Supplementary Table 1: Search Strategy for Google Trends

Country	Search Combination	Languages	Official / Common Languages
USA	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	English + German + Spanish + Russian + French + Italian	English
Brazil	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Portugese
India	Telehealth + Telemedicine + टेलिमेडिसिन + Télémédecine + Telesalud + টেলিমেডিসিন + Telemedicina	English + Spanish + French + Hindi + Bangla + Marathi	Hindi, Bangla, Marathi
Russia	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	English + German + Spanish + Russian + French + Italian	Russian
Peru	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Spanish
Chile	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Spanish
UK	Telehealth + Telemedicine + telefeddygaeth + teleiechyd + telezdrowie + telemedycyna + Telemedicina	English + Spanish + Welsh + Polish	English, Welsh, Polish
Mexico	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Spanish
Spain	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Spanish
Iran	Telehealth + Telemedicine + پزشکی از راه دور + teletıp + telesağlık	English + Turkish + Persian	Persian, Turkish
Italy	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Italian, English, French, Spanish
Pakistan	Telehealth + Telemedicine + ٹیلی میڈیسن + ٹیلی ہیلتھ + ٹیلی میڈیسین + टैलीमीडीसाईन + टैलीहैलथ	English + Urdu + Punjabi	Urdu, English, Punjabi
Saudi Arabia	Telehealth + Telemedicine + الصحة عن بعد + التطبيب عن بعد	English + Arabic	English, Arabic
Turkey	Telehealth + Telemedicine + telemedizin + teletıp + telesağlık	English + German + Turkish	Turkish, English, German

South Africa	telemedisyne + Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telemedicina	English + German + Spanish + Russian + French + Afrikaans + Zuku + Xhosa	English, Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans
Germany	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	English + German + Spanish + Russian + French + Italian	German
Bangladesh	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + টেলিমেডিসিন + Telemedicina	English + German + Spanish + French + Italian + Bangla	Bangla / Bengali, English
France	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Télésanté + Télémédecine + Telesalud + telemedizin + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	French, English, Portugese, Italian, German
Colombia	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Spanish
Canada	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Télésanté + Télémédecine + Telesalud + telemedizin + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	English, French
Qatar	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Telesalud + Telemedicina + الطبيب عن بعد + الصحة عن بعد	English + German + Spanish + Arabic	Arabic, English
China	Telehealth + Telemedicine + 遠程醫療 + 远程医疗	English + Simplified and Traditional Chinese	
Argentina	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	English + German + Spanish + Russian + French + Italian	Spanish
Egypt	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Telesalud + Telemedicina + الطبيب عن بعد + الصحة عن بعد	English + German + Spanish + Arabic	
Sweden	Telehealth (topic)		English, Swedish, Finnish
Indonesia	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	English + German + Spanish + Russian + French + Italian	Indonesian
Belarus	Telehealth (topic)		Belarusian, Russian
Ecuador	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Spanish
Iraq	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Telesalud + Telemedicina + الطبيب عن بعد + الصحة عن بعد		Arabic, Kurdish
Belgium	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telegeneeskunde + Télémédecine + Телемедицина + telemedizin	English + Dutch + French + German + russian	Dutch, German, French

