IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DATA COLLECTION
the LSMS Experience

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WB-UNSD CAWI Survey of NSOs
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Objectives:
• monitor the state of NSOs’ statistical operations during the COVID-19 pandemic
• gauge how NSOs are responding to increased data needs
• assess NSO’s needs to cope with the crisis

Round 1
• May 2020
• 122 obs.

Round 2
• July 2020
• 112 obs.

Round 3
• October 2020
• 124 obs.
Many NSOs still operating in emergency mode

- Most NSOs shut down their main offices at the beginning of the pandemic and have since gradually reopened.
- As of Oct 2020, they continue to operate in emergency mode with staff working from home in most NSOs.
Face-to-face data collection widely halted, greatly affecting statistical production

- As of October, three quarters of NSOs have not resumed face to face data collection, with a great deal of uncertainty as to when it can resume.
- As a result, production of quarterly/monthly statistics has been affected, especially in L/LMIC.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic:
Stopped face-to-face data collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>May</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>October</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, fully</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, partly</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is the current COVID-19 pandemic affecting your ability to produce essential monthly/quarterly statistics? In how many domains?

- None
- 1 or 2
- 3 to 5
- 6 or more

- **All Countries**
  - Lower and lower-middle income
    - Yes, fully: 24%
    - Yes, partly: 24%
    - No: 32%
    - 6 or more: 21%
  - Upper middle income
    - Yes, fully: 44%
    - Yes, partly: 22%
    - No: 28%
    - 6 or more: 6%
  - High income
    - Yes, fully: 64%
    - Yes, partly: 12%
    - No: 14%
    - 6 or more: 10%
NSOs are monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and playing a major role in governments’ response

- More than **80 percent** of NSOs are conducting data collection to monitor the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting the government’s crisis response.
- Phone surveys and administrative records are more widely used to collect data.

Has your office been called to serve on a government crisis response group or advisory committee at the national level due to COVID-19?

- Yes: 57%
- No: 43%

Has your institution planned or implemented the collection of any data on COVID-19 and its impacts?

- Yes: 82%
- No: 18%
NSOs in L/LMIC need additional assistance to mitigate the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic

>50% of NSOs need greater support to face the challenges posed by COVID-19

L/LMICs and countries in Sub-Saharan Africa most in need of support, particularly ICT infrastructure and TA

Need for additional support to face the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic

Low and lower-middle income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Not needed</th>
<th>Moderately needed</th>
<th>Greatly needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment / infrastructure</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other support</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>32</td>
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</table>

Upper middle income

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Not needed</th>
<th>Moderately needed</th>
<th>Greatly needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment / infrastructure</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other support</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
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</table>

High income

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Not needed</th>
<th>Moderately needed</th>
<th>Greatly needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment / infrastructure</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other support</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>
From Face-to-Face Surveys to Phone Surveys
WB COVID-19 RRPSs planned/implemented in all regions

- 100+ countries
- 2 regional surveys: SAR and LAC
- Min 1 round completed in 53 countries
- 41 countries on global dashboard
- 11 surveys public in Microdata Library High-Frequency Phone Survey Collection
LSMS surveys during the lockdown

- High-Frequency Phone Surveys (HFPS) in several SSA countries, building on decade-long F2F panel data collection
- Pre-COVID-19 F2F panel surveys used
  - as sampling frame
  - to understand changes from pre-COVID conditions
  - to calculate sampling weights and adjust for non-response and coverage biases of HFPS
- HFPS covering many topics, including education
258 million people (77% of the population across 4 countries) live in households that lost income due to the pandemic.
Labor market impacts vary greatly across countries

- **Nigeria most affected: almost half of respondents lost job due to COVID-19**

  Working situation in the last week
  
  % of respondents working or holding a job before COVID-19 outbreak

  - **Nigeria (Apr/May):** 5.2% working, 50.2% stopped working, 44.6% stopped working unrelated to COVID-19
  - **Ethiopia (Apr/May):** 5.2% working, 86.4% stopped working, 8.4% stopped working unrelated to COVID-19
  - **Malawi (May/Jun):** 5.1% working, 88.4% stopped working, 6.6% stopped working unrelated to COVID-19
  - **Uganda (June):** 2.1% working, 80.8% stopped working, 17.1% stopped working unrelated to COVID-19
Households report high levels of food insecurity, more common among rural households

Prevalence of Food Insecurity, by rural/urban

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rural (Moderate or Severe)</th>
<th>Urban (Moderate or Severe)</th>
<th>Rural (Severe)</th>
<th>Urban (Severe)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>75.3</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>23.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>75.3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>8.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: Red = Moderate or Severe, Yellow = Severe
Due to school closure, fewer children are being exposed to any learning activities

>50% of enrolled children in Malawi have had no access to any learning
Significant urban-rural gaps in learning during Covid-19

- Urban-rural gap (27%) largest in Ethiopia
Large x-country variation in media used for learning

- Nigeria: mobile apps and remote tutoring; Burkina Faso: TV and radio;
- Mali: teacher assignments

Panel A: Assignments by teacher

Panel B: Mobile learning apps

Panel C: Educational TV programs

Panel D: Educational radio programs

Panel E: Sessions with tutor

Share of Households with Children Participating in Specific Learning Activities during post-COVID-19 School Closures
Learning gaps widening across income and education lines

- In Uganda, a child in a richer household 31% more likely to be exposed to any learning.
- In Malawi, a child in a more educated household is 48% more likely to receive any learning.
Conclusions

• Covid-19 has had dramatic effects on NSOs’ data production but also provides opportunities to accelerate modernization of data systems and the use of alternative data sources and data collection modes

• Phone and on-line surveys instruments of choice during the pandemic but likely to remain important in a post-pandemic “new normal”

• Need new protocols and standards for F2F and mixed-mode data collection to maximize the benefits of instruments
  • Learning assessments in F2F and by phone?
  • Harnessing the power of data integration