

Digitalisation for a just social compact: Global South lessons from the COVID- 19 pandemic

**Issue area one: Intersectional inequality and
digital substitution.**

Outputs and resources

An IDRC COVID-19 Responses for Equity (CORE) Project



Reports and papers: Intersectional inequality and digital substitution		
Title	Description	Publication date
COVID-19, Digital Substitutional and Intersectional Inequality – The Case of South Africa	The South African study analyses the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated public policy responses on digital and intersectional inequality from a demand-side perspective. The analysis takes into consideration cross-cutting issues such as gender and demography. The overarching research question in this study was: How has COVID-19 and its associated public policy responses influenced digital and intersectional inequalities in South Africa?	September 2022
Intersectional inequalities during Covid- 19 in Nigeria	This report analyses the extent to which people in Nigeria were able to digitally substitute to mitigate the risk arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated lockdowns.	January 2023
ICT Access and use in Peru and Colombia during the COVID-19 pandemic: The Big Picture	This document, which is a research effort carried out in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, seeks to provide information on the situation of ICT use in Peru and Colombia, make the main challenges visible, and provide elements for the discussion of public policies	
Being visible in the digital age. ICT use by the LGBTI+ population in Peru and Colombia during pandemic	This paper addresses the use of ICTs by the LGBTI+community in Peru and Colombia during the pandemic. It provides relevant information for policy development and contributes to closing the literature gap related to this population and the use of ICT.	

Not even with social distancing! A look at who did not connect to the internet in Peru during the pandemic	This study provides relevant information about people who were not connected to the internet during the pandemic in urban areas of Peru	
Covid 19 and older adults. A look at the digital divide in Peru and Colombia	This study aims to analyse the impact of rapid digitalization on the appropriation of ICT by people over sixty years of age. For this reason, special attention is paid to the factors that facilitate and inhibit the use of the Internet in this age group in two countries of the Latin American region: Colombia and Peru	
Consumer preferences, perceptions, and persistent barriers: An assessment of internet usage during and post COVID-19 pandemic in Peru	Contributes to the ICT literature providing evidence on the use, preferences and barriers of internet use in the context of COVID-19 in Peru.	
COVID-19 Lockdown and its Impact on Citizens of Gampaha District, Sri Lanka	Looks to understand the experiences of 35 individuals during a lockdown in the Gampaha district.	July 2021
Gender gaps in digital skills in India and Sri Lanka	Examines digital (internet use and digital skills) gender gaps in Sri Lanka and India nationally representative surveys conducted in the two countries in 2021	September 2023
Digital platforms in Asia: Access and Use	Analyses the role use of digital platforms (for buying and selling goods and services) based on nationally representative surveys	April 2023
Gender and Digital Access Gaps and Barriers in Asia: But What About After Access?	Examined gender underpinnings in digital and access and use	October 2022

Digital Sri Lanka during COVID-19 lockdowns	Provides a snapshot on the state of digital in Sri Lanka and how internet use changed with COVID-19, and how access to services, including education, work and healthcare, changed – focusing particularly on the mediating role played by digital technologies	December 2021
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Policy briefs: Intersectional inequality and digital substitution		
Title	Description	Publication date
Navigating COVID-19: African women and digital financial access in South Africa and Nigeria	Given the reach of 21st-century digital and mobile technologies, financial inclusion is much in vogue. However, offering credit and a formal transactional account does not automatically bring transformative welfare change in the lives and businesses of the poor, particularly for women, as the strategy of simply including more low-income individuals, households and MSMEs into existing and formal economic markets systems, as a conduit to inclusive development and enhanced social welfare, fails to fully capture the context of markets in which new technology, financial products and services are introduced.	July 2021
Intersectional inequality inhibits digital substitution aimed at mitigating COVID-19 effects in South Africa	The 2021 RIA COVID-19 Rapid Response Phone Survey confirms increased digital and Internet access during the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa. This is primarily linked to smartphone access, which in turn correlates positively to being male, urban and young. This means that this profile of South Africans is likely to have greater economic opportunities and access to social protection services.	April 2022
Mitigating COVID-19 Risk: Digital Substitution in Nigeria	In 2021, Research ICT Africa (RIA) carried out a random digit dialling (RDD) survey in Nigeria and South Africa to understand how individuals utilised the internet during lockdown, particularly to retain their livelihoods while the majority of industries were shuttered. This policy brief provides a high-level summary of the findings from the Nigerian phone	August 2022

	survey. It primarily aims to comprehend the extent of datafication and digital substitution in Nigeria that will help formulate effective and evidence-based ICT policies.	
Internet access and use exclusively on mobile devices in times of pandemic	This document identifies the characteristics and different uses of a type of Internet user that connects exclusively from a mobile phone. The opportunities regarding the implementation of public policies through technologies that have been evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic pose a policy tool that can be taken advantage of in the short term, as well.	February 2021

Blogs and op-eds: Intersectional inequality and digital substitution		
Title	Description	Publication date
Assessing the Gender Dimensions of Digital Inequality for Policy Action	The paper uses various multilateral and regional data sources and case studies to create a collage of available supply- and demand-side information at the international, regional and national levels to assess the implications of the uneven distribution of opportunities and harms associated with the processes of digitalisation and datafication and the intensifying outcomes of digital inequality. The paper highlights the deficiencies in the data available for evidence-based digital policy formulation to address gendered issues in digital accessibility and usability.	November 2023
A lot of colour and also suffering (Spanish and English)	Discusses the problems of LGBTI people in Peru using the results of our CORE research.	June 2023
LIRNEasia research on vaccine communications at 22nd ICA Conference	Filled gap on channels used to obtain information on where/how to get the COVID-19 vaccines in Sri Lanka	May 2022

National Fuel Pass – Roadblocks to Inclusion	Drew on insights from national survey to highlight digital access and use amongst vehicle owners, in response to new government policy.	July 2022
South Africa’s COVID-19 Information App most popular with urban dwellers, women and youth	This blogpost draws on research undertaken as part of the IDRC funded COVID-19 Responses for Equity (CORE). It provides selected high-level insights into pandemic outcomes from a demand-side perspective in relation to digital, financial, and intersectional inequalities.	October 2021
RIA survey finds gender inclusivity in Nigeria’s COVID response	This blog about the Nigerian case provides selected high-level insights into COVID 19 response outcomes from a demand-side perspective and their interactions with digital, financial, and intersectional inequalities.	August 2021