UAE	Telehealth + Telemedicine + телемедицина + Telesalud + Telemedicina + التطبيب عن بعد + الصحة عن بعد	English + Russian + Spanish + Arabic	Arabic, English
Netherlands	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telegeneeskunde + Télémédecine + Телемедицина + telemedizin	English + Dutch + French + German + russian	Dutch
Kuwait	Telehealth + Telemedicine + телемедицина + Telesalud + Telemedicina + التطبيب عن بعد + الصحة عن بعد	English + Russian + Spanish + Arabic	Arabic, English
Ukraine	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	Ukranian + Russian + English + German + French + Spanish	Ukranian, Russian
Kazakhstan	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	Kazakh + Russian + English + German + French + Spanish	Kazakh, Russian
Oman	Telehealth + Telemedicine + телемедицина + Telesalud + Telemedicina + التطبيب عن بعد + الصحة عن بعد	English + Russian + Spanish + Arabic	Arabic
Philippines	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	Filipino + English + German + Spanish + Russian + French + Italian	English and Filipino Official, Spanish common
Singapore	Telemedicine + Telehealth + 远程医疗	English + Chinese + Malay + Hindi	English Lingua Franca, Malay, Hindi and Chinese common, Malay official language
Portugal	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telessaúde + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Télésanté + Telemedicina	Portugese + English + French + Spanish	Portugese, English, French and Spanish Common
Panama	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Spanish
Bolivia	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Spanish
Dominican Republic	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Portugese + Spanish + French + italian	Spanish
Poland	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + telemedycyna + telezdrowie + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	Polish + English + Russian + German + Spanish	Polish Official, English, Russian and German Common
Afghanistan	Telehealth + Telemedicine + تلیمیدیسین + پزشکی از راه دور	Pashto + Persian + English	Dari and Pashto & Persian
Switzerland	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Telessaúde + Telemedicina	English + German + Spanish + Russian + French + Italian	German, French, Italian and Romansh

Country	Search Terms	Languages	Official Language
Israel	Telehealth + Telemedicine + טלרפואה + Telesalud + Telemedicina + التطبيب عن بعد + الصحة عن بعد	English + Hebrew + Arabic + Spanish	Hebrew + Arabic
Bahrain	Telehealth + Telemedicine + телемедицина + Telesalud + Telemedicina + التطبيب عن بعد + الصحة عن بعد	English + Russian + Spanish + Arabic	Arabic Official, English Widely Spoken
Nigeria	Telehealth (Topic)		Official Language: English
Romania	Telehealth + Telemedicine + Telemedizin + Télémédecine + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	Romanian + English + German + Russian + Spanish	Romanian
Armenia	Telehealth + Telemedicine + հեռաբժշկություն + τηλεϊατρική + Telesalud + Телемедицина + Telemedicina	Armenian + English + Greek + Spanish + Russian	Armenian Official, Russian and Greek Popular

Supplementary Table 2: Additional RSV- and Telehealth-related parameters for top 50 countries most affected by COVID-19

	Country	Mean Pre-covid RSV levels	Mean Post-covid RSV levels	Ratio (Increase)	GDP-Per-Capita ($USD)	Literacy rates
1	USA	5.44	33.04	6.08	65,280.7	99
2	Brazil	7.15	41.22	5.76	8,717.2	93
3	India	6.26	30.72	4.91	2,104.1	74
4	Russia	21.03	58.37	2.78	11,585	99
5	Peru	6.09	29.90	4.91	6,977.7	94
6	Chile	3.94	35.07	8.89	14,896.5	96
7	UK	9.92	20.90	2.11	42,300.3	99
8	Mexico	14.07	20.08	1.43	9,863.1	95
9	Spain	13.01	34.62	2.66	29,613.7	98
10	Iran	10.69	10.93	1.02	5,520.3	86
11	Italy	11.33	39.74	3.51	5,995.1	99
12	Pakistan	0.84	15.86	18.82	1,284.7	59
13	Saudi Arabia	3.11	17.55	5.64	23,139.8	95
14	Turkey	1.60	14.42	9.01	9,042.5	96
15	South Africa	3.50	15.24	4.36	6,001.4	87
16	Germany	21.05	34.17	1.62	46,258.9	99
17	Bangladesh	2.20	21.53	9.80	1,855.7	74
18	France	13.33	24.44	1.83	40,493.9	99
19	Colombia	12.81	39.52	3.09	6,432.4	95
20	Canada	9.17	25.00	2.73	46,194.7	99
21	Qatar	4.07	11.42	2.81	64,781.7	93
22	China	18.6	58.1	3.13	10,261.7	97

