

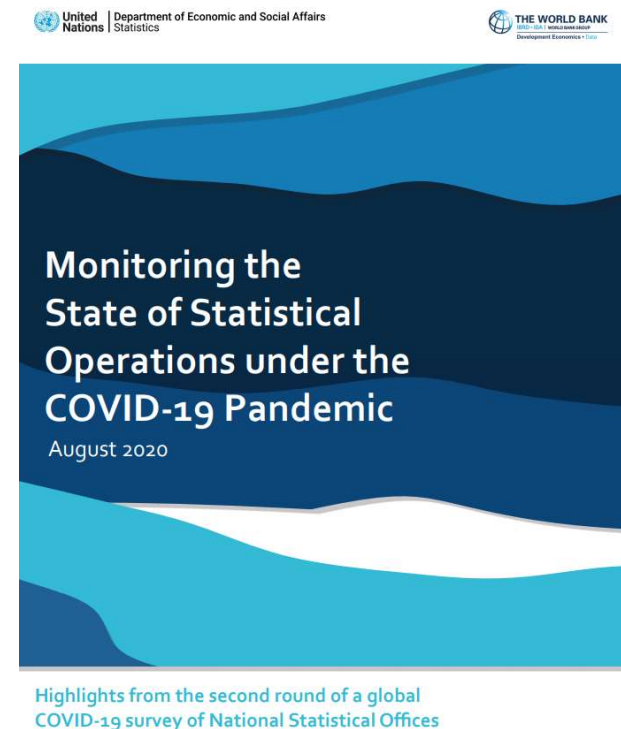
Monitoring Statistical Operations during the Pandemic: Results from a Global Survey of NSOs

Luis Gonzalez (UNSD) and Alberto Zezza (World Bank)
Briefing to the 11th Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs

4 November 2020

The Global COVID-19 survey of NSOs

- **Objective:** Provide information to the global statistical community, donors, development partners and the general public to effectively mobilize technical and financial support to statistical activities that most urgently need it.
- **Conveners:** United Nations Statistical Division and World Bank's Development Data Group, in coordination with UN Regional Commissions
- **Three waves to date:**
 - 5 – 17 May 2020 (response rate: 122/218)
 - 7 – 25 Jul 2020 (response rate: 112/195)
 - 23 Sep – 15 Oct 2020 (response rate: 125/195)
- **Mode:** Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI), programmed in Survey Solutions
- **Reports** disseminated by [UNSD](#) and [World Bank](#)



The Global COVID-19 survey of NSOs

Thematic areas covered:

- Office openings, remote working, face to face interviews
- Impact on specific programs (surveys, censuses), monthly/quarterly stats, publications, reporting
- Response to new information demands
- Use of new data sources
- ICT readiness, constraints
- Emergency plans, field protocols
- Coordination, partnerships, data stewardship



Monitoring of Operations under COVID-19



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Many NSOs have been reopening after widespread initial closures...

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic: is your main office closed?

