



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
REGULATORY COMMISSION
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

2021 UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND ANNUAL REPORT

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1. BACKGROUND

The Universal Service Fund was established under Section 42 of Telecommunications Act (Cap 418) of the Revised Laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines 2009. The Fund is managed by the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) – which collects, disburses, and makes relevant decisions with regards to the proper and effective management of the Fund.

1.1 What is the Universal Service Fund?

The Universal Service Fund (USF) is a fund which is used by the NTRC to compensate any telecommunications provider that is required to provide or promote Universal Service.

Universal Service includes the provision of:

- Public voice telephony
- Internet access
- Telecommunications services to schools, hospitals, similar institutions and the physically challenged.
- Other services by which people access efficient, affordable, and modern telecommunications.

The Fund will encourage efficient access to and use of telecommunications networks and services throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines with special focus on rural, under-served and maritime areas, and with the goal to help promote social, educational, and economic development.

The Fund will also ensure the reasonable availability and affordability of basic and advanced telecommunications services, where the commercial telecommunications market is unable to deliver such services in a financially viable manner independently; and to the physically challenged, elderly and indigent communities.

The Fund will also provide support for the introduction and expansion of telecommunications services to schools, health facilities and other organizations serving public needs.

1.2 Who contributes to the Universal Service Fund?

As set forth in the Telecommunications (Universal Service Fund Contribution) Order 2017, all telecommunications providers shall contribute to the Universal Service Fund (USF). In terms of due dates for payments of these contributions, Section 4 of the Contribution Order states that within forty-five (45) days of the reporting year, the contributor must pay and provide supporting documents used in the calculations. Parliament may also appropriate funds for use by the USF. Grants and donations may also be made to the Fund by individuals or legal entities.

1.3 Management of the Fund

Effective September 16, 2008, the Telecommunications (Universal Service Fund) Regulations 2008 was gazetted and came into operation. The aim of these Regulations is to provide for the efficient and effective management of the USF. The Regulations govern the way in which the Fund operates. Along with these Regulations, there

are Universal Service Guidelines issued under Section 7 of the Telecommunications (Universal Service Fund) Regulations to facilitate the proper operation of the Fund. These guidelines are an indication of the policy and procedures that must be followed in the operation of the Fund.

The USF plays an integral role in the development and technological innovation of the telecommunications sector and of the country.

2. SWOT ANALYSIS

2.1 Strengths

- The NTRC has been able to leverage the resources of the USF to ensure that new contracts are in place for projects which came to an end.
- The NTRC has continued to encourage innovation in the field of ICTs, nationally through the icode784 competition.
- The NTRC has been able to work along with various stakeholder agencies including the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines in executing various projects to bridge the digital divide.

2.2 Weaknesses

- The Fund was not prepared to handle the Covid- 19 Pandemic as such USF monitoring in areas across St. Vincent and the Grenadines was affected due to protocols implemented to combat the pandemic.

2.3 Opportunities

- With the proliferation of smartphones and wireless internet devices in St Vincent and the Grenadines, the Wi-Fi service being provided by the USF island wide will be utilized more than in previous years.

2.4 Threats

- As a result of the increase open internet access provided island wide under the USF, there are threats of increasing cybercrimes being committed against internet users. This may be the case as some users may be susceptible to cybercrime as they are unaware of how to implement security measures that can reduce the risk of them being targeted.

3. CRITICAL ISSUES

There is one critical issue which is currently affecting the USF which is the ability to source additional funding to execute large scale ICT projects locally.

4. SECTOR REVIEW

Figure 1 shows the revenues generated by telecommunications operators between the years 2014-2021. There was a decrease in revenue by 7.2% in 2021 compared to 2020.

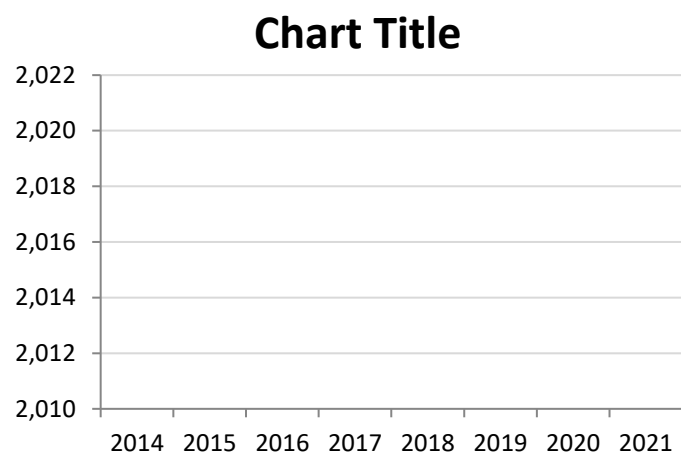


Fig 1. Source: NTRCs Annual Report 2021

4.1 Financial Performance of the Universal Service Fund

Revenue

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the Universal Service Fund had projected to receive a total of Two Million Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,370,400.00) from Telecommunications Service Providers and an interest of Eighteen

Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$18,900.00). The actual revenue received by the Universal Service Fund in 2021 was Two Million Four Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven Dollars and Fifty-Four Cents (\$2,422,967.54) while interest received was Twenty-Three Thousand and Two Dollars and Thirty-Eight Cents. (\$23,002.38).

