

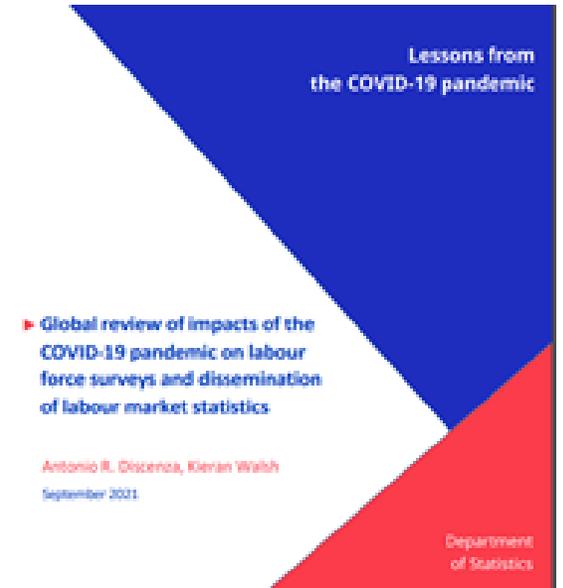


COVID-19 impacts on household surveys - LFS

Kieran Walsh, ILO Department of Statistics
15th March, 2022

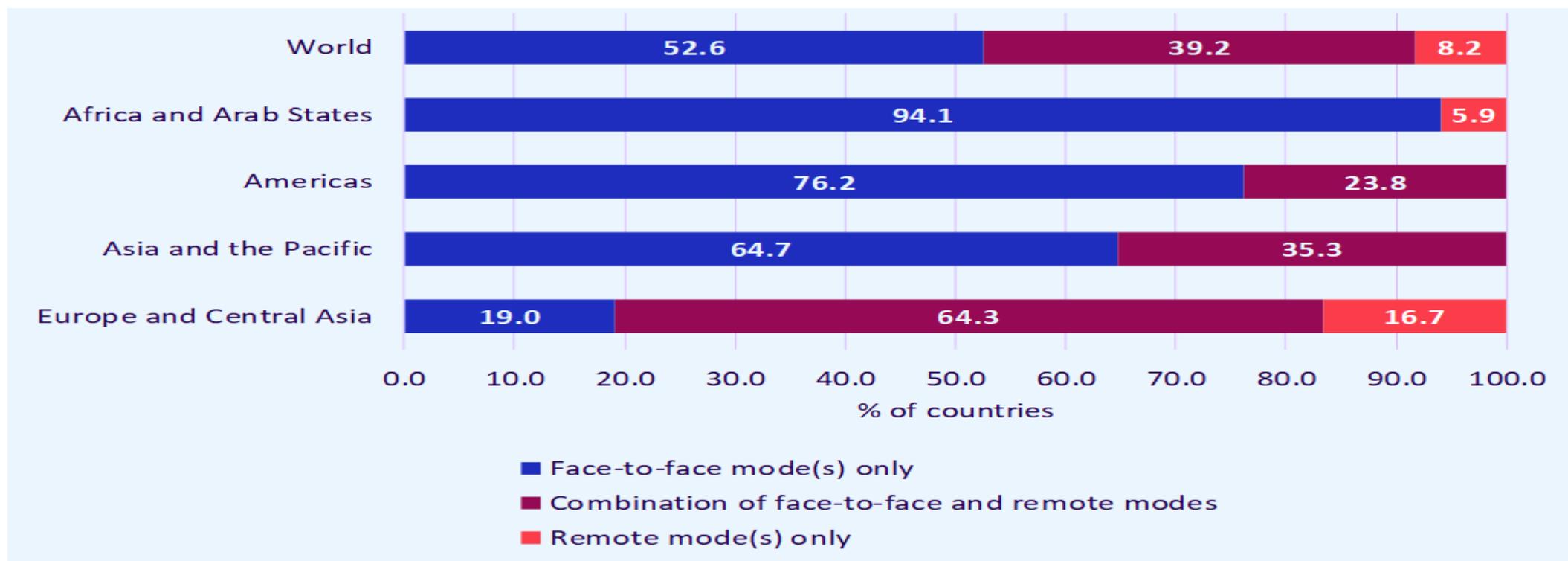
Global impacts survey

- **ILO did initial quick review in March 2020**
 - Already huge impacts being reported
- **Did more comprehensive survey in March 2021 on actual impacts in 2020**
- **110 countries replied - 97 had LFS plans in 2020**
- **https://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms_821387.pdf**
- **Focus on LFS but similar messages for many household surveys**