23	**Argentina**	2.24	18.79	8.40	10,006.1	99
24	**Egypt**	5.02	12.96	2.58	3,020	71
25	**Sweden**	4.01	6.70	1.67	51,610.1	99
26	**Indonesia**	7.66	22.46	2.93	4,135.6	96
27	**Belarus****	0	2.23	NIL	6,663.3	99
28	**Ecuador**	6.04	18.93	3.13	6,183.8	93
29	**Iraq**	0	0	NIL	5,955.1	86
30	**Belgium**	2.77	6.63	2.39	46,116.7	99
31	**UAE**	11.35	35.21	3.10	43,103.3	93
32	**Netherlands**	8.27	18.69	2.26	52,447.8	99
33	**Kuwait**	0	0	NIL	32,032	96
34	**Ukraine**	7.82	22.46	2.87	3,659	99
35	**Kazakhstan**	2.78	5.52	1.98	9,731.1	99
36	**Oman**	0	0	NIL	15,474	96
37	**Philippines**	9.71	37.63	3.87	3,485.1	98
38	**Singapore**	13.22	26.54	2.01	65,233.3	97
39	**Portugal**	11.14	14.45	1.30	23,145	96
40	**Panama***	2.42	6.20	2.56*	15,731	95
41	**Bolivia***	3.24	8.78	2.71*	3,552.1	92
42	**Dominican Republic**	1.30	11.51	8.85	8,282.1	94
43	**Poland**	14.63	36.35	2.48	15,595	99
44	**Afghanistan**	0	0	NIL	502.1	43
45	**Switzerland**	15.85	17.65	1.11	81,993.7	99
46	**Israel**	5.88	13.89	2.36	43,641.4	92

47	**Bahrain**	0	0	NIL	23,504	97
48	**Nigeria**	7.91	18.60	2.35	2,229.9	62
49	**Armenia**	3.47	15.03	4.33	46,22.7	99
50	**Romania**	0	0	NIL	12,919.5	99
Mean (SD):				4.07±3.23	21,063 ± 21,011	92.22 ± 11.6

*Despite have RSV increases of (ratios) > 2.5 times, Panama and Bolivia were still considered to have experienced "smaller, subtler" changes in RSVs, due to the low RSV levels pre- and post-COVID (<10).