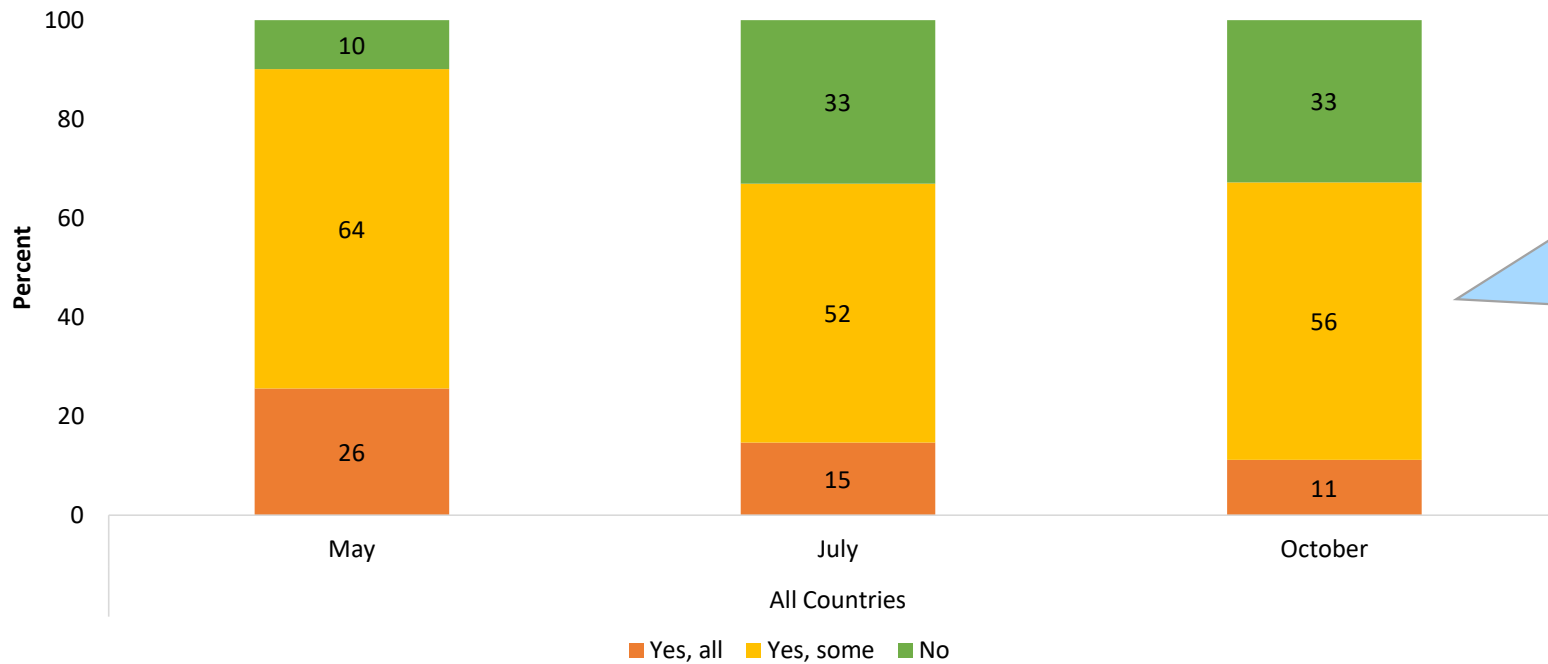


27% of NSOs in low and lower-middle income countries have their office closed only to non-essential staff

Latin America (71%), and Sub-Saharan Africa (72%) are the regions with the lowest share of NSOs with offices opened

...but remote work is still the norm for many...

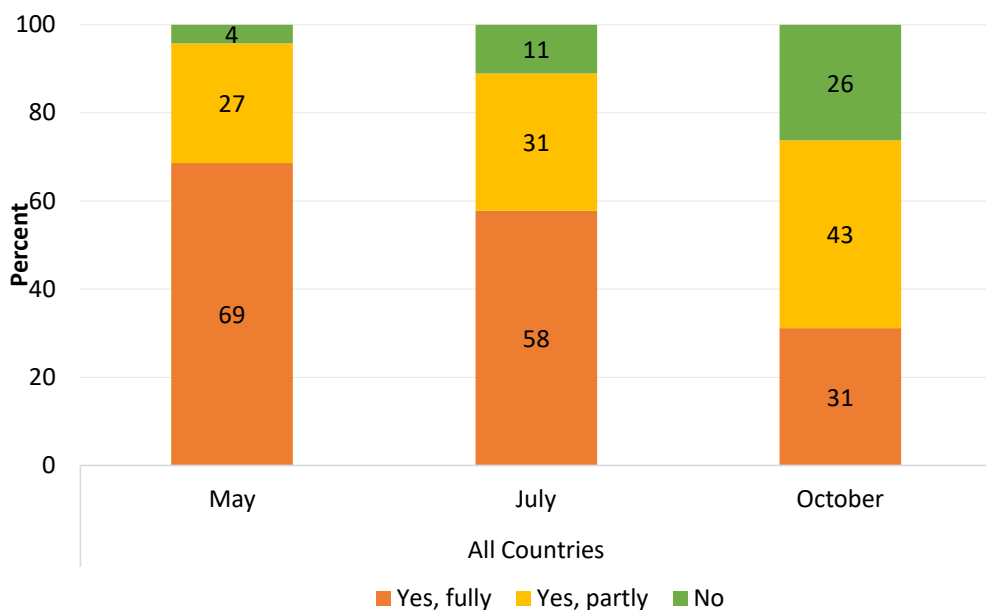
As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic: Is staff instructed to work from home?



