



COVID-19 Pandemic: The disruption of data collection and mitigating mechanisms put in place, the case of Liberia

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LIBERIA



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Preventive Measures instituted by Government

- March 16, 2020 - Liberia registered its Index Case
- April 10, 2020 – Government declared a ‘State of Emergency’ (SoE) and imposed a Lockdown at 3:00PM daily.
- Closure of airports and restrictions on local travels were also instituted
- May 22, 2020 - Government relaxed Lockdown from 3:00PM to 6:00PM
- June 5, 2020 - Government further relaxed Lockdown from 6:00PM to 9:00 PM.
- On June 22, 2020 - Government reversed its lockdown protocol from 9:00 PM to 6:00PM
- July 23, 2020 – Government ends lockdown and State of Emergency

The role of the NSO on COVID-19 response

- LISGIS worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for the provision of data for some SDGs indicators for the preparation of the VNR
- In collaboration with the UNFPA, LISGIS trained and deployed about 500 Contact Tracers initially in Montserrado County (COVID-19 hotspot), and later about 1,000 Contact Tracers in 5 affected counties
- Trained and deployed household listers to collect nationwide data for support to Government's stimulus package (Household Food Distribution Program)
- In collaboration with the world Bank, LISGIS is currently conducting a Phone Survey to determine the monthly Economic Impact of COVID-19 on households and businesses across Liberia

Implications on data collection

National Population and Housing Census:

- COVID -19 has hampered the smooth implementation of planned activities such as deployment of GIS Field Mapping Assistants, conduct of Pilot Census, and various trainings in Census Management, CAPI and ICT.
- Delay in procurement of equipment, staffing, etc.
 - The delay in implementation of the Census now requires additional funding for re-training of personnel, new cost associated with anti COVID-19 measures, etc.
- On the overall, Liberia's Population and Housing Census which is already late by two years could be further delayed, ceteris paribus

Implications on data collection

High Frequency Data (CPI, National Accounts, Trade Statistics, etc) and SDGs related data:

- **Logistics** such as vehicles for routine data collection were turned over to Public Health Authorities in response to the pandemic
- **SDGs and other statistical related projects:** activities requiring convergence of people were deferred while those not requiring physical human-human interactions considered for immediate implementation.
- **Basic equipment/tools** such as laptops and internet not available in most homes for staff to work remotely

Mitigating the challenges

- **Key staff of the Census Project**, especially GIS, ICT and Data Processing continued to work remotely on programming, procurement and documentations.
- **Census Strategic Plan:** a Strategic Plan outlining various options for the continuous implementation of the Census was developed
- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) submitted to** the Ministry of Health through the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) for resumption of implementation of Census and other field activities (those not requiring much human-human interactions)
- **A shift from the traditional face to face method of data collection** to conducting surveys via phones

Liberia defeated Ebola!
The world can defeat COVID-

19

Stay safe.