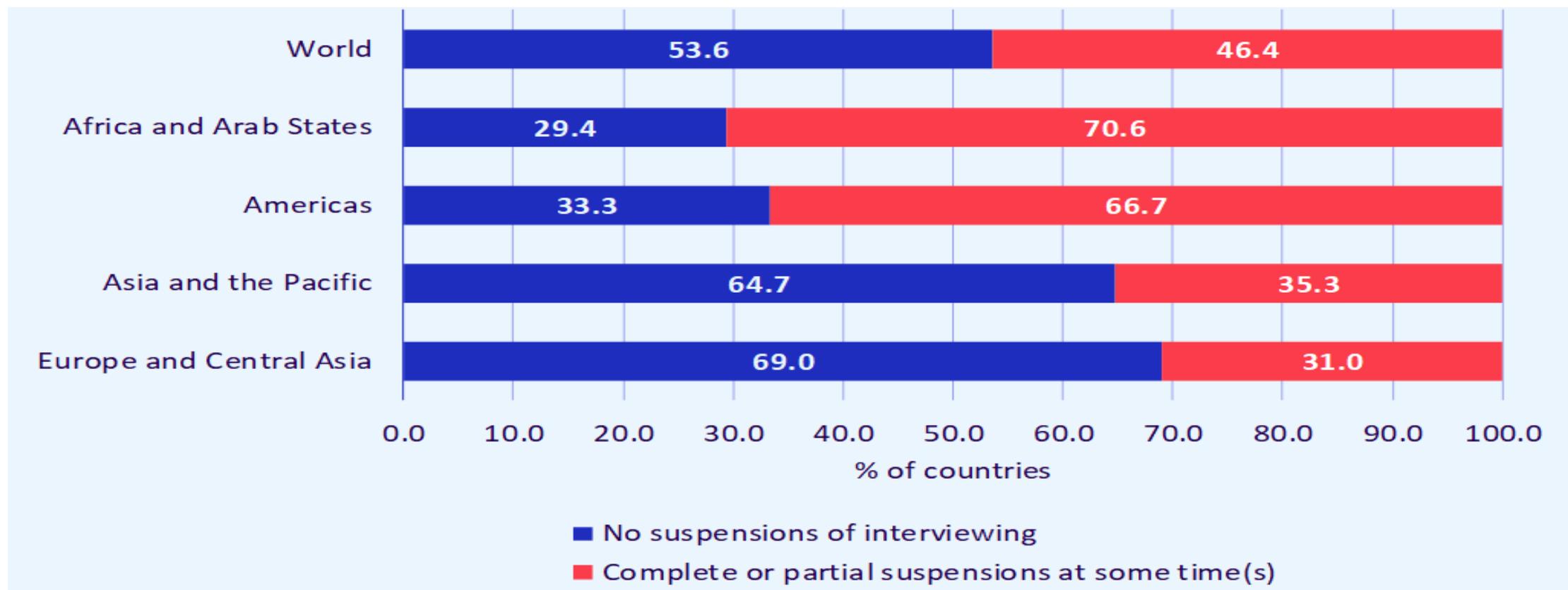
Theme 1: Data collection disruption

- Face to face still the most common planned mode in 2020 (mixed mode increasing over time)
- Over 90% of countries planned to use it for their LFS (100% in Americas)