Expenditure

Recurrent:

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the USF had projected to spend Four Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-Six Dollars and Sixty-Eight Cents (\$445,456.68) on recurrent expenditure. However, Three Hundred and Fifty-Three Thousand, and Fifty-Four Dollars and Twenty-Nine Cents (\$353,054.29) was spent. Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, overseas travelling for the attendance of training and meetings were cancelled. Also, the winners from the Secondary Mobile Applications category of the 2020 iCode784 competition were to travel to Barcelona as part of their prize to attend the GSMA 4YFN Start-up’s event. However, this too was cancelled due to the pandemic. This is expected to take place within the first quarter of 2022.

Projects:

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the USF budgeted to spend Three Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Six Dollars and Ten Cents (\$3,579,206.10) for payments on projects. However, Two Million Two Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Seven Dollars and Forty-Three Cents (\$2,251,237.43) was spent. This is primarily because the contractual obligations under some of the USF projects were not met

and therefore, the payments of fees were deferred until the issues were resolved.

4.2 Projected Revenue for 2022

The Fund is projected to receive Two Million, Six Hundred and Eighty-Four Thousand One Hundred and Sixty-Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$2,684,167.50) in 2022. Two Million, Six Hundred and Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$2,681,667.50) is expected to be collected from the Telecommunications Service Providers and interest of Two Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) is projected on the fund’s balance in its saving account.

Figure 2. below shows the projected and actual revenues received by the USF from respective telecommunication operators.

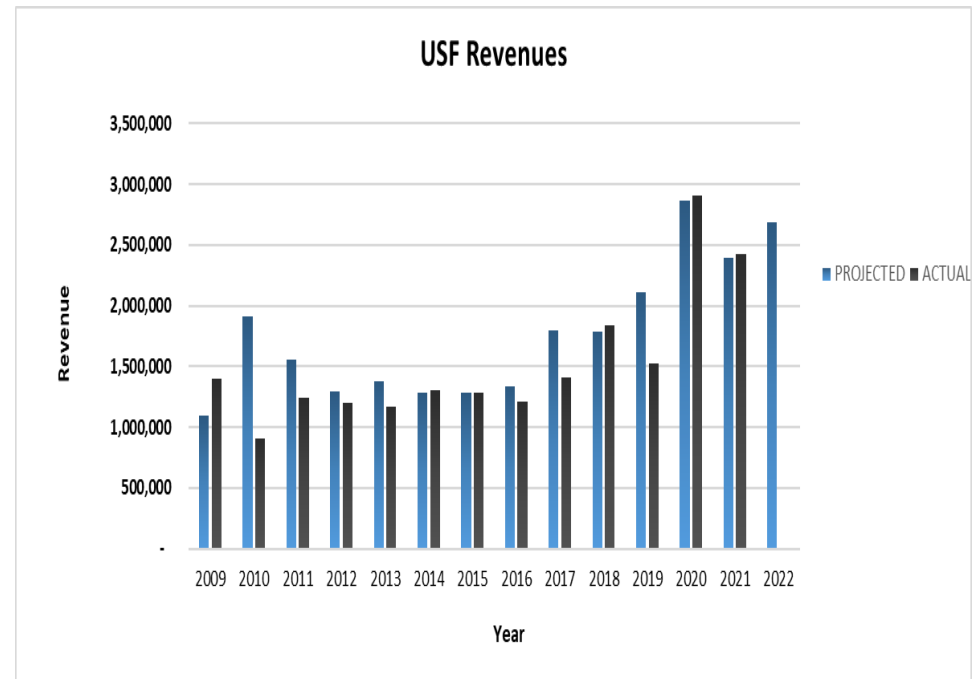


Fig 2. USF Projected Revenues

4.3 Public Awareness

In 2021, the NTRC executed several public awareness initiatives.

1. **icode784 competition**

On Wednesday September 15, 2021, the Commission launched its 9th icode784 competition on the NTRC's Facebook page. The launch was viewed live on both Facebook and YouTube and two lucky viewers each won a brand-new smartphone. However, due to the spike in covid-19 cases in September 2021, our registration numbers were severely impacted in 2021. We only saw a total of Twenty-Three (23) registrations for this year. Following the launch which opened the registration period, the Preliminary Judging round was held for the open category only, noting the low level of entries in the Secondary categories. The Grand Finale which concluded the competition was held on November 24, 2021, where all categories presented to a panel of judges. The schools that entered the secondary level were Canouan Secondary School, Union Island Secondary School, St. Vincent Girls High School, St. Clair Dacon Secondary School, and the St. Joseph's Convent Kingstown. The Open Category saw participation from nine (9) teams from the public.

