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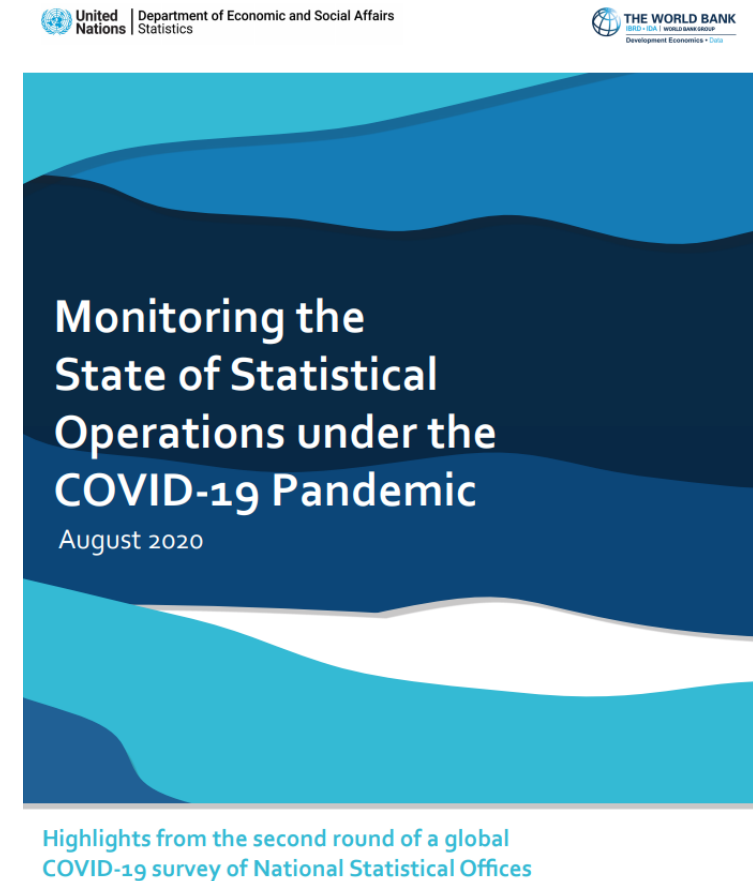
Monitoring Statistical Operations during the Pandemic: Results from a Global Survey of NSOs

Francesca Perucci (UNSD) and Gero Carletto (World Bank)
World Data Forum – Webinar series

December 1, 2020

The Global COVID-19 survey of NSOs

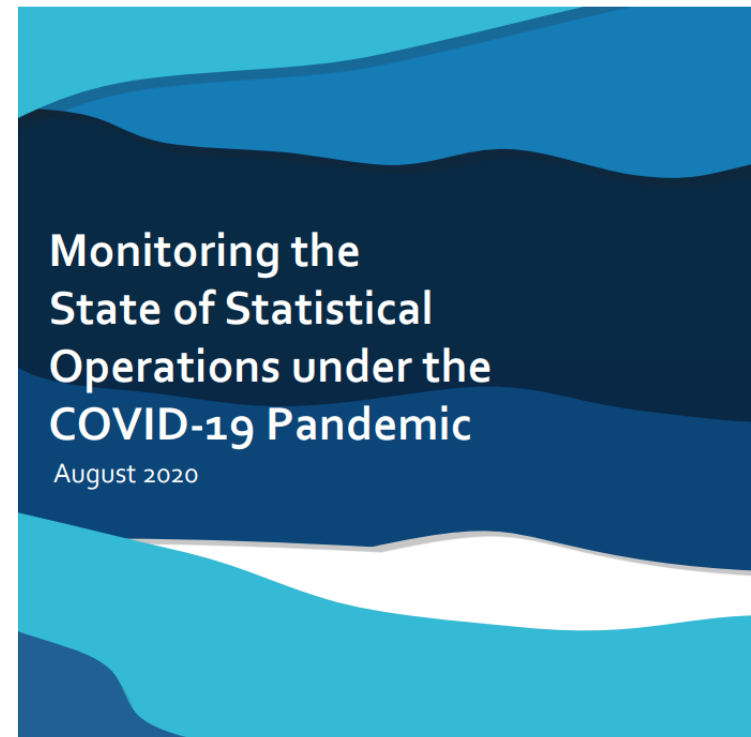
- **Objective:** Provide information to the global statistical community, donors, development partners and the general public to effectively mobilize technical and financial support to statistical activities that most urgently need it.
- **Conveners:** United Nations Statistical Division and World Bank's 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



Highlights from the second round of a global
COVID-19 survey of National Statistical Offices