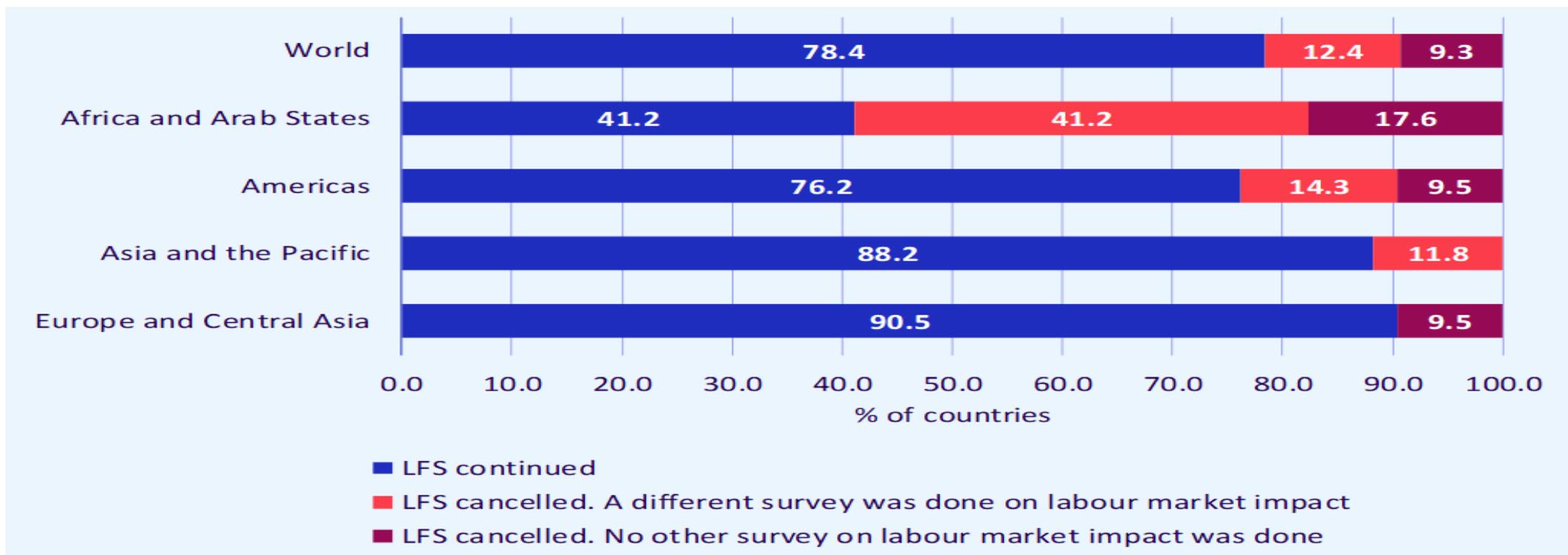
Theme 1: Data collection disruption contd.

- Nearly half of all countries had to suspend LFS interviewing
- Two-thirds in the Americas



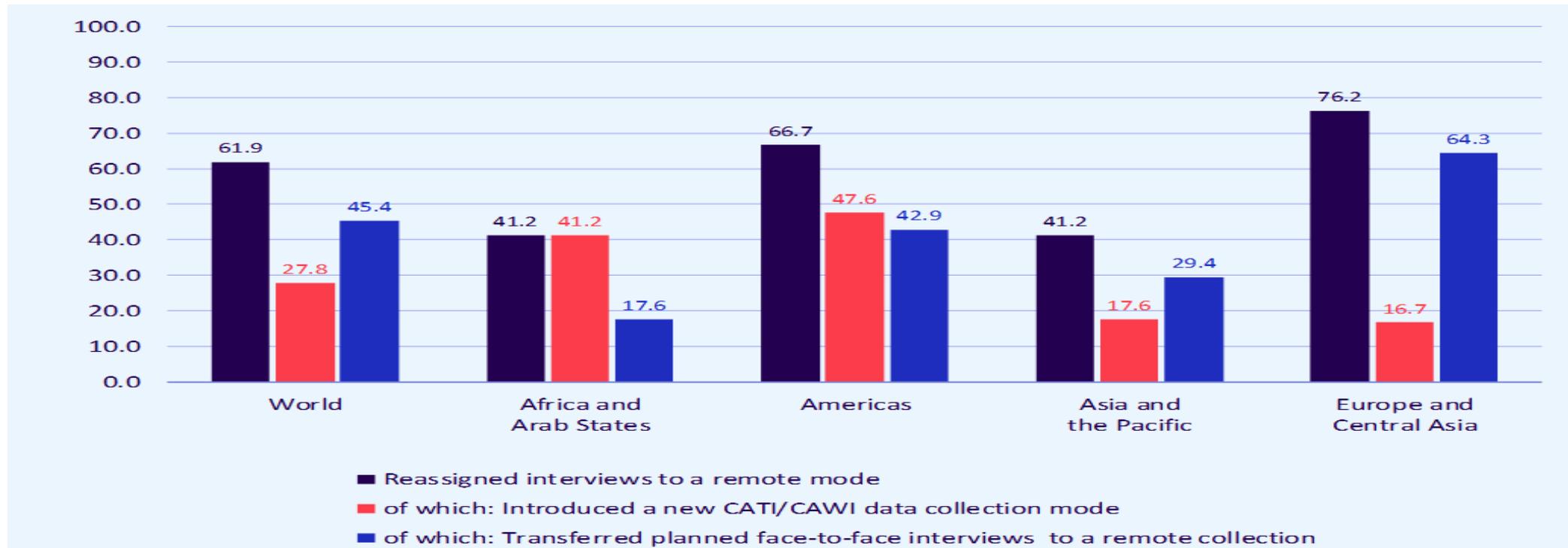
Theme 1: Data collection disruption contd.

