Main data production challenges in the context of COVID-19

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Interruption of data collection processes: How have statistical activities been affected?

- Annual Survey in Schools 2020 usually conducted in March every year disrupted
- Collection of Administrative data delayed
- Other Educational Indicators impeded
- Under coverage
- Break in series
- Comparability issues

How are you planning on recording usual aggregate measures?

- Simplified questionnaires suitable to the current situation can be proposed instead of the full "normal" survey
- Use of provisional figures
- Increase the use of administrative data
- Replace missing survey data with data from administrative sources or data from preceding year, e.g. details on infrastructure

How are you planning on recording usual aggregate measures? (ctd)

- Harmonised approach/ sound imputation techniques to deal with the high number of missing data or delays
- The Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) may be considered instead of sending questionnaires by post. Follow up of questionnaire completion may be done through telephone calls
- Create contact and communication strategies, aiming to maximize high response rates
- Best Practices of fieldwork may be envisaged

How are you planning on recording usual aggregate measures? (ctd)

- Develop the existing software and hardware infrastructure and platform at Ministry of Education to support computer-assisted telephone interviews and also, online self-reporting portals

- Setting up of the IT Unit of the Ministry of Education with the help of several Data Entry Officers where collection of data using telephone interviews may be made.

- Need to invest in online and cost-effective solutions

Are there new data requirements on education for statistical departments? What are the challenges that require a response?

New Data

- Schools closures
- Learners enrolled in distance learning (TV, WhatsApp, Teams etc.)
- Learners affected by school closures - psychosocial and mental well being
- Children with disabilities
- Children from vulnerable groups

Are there new data requirements on education for statistical departments? What are the challenges that require a response?

Challenges
- How to obtain reliable data concerning number of pupils who follow distance learning TV programs?
- Assessment of student in distance learning programmes
- Development of new methodologies to continue producing core /new statistics during this crisis
- Ensure quality of the final results are not affected by methodological changes
- Development / approval for common methodologies for SDG 4.7.1 & SDG 4.2.1 Indicators

New monitoring mechanisms: what are the variables in the education sector that are being monitored? (ctd)

- Ensure Continuity of learning for all students - Distance Learning
- Reopening of schools with appropriate services and measures in place in a staggered manner a few weeks after lockdown is lifted
- Rescheduling of school calendar & exams
- Ensure the health and safety of students, teaching and non teaching staff

New monitoring mechanisms: what are the variables in the education sector that are being monitored? (ctd)

- Protect and provide for children with disabilities and from vulnerable groups
- Recruitment of teachers
- Training of teachers to use remote learning platform
- STAY SAFE STUDY AT HOME program every week day

New monitoring mechanisms: what are the variables in the education sector that are being monitored? (ctd)

- Educational programmes recorded by Educators are broadcast on National TV for all subjects for Grades 1 to 11

- Home recording, vetted and uploaded on DRIVES sent for broadcast after final vetting

- For Primary by the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) and;

New monitoring mechanisms: what are the variables in the education sector that are being monitored? (ctd)

- For Secondary final vetting done partly by the MIE (for Science and Maths), partly by the Quality Assurance Directorate (for English/French, Business & Economics) and partly by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (for Asian Language)
- RECAP sheets & Worksheets included
- Online lessons on the Student Support Portal (SSP) - Grades 7 to 9
- Online teaching for Grades 10 to 13

Online Resources

- Platforms used: WhatsApp; Zoom; Microsoft Teams
- Guidance provided by Ministry on the use of these platforms
- Internet connectivity bandwidth has been increased
- A portal of resources set up under the Ministry portal providing useful links and apps for Educators and students
- The portal also provides guidelines and links to tutorials for Educators on the conduct of classes using online platforms

Need for Support & Guidance

- Developing and financing solutions to ensure the continuity of education

- Mutual open online educational resources and digital learning platforms

- Sharing alternative solutions and methodologies that can be used in this pandemic situation to address the issues faced by National Statistical Offices

Need for Support & Guidance (ctd)

- New data sources/survey methodologies/instruments developed for some SDG 4 indicators
- Sharing of expertise and background in innovative education solutions in crisis situations
- Setting up of a common platform for sharing and learning from experiences of other countries and capacity building

THANK YOU