**Belarus was also considered to have "no observable trends" in RSVs due to pre-COVID RSV levels of 0.

Supplementary Figure 1: Worldwide Time-Trends for Telehealth-RSVs (blue) against daily COVID-19 deaths in top 50 countries
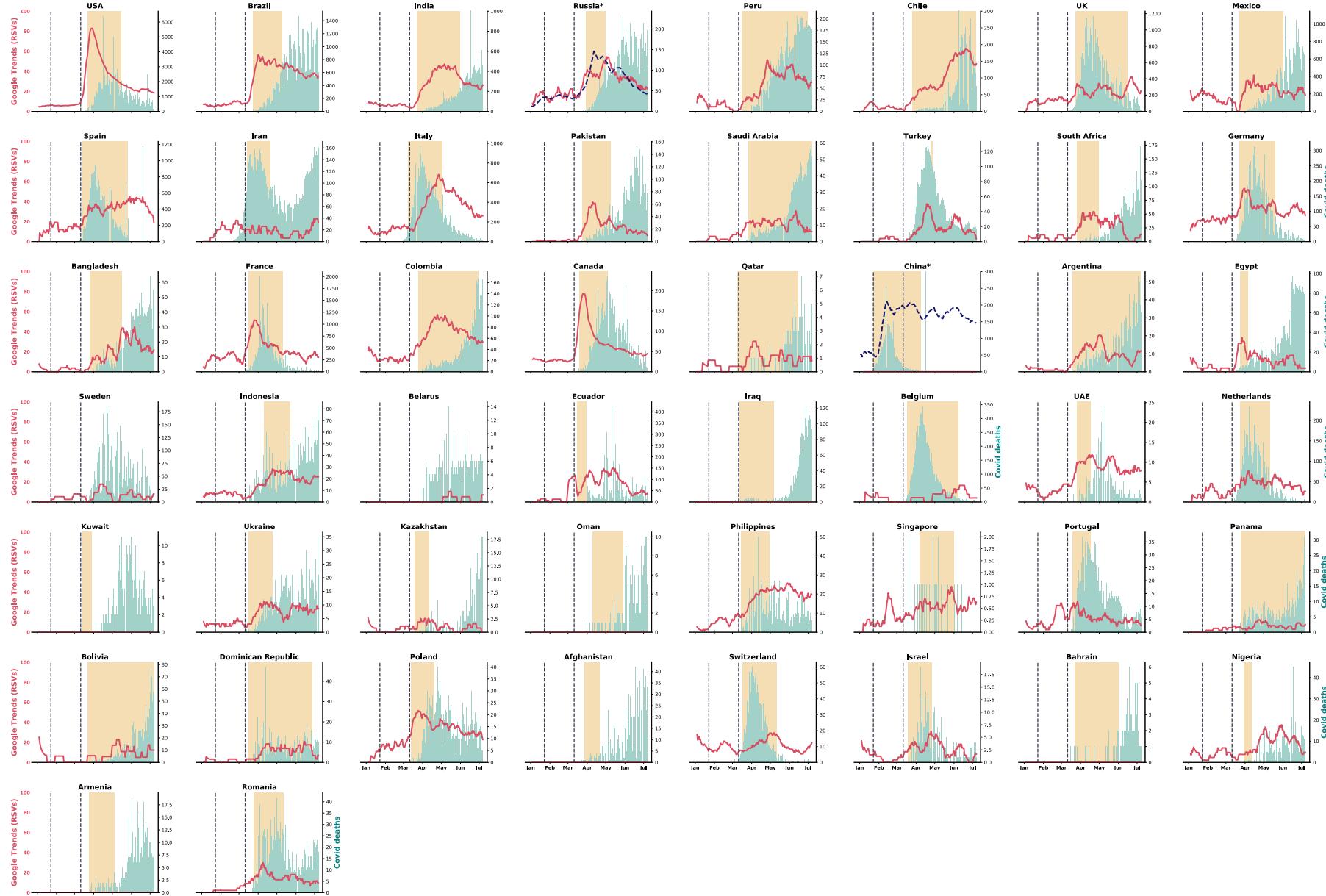
Countries arranged from left to right in order of total number of reported COVID-19 cases. x-axis represents time in individual days from 01/01/20 – 07/07/20. Left and right y-axes represent GT-RSVs and COVID-19 case numbers respectively. Red trendlines represent telehealth-related RSVs as measured by Google trends. Vertical bars in teal represent daily COVID-19 cases. Black vertical lines represent 2 key dates: the start of the Hubei Province lockdown (23rd January, 2020) and the declaration of COVID-19 as a Pandemic by the WHO (11th March 2020). Shaded yellow regions represent country-specific lockdown or restriction periods.

*Blue trendlines for China and Russia represent telehealth-related RSVs as measured by Baidu and Yandex respectivel