- The majority of countries did manage to complete planned LFS
- 22% of countries cancelled a LFS (24% in the Americas) – more than half of those did an alternative survey on labour market impacts



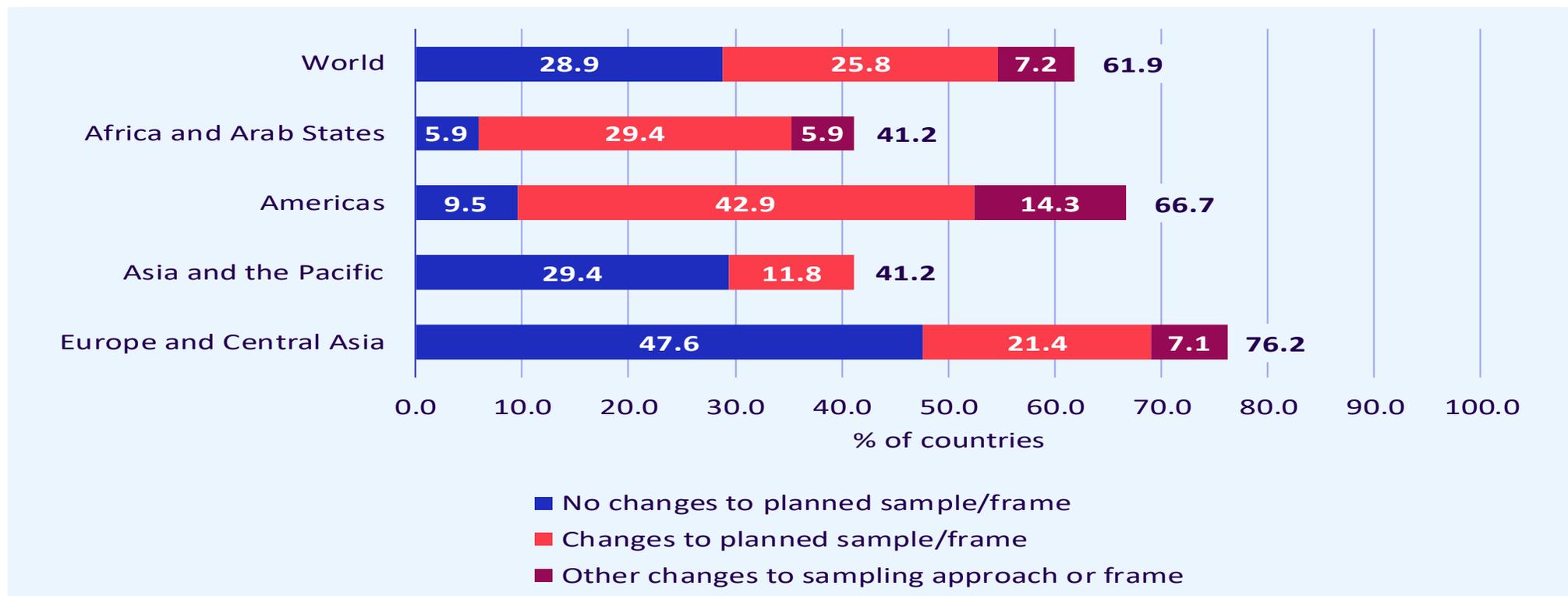
Theme 1: Data collection disruption contd.