2. **Financial Assistance Program**

In 2017, the NTRC developed a yearly program where financial assistance was given to one (1) Primary school student and one (1) Secondary school student. This program continued for its fifth consecutive year, where Starr Parris a student of the Lowman's Leeward Anglican School received

an amount of \$1,000.00 and Shawana Grant a student at the North Union Secondary School received an amount of \$1,500.00. The program targets students attending all schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A letter was sent to all Primary and Secondary schools for the principals to submit the names of students that would qualify for the assistance and the reason/s why they should be considered. As such, the NTRC selected one student from both the primary and secondary level to offer financial aid to these students. The NTRC plans to continue this program for years to come with the hopes of expanding the number of students being selected at each level.

3. **The NTRC's myApp Summer Program**

For 2021, the NTRC hosted the myApp summer program at two locations: one at the Spring Garden resort from August 9-13, 2021, and one at the Canouan Secondary School for the period August 16-20, 2021. The program which normally runs for three (3) weeks had to be curtailed to 1 week each in 2021 noting the disruptions in school and the shorter summer vacations due to the covid-19 pandemic. The aim of the MyApp summer programs is to teach participants between the ages of 13-18 how to code using a pocket-sized computer known as the micro: bit. This will help participants to gain insightful knowledge in coding as the demand for software developers is increasing. A total of Thirty-three (33) students were enrolled in both programs for this year.

4. **Interview Sessions**

Radio and Television interviews were conducted at the Agency for Public Information (API), Xtreme FM, WE FM, Star

FM, Boom FM, Hot 97.1 FM and the National Broadcasting Corporation Radio Station (NBC). These interviews were used as a promotional tool to relay information to the public regarding the activities that were being carried out by the NTRC such as the NTRC's 2021 icode784 competition and the NTRC's 20th Anniversary celebrated in November 2021.

5. Social media Campaign

To reach a wider audience, the NTRC engaged the public on Facebook and Instagram providing them with information about our organization. This has helped to engage the public and increase our followers on Instagram and our likes on Facebook.

5. USF PROJECTS STATUS

The following gives an update of the USF projects currently being implemented under the USF:

Community Access Project

This project is the combination of the first project undertaken by the NTRC, The Internet Project, and the sixth project, The Community Center Project. The contract for this project was signed on March 8th, 2019, between Cable & Wireless and the NTRC for a total of Three Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand One Hundred and Seventy-Two Dollars and Three Cents (EC\$333,172.03) and was commissioned on December 19th, 2019 as all the services and equipment were in place. This project ran for two years and came to an end on December 18th,

2021. In the project, forty-seven (47) locations were outfitted with wireless internal and external internet access points with minimum speeds of 20Mbps download and 3Mbps upload. These locations included nineteen (19) Community Centers, thirteen (13) Learning Resource Centers, eleven (11) Group Institutions and Public Venues and four (4) Public Libraries. This project will not be retendered but will be incorporated under a new project called the Online 24/7 Project.

Payphone Project

The second project is the Payphone Project, and was signed with Cable & Wireless in 2011, at a cost of One Million, Four Hundred Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-Five Dollars (EC\$1,400,575). Under this project, twenty-five (25) payphones were installed at various locations across SVG, including tourism sites, beaches and at points along the main road. Internet access was also provided at the tourism sites and beaches at a minimal cost. Overt vandal proof security cameras were also installed at selected tourism sites and at the beaches to minimize the threat of vandalism to the payphones, as well as to provide some security for visitors to these locations. This project was commissioned in December 2016 and will run for a five-year period. The sites under this project are routinely visited to ensure that the services and equipment are functional. Three sites were removed following negotiations with Cable & Wireless in 2019 as they were negatively impacted by environmental conditions due to their location. These sites were Cumberland Trail, Rawacou and Fancy. Additionally, electricity was placed at the Mt Wynne beach site for the equipment under this project. The electricity was installed

on February 28, 2021, and the equipment at the site are currently functional. The payphone project came to an end on December 28, 2021. This project will not be retendered but will be incorporated under a new project called the Online 24/7 Project.

Schools' Project

The Schools' project was first signed on June 7th, 2011 which saw all 107 schools throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines with wireless internal and external internet access points with minimum speeds of 8Mbps download and 2Mbps upload. This original contract came to an end and a new contract for this project was signed on October 23rd, 2019, for a total of Two Million Five Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Fifty-Four Dollars and Eighty-Seven Cents (EC\$2,551,054.87). The project will run for five years and would come to an end on October 22nd, 2024. Each school included in the project received an internet connection with a download speed of 100 Mbps and an upload speed of 15 Mbps. Schools with a large student population and other areas with high traffic were provided with 100 Mbps symmetrical internet connection using fiber technology.