Monitoring of Operations under COVID-19



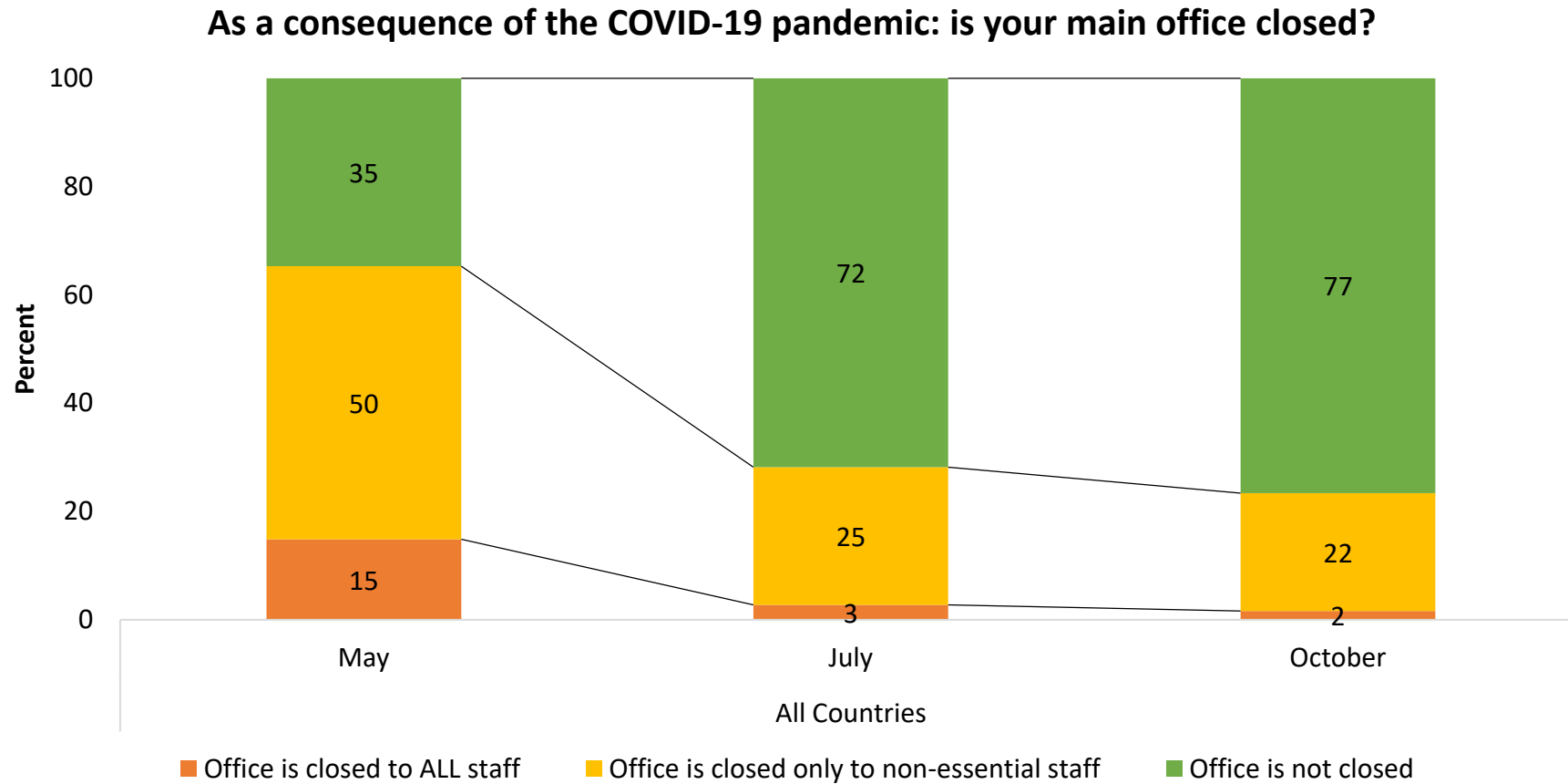
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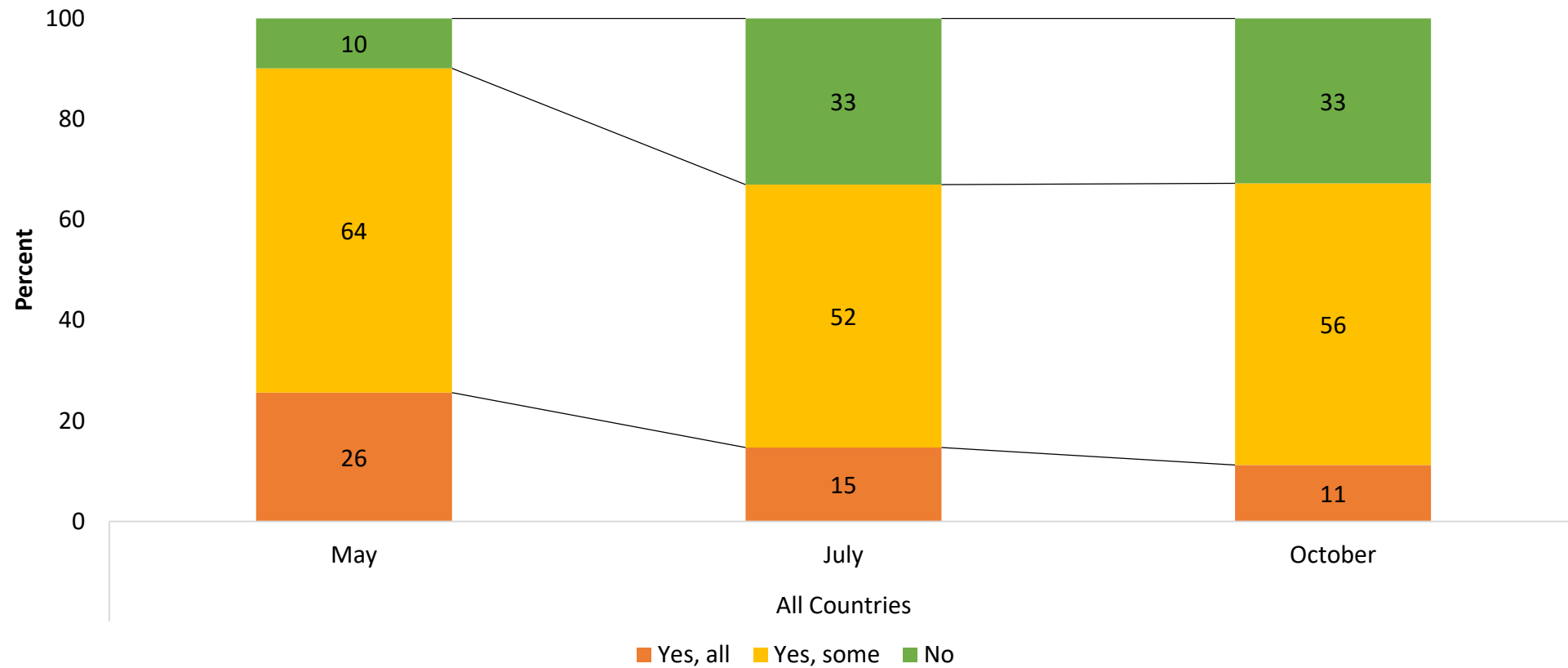
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Many NSOs have been reopening after widespread initial closures...



