Data availability for data from long questionnaire

17 June 2022

Background

In September of each year the ITU requests detailed data on household ICT indicators through its [Questionnaire on ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals](#) (long questionnaire). This questionnaire complements the high-level data provided earlier in the year through the ITU ICT Households Short Questionnaire. The long questionnaire provides a wealth of data and allows the comparison and aggregation of country data that is later disseminated by the ITU online.

The household long questionnaire is Excel-based and includes 23 ICT household indicators[1] at many levels of disaggregation, e.g. urban/rural, household composition, gender, age, educational attainment, employment status and occupation.

The current questionnaire requests data on indicators of ICT access for households and ICT use for individuals through the following worksheets:

- **1a** – Households by location (urban/rural) and household composition
- **2a** – Individuals by location (urban or rural) and gender
- **2b** – Individuals by age and gender
- **2c** – Individuals by highest education level attained and gender
- **2d** – Individuals by labour force status and gender
- **2e** – Individuals by occupation and gender
- **Survey Information** – Information on the survey source of data
- **Notes** – All footnotes that apply to data provided.

In 2021, EGH decided to review the ITU's long questionnaire. The questionnaire is very long and in the future additional indicators may be requested by data users (for example on child online protection, mobile money or e-waste).

This document is a supplement to the previous analysis on data availability based on input from Winston Oyadomari (NIC, Brazil) in the EGH forum.

Additional analysis

Based on suggestions in the EGH forum, the ITU analyzed data availability in several new ways.
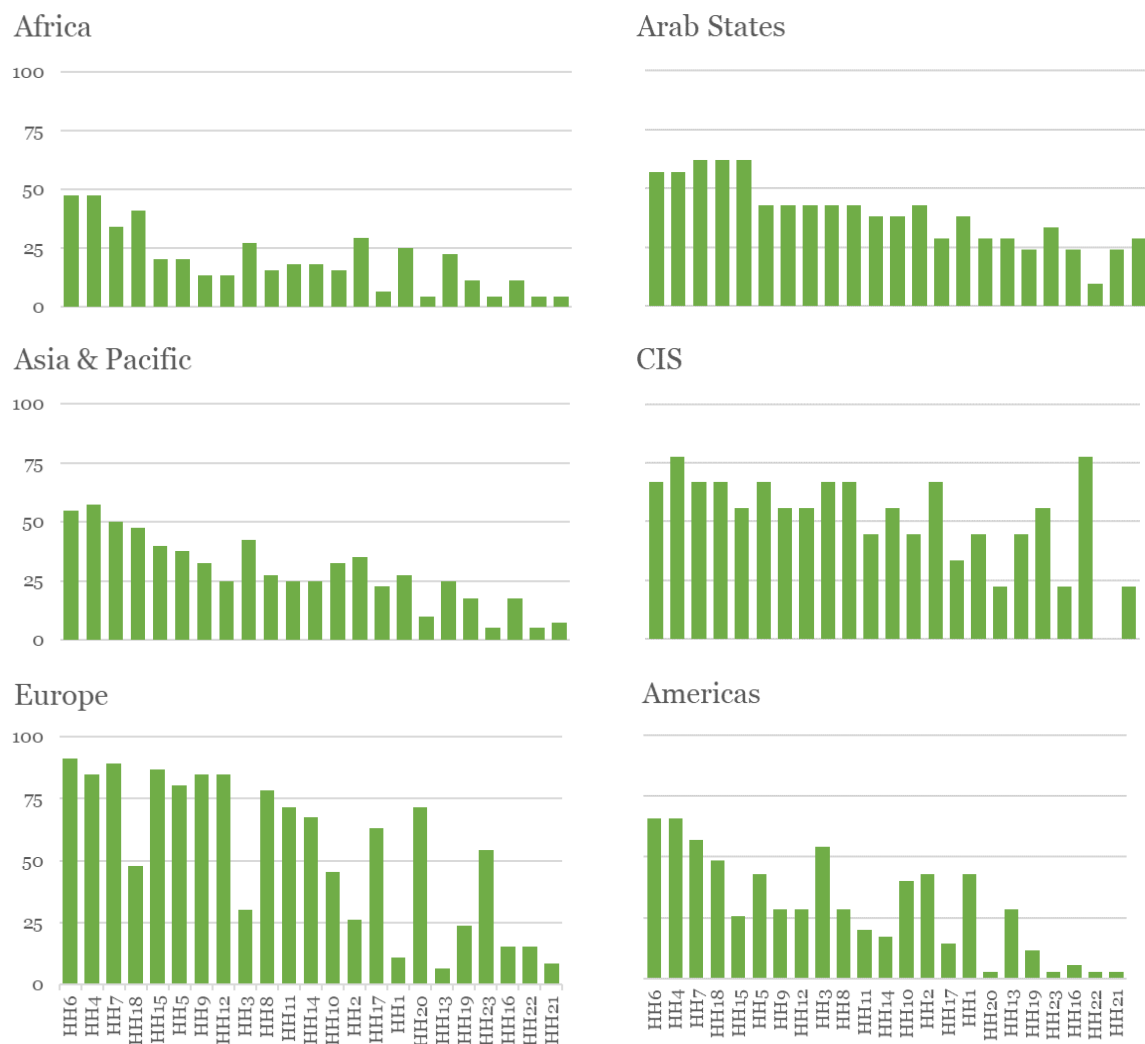
By region