- The majority of countries increased use of remote data collection
- 62% globally, 67% in Americas
- Nearly half of all countries in the Americas introduced a new remote mode



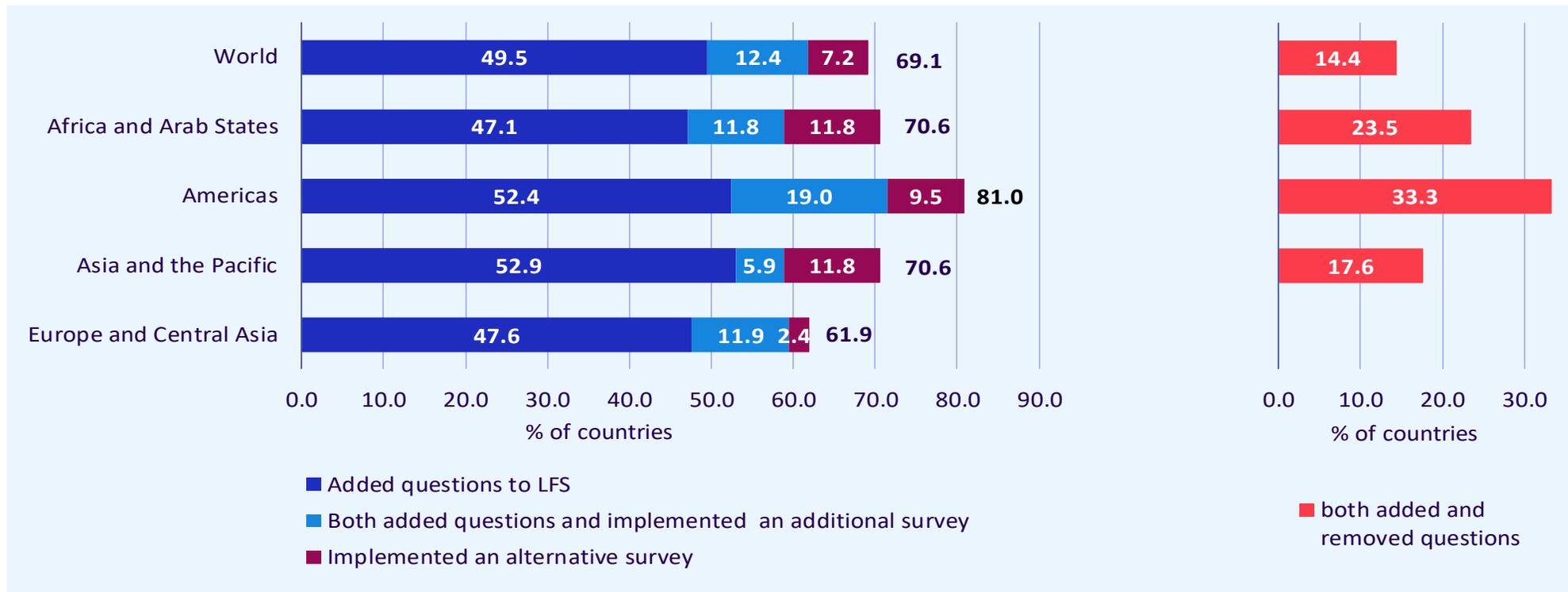
Theme 1: Data collection disruption contd.