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

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



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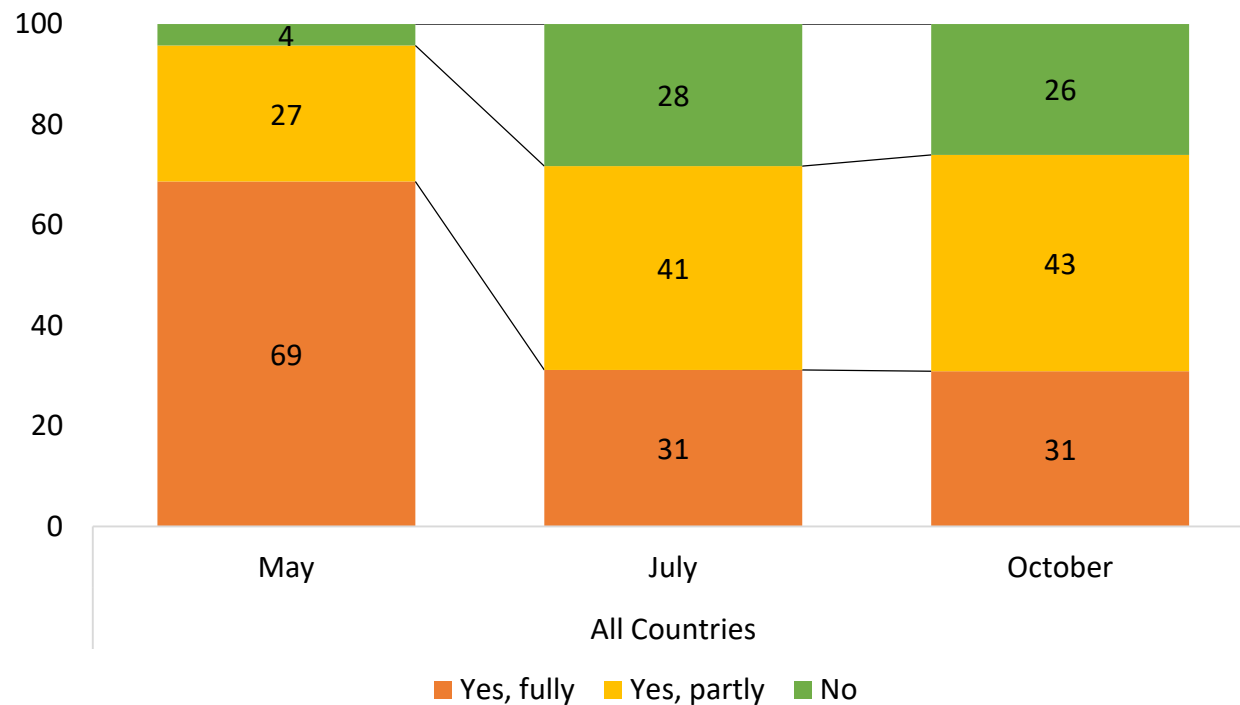
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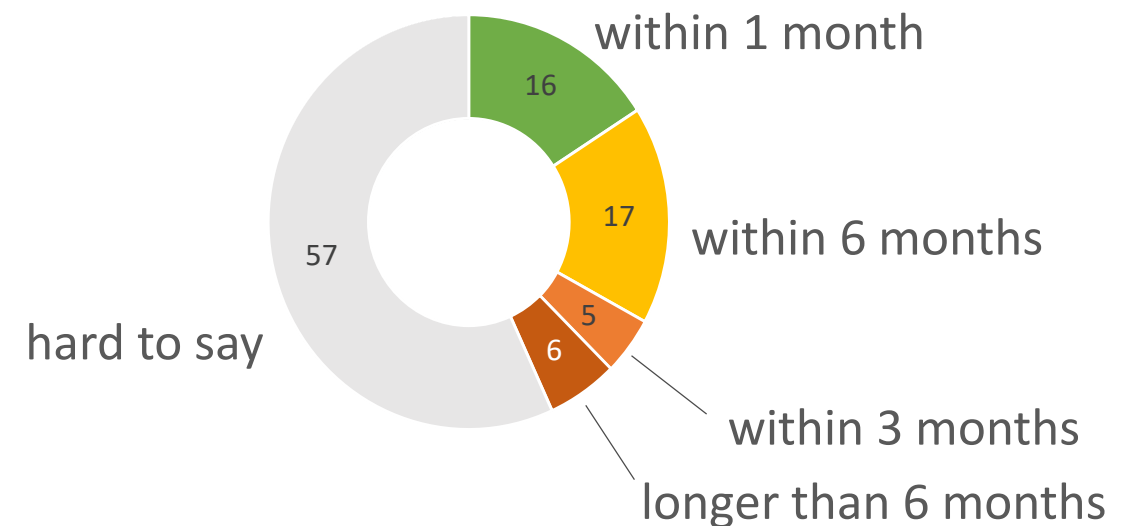
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... and face-to-face data collection is still partly or fully suspended in most cases