Supplementary Figure 2: Relationship between Telehealth RSVs vs Literacy rates across the 50 most COVID-19 affected countries*.
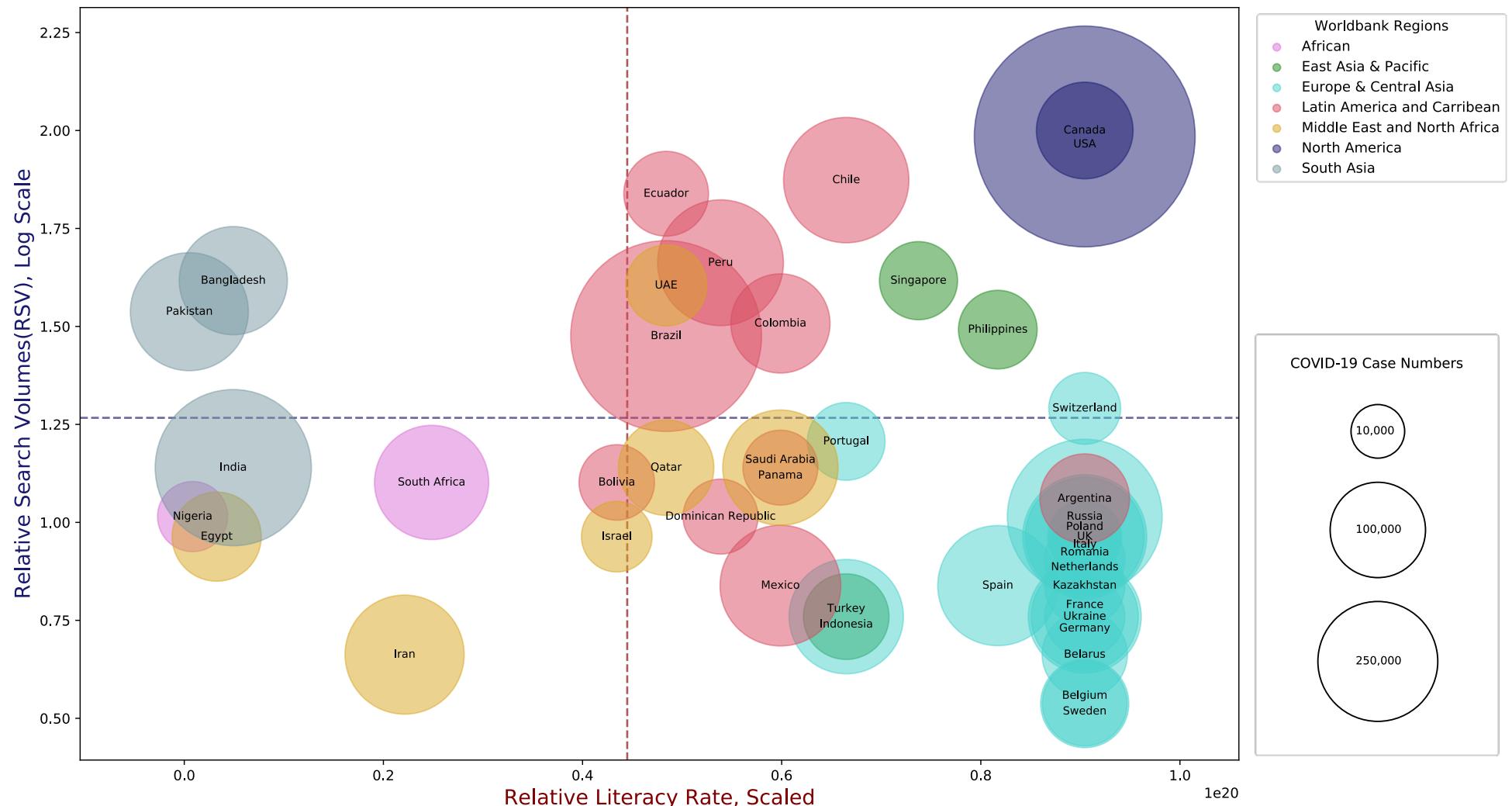
Each country is represented as a data-point, and color coded according to world-bank region. The size of each plot reflects the accumulated total COVID-19 case numbers (as of 7th July 2020). x-axis represents the ICT Development Index (ID), while the y-axis represents the scaled literacy rate for each country. Vertical and horizontal dashed lines represent the mean values for the x- and y-axes respectively.