- To achieve this many had to change their sampling approach
- Only 9.5% of countries in the Americas were able to increase use of remote modes without changing sampling approach



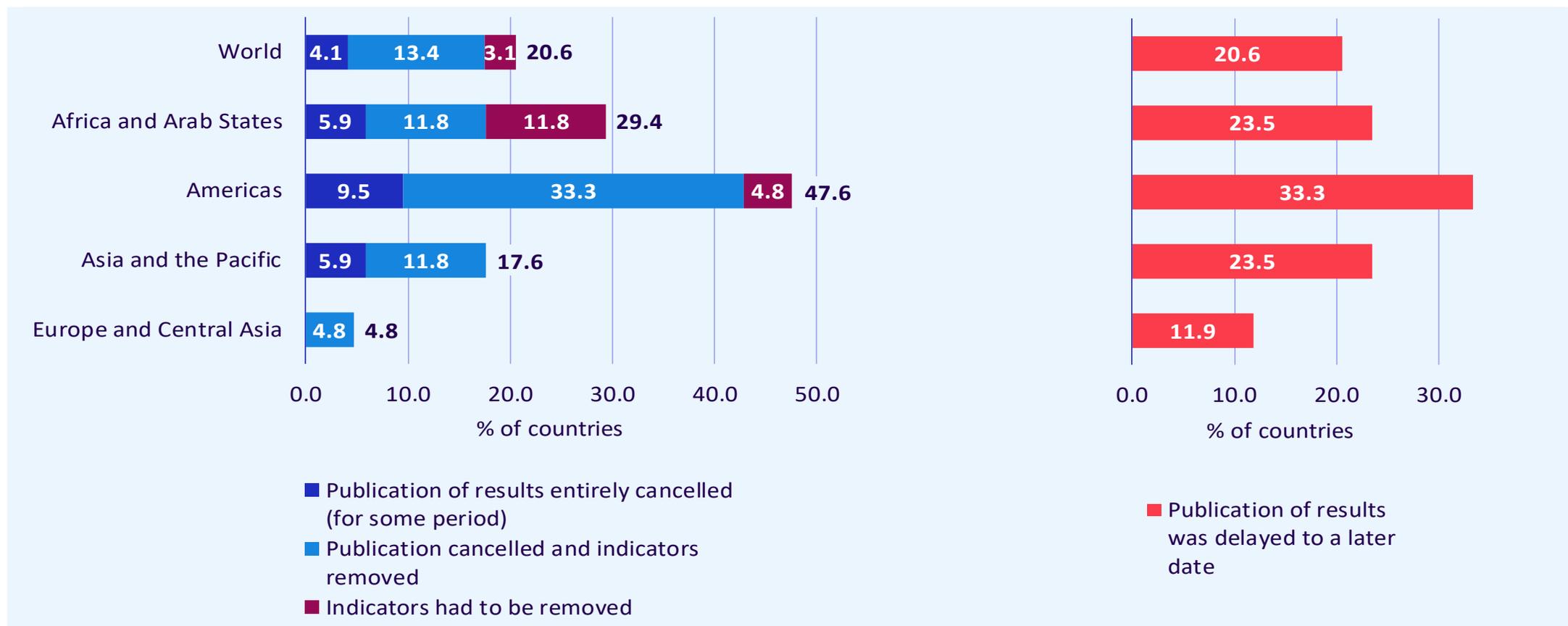
Theme 2: Meeting user demands

- More than half of all countries added questions to their LFS to collect extra information (over 70% in Americas)
- Some countries also did additional surveys and/or removed questions