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



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



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



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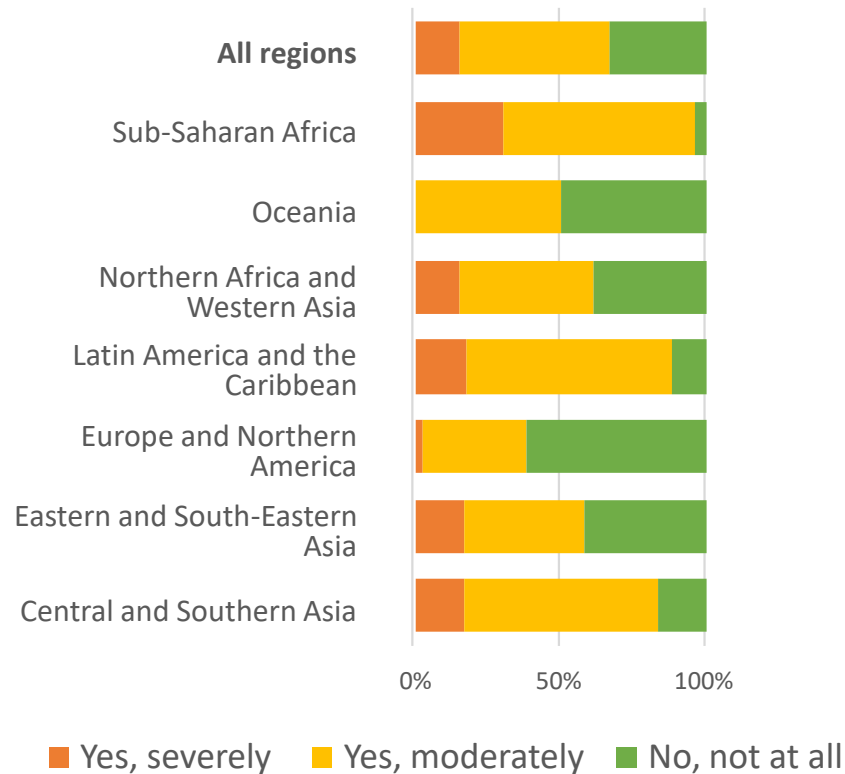
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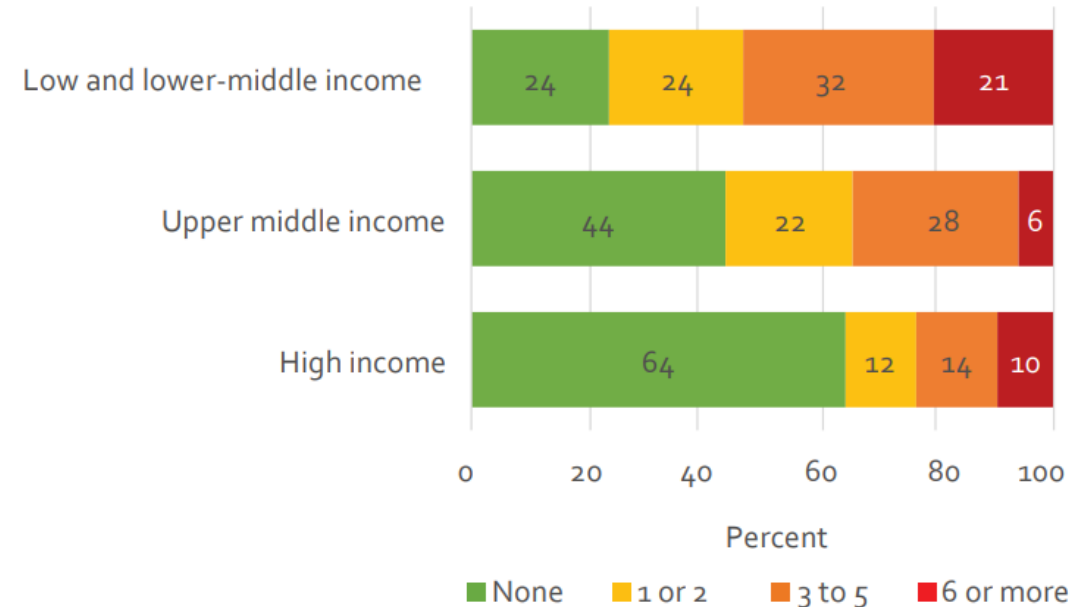
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Impacts on reporting have been large, and more severe in some regions and income groups

