



Civil society perspectives on digital skills

Prepared for CARICOM consultation on Digital Skills

NGOs/CSOs

19th July 2022

Deirdre Williams

JAN
2021

DIGITAL AROUND THE WORLD

ESSENTIAL HEADLINES FOR MOBILE, INTERNET, AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE

INTERNET USER NUMBERS NO LONGER INCLUDE DATA SOURCED FROM SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, SO VALUES ARE **NOT COMPARABLE** WITH PREVIOUS REPORTS

TOTAL
POPULATION



7.83
BILLION

URBANISATION:

56.4%

UNIQUE MOBILE
PHONE USERS



5.22
BILLION

vs. POPULATION:

66.6%

INTERNET
USERS*



4.66
BILLION

vs. POPULATION:

59.5%

ACTIVE SOCIAL
MEDIA USERS*



4.20
BILLION

vs. POPULATION:

53.6%

SOURCES: THE U.N., LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES, GSMA INTELLIGENCE, ITU, GWI, EUROSTAT, CHINIC, APRI, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS' SELF-SERVICE ADVERTISING TOOLS, COMPANY EARNINGS REPORTS, MEDIASCOPE. ***ADVISORIES:** INTERNET USER NUMBERS NO LONGER INCLUDE DATA SOURCED FROM SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, SO VALUES ARE **NOT COMPARABLE** TO DATA PUBLISHED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS. SOCIAL MEDIA USER NUMBERS MAY NOT REPRESENT UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS. **COMPARABILITY ADVISORY:** SOURCE AND BASE CHANGES

we
are
social



Hootsuite*

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GLOBAL DIGITAL GROWTH

THE YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE IN DIGITAL ADOPTION

INTERNET USER NUMBERS NO LONGER INCLUDE DATA SOURCED FROM SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, SO VALUES ARE **NOT COMPARABLE** WITH PREVIOUS REPORTS

TOTAL
POPULATION



we
are
social

+1.0%

JAN 2021 vs. JAN 2020

+81 MILLION

UNIQUE MOBILE
PHONE USERS



+1.8%

JAN 2021 vs. JAN 2020

+93 MILLION

INTERNET
USERS*



+7.3%

JAN 2021 vs. JAN 2020

+316 MILLION

ACTIVE SOCIAL
MEDIA USERS*



+13.2%

JAN 2021 vs. JAN 2020

+490 MILLION

SOURCES: THE U.N., LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES, GSMA INTELLIGENCE, ITU, GWI, EUROSTAT, CHINIC, APPI, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS' SELF-SERVICE ADVERTISING TOOLS, COMPANY EARNINGS REPORTS, MEDIASCOPE. ***ADVISORIES:** INTERNET USER NUMBERS NO LONGER INCLUDE DATA SOURCED FROM SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, SO VALUES ARE **NOT COMPARABLE** TO DATA PUBLISHED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS. SOCIAL MEDIA USER NUMBERS MAY NOT REPRESENT UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS. **➤ COMPARABILITY ADVISORY:** SOURCE AND BASE CHANGES

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SHARE OF GLOBAL INTERNET USERS BY REGION