As expected, there is notable variation between regions[2] in data availability and data availability patterns by HH indicator (Figure 1). Data availability is generally highest

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[1] For more detail see annex or [Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals](#)

[2] Region breakdown available at https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/definitions/regions.aspx

in Europe and lowest in Africa. In some regions data availability varies greatly by indicator. European countries have provided few data on HH13 (households with televisions, by type) and HH1 (Households with a radio) compared to patterns in other regions. Though several countries in Europe provide data on HH18 (Mobile phone ownership) and HH3 (Households with a telephone), notably fewer provide data on these indicators than might be expected based on patterns in other regions. Other regions follow similar trends of data availability to the overall trend with some exceptions. The CIS region has much higher data availability for HH16 (Household expenditure on ICT) and the Americas has very low data availability for HH20 (online commerce use by type of good/service purchased).

Figure 1
Share of countries providing data by HH indicator since 2015, by region

Note: Refers to the share of countries providing at least one data point with the respective indicator. Indicators listed in order of overall data availability regardless of region.

By frequency of response

The frequency of response could also indicate how countries view the relevant importance of certain indicators to others. An analysis of the breakdown of this frequency of response to various indicators shows interesting patterns. There is

some tendency for indicators with more data availability to be provided by countries more frequently. There are some exceptions, particularly for HH12 (Internet use by frequency) and HH11 (households with Internet by type of service) where countries providing data seem to provide it often. On the other side, data for HH5 (computer use), HH3 (households with a telephone) and HH8 (Internet use by location) seem to be provided less regularly by those countries providing data.