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



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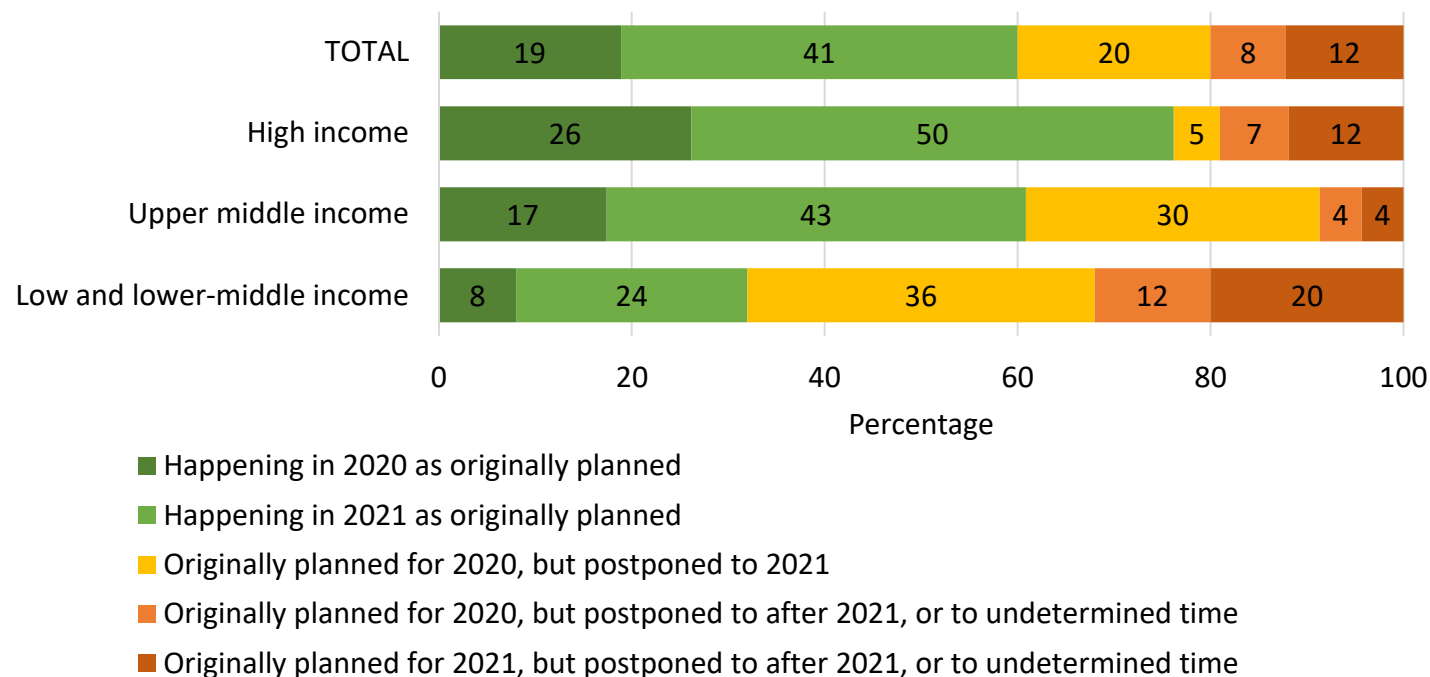
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Many NSOs in L/LMIC had to postpone their Population and Housing Census

Situation of Population and Housing Census data collection among countries that had planned the census for 2020 or 2021



73% of NSOs had a PH Census planned for 2020 or 2021 before the pandemic hit. In L/LMIC, **68% had to postpone the census.**