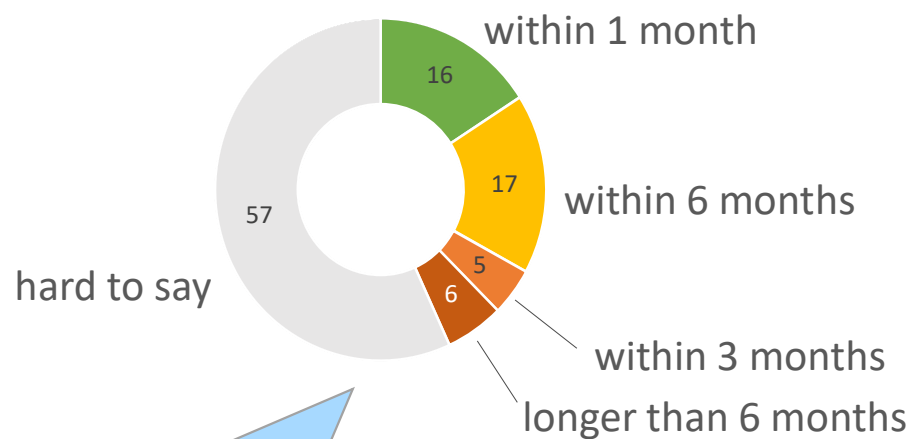
Latin America is the region with the highest share of NSOs that have instructed all or some staff to work from home (89%)

... and face-to-face data collection is still partly or fully suspended in most cases

Stopped face-to-face data collection



October 2020: When do you expect to be able to resume face to face interviews in full? (%)



Uncertainty still looming on face to face resuming in full

Impact of COVID-19 disruptions on major statistical outputs and programs



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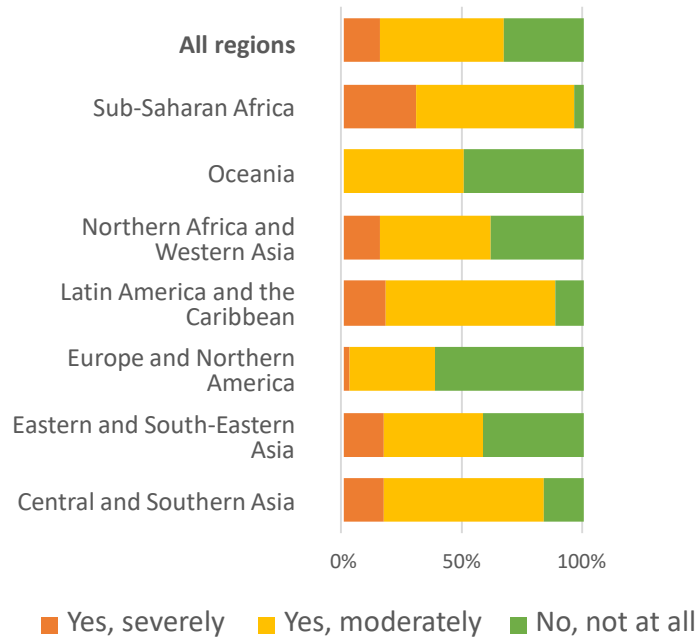
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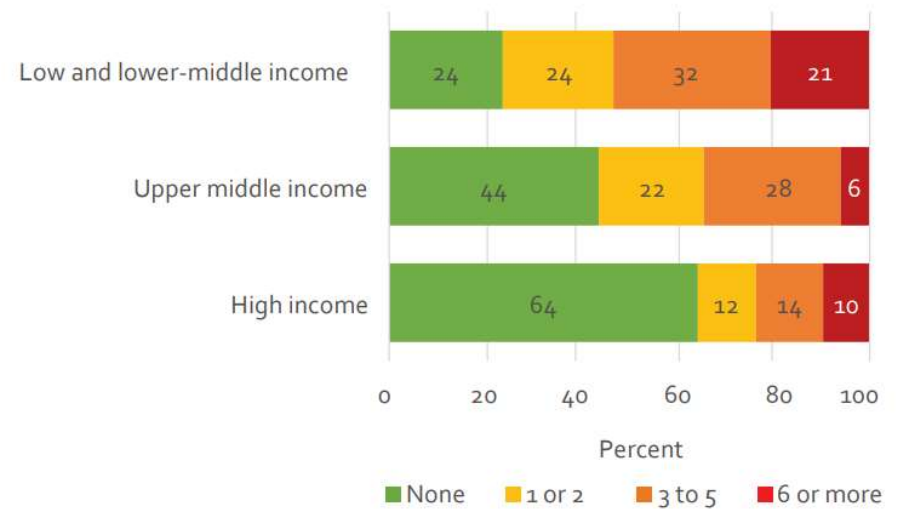
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Impacts on reporting have been serious, and more severe in some regions and income groups

