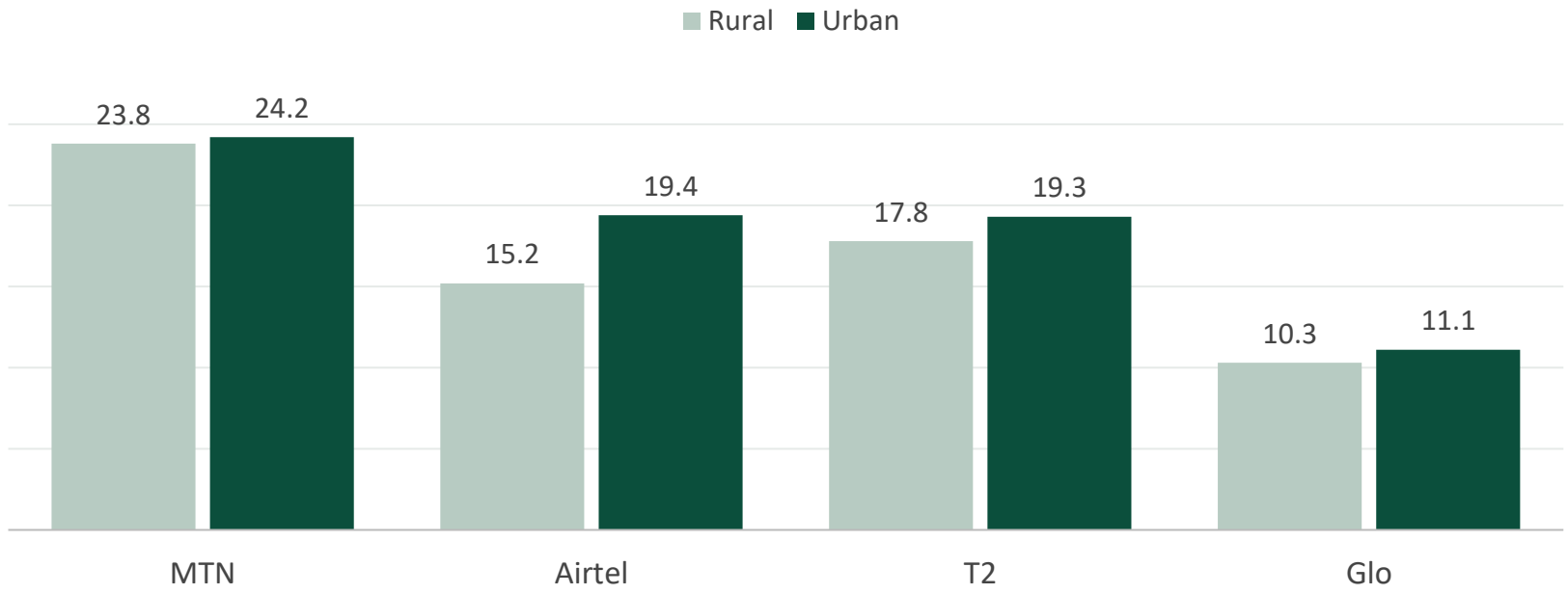
04

URBAN VS. RURAL

Differences between operators are often larger than the urban–rural gap within one operator.

For every operator, rural speeds are close to urban speeds

Median download speed (Mbps)



- **MTN's rural speed** (23.8 Mbps) is faster than the urban speed of every other operator.

Source: Speedtest® by Ookla® crowdsourced data, analysed by Ookla Advanced Analytics Services for the NCC.