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



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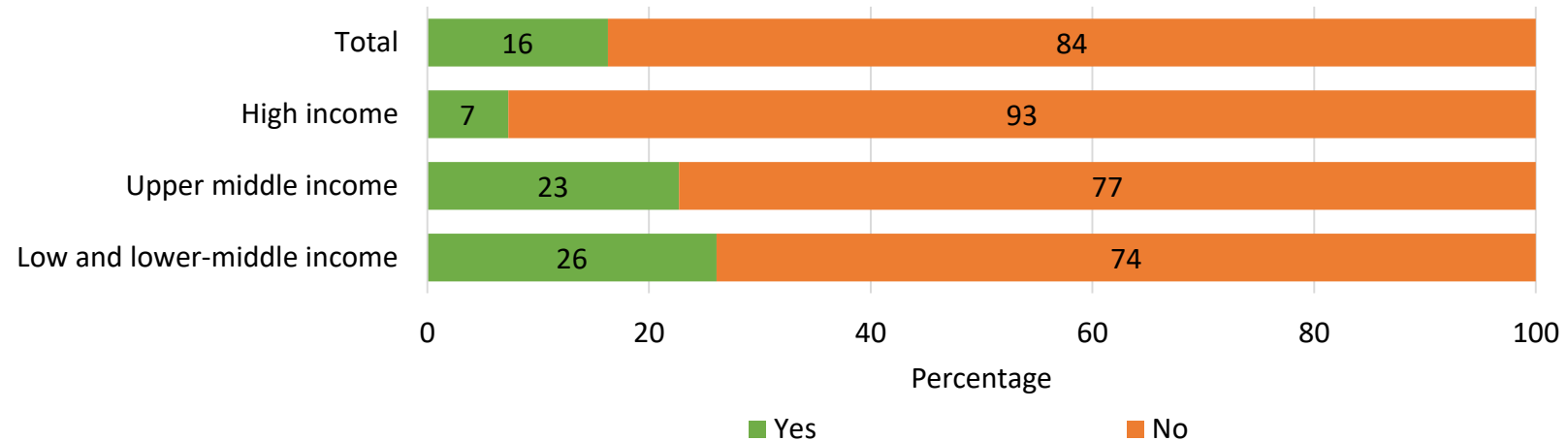
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Census funding at risk?

Have financial resources initially allocated to the Population and Housing Census been reallocated to other government activities?



**Out of 90 countries that had planned to conduct census in 2020 or 2021*



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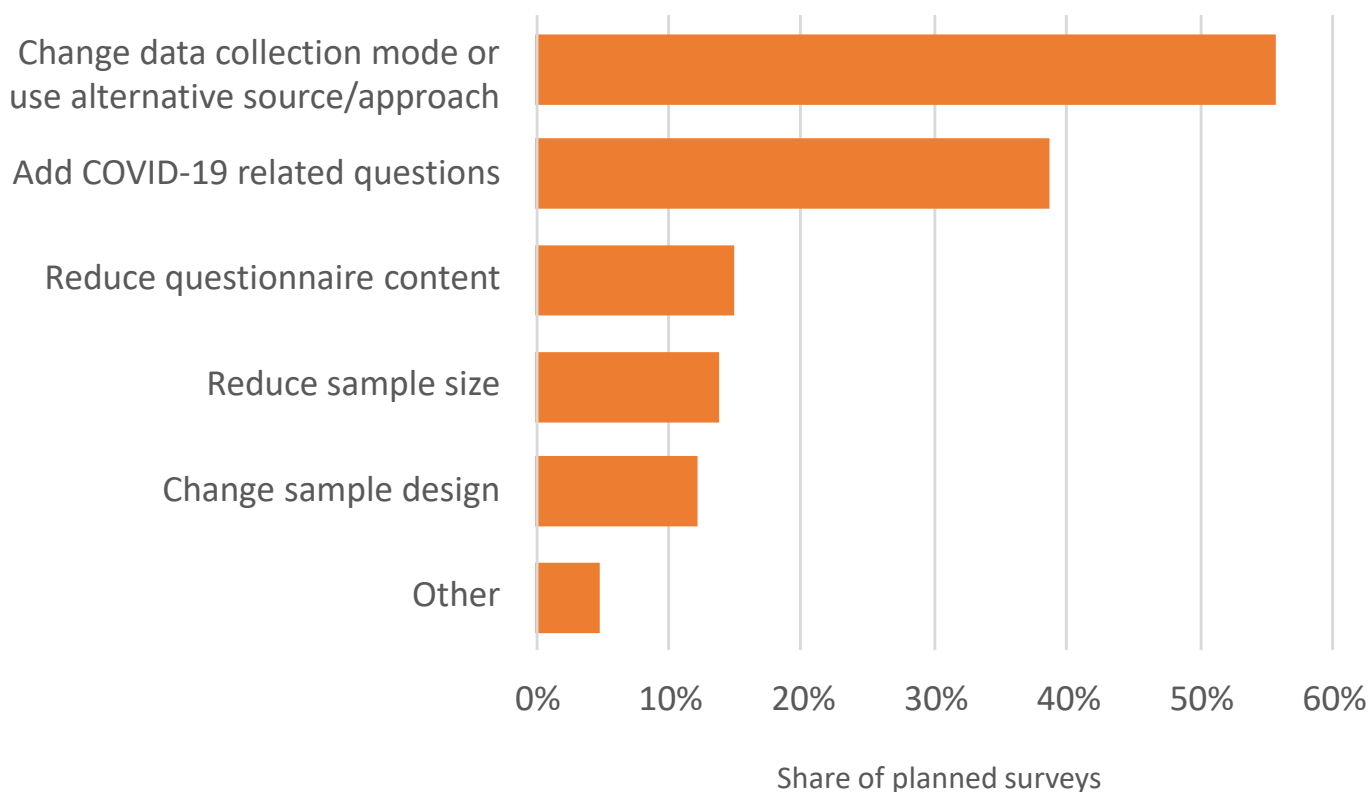
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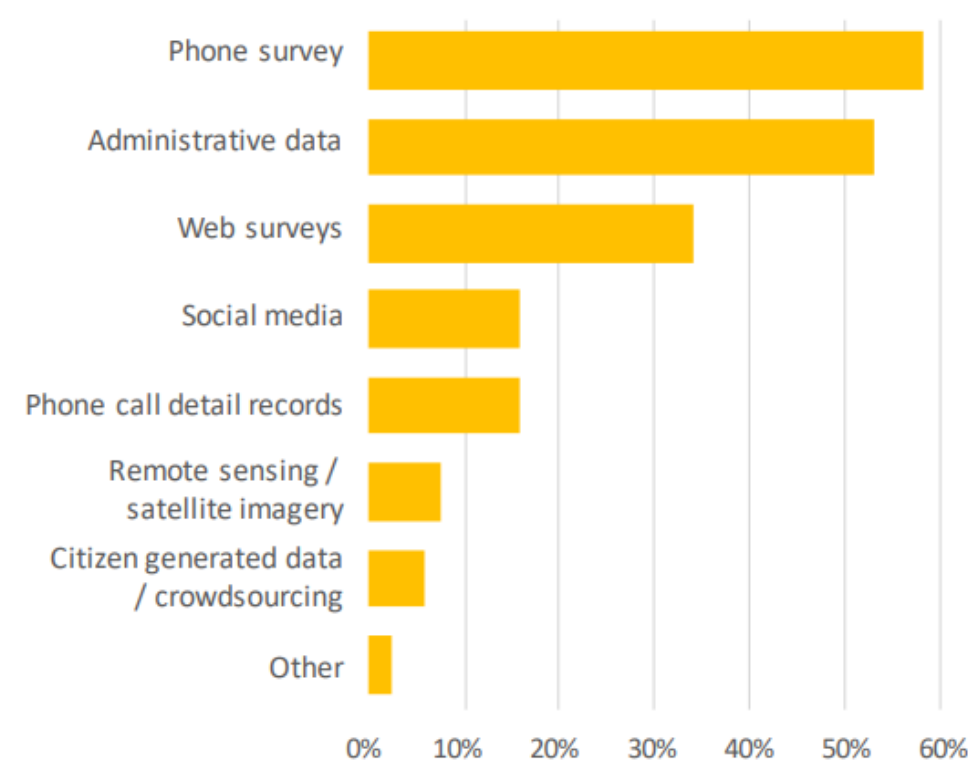
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NSOs adapted quickly to challenges raised by COVID-19

