Outcome report: Big Data for measuring for connectivity

Session Date and Time: Session , Tuesday, 6 July 2021

(14:00 – 15:00 Geneva time)

Speakers:

- Ms. Esperanza Magpantay, Senior Statistician, ICT Data and Analytics Division, DKH/BDT/ITU
- Mr. Siim Esko, Head of International Sales, Positium
- Mr. Xavier Vollenweider, Director of Mobile Data Partnerships, Flowminder
- Mr. Vladimir Daigele – Programme Officer, ITU

1. **Session summary :** *The session highlighted the ongoing work on the use of big data for measuring connectivity. It included presentations on the ITU project related to the use of mobile phone big data to measure the information society, highlighting the importance of collaboration among the different national stakeholders to access the data, and to address the lack of skills in national statistics office to analyse big data. It provided the experiences from Brazil and Indonesia on implementing the methodologies that are based on the "ITU Handbook on using mobile phone data for measuring the information society" for SDG indicators on percentage of population using the Internet and percentage of population covered by mobile population. It further highlighted the importance of using mobile phone big data in providing timely statistics to policymakers on displaced population during disasters. Finally, the presentation on broadband connectivity provided information on available infrastructure to connect everyone. The session focused on the importance of using new data sources to have timely and disaggregated data to measure connectivity in countries, particularly in LDCs.*

2. **Main outcomes highlighting the following:**
   - *Making ICT Big data "Open" is strategic for fully understanding connectivity and to inspire innovative solutions provide by traditional/emerging/mix of technologies in other to achieve reliable connectivity to all in the last Decade of Action.*
   - *To turn these data into impact, the challenge goes beyond the scientific, technological and access model questions: the governance framework and the capacities to use and curate this data need to be aligned in accordance to each country's context.*
   - *Mobile phone data is a rich resource. For ICT statistics it provides the best data source to measure the two SDG indicators on Internet use and mobile phone cellular access. Mobile phone big data has potential to scale to other uses (considered as the most promising benefit of big data).*
   - *Mobile phone data is a rich resource. For ICT statistics it provides the best data source to measure the two SDG indicators on Internet use and mobile phone cellular access. Mobile phone big data has potential to scale to other uses (voted by the audience as the most promising benefit of big data).*

- *Access to these data needs proper planning and stakeholder engagement, but experience from other countries can provide best practices and ITU is here to help you on the way*

3. Panellists contributions to the outcome reports

- What are the opportunities and challenges of emerging technology (specific to the session topic) for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

  The use of mobile phone big data for estimating the two SDG indicators on Internet use and mobile population coverage, by technology. Mobile phone big data has potential to scale to other use case uses.

  Challenges related to the use of big data for measuring connectivity include lack of skills, lack of infrastructure and access to data. All stakeholders in the country should work together to address this challenge.

- What are the most important points/aspects of the emerging technology that should be considered in order to accelerate the digital transformation in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS?

  Emerging technology related to the use of big data should be considered to accelerate digital transformation. It is important to know who are unconnected in these countries in order to address them with proper policies.

- Takeaway: please provide one key word and one sentence that most fit the session topic

  POTENTIAL: Big data are answers waiting for questions, the potential for mining the data, including to monitor progress towards the SDGs is just being uncovered.