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| 18 | 12 | 1 | Contact point in international agency | Organization(s): ITUEmail: [indicators@itu.int](mailto:indicators@itu.int" \t "_blank)Website: [www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/default.aspx) |
| 18 | 12 | 2 | International agreed definition | Definition:  The proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex is defined as the ‘proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex’.  Concepts:  An individual owns a mobile cellular phone if he/she has a mobile cellular phone device with at least one active SIM card for personal use. Mobile cellular phones supplied by employers that can be used for personal reasons (to make personal calls, access the Internet, etc.) are included. Individuals who have only active SIM card(s) and not a mobile phone device are excluded. Individuals who have a mobile phone for personal use that is not registered under his/her name are also included. An active SIM card is a SIM card that has been used in the last three months.  A mobile (cellular) telephone refers to a portable telephone subscribing to a public mobile telephone service using cellular technology, which provides access to the PSTN. This includes analogue and digital cellular systems and technologies such as IMT-2000 (3G) and IMT-Advanced. Users of both postpaid subscriptions and prepaid accounts are included. |
| 18 | 12 | 3 | Method of computation | Countries can collect data on this indicator through national household surveys. This indicator is calculated by dividing the total number of in-scope individuals who own a mobile phone by the total number of in-scope individuals. |
| 18 | 12 | 4 | Importance of the indicator in addressing gender issues and its limitation | Mobile phone networks have spread rapidly over the last decade and the number of mobile-cellular subscriptions is quasi equal to the number of the people living on earth. However, not every person uses, or owns a mobile-cellular telephone. Mobile phone ownership, in particular, is important to track gender equality since the mobile phone is a personal device that, if owned and not just shared, provides women with a degree of independence and autonomy, including for professional purposes. A number of studies have highlighted the link between mobile phone ownership and empowerment, and productivity growth.  Existing data on the proportion of women owning a mobile phone suggest that less women than men own a mobile phone. This indicator highlights the importance of mobile phone ownership to track and to improve gender equality, and monitoring will help design targeted policies to overcome the gender divide. The collection of this indicator was proposed by the Task Group on Gender of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development.  While the data on the ‘proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone’ currently only exist for very few countries, ITU is encouraging all countries to collect data on this indicator through national household surveys and the indicator is expected to be added to the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development’s Core List of Indicators. The number of countries with official data for this indicator is expected to increase in the near future. |
| 18 | 12 | 5 | Sources of discrepancies between global and national figures | None. ITU uses the data provided by countries, including the in-scope population that is used to calculate the percentages. |
| 18 | 12 | 6 | Process of obtaining data | This indicator is a newly developed ITU indicator that was approved by the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) 2014. The indicator’s definition and methodology were developed under the coordination of ITU, through its Expert Groups and following an extensive consultation process with countries. Data for the proportion of individuals owning a mobile phone were first collected in 2015, through an annual questionnaire that ITU sends to national statistical offices (NSO). In this questionnaire, through which ITU already collects a number of ICT indicators, ITU collects absolute values. The percentages are calculated a-posteriori. The survey methodology is verified to ensure that it meets adequate statistical standards. The data are verified to ensure consistency with previous years’ data and other relevant country-level indicators (ICT and economic).  Data are usually not adjusted, but discrepancies in the definition, age scope of individuals, reference period or the break in comparability between years are noted in a data note. For this reason, data are not always strictly comparable.  ITU collects data on this indicator through an annual questionnaire that it sends to the heads of the national statistical offices (NSO). In this questionnaire, through which ITU already collects a number of ICT indicators, ITU collects absolute values. The percentages are calculated a-posteriori. The survey methodology is verified to ensure that it meets adequate statistical standards. The data are verified to ensure consistency with previous years’ data and other relevant country-level indicators (ICT and economic). |
| 18 | 12 | 7 | Treatment of missing values | N/A |
| 18 | 12 | 8 | Data availability and assessment of countries’ capacity | Data availability:  2014 to 2020 (latest) data are available for 101 countries. |
| 18 | 12 | 9 | Expected time of release | Data are collected through the ITU long household questionnaire that is sent to all NSOs in Q3 each year.  Data are released in December of each year. |
| 18 | 12 | 10 | Source | Data: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/  Metadata: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-0B-01.pdf>  (Accessed on 11 May 2021) |