COVID-19 & EDUCATION in BELIZE

Yvonne Casildo Flowers, Statistician
Ministry of Education, Belize
Covid-19 & Education in Belize

- General COVID 19 situation and its effect in education sector in the country.

- What are national data strategies regarding regular data collection?
  - Which education data collection activities have been affected?
  - How are you planning on recording usual aggregate measures (students, teachers, schools closure or changes and learning from home with parents often taking up the role of educator)?
Covid-19 & Education in Belize

• Which indicators in the global and thematic indicator framework will require additional data collection to adequately monitor and report?

• Are you developing new data collection approaches to track and monitor the COVID-19 crisis?

• Key issues and challenges.

• Suggestions for data production during such crisis.
General COVID 19 situation and its effect on education sector- Belize

- COVID-19 National Oversight Committee which is co-chaired by the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition was established.

- Effective Friday, March 20th School were closed. Online session for selected school started after the Easter break.

- Effective immediately, social gatherings were limited to 100 people and then eventually to 10 people.

- Restriction were first placed on travelers from selected county, eventually all traveler were prohibited, including Belizeans studying abroad.
General COVID-19 situation and its effect on education sector - Belize

• The national census was postponed until next year and some of the resources was allocated to collect data associated with COVID-19.

• The First case of COVID—19 in Belize was confirmed on March 23rd 2020.

• Total Belize had 18 cases of COVID-19. There were 2 deaths and 16 recoveries. To date Belize has no cases of COVID-19 for over 30 days.
What are national data strategies regarding regular data collection?

• Data collection for Education is done through the Belize Education Management Information System (BEMIS).

• Data for the school year 2019-2020 are already collected.

• Promotion/ repeating of students for 2020-2021 school year will continue as schedule.

• At the end of this school year it is expected that all pre-primary and primary school students will be promoted.

• Secondary and Tertiary students will be promoted based on adjusted school policies.
• Which education data collection activities have been affected?

• Primary School Examination (PSE) June 2020

• There will be no data available to monitor students performance in Mathematics, English A, Social Studies & Science at the end of Grade 8.

• Attendance (April, May, June)

• CSEC to some extent
• How are you planning on recording usual aggregate measures (students, teachers, schools closure or changes and learning from home with parents often taking up the role of educator)?

• There will be no changes in how we record students data, teachers data and school closures.

• Presently Pre-Primary and Primary school students are receiving daily lessons.

• Secondary and Tertiary School Students continue to be engaged online.

• There are no plans to record learning at home, especially at the pre-primary and primary level.
## Indicators requiring additional data collection

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<th>Indicator</th>
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<td>Primary &amp; Secondary Education: Learning</td>
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<td>Early Childhood: Readiness for primary school</td>
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<td>TVET &amp; Higher Education: Participation</td>
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Indicators requiring additional data collection

School Environment
- 4.a.1
- 4.a.2
- 4.a.3

Teachers: Supported
- 4.c.7
Developing new data to track and monitor COVID-19

- The Ministry of Health is responsible to monitor and report on the cases of COVID-19
- The SIB (Statistical Institute of Belize) conducted its first COVID-19 survey.
- Belize has not had any new confirmed cases of COVID-19 for the past 30 days
- Only 18 Cases were confirmed
Key issues and challenges

• Ensuring that students remain engaged and entertained without overwhelming them with too much

• Ensuring that students who do not have access to radio and television get copies of the paper-based lessons and assignments.

• Collecting data to determine school readiness for reopening

• Working out ways on how to get students on track once school reopens (especially at the primary level)

• Unexpected school closures or travel restrictions could impact data collection and verification exercises
Key issues and challenges

• Limited student access to technology (devices and Internet service)
• Low parent education levels (many parents unable to help their children learn)
• Planning with uncertainty (not knowing when schools will reopen or have to close again)
Suggestions for data production during such crisis

• Use online tools for data collection (e.g. Open EMIS on which BEMIS is based)

• Use telephone interviews for remote data verification where onsite verification is not possible

• Be flexible and patient with schools as they may have additional challenges related to providing education during the COVID-19 pandemic
Thank You!