A five-year license for a centrally managed content management system which interfaces with all existing access points under the project was provided. This is to provide content filtering at each location and to monitor the status of the services at each location. This project was expected to be commissioned by the second quarter of 2020, however during our commissioning activities, there were several changes to be made to schools. These works were completed by Cable & Wireless. The project was commissioned April 30, 2021.

Additionally, on December 14, 2020, the contract document was amended to include the installation of 116 additional access points

across 57 schools. This saw an improvement in the coverage at schools. The additional access points were purchased, and their desired placement was finalized. The installation of the new access points was completed by the third quarter of 2021 and the addendum for the Schools' Project was commissioned November 30, 2021.

Maritime Project

The VHF Maritime Project was initially commissioned on November 20, 2012 and ran for five years. The project was implemented to provide access to both emergency and non-emergency communications in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of St Vincent and the Grenadines and saw the implementation of a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The project was executed for a total cost of One Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty Dollars (EC\$1,125,780) and was maintained for a period of five years. Five Hundred and Forty Thousand Dollars (EC\$540,000) of this amount was accessed from the World Bank for the purchase and installation of the equipment. The remaining Five Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty Dollars (EC\$585,780) was paid by the Universal Service Fund for the maintenance of the services and equipment over the five-year period. GMDSS provides for distress alerts, distress relays, search, and rescue, on scene communication and location services. This system is mandatory for all ships subject to the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention of 1974. Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is one of the most important aspects of this

GMDSS system and is a standard for sending a pre-defined digital message via the pressing of one button.

This project was retendered in 2017 as the contract which was in place came to an end. The NTRC subsequently entered a contract with Cable & Wireless for the continued maintenance of the equipment and system to facilitate the GMDSS System. The contract was signed on March 8th, 2019, for a period of five years for a total cost of Five Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty Dollars and Sixty-Five Cents (\$591,840.65). Additionally, under this new contract the NTRC was able to purchase handheld GMDSS enabled radios and replacement components (such as antennas and batteries) for resale at a subsidized cost. The cost of the VHF Radio is Five Hundred Dollars (EC\$500.00), the cost for battery and antenna is One Hundred Dollars (EC\$100.00) and Forty Dollars (EC\$40.00) respectively.

GMDSS Expansion Project in Jerome Union Island

The objective of the project is to expand the coverage to the GMDSS system which is in place in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). The GMDSS coverage is limited to the Mainland and Northern Grenadines as there is only one transmission site located at Mount St. Andrews. The addition of a new transmission site in Union Island which would be linked to the existing system using the newly installed CARCIP Subsea fiber would greatly improve the GMDSS coverage, resulting in a safer environment for our fisherfolk, yachts, cruise ships and all other vessels transiting our sea space.

During 2021 the NTRC conducted the tender process for the project within the guidelines of the Universal Service Fund (USF) as per requirements of the telecommunications Act of 2001 and the Telecommunications (Universal Service Fund) regulations 2008 (S.R & O #45 of 2008). There was a sole bidder being Cable & Wireless. After negotiations with Cable & Wireless the NTRC came to an agreement with the company for the capital costs of the project in the amount of Four Hundred and Forty-Eight Thousand Seventy-One and Eighty-Two Cents Eastern Caribbean Dollars (\$448,071.82) and One Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand Four Hundred and Nineteen and Ninety-One Cents Eastern Caribbean Dollars (\$166,419.91) for the maintenance cost. The contract for the maintenance will be for 5 years after commissioning of the project. The signing of the contracts is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2022.

Police and Health Center Project

This project was initially signed on November 1, 2012, and it provided wireless internet access at all twenty-nine (29) Police Stations and forty-two (42) Health Centers throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines at a minimum speed of 8 Mbps. The cost of this project was Seven Hundred and Eleven Thousand, and Fifteen Dollars (EC\$711,015), and was implemented by Columbus Communication for a period of two (2) years. Thirty-one (31) computers were installed at various clinics, and fourteen (14) computers installed at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital. The Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGP) Training School was also

outfitted with ten (10) computers to assist the recruits and other officers with their research work. This project was commissioned on June 12, 2015 and came to an end in June 2017 and a project for the continuation of the maintenance of the services was tendered. The NTRC subsequently entered a contract with Cable & Wireless on May 14th, 2019, for the continued provision of services at the sites under the project. The contract for this project is Five Hundred and Forty-One Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$541,340.00) and will run for two years. This project will come to an end on October 27, 2022, and will be retendered in the fourth quarter of 2022.

SMART Project

The first contract for this project was signed on November 20th, 2012 at a total of One Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four Dollars (EC\$1,698,994) for the for the supply of equipment and teaching aids at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College (SVGCC) to enable them to offer specialized ICT training. This included a state-of-the-art computer lab containing Thirty-Five (35) high powered computers, twenty (20) of which were Apple iMac computers, were handed over to the SVGCC: Division of Technical Education. In addition to this, Three Hundred and Forty (340) needy households benefitted from subsidized internet access at a cost of ten dollars (\$10) per month for a maximum of two (2) years. This five-year project was

commissioned on September 25th, 2014, and came to an end in September 24th, 2019.