NCC + OOKLA

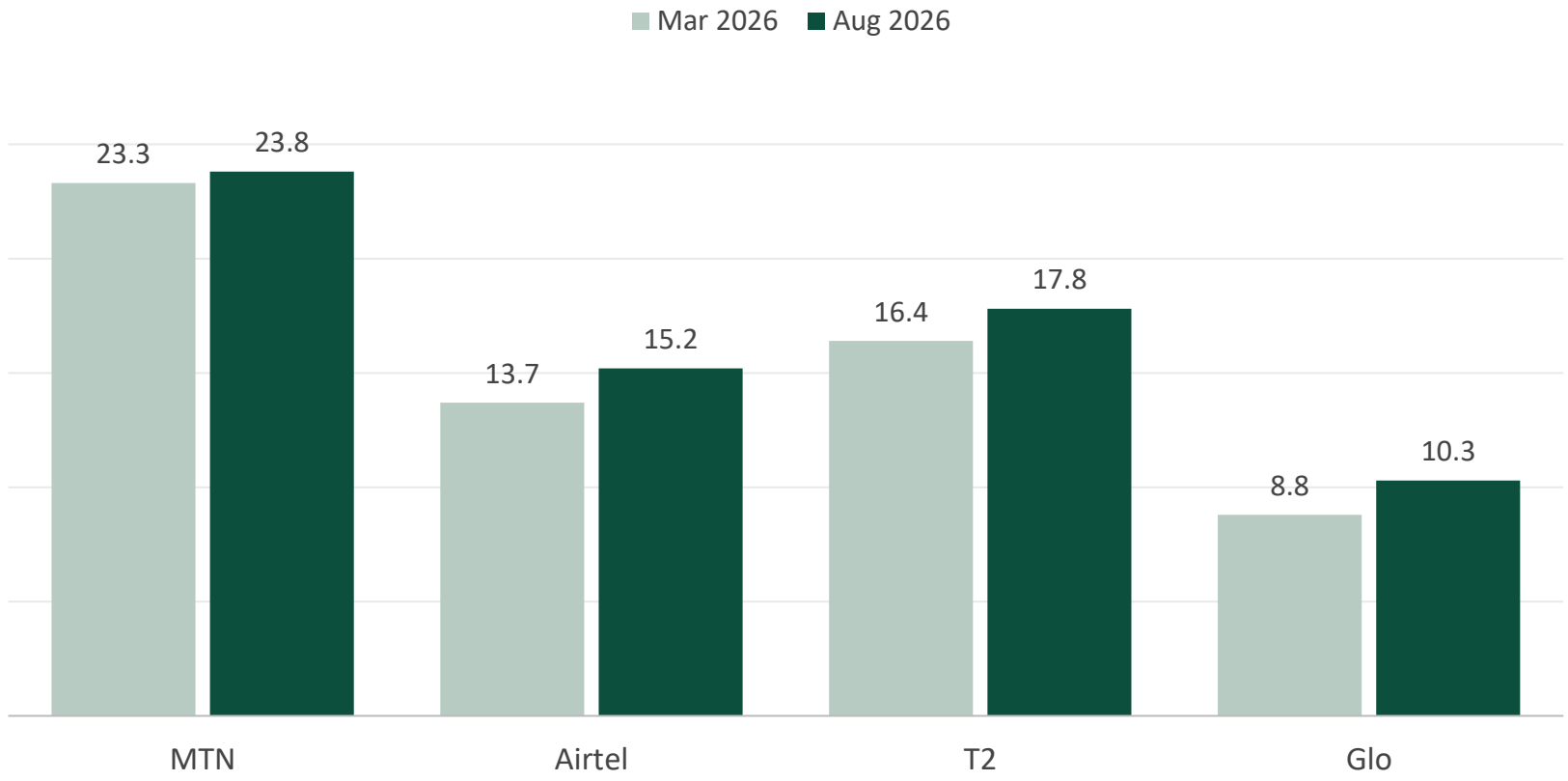
05

RURAL PROGRESS

Glo and Airtel recorded the biggest rural gains since the last report (+1.5 Mbps each).

Rural download speeds improved for every operator

Rural median download speed (Mbps)



Source: Speedtest® by Ookla® crowdsourced data, analysed by Ookla Advanced Analytics Services for the NCC.

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06

OPERATOR PROFILES

MTN offers the best balance. T2 pairs competitive downloads with very low upload speeds and higher latency.

Each operator has a distinct performance profile

Operator	Download (Mbps) urban / rural	Upload (Mbps) urban / rural	Latency (ms) urban / rural
MTN	24.2 / 23.8	13.1 / 12.1	29 / 32
Airtel	19.4 / 15.2	8.1 / 7.0	30 / 34
T2	19.3 / 17.8	1.1 / 1.0	59 / 69
Glo	11.1 / 10.3	4.3–4.4	32 / 34

Medians, January 2025 – August 2026.

Source: Speedtest® by Ookla® crowdsourced data, analysed by Ookla Advanced Analytics Services for the NCC.

07

TECHNOLOGY

LTE carries most connectivity nationwide; 5G is much faster where it is available.

Technology still sets the ceiling

- **5G.** Peaked above 200 Mbps in several months of 2025 in both urban and rural areas. Speeds eased from around March 2026 but stay far above LTE.
- **LTE (4G).** The national workhorse: roughly 14–18 Mbps in urban areas and 10–17 Mbps in rural areas, with latency close to 30 ms.
- **3G.** Single-digit download speeds and higher latency, which limits modern apps such as video calls.
- **What it means.** Faster rural speeds help small businesses, mobile payments and online learning; wider 4G/5G access will help most.

Source: Speedtest® by Ookla® crowdsourced data, analysed by Ookla Advanced Analytics Services for the NCC.

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METHODOLOGY

Classification follows where people actually use their phones, not administrative boundaries.

How we classify urban and rural areas

1 Map the tests

Nigeria is split into map tiles; a tile divides into four when it holds more than 200 tests.

2 Classify

Tiles that reach a fine level (about 1–2 km² or smaller) are urban; larger tiles are rural.

3 Compare

Median download, upload and latency are compared by area, operator, technology and month.

Tiles with fewer than 10 tests are excluded. White areas on maps mean no tests were recorded, not necessarily no coverage.

Source: Speedtest® by Ookla® crowdsourced data, analysed by Ookla Advanced Analytics Services for the NCC.

About this report

This summary is based on the NCC Advanced Analytics report “Geospatial precision to distinguish urban and rural network performance” (Q3 2026), prepared by Ookla Advanced Analytics Services under the Network Improvement Programme.

Results come from crowdsourced, user-initiated Speedtest® measurements (January 2025 – August 2026). They indicate typical user experience and are not a measure of total network capacity or coverage.

Areas, operators or devices with too few valid tests are excluded or flagged. Comparisons refer to the previous public report (Q1 2026).

Thank you