The impact of unequal access to ICT infrastructure on the Geography of COVID-19 Diffusion

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Some technical introductions

Today's Webinar is being recorded and it will be available on the Webinar webpage in the coming days.

Today's Chat moderator, to collect questions via the chat function is Ms. Carmen Prado-Wagner, BDT Focal Point for Question 4/1.

Our IT Moderator is Mr Jules Broutet Rocha Lima who will now provide some instructions for this webinar.

Keynote & Welcome
by our Director, Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin,

Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), International Telecommunication Union.

Welcome by our Rapporteur Question 4/1

Mr Arseny Plossky
Rapporteur Question 4/1

Deputy head of laboratory

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Introduction: Key objectives of the webinar

- Public health policies aim to limit Covid-19 Diffusion by influencing social and individual decisions and behaviours that drive **gatherings** and **social distancing practices, (human social networks)**.

- These policies are often complex and difficult to be communicated, understood and shared.

- **Digital inclusion**, in terms of Access to infrastructure, Affordability and Skills is essential for the understanding of public health policies and for their effectiveness in limiting diffusion.

Introduction: Key objectives of the webinar

- **Digital Exclusion**, due to any of these barriers in Access to ICT infrastructure, Affordability and Skills risks driving the pandemic and reduce effectiveness of public health policies.

- However, digital exclusion is multidimensional, (due to hard and soft infrastructure barriers) and its geography can be fine-grained and complex.

- This webinar aims to explore the key data sources and possible solutions that can help in providing a better picture of digital exclusion, to inform policies and interventions and to provide advocacy to address the different forms o digital exclusion.

Panellists

- **Prof. Jon Crowcroft**, University of Cambridge, UK

- **Prof. Alison Gillwald**, Research ICT Africa, South Africa

- **Dr. Enrico Calandro**, University of Cape Town, South Africa

- **Dr. Andrea Pirrone**, OFCOM, UK

- **Ms. Jane Coffin**, Internet Society

Q&A

1.   To Jon: Is it possible that digital exclusion gives us a biased picture of social gathering activities, in the most disconnected areas, for example when social gatherings are not mediated via social media? And

2.   To Jon, are current predictive diffusion models based on localised social gathering activities as captured via social networks data?

3.   To Alison, How relevant is affordability in preventing access to information and understanding to public health messages and policies?

4.   To Enrico: How do digital exclusion and online security interact and play a role in access to information and understanding to public health messages and policies?

5.   To Ofcom, in the UK, there can be stark differences in digital exclusions across very close neighbourhoods, how can these data be used to improve the effectiveness of public health policies messages.

6.   To Jane, what is the best way to engage stakeholders, and address the impact of digital exclusion on Covid diffusion

Conclusions and thanks Dr. Eun-Ju Kim

- Dr. Eun-Ju Kim, Chief of Digital Knowledge Hub Department, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), International Telecommunication Union