The project was retendered on July 24th, 2019, and the NTRC subsequently entered a contract with Cable & Wireless on March 26th, 2020. The new contract brought new equipment for the supply of specialised supplementary ICT training equipment at the St. Vincent Community College and the supply of internet access at the subsidized cost of ten dollars (\$10) per month to an increased Six Hundred and Eighty (680) needy households. Also, Six Hundred and Forty (640) Computers would be disbursed to various schools throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Currently, the ICT training equipment have been delivered to the Community College, the NTRC did not meet its target to receive 340 applications for the subsidized internet, approximately One Hundred and Fifty (150) persons have been connected thus far and One Hundred and Fifty (150) computers were disbursed to schools. The NTRC reopened applications for the subsidized internet in March of 2021 to have another One Hundred and Eighty (180) households connected with internet connection and the application portals are still open as the quota was not met in 2021. Also, the NTRC expects to disburse another One Hundred and Fifty (102) Computers to schools throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines for 2022.

Online 24/7 Project

The project is comprised of four Lots which includes the Community Access locations from the community access

project. The objective of this lot is for the provision internet service and new access points to offer open Wi-Fi access at existing locations throughout the urban and rural areas of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Additionally, internet service and access points will be provided to new locations such as high traffic locations, NGO's, playing fields hard courts and tourism sites.

Also, the old payphone project will be merged under the Online 24/7 Project, however the payphones at the previous locations will be replaced with internet access. The existing camera equipment under the payphone project are to be replaced with new camera equipment which will be joined to the network created under the E-Bus Project implemented by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Moreover, the project will enable the provision of charging stations at bus stops throughout urban and rural areas, as well as popular tourism sites. These charging stations would be fitted with USB-A ports that would allow persons to charge their mobile devices with the use of their own USB cable. Lastly, this project will facilitate highspeed internet connection at the SVGCC Glen Campus and the purchasing of additional access points that can be installed when the need arises to ensure the smooth operation of services provided under the project.

This project was tendered out on October 30,2021, and two bids were received on December 21, 2021. However, the bids received exceeded the Commission's budget. As such the commission revised the scope of works and some aspects

that were unclear in the tender document. This project is expected to be retendered in March 2022.

6. STATISTICS

6.1 Fixed Line Subscriptions

Figure 3 shows Fixed Line Subscribers over the last eight (8) years.

Figure 3

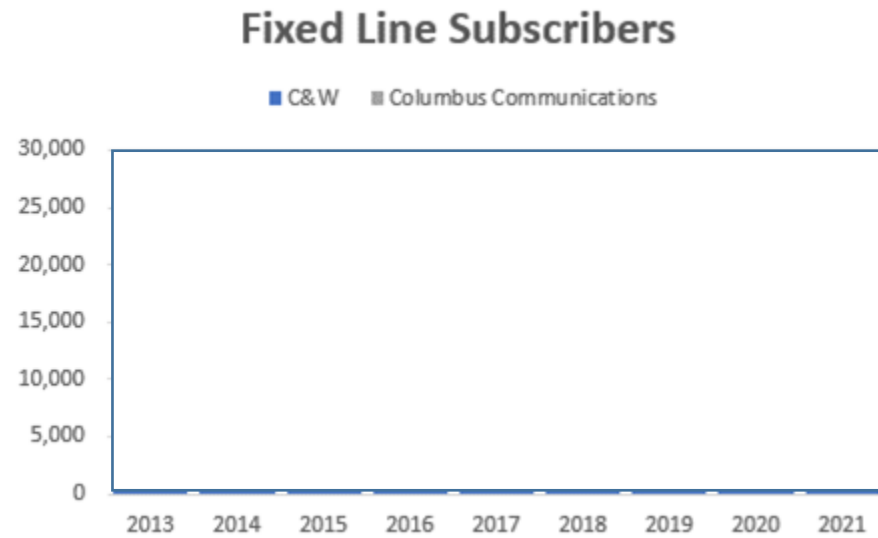


Fig 3. Fixed Line Subscribers (Source: NTRC)

6.2 Broadband Internet Subscribers

Figure 4 below shows the number of Broadband Internet Subscribers from 2015 to 2021. There has been an increase in the Broadband Internet Subscribers from 2015 to 2021 except for 2019.