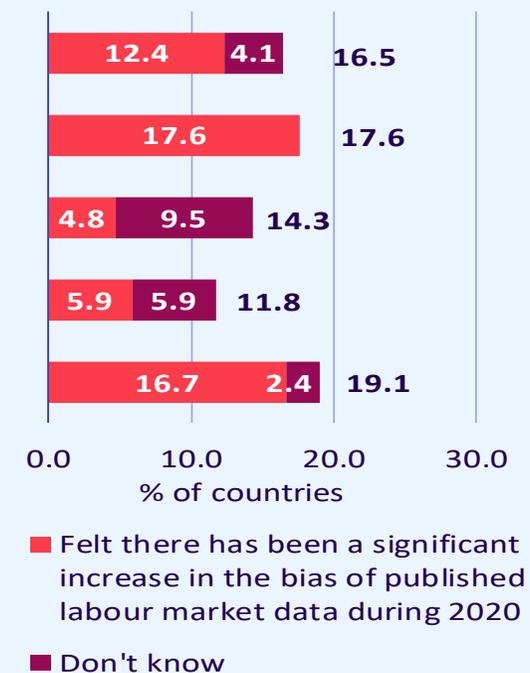
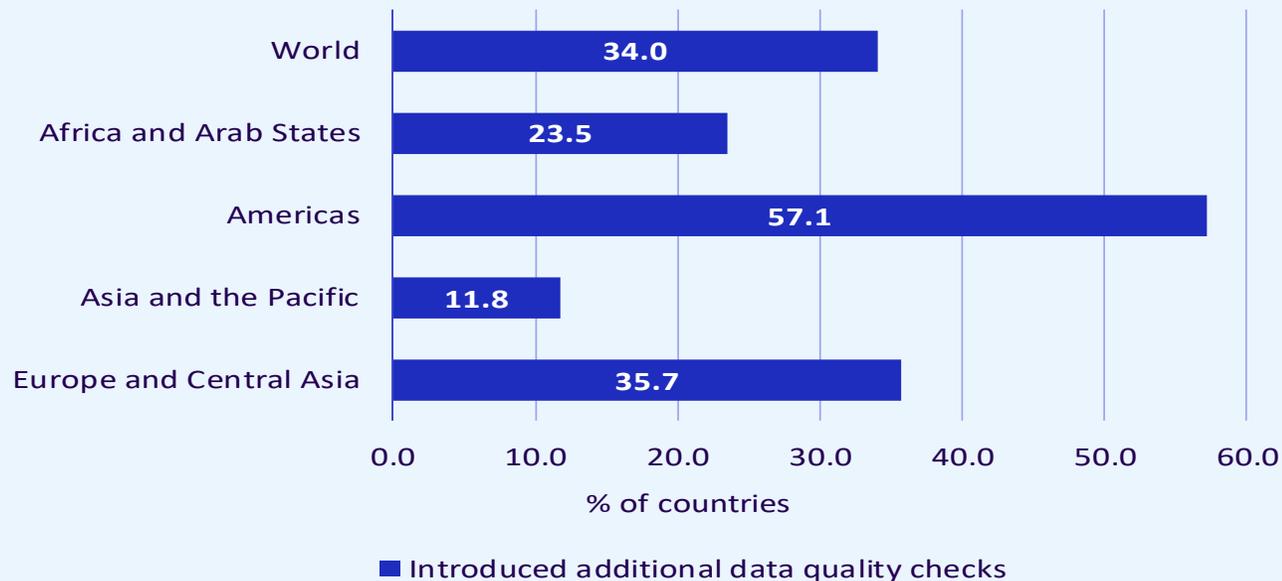
Theme 2: Meeting user demands

- A significant minority had to cancel publication plans and/or remove indicators (more in Americas than other regions)



Theme 3: Data quality

- A minority of countries introduced new quality checks (but 57.1% in the Americas)
- Only a small minority felt bias of published results had increased significantly



Theme 4: Future plans

- About half the countries who did not use remote modes before introduced them in 2020 (27 countries)
- Only half of those expected to keep them
- More recent information suggests telephone interviewing will increase but many countries had difficulty to get contact details
- Substantial investment needed to fill this gap
- Mixed mode collection with panel design helps where possible
- Further development/support/innovation needed to make remote modes more sustainable
- Renewed focus on data quality impacts and clear need for support

Summary messages

- Countries had to react quickly – did very well in the circumstances
- Did not have time for usual development and testing processes creating additional quality and practical challenges
- The situation has evolved over time and continues to evolve
- Reality also shifted quickly and substantially
- Lessons can be learned and some modernisation of methods retained
 - However, cannot assume this – development required (contact databases, security systems etc)
 - Approaches like mixed mode can be a sensible approach which offer reasonable resilience and relatively lower cost
- Need to learn lessons about range of data requirements, quality requirements to inform future development