



ALL THINGS CONNECTED

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Financial inclusion has been identified as an enabler for 13 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The World Bank Group considers financial inclusion a key enabler to reduce extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity, and has put forward an ambitious global goal to reach Universal Financial Access (UFA) by 2020. More than 55 countries have made commitments to financial inclusion while more than 60 have either launched or are developing a national strategy.

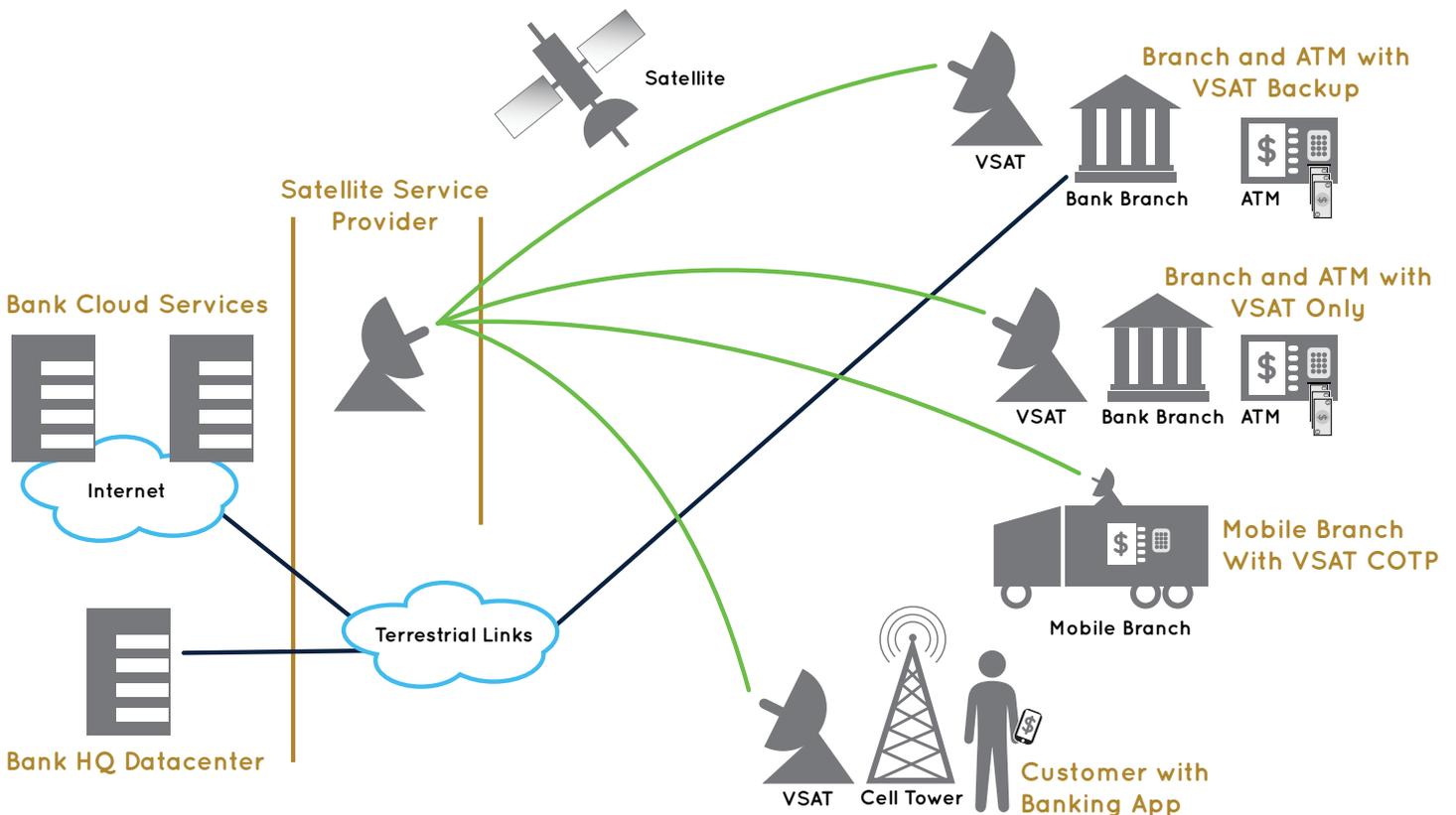
Financial inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance – delivered in a responsible and sustainable way.

Being able to have access to a transaction account is a first step toward broader financial inclusion since a transaction account allows people to store money, and send and receive payments. A transaction account serves as a gateway to other financial services, which is why ensuring that people worldwide can have access to a transaction account is the focus of the World Bank Group's Universal Financial Access 2020 initiative.

Close to one-third of adults – 1.7 billion still don't have access to transactional banking with the large majority in rural areas of developing countries. Satellite has long been looked as a valuable instrument in providing financial inclusion. Banking and financial services companies have depended for decades on satellite's high availability and geographic independency to ensure connectivity to bank branches (as a means of back up or primary links) for banking services anywhere anytime.

Below we look at the ways in which satellite have traditionally played a role in financial inclusion and the manner in which satellite is providing benefits in the support of banking innovations to tackle financial inclusion.

1. Satellite connectivity for business continuity: To ensure high availability of connectivity to branches, banks typically subscribe to two backhaul services (primary and redundant). For example, in urban areas, branches with access to terrestrial backhaul services can easily subscribe to services such as MEF for primary connectivity to bank servers while supporting a second link via VPN across high-speed broadband connection or even LTE connections. For branches in more remote areas it is not always feasible to support technologies such as MEF and so branches had depended on only a single link (typically a VPN over broadband link). Historically, those rural locations are less reliable or more oversubscribed and so link outages are common which disrupts bank operations. It is that lack of reliability that had driven banks to complement their terrestrial link with highly reliable satellite links. Satellite links with their >99.5% availability provides the necessary availability to ensure branch bank connectivity.



2. Freedom from geographical constraints: Based on success of supporting banks branches with backup satellite links, it did not take long for banks to realize they can use satellite connectivity to provide services to areas which had been geographically constrained and which had limited connectivity options. This has allowed for the establishment of far remote branches, fixed ATM machines (IOT) or even mobile branches/ATMs which tour remote areas to provide services.

3. Secure communications: Security is a crucial element in any financial business and banking transactions. Many solutions provide IPSEC with AES-256 encryption across the satellite virtually ensuring secured communications.

4. Mobile financial services: Many banks are today offering many of their financial services over cellular. In areas such as Sub-Saharan Africa, mobile money has been embraced by almost 21% of the population allowing them to benefit from similar transactions as available at branches, etc and also participate in growing e-commerce trends. This mobile financial services is often offered directly through the mobile operator or through financial institutions over the web or through apps. In many areas, this cellular backhaul is provided by over satellite with 2G/3G/4G being provided by the mobile operators as part of a government connectivity initiatives (such as Universal Services Obligation - USO) to ensure that all persons can be connected and partake on the benefits connectivity can provide. Mobile operators are increasingly looking to satellite to provide rural connectivity and satellite backhaul over TDMA is increasingly being deployed to support this capability.

About ASAT II: The ASAT II system is a S2X/RCS2 TDMA solution ideally suited for the banking and financial markets. The ASAT II system boasts a superior feature set for private, secure primary and backup networks, a variety of advanced terminal options, and the flexibility to grow and adopt adjacent markets such as retail, enterprise, and rural cellular backhaul. The ASAT II system includes exclusive WaveSwitch technology - an innovation that dynamically allocates bandwidth based on traffic demand patterns, and switching between dedicated and shared access as needed. The ASAT II is a winning solution for supporting today's and tomorrow's financial inclusion markets.



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