Figure 4

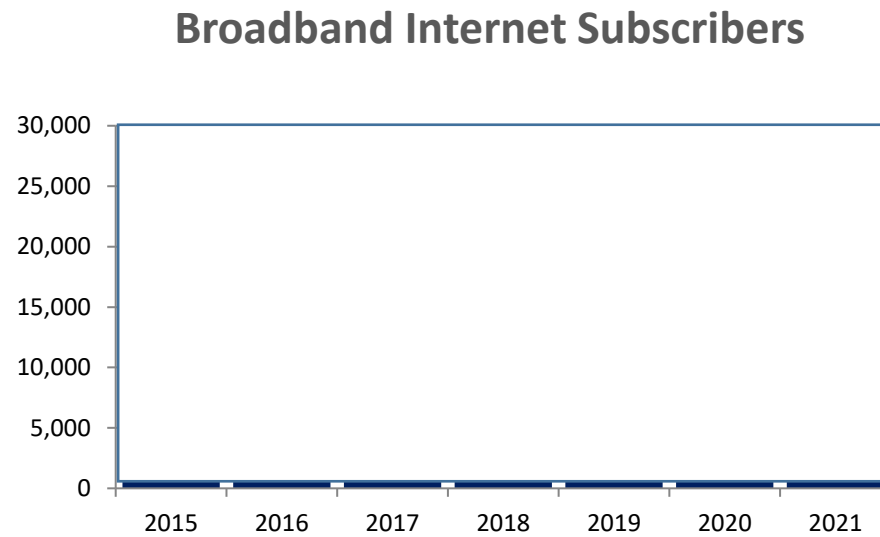


Fig 4. Broadband internet subscribers in SVG (Source: NTRC)

Figure 5 shows the number of mobile subscribers for the years 2015 to 2021. The figure shows a 5.4% decrease in the figure for 2021 as compared to 2020.

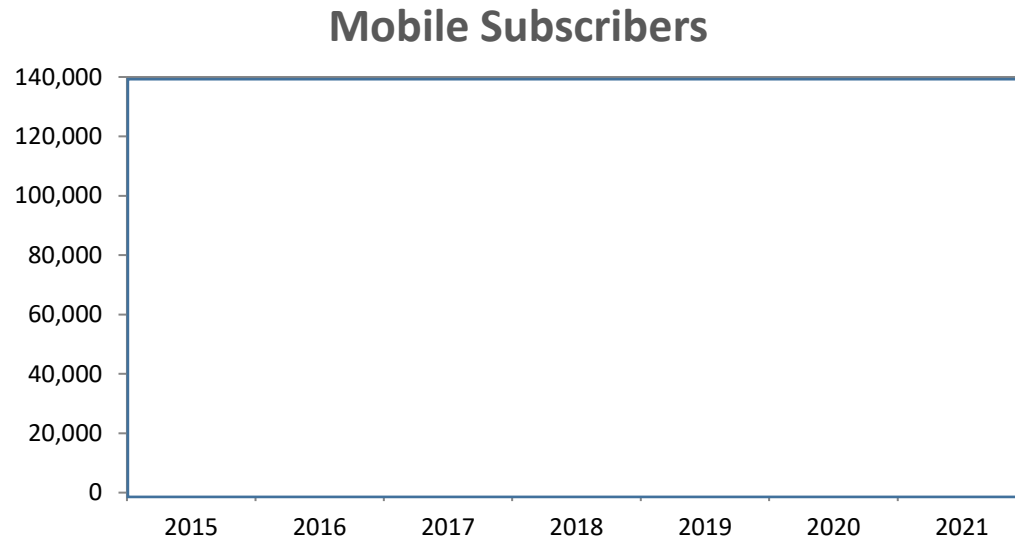


Fig 5. Source: NTRCs Annual Report 2021

6.3 Portable Computers

Figure 6 below depicts the number of portable computers entering St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Portable computers include Laptops, Notebooks and Netbooks. In 2020, Seven Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy-One (7,671) portable were imported into SVG while 2021 saw Ten Thousand, Five Hundred and Ten (10,510) devices being imported. This represents a 37% increase from 2020.

