Papua New Guinea’s main education data challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
• **Interruption of data collection processes: how have statistical activities been affected?**

- Delay in the statistical scheduled of data collection process and reporting. This is due to the temporary suspension of Schools/Institutions.

  1. Schools temporary suspended for six weeks.  
     (23\textsuperscript{th} March – 4\textsuperscript{th} May, 2020.)
  2. Temporary suspension of data production staff and it’s operation at national and subnational levels,

- Government resources re-focusing on combating COVID-19 crisis within our education system and therefore other areas such as statistical activities funding are affected.
• **Are there new data requirements on education for statistical departments? What are the challenges that require a response?**

  - Yes, there are new data requirement especially in monitoring the COVID-19 crisis responsive in schools/institutions. For example,

    1. % of schools in compliance to prevent/slow the spread of the COVID-19 crisis.

    2. % of schools in schools having an emergency place plans like isolation rooms, phone contacts etc.

  - Challenges faced in obtaining response to the new data requirements are;

    1. Logistical funding/resources required to get a good coverage rate and also a quicker turning around time response of these new datasets in order for timely decision making.

    2. Training capacity of school’s heads in providing quality datasets or responses back.
New monitoring mechanisms: what are the variables in the education sector that are being monitored?

- There are two new monitoring mechanisms in PNG education system that are both currently being piloted:
  1. “My PNG School Application”
  2. “National Approach to School Standard Assessment”

- Variables that are being monitored by both monitoring mechanism are:
  1. Schools details
  2. Students enrolment details
  3. Teachers details
  4. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WaSH) details
  5. School Infrastructure details
  6. School Environment datasets
  7. Teaching & Learning outcomes datasets
- **Needs for support and guidance.**

  - Support in the use of smarter innovative technologies which can produce faster data responses for any decision making of such crisis within our education system.

  - Support in the capacity of country’s statistical officers in areas such as:
    1. Statistical package or other tools use for quicker data analysis.
    2. Non responding school’s data projections methodologies.

  - Guidance on the appropriate use of the SDG’s 4 indicator’s including new Education indicators in general.
Thank You All

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