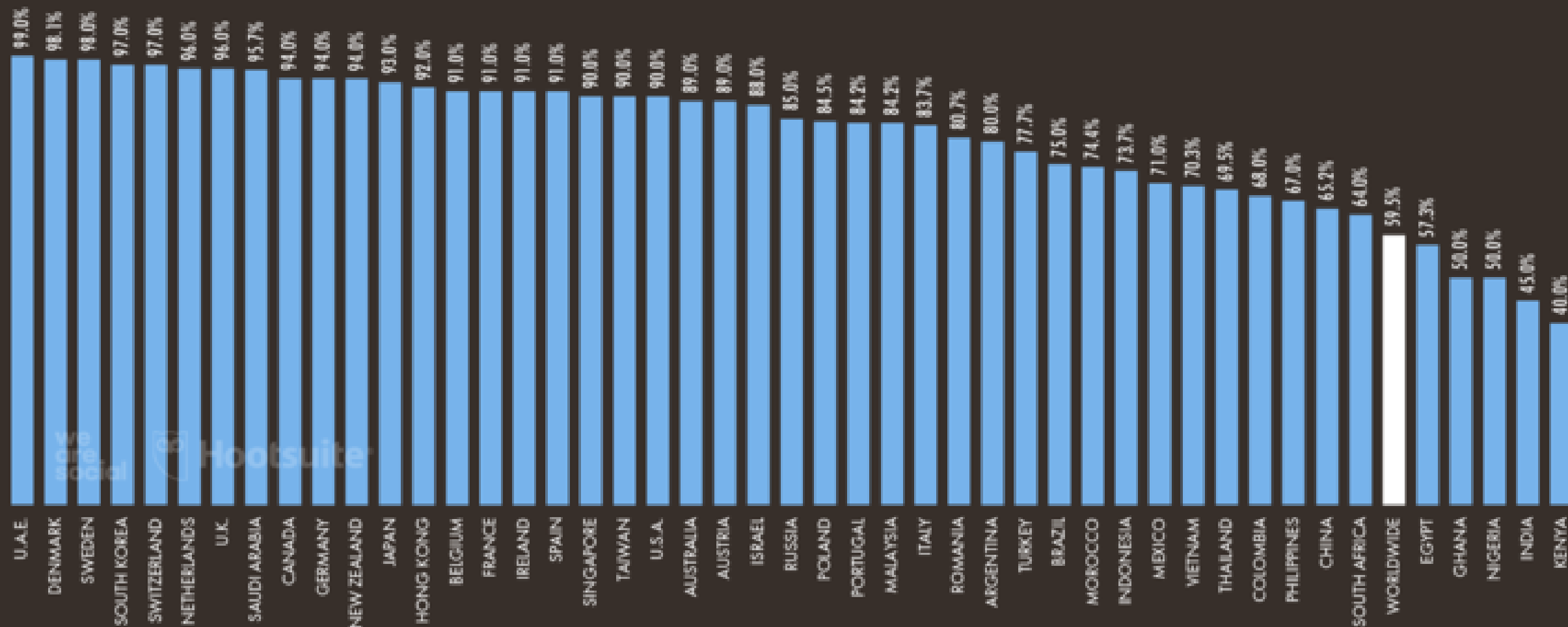
THE NUMBER OF INTERNET USERS IN EACH REGION AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GLOBAL INTERNET USERS



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INTERNET ADOPTION BY COUNTRY

PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION THAT USES THE INTERNET

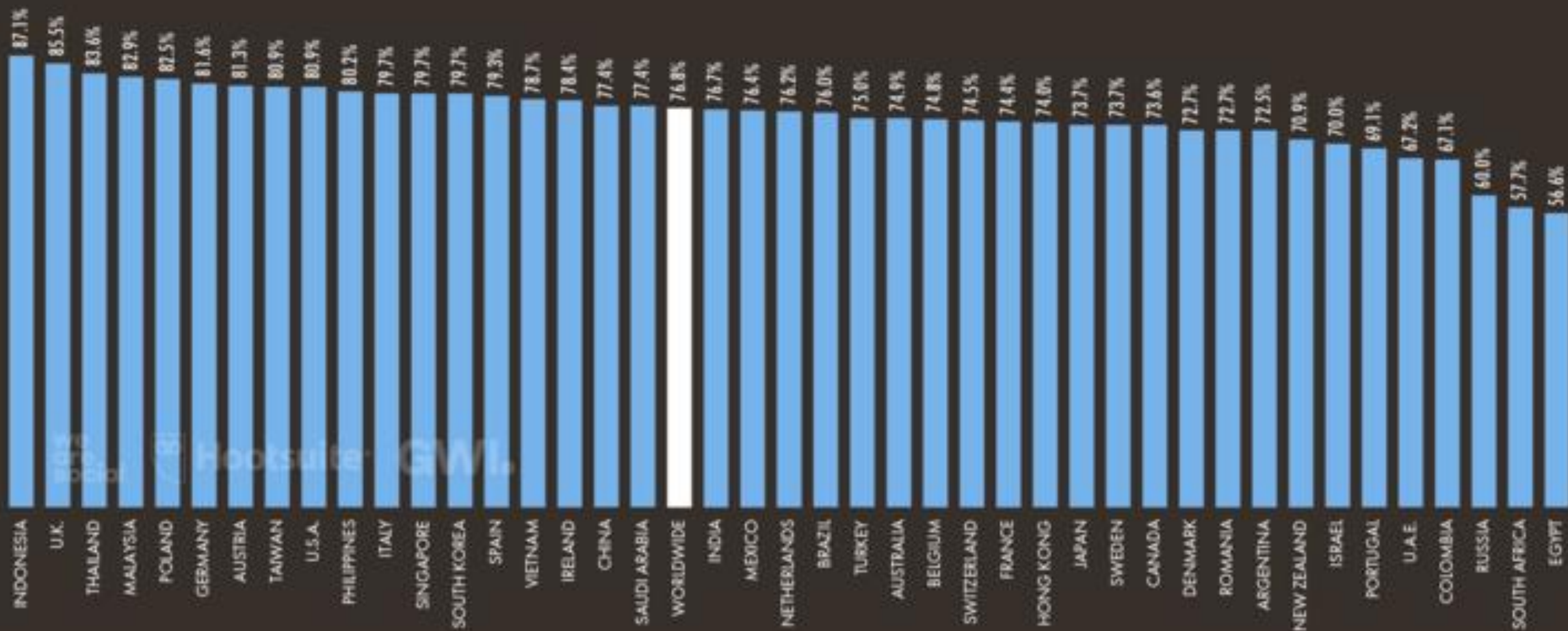


SOURCES: KEPIC (JAN 2021) BASED ON EXTRAPOLATIONS OF DATA PUBLISHED BY: THE ITU; LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES; GWI; GSMA INTELLIGENCE; EUROSTAT; APRI; CNNIC; THE U.N.
NOTE: VALUES HAVE BEEN CAPPED AT 99%. **ADVISORY:** INTERNET USER NUMBERS NO LONGER INCLUDE DATA SOURCED FROM SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS. FIGURES ARE **NOT COMPARABLE** WITH DATA PUBLISHED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS.

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ECOMMERCE ADOPTION

PERCENTAGE OF INTERNET USERS AGED 16 TO 64 WHO BOUGHT SOMETHING ONLINE VIA ANY DEVICE IN THE PAST MONTH



Consultation

Learning, Sharing, and Doing

I have taken liberties with my instructions so I hope that the organisers will forgive me.

For me a consultation is not a lecture it is an exchange.

From very intense reading over the last few days have come more questions than answers.

It is my hope that I have discovered at least some of the “right” questions that I hope will facilitate us all in **learning** and creating effective answers for **sharing** and later implementing by **doing**.

Consultation

Learning, Sharing, and Doing.

- o What is the situation of digital skills acquisition and development among the sub-population across the region, in this particular sector?
- o What are the constraints and enablers, at the micro, mezzo and macro levels?
- o What should the goals for 2030 and 2040 be for this sub-population?
- o What are the strategies and resources needed, and how should these be rolled out?
- o What are the benefits to accrue from investing in this sub-population's acquisition of digital skills, as well as the cost of inaction?

Consultation proposed agenda

- JULY Thursday, 7th Private Sector
- Tuesday, 12th Artists / Artisans / Entertainers
- Thursday, 14th Security Sector
- Tuesday, 19th Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), Civil Society Organisations (CSO), Cooperatives
- Thursday, 21st Persons with Disabilities
- Tuesday, 26th Justice Sector
- Thursday, 28th Educators / Education / Human Resource Development
- AUGUST Thursday, 4th Elderly Persons
- Tuesday, 9th ICT Agencies
- Thursday, 11th Youth
- Tuesday, 16th Emergency Agencies
- Thursday, 18th Religious Organisations
- Tuesday, 23rd Sports & Wellness
- Thursday, 25th Mayors & Local Government Agencies (LGA)
- Tuesday, 30th Regional Organisation

NGOs/CSOs/Cooperatives — why a dedicated session?

- Handle many of the same issues and communities as governments but are closer to individual communities of interest/needs
- In a position to liaise closely with communities when it comes to raising awareness
- Not for profit therefore need to be alert to and aware of best value for least money

Therefore this session should provide an overview which can be fleshed out with detail by the specific interest group sessions in August

Do these organisations recognise any specific needs vis a vis digital skills?

Digital Skills Task Force

1. *review existing online course offerings which can be used by the Region to support the need for technical skills and certification;*
2. *identify specific institutions offering courses which can prove beneficial to CARICOM;*
3. *receive and review information from Member States and identify any best practices;*
4. *also identify, for adoption by the Region, core (skills competencies) which can be pursued at the primary, secondary, university and workforce levels and later lead to certification, including that of the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ);*
5. *determine the elements of a Digital Skills Strategy for CARICOM;*
6. *develop a project proposal to support the roll-out of a Digital Skills programme beginning in 2022; and*
7. *provide a report for consideration of the COHSOD and the COTED – ICT by 30 September 2021;*
8. What can these organisations contribute to

Examples of definitions of digital skills

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Digital skills are defined as **the ability to find, evaluate, use, share, and create content using digital devices**, such as computers and smartphones.