Figure 6

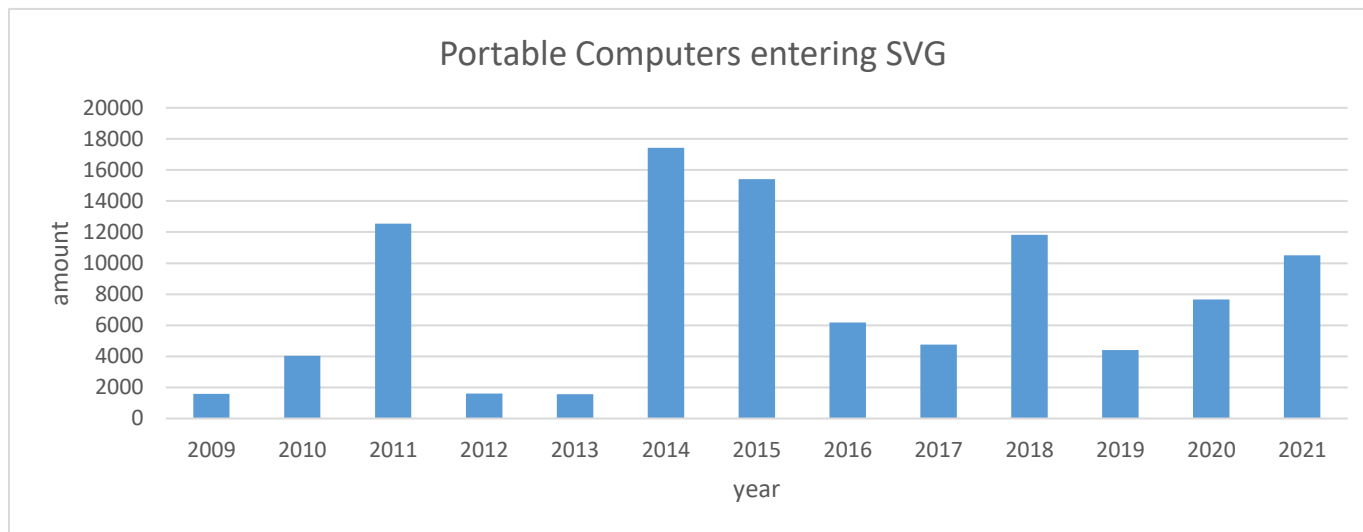


Fig 6. Portable computers entering SVG (Source: *The Customs and Excise Department*)

6.4 Desktop Computers

Figure 7 below shows the number of desktop computers entering the country. The graph shows that there has been a decrease in the number of desktops being imported. In 2020, there were Four Hundred and Ninety-Five (495) units which were imported compared to Four Hundred and Sixteen (416) units for 2021. This represents a 16% decrease in the figures from 2020.

Figure 7

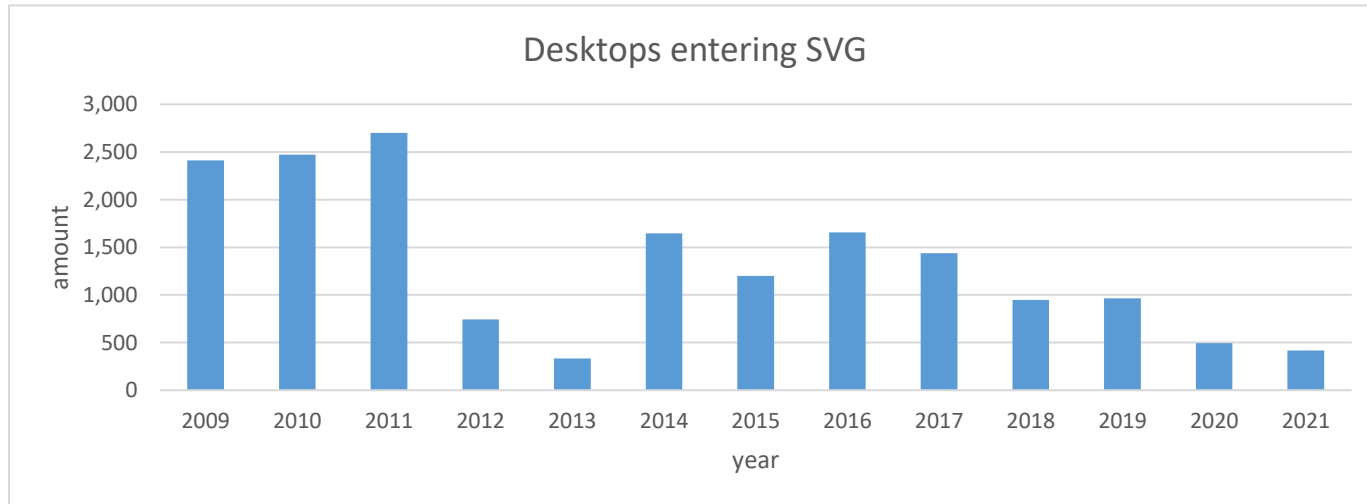


Fig 7. Desktop entering SVG (Source: *Customs and Excise Department*)

6.5 Mobile phones

Figure 8 below shows the number of mobile phones entering the country. The graph shows that there has been a significant decrease in the number of mobile phones being imported. The figure for 2020 was Thirty-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Four (34,984) devices being imported while in 2021, the figure is now Twenty-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-Five (23,625). This represents a 32.5% decrease in mobile phones entering the country from 2020.