**Countries with RSV=0 were not included in the plot.*

Supplementary Figure 3: Relationship between Telehealth RSVs vs GDP-per-capita ($USD) across the 50 most COVID-19 affected countries*.
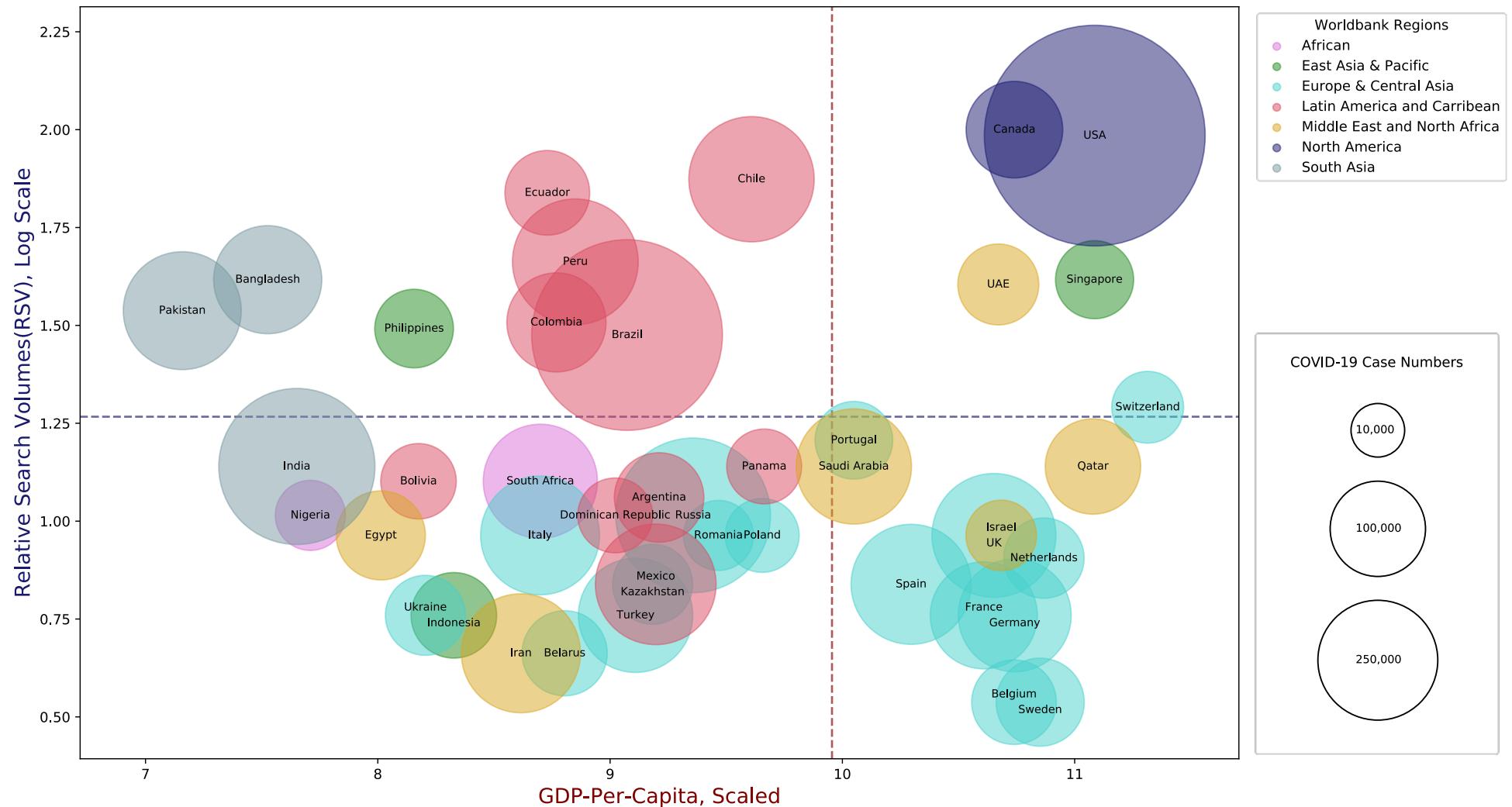
Each country is represented as a data-point, and color coded according to world-bank region. The size of each plot reflects the accumulated total COVID-19 case numbers (as of 7th July 2020). x-axis represents the ICT Development Index (ID), while the y-axis represents the (log) scaled GDP-per-capita for each country. Vertical and horizontal dashed lines represent the mean values for the x- and y-axes respectively.
*Countries with RSV=0 were not included in the plot.