Is the current COVID-19 pandemic affecting your ability to meet international reporting requirements?

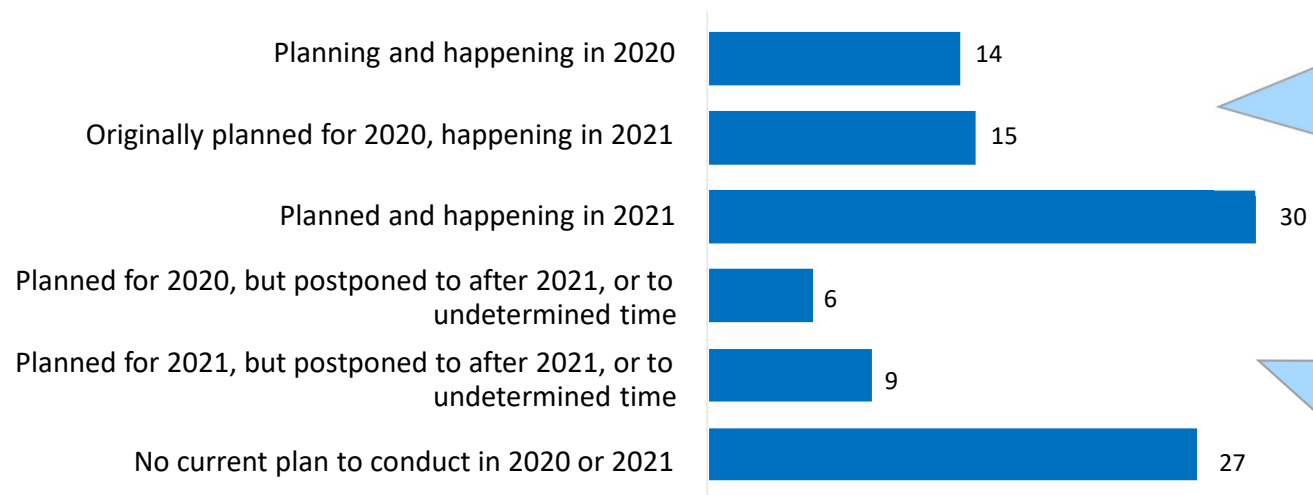


Proportion of countries reporting production of monthly and quarterly statistics being affected, by number of domains



30% of the NSOs had to postpone their Population and Housing Census (either to 2021 or later)

October 2020: Population and Housing Census data collection in 2020 or 2021 (%)



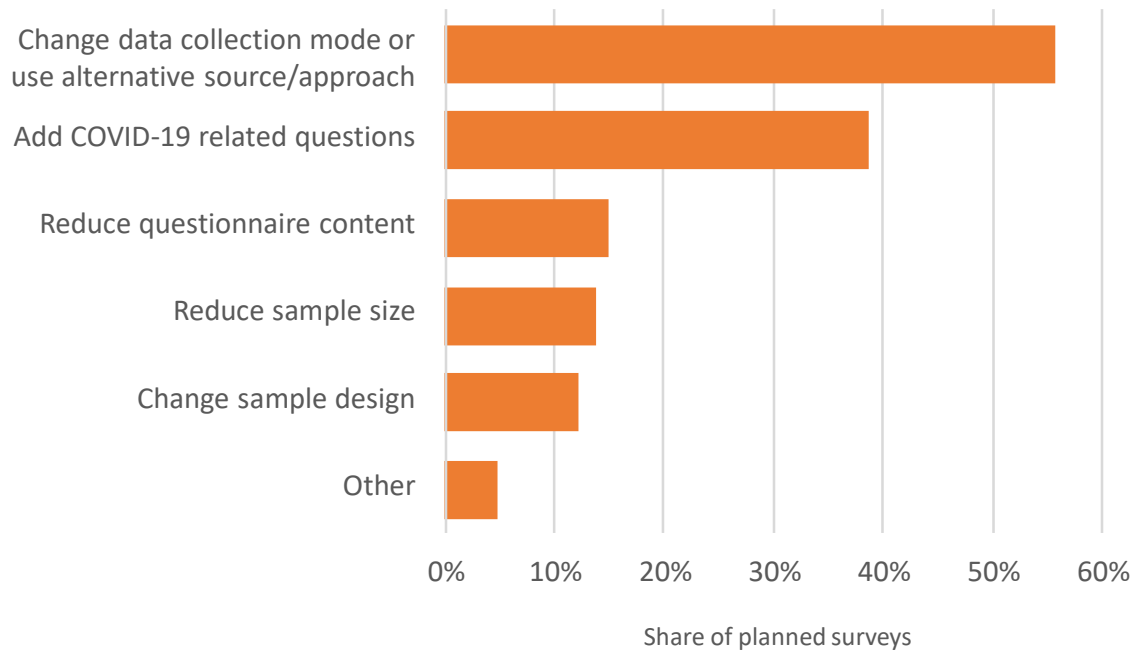
30% of the NSOs that have planned a Population and Housing Census have changed/adapted the data collection approaches or methods

The main activities postponed were **pilot census and staff training**

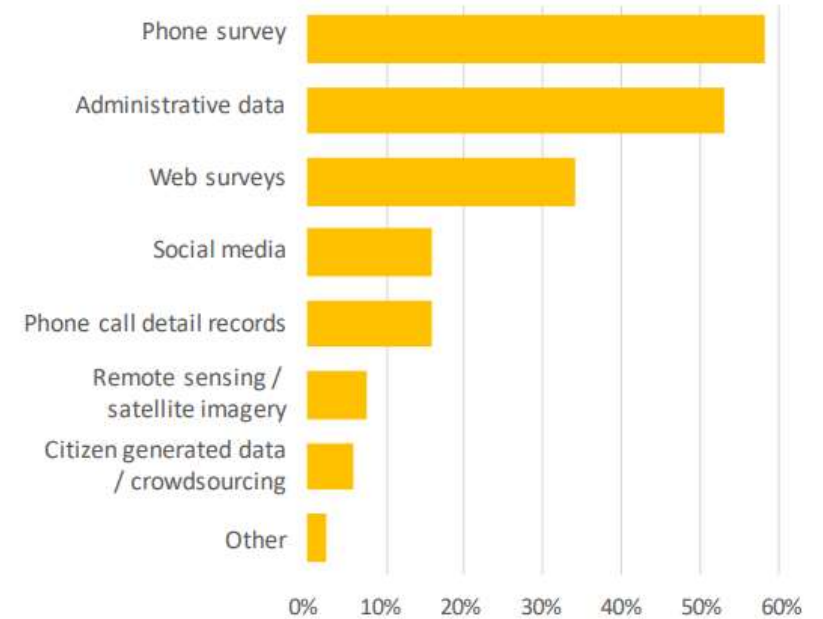


NSOs adapted quickly to challenges raised by COVID-19

If you had to alter a planned survey because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which changes did / will you introduce?



Is your institution using alternative/nontraditional data sources/approaches to analyze or monitor aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic?



NSOs are contributing to the COVID-19 response by addressing new demands for data – but there is need for stronger partnership and coordination



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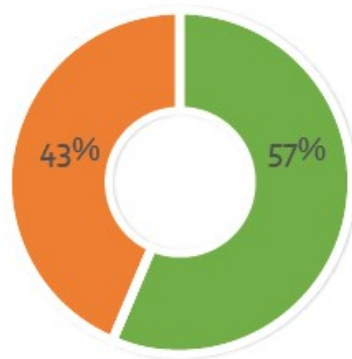
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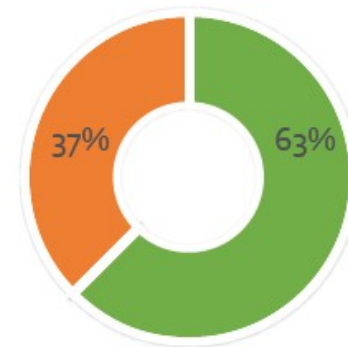
The majority of NSOs play a major role in governments' COVID-19 response

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 ■ No

Is your office currently implementing any survey on COVID-19 and its impacts?



■ Yes ■ No

Source: 2nd wave, July 2020

More than half of the NSOs that have planned or collected data on COVID-19 have added questions to an existing survey or have created a new survey

More than three quarters of the COVID-19 surveys implemented by NSOs measure the **socio-economic impact on households and businesses**



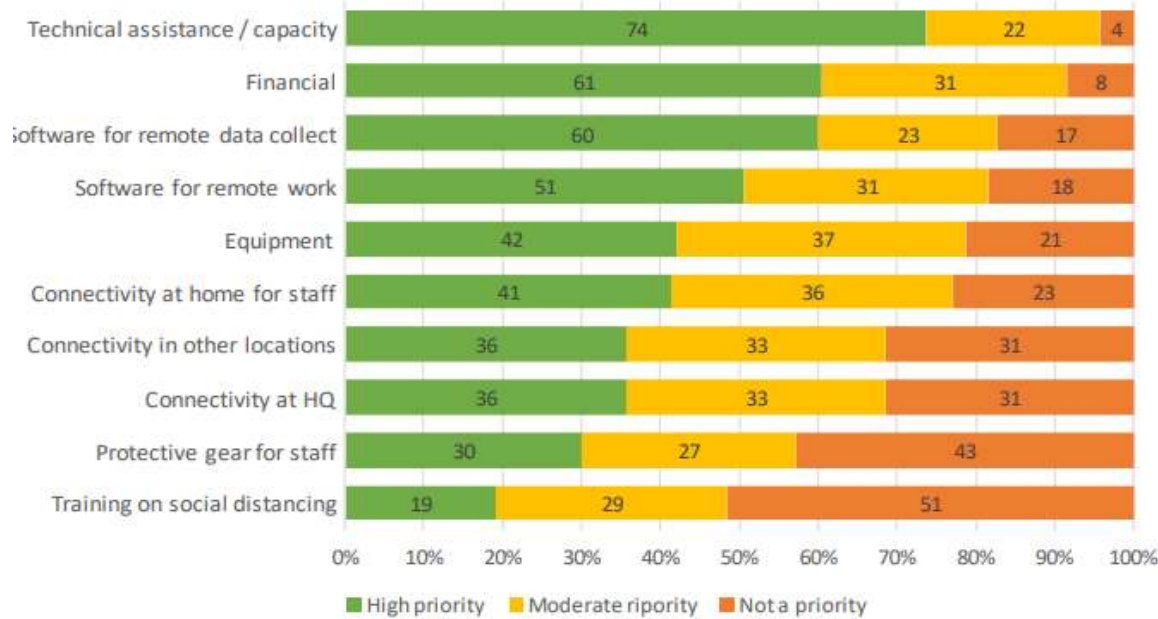
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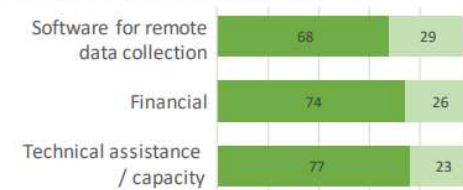
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Support priorities