<https://digitalskills.unlv.edu/digital-marketing/what-are-digital-skills/>

Unesco

‘a range of abilities to use digital devices, communication applications, and networks to access and manage information’.

<https://en.unesco.org/news/digital-skills-critical-jobs-and-social-inclusion>

JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), UK

‘the capabilities which fit someone for living, learning and working in a digital society’

<https://www.jisc.ac.uk/>

Framework for Digital Skills

The Open University (UK) has created a 'Digital skills framework', which targets five key skills areas:

- understand and engage
- find
- manage and communicate
- evaluate
- collaborate and share.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/mod/page/view.php?id=127524>

Questions for this session

How does this constituency define digital skills?

1. Are digital skills science/computer science skills?
2. Are digital skills specific or generalised?
3. Are digital skills linked to specific software?
4. Do any skills currently included in school/TVET curricula count as digital skills?

Place of regular core curriculum? “arts” skills?

Mathematics? Logic?

(English) language – to what extent is it a “digital skill”? Expression?
Vocabulary? Comprehension?

Literature – Tone? Intention? Human behaviour?

Psychology – Human behaviour?

Languages – is English sufficient in a multi-lingual Caribbean, and an even more multi-lingual world?

Being able to assess the legitimacy of information received?

Should digital skills be taught separately?

To what extent are digital skills about “tool using”?

Which digital media do these organisations use most regularly?

Some suggestions of digital skills that might be considered for a training programme

- - Digital Fabrication: which is a big driver of the maker movement worldwide including Fablabs, makerspaces, coding and prototyping IoT and robotics to actually build “stuff” that works and automate things we would not have thought of 10 years ago.
- - No Code web skills: where digital tools are available to develop professional looking and functioning webapplications. As a result the learning curve to develop apps has significantly become shorter compared to programming
- - Tools for digital story telling and the increasing integration of mainstream media with the internet : influencers, animation, netflix, youtube, FB watch etc. all have made an avenue to tell the story from our Caribbean perspective to each other and to the world.

Reina Raveles

Blockchain and crypto currency

Hallam Hope

And our attention was directed to Kaggle <https://www.Kaggle.com>
as being particularly useful for health and wellness related NGOs/CSOs
Interactions & real-time Caribbean access to trending global
health issues and innovations, pandemic lessons learnt.

Paula Mohammed

Questions (please add your own questions to the list):

- How does this constituency define digital skills?
- To what extent are digital skills about “tool using”?
- Which digital media do these organisations use most regularly?
- What about the conventional skills?
- How do NGOs/CSOs expect digital skills and competencies to be taught in the future? Should they be taught separately or integrated into the general curriculum for children?

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THE BATTLE FOR THE INTERNET CONTINUES

THE INTERNET WAS INVENTED FOR SHARING PICTURES OF CATS, BUT NOT EVERYONE GOT THE MEMO

NUMBER OF POSTS
ON INSTAGRAM
TAGGED WITH #DOG



we
are
social

292
MILLION

AVERAGE GOOGLE SEARCH
INDEX OF SEARCHES
RELATED TO DOGS IN 2020



90

NUMBER OF POSTS
ON INSTAGRAM
TAGGED WITH #CAT



230
MILLION

AVERAGE GOOGLE SEARCH
INDEX OF SEARCHES
RELATED TO CATS IN 2020



45

Thanks to

Jennifer Britton, Secretariat of the Digital Skills Task Force for the invitation.
(Guyana)

Carlton Samuels, Co-chair, Digital Skills Task Force, for answering my questions. (Jamaica)

Reina Raveles (Suriname)

Paula Mohammed (Barbados)

Hallam Hope (Barbados) who all offered suggestions

CIVIC (The Greater Caribbean) that created the network that allowed all of these people and ideas to come together – digitally!

<https://dgroups.org/groups/civic>

And <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2021-global-overview-report> for the graphs

And to all of you participants for joining the
consultation and listening to me.

I'm now looking forward to listening to you.

Thank you.