Figure 8

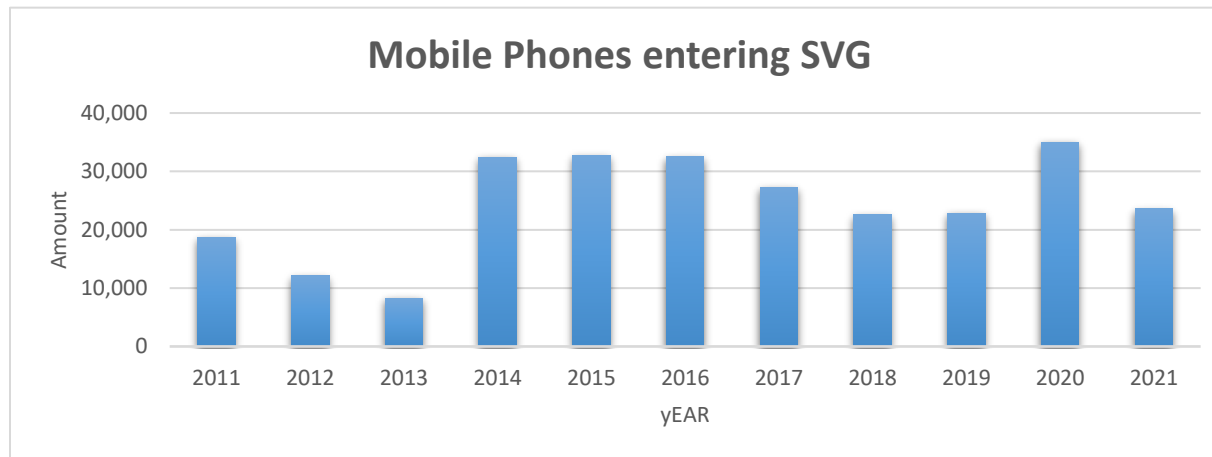


Fig 8. Mobile Phones imported (Source: *The Customs and Excise Department*)

Fig 8. Source: *Customs and Excise Department*

7. BROAD RESPONSE STRATEGIES

1. The USF will use the public awareness forum to educate the public by providing tips on how to safely use the internet in our social media campaigns, to reduce the threat of cybercrime.
2. The USF will continue its field work activities by visiting those sites which have services and equipment under the various projects being implemented by the USF island wide. In the cases of a pandemic, online surveys can be administered to persons at the various facilities to deduce the quality of the internet service.

8. RESULT INDICATORS 2021

1. **The 2021 Operating Plan will be established by March 2021. This plan will set out the objectives of the Fund for the operating year 2021.**

The objective was complete. Although, the USF Operating Plan was scheduled to be completed by March 2021, due to delays in its preparation, the task was completed in April 2021.
2. **The USF will seek funding for two new projects through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology.**

This objective is incomplete as the NTRC was only able to receive funding for one project from the Ministry of Finance,

Economic Planning, and Information Technology. The project approved for funding would expand the GMDSS coverage to the southern Grenadines by erecting a site in Union Island.

3. **Monthly site visits would be conducted under the five USF projects to ensure that the equipment is functional, and services are in place at the various locations.**

This objective was completed. The USF conducted regular checks on all projects which have been implemented by the USF. This includes physical visits to the project sites to ensure that the service and equipment are functional. The NTRC also remotely monitored the services at the selected locations daily to ensure that the services are functional.
4. **Provide an internet connection to Fifteen (15) playing fields and hard courts throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines.**

This objective is incomplete. The task was incorporated under the Online 24/7 project that was tendered out on October 30, 2021. However, the bids submitted exceeded the Commission's budget hence the project will be retendered by March 2022.
5. **Connect 340 needy households with an internet connection in our efforts to bridge the digital divide.**

This task is not complete as the NTRC did not achieve its target to receive 340 complete applications, approximately 150 persons have been connected thus far. However, the application process remained opened and the remaining 180 connections are expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2022.

6. **The USF will ensure that a GMDSS training session is executed with the Coast Guard radio operators.**

This objective was completed. The NTRC hosted a GMDSS training session with the Coast Guard Radio Operators.

7. **The USF will ensure that electricity is placed at the Mt Wynne Beach under the payphone project to provide power to the equipment.**

This objective is completed. In October 2020, the NTRC liaised with the National Parks, Rivers, and Beaches Authority to have electricity brought to the Mt. Wynne beach. The electricity was installed on February 28, 2021, and the equipment at the site are currently functional.

9. OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

1. The 2022 Operating Plan will be established by March 2022. This plan will set out the objectives of the Fund for the operating year 2022.
2. The contracts for the GMDSS Expansion project in Union Island are to be signed by the second quarter of 2022.
3. The contract for the Online 24/7 project will be entered into by the second quarter Of 2022.

4. Revision of the Curriculum for the Associate Degree Cyber Security program will be completed by the second quarter of 2022.
5. The retendering of the Police and Health Center Project is to be completed by the third quarter of 2022.
6. Monthly site visits would be conducted under the five USF projects to ensure that the equipment is functional, and services are in place at the various locations.
7. Connect 180 needy households with wireless internet access at a subsidized price of \$10 per month in our efforts to bridge the digital divide.
8. Results from the National ICT Survey conducted in 2021 are to be made available by the second quarter of 2022.

10. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS