



VNR LABS

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

VNR Lab 4: How data is guiding sustainable recovery from COVID-19 for achieving the SDGs

**Thursday, 8 July 2021
8:00 am to 9:00 am**

Virtual Event at the HLPF

Concept Note

Objective of this event

The VNR lab will provide a platform for countries to share their experiences—both successes and challenges—in planning and preparing an evidence-based and data-driven VNR in the time of COVID-19. Data and statistics are guiding countries' effort in combating the virus, saving lives and recovering better. Over the last year, countries have faced unprecedented disruptions in statistical operations and a spike in demand for data to monitor and mitigate the effects of the global pandemic.

This lab will provide an opportunity for countries to share their experiences on how to adapt quickly to the challenges and provide the needed data in COVID-19 response. It will also discuss new partnerships, data innovations and new measures introduced which have profoundly changed the statistical production process in many countries. The VNR lab will identify challenges, opportunities and possible recommendations that countries can use going forward in order to keep data at the center of building back and recovering better.

Representatives from both national statistics offices and planning or other SDG coordination bodies tasked to develop the VNR are invited to share their experiences. Countries will provide short presentations on preparing evidence-based VNRs during the COVID-19 pandemic and participate in a panel discussion highlighting different aspects of VNR preparation, NSO participation in COVID-19 responses and recommendations for other countries.

The VNR Lab event will take place in English only. Ms. Francesca Perucci, Associate Director of the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), will moderate the event. The virtual event will be convened on Webex. Registration for the event is available here: [REGISTER](#)

For additional information contact Ms. Heather Page, pageh@un.org



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Agenda

8:00-8:05 am Welcome and opening remarks

8:05-8:26 am Preparing evidence-based VNRs during COVID-19: country perspectives
(7 minutes each)

- **Colombia:** Mr. Juan Herrera, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Egypt:** Ms. Nada Yacoub, Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
- **Zimbabwe:** Mr. Godfrey Matsinde, Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)

8:26-8:41 am Panel discussion

(5 minutes each)

- **Question 1 (Colombia):** Ms. Karen Chavez, Senior Advisor, National Statistics Institute in Colombia
- **Question 2 (Egypt):** Ms. Zeina Ossama, Modelling & Forecasting Unit, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
- **Question 3 (Zimbabwe):** Mr. Godfrey Matsinde, Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)

1. *In what ways did the national statistical office adapt to the pandemic? How did it ensure it was able to provide the data needed for the COVID-19 response?*
2. *How were the impacts of COVID-19 on progress towards the SDGs reflected in the 2021 VNR? Were any new data sources, data innovations or partnerships used for SDG monitoring and incorporated in the VNR?*
3. *What recommendations or lessons learned would the country share for ensuring the development of an evidence-based VNR?*

8:41-8:56 am Q&A

8:56-9:00 am Conclusions and closing