Figure 2
Share of countries of those providing ICT household survey data, by frequency of data submitted since 2015
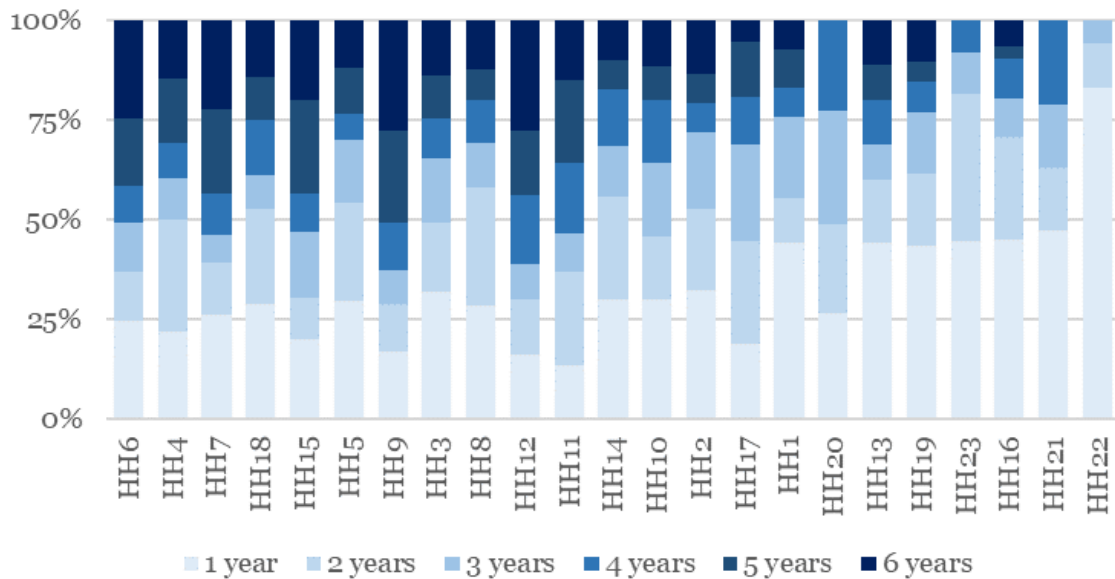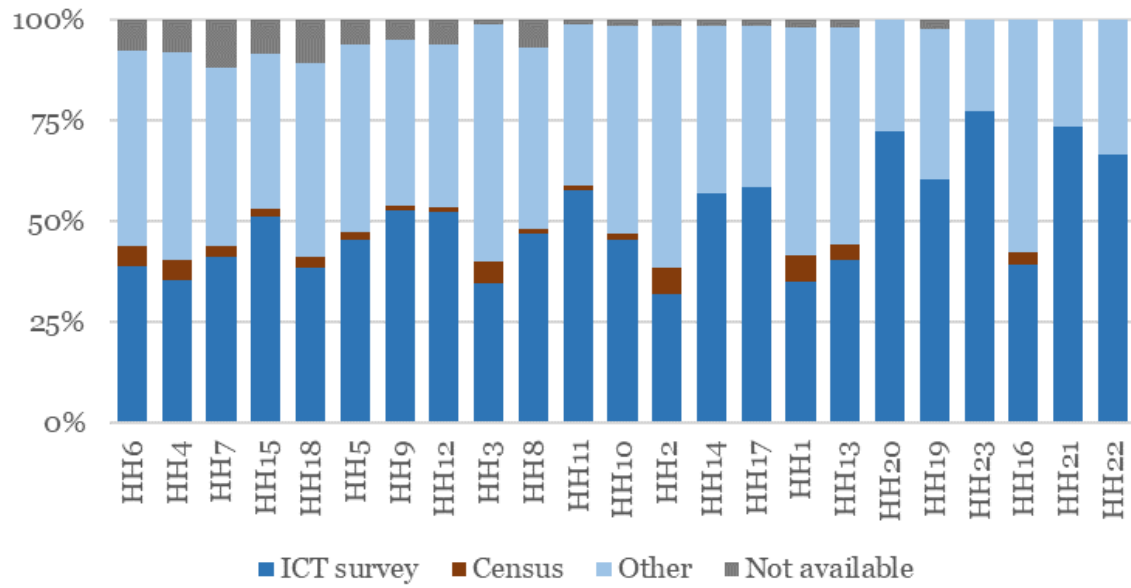

Note: Refers to the share of countries providing at least one data point. Indicators listed in order of overall data availability (number of country/indicator/survey type combinations).

By survey type

Lastly, the ITU reviewed the breakdown of available data by survey type. Analyzing data from this perspective is also important as there may be limits on the number of questions that can be included in a household survey, particularly if it is part of a multi-purpose survey. Indicators provided through censuses are also limited in their frequency given that most censuses are only every ten years. However, there are only limited differences between indicators in the breakdown of countries providing data by survey type. The biggest difference is for the newest indicators on e-commerce (HH20-HH23) and on individuals not using the Internet by reason (HH19). These indicators are currently more likely to be collected in stand-alone ICT surveys. However, this may change in the future as these indicators become more integrated in countries' data collection efforts.

Figure 3
Share of countries of those providing ICT household survey data by survey type, since 2015

Note: Refers to the share of countries providing at least one data point. Indicators listed in order of overall data availability.

Annex – ITU ICT household indicators

Table 1
List of indicators on access to, and use of, ICT by households and individuals

Indicator Number	Indicator name	Used for monitoring SDGs
HH1	Proportion of households with a radio	
HH2	Proportion of households with a television	
HH3	Proportion of households with telephone	
HH4	Proportion of households with a computer	
HH5	Proportion of individuals using a computer	
HH6	Proportion of households with Internet	
HH7	Proportion of individuals using the Internet	√
HH8	Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by location	
HH9	Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by type of activity	
HH10	Proportion of individuals using a mobile cellular telephone	
HH11	Proportion of households with Internet, by type of service	
HH12	Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by frequency	
HH13	Proportion of households with multichannel television, by type	
HH14	Barriers to household Internet access	
HH15	Individuals with ICT skills, by type of skills	√
HH16	Household expenditure on ICT	
HH17	Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by type of portable device and network used to access the Internet	
HH18	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile phone	√
HH19	Proportion of individuals not using the Internet, by type of reason	
HH20	Proportion of individuals who purchased goods or services online, by type of good and service purchased	
HH21	Proportion of individuals who purchased goods or services online, by type of payment channel	
HH22	Proportion of individuals who purchased goods or services online, by method of delivery	
HH23	Proportion of individuals who did not purchase goods or services online, by type of reason	