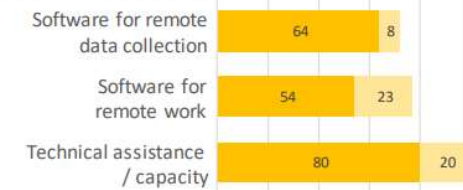


Top three support priorities by income group

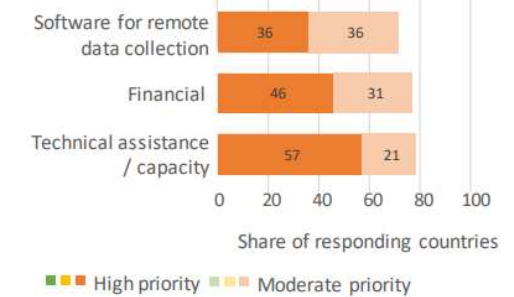
Low and lower middle income countries:



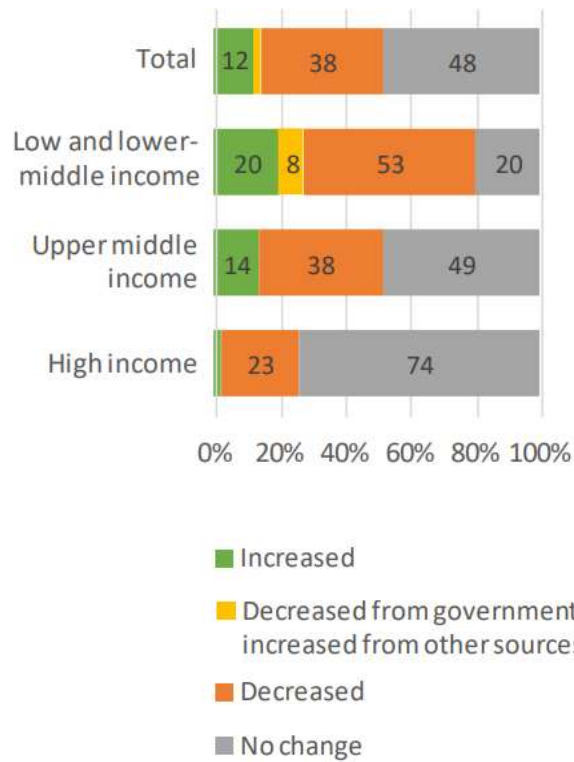
Upper middle income countries:



High income countries:

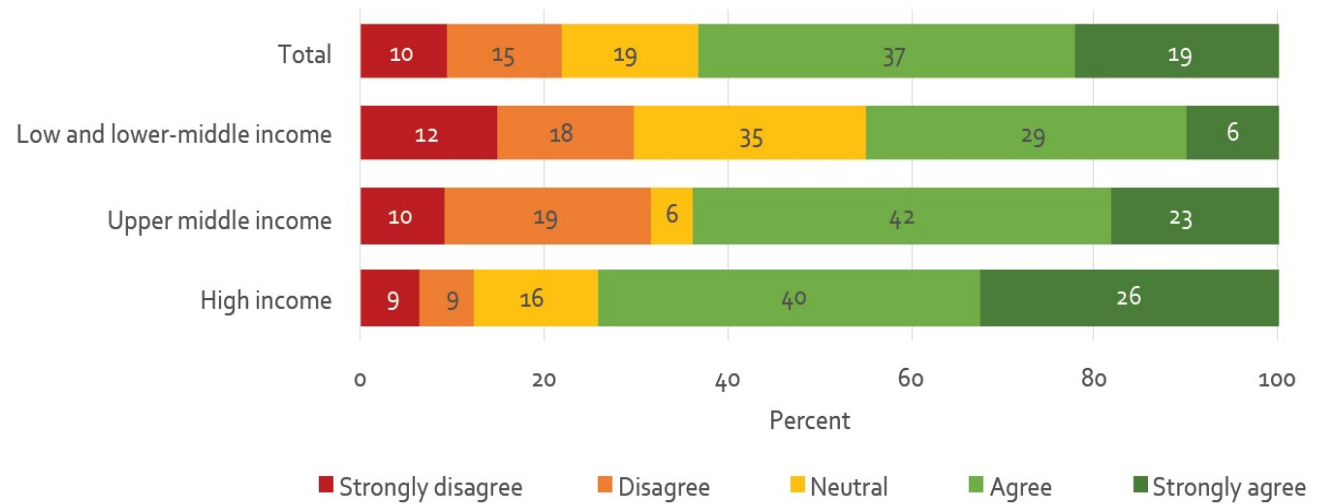


Has your funding been affected due to the current COVID-19 pandemic?