Supplementary Figure 4: Relationship between Telehealth RSVs vs ICT Adoption index across the 50 most COVID-19 affected countries*.
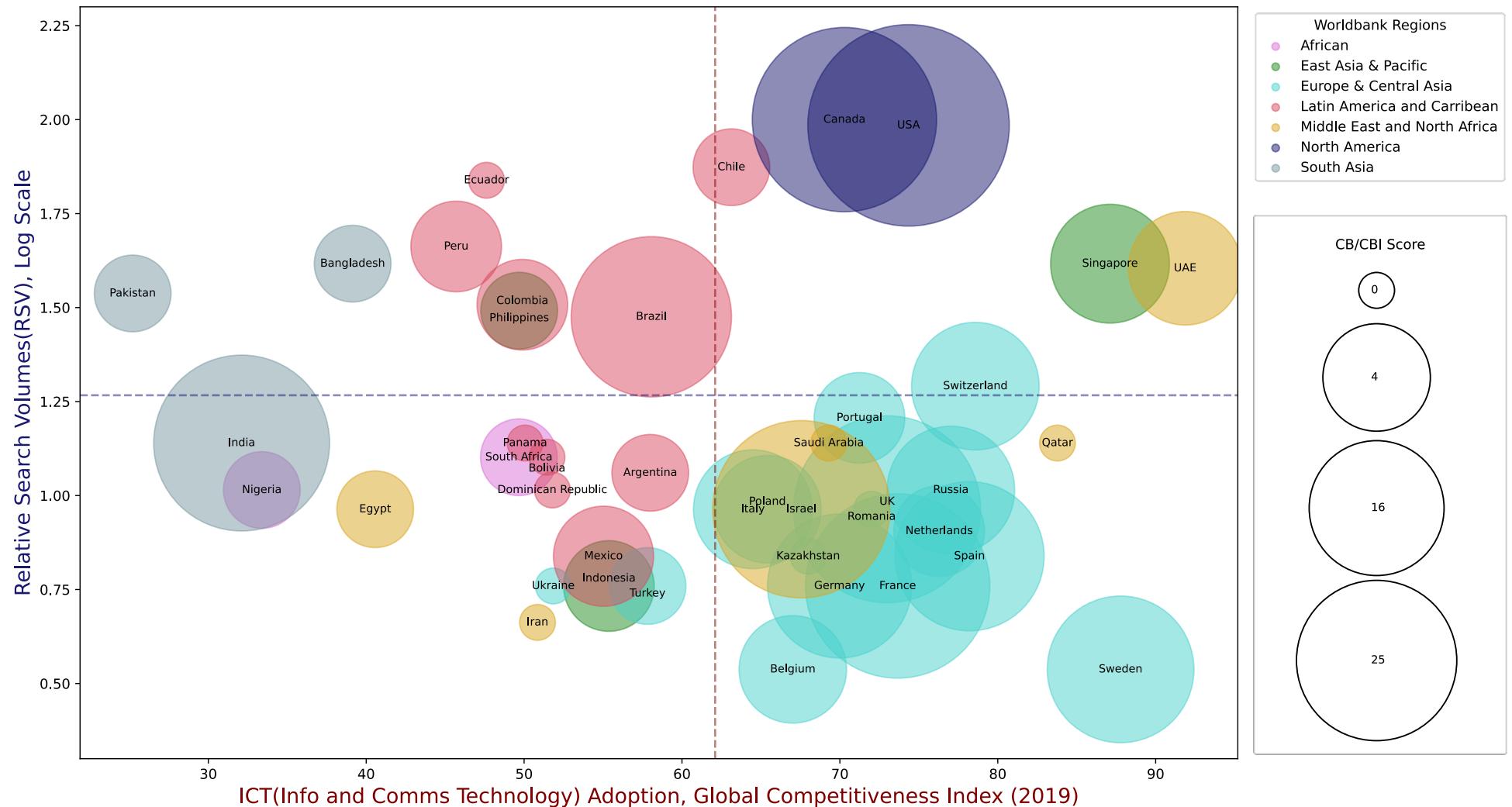
Each country is represented as a data-point, and color coded according to world-bank region. The size of each plot reflects the CB/CBI score (as a proxy for existing telehealth capacity). x-axis represents the ICT Adoption index, while the y-axis represents the scaled (log) RSVs for each country. Vertical and horizontal dashed lines represent the mean values for the x- and y-axes respectively.

*Countries with RSV=0 were not included in the plot.