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?



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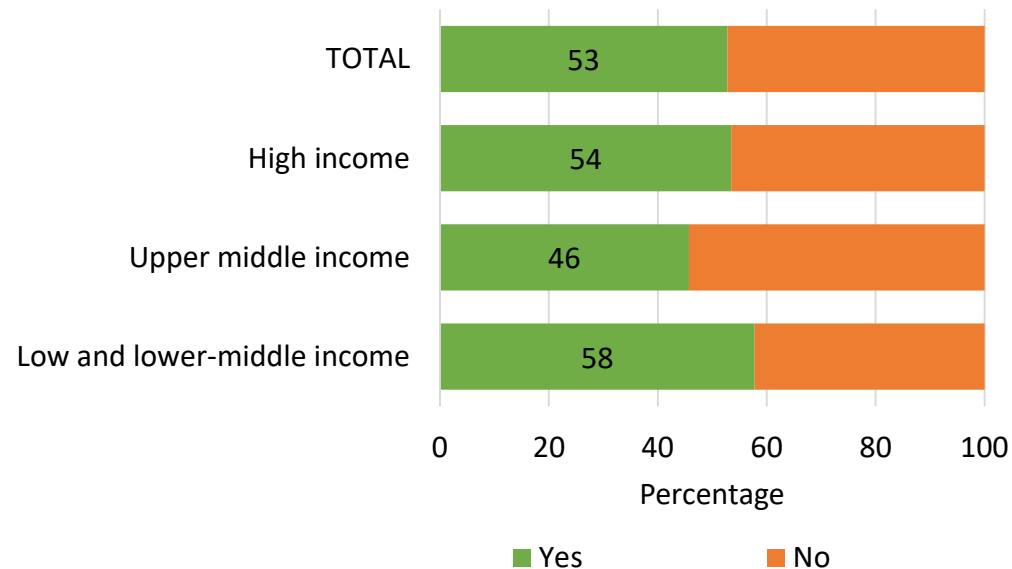
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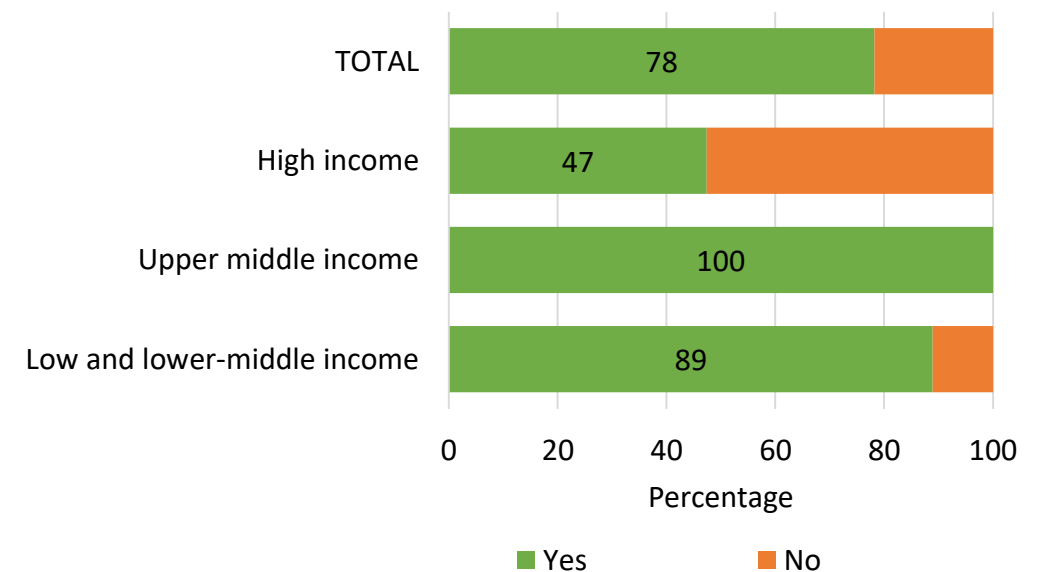
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Some NSOs developed new fieldwork protocols, most others would consider such guidelines useful for operations