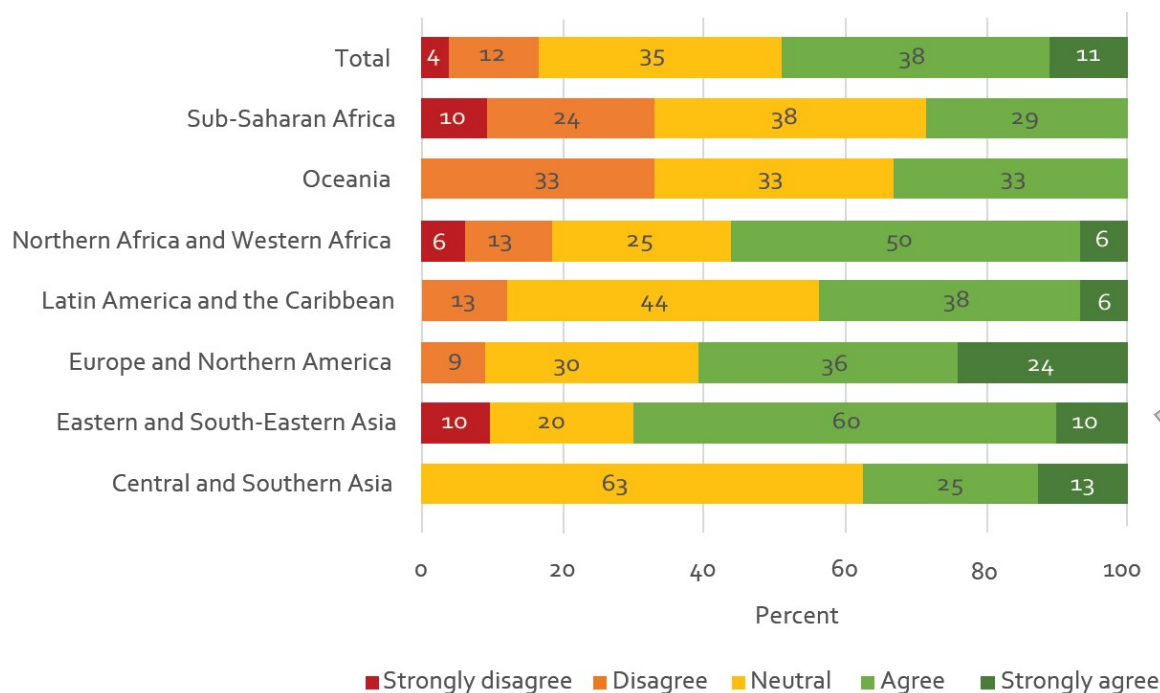
Decrease in funding and ICT constraints particularly severe in LMICs

The office has access to adequate cloud computing services for remote data storage and data exchange



Coordination in the collection of data on the COVID-19 pandemic has been inadequate in some cases

Current efforts to collect data on COVID-19 and its impact in my country are well coordinated



Some suggestions offered by NSO's to improve coordination include:

- Establish a high-level coordinating technical committee on COVID-19
- Carry out mapping exercises of all data collection activities
- Involve key private sector players as well as local governments in countries with a decentralized system
- Encourage all stakeholders to consult with NSOs for any data collection
- Improving collaboration among government agencies for better access to administrative data

Takeaway messages

- Large, ongoing impacts on statistical operations
- Double burden: Increased demands amid disruptions
- Risk of exacerbating global data inequalities
- Response induced accelerated innovation with lasting effects
- Emerging needs: Resources, technical assistance, coordination
- **Encourage NSOs to participate in future rounds!**



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Thank you!
covid-19.stats@un.org

<https://covid-19-response.unstatshub.org/statistical-programmes/covid19-nso-survey/>

<https://covid-19-response.unstatshub.org/statistical-programmes/priority-needs-of-national-statistical-offices/>

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<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/universal-health-coverage/coronavirus/>