The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) partnered with the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) in conducting the National ICT Household Survey (NICTHS). The NICTHS is the first national baseline household and individual survey in the Philippines that aims to assess the current status of the country in terms of Information and Communications Technology.

The main goal of the survey is to gather baseline household and individual ICT data that are necessary in producing internationally comparable core ICT indicators. This would serve as an input in the monitoring of existing programs, development of prospect projects, and formulation of future policies all geared towards the advancement of ICT in the country.

To fulfill the objectives of the study, three questionnaires were used: Community, Household, and Individual. The Community Questionnaire was the questionnaire intended to assess the barangay’s current ICT infrastructure and equipment. The Household Questionnaire focuses on the household’s ICT access and use. It includes questions on the ICT devices and services that the household has and their usage of these devices and services. Finally, the Individual Questionnaire is the questionnaire used to measure an individual’s knowledge, access, and usage of ICT.

The reference period from the interview date is the past three months for questions on ICT usage and the past twelve months for items on e-commerce activities. The 2013 Master Sample of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), with 43,838 sample households, was used for the survey. All barangays where these households reside, were targeted for the community questionnaire. Further, all individuals aged 10 to 74 years of age were covered in the individual survey.

The following are the main highlights of the results for the community survey:

1. The results show that although a lot of communities have access to electricity, there are still a number of barangays that do not have electricity.
2. More than 90.0% of the surveyed barangays have cellphone signals present in their barangays and more than half of these can access a 4G (LTE) signal.
3. Only about 40.0% of the respondent barangays have TV signals in their area.
4. Around half of the communities have telecommunication operators in their area.
5. Three out of ten barangays have fiber optic cables installed.
6. Only about 13.0% have free public Wi-Fi present in their barangays.
For the household interview, the following are the findings based on data collected:

1. Five percent of households do not have electricity in their homes.
2. Less than half (47.1%) of the households have communal radios.
3. Around 82.7% of the households have television at home.
4. Only 8.2% of households have their own fixed telephone line.
5. 24.0% of households have communal cellphones but only two out of ten have communal computers.
6. Only 17.7% of households have their own internet access at home, majority of which use the internet for social media and communication.

The results for the individual survey are as follows:

1. 90.9% of individuals have watched television and that they spent around 3 hours watching TV daily.
2. 78.7% of individuals have used their cellphones while only 29.7% have used a computer in the last three months.
3. 43.0% of individuals have used the internet and many of them have used a cellphone to connect to the internet.
4. More than 50% of the interviewed individuals are not aware that financial transactions can be done online.
5. About 6% of individuals have online bank accounts, electronic or mobile money accounts.
6. Only 2.4% of individuals are selling goods and services online.

Given these results, the country and the government can now have a better understanding of the level of ICT access and usage in the country. The government can improve formulation of evidence-based programs and policies; can perform targeting more efficiently; and can effectively monitor existing and upcoming programs now that baseline data is available.