Has your office developed new written fieldwork protocols for face-to-face interviews?



Would you consider it useful to your operations if such new protocols were developed?



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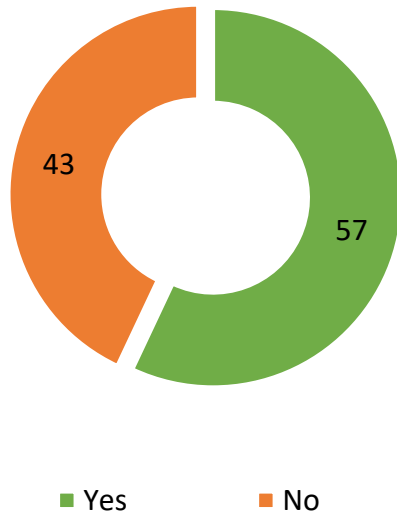
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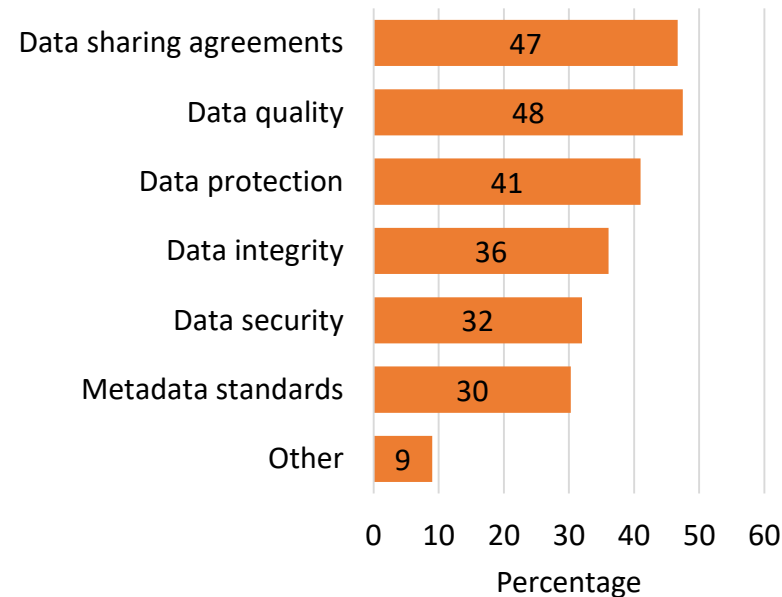
NSOs play a major role in governments' COVID-19 response

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



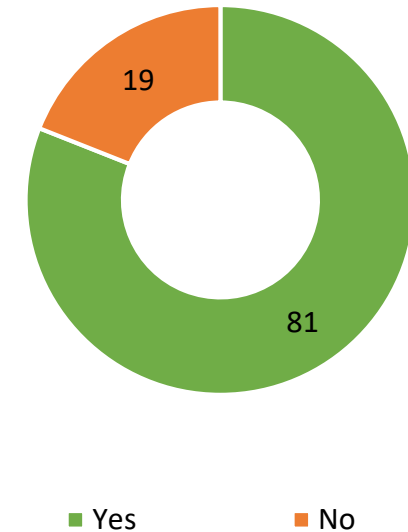
Source: 2nd wave, July 2020

During the pandemic, has your office coordinated government work, with other national agencies, in any of the following areas?



Source: 3rd wave, October 2020

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



Source: 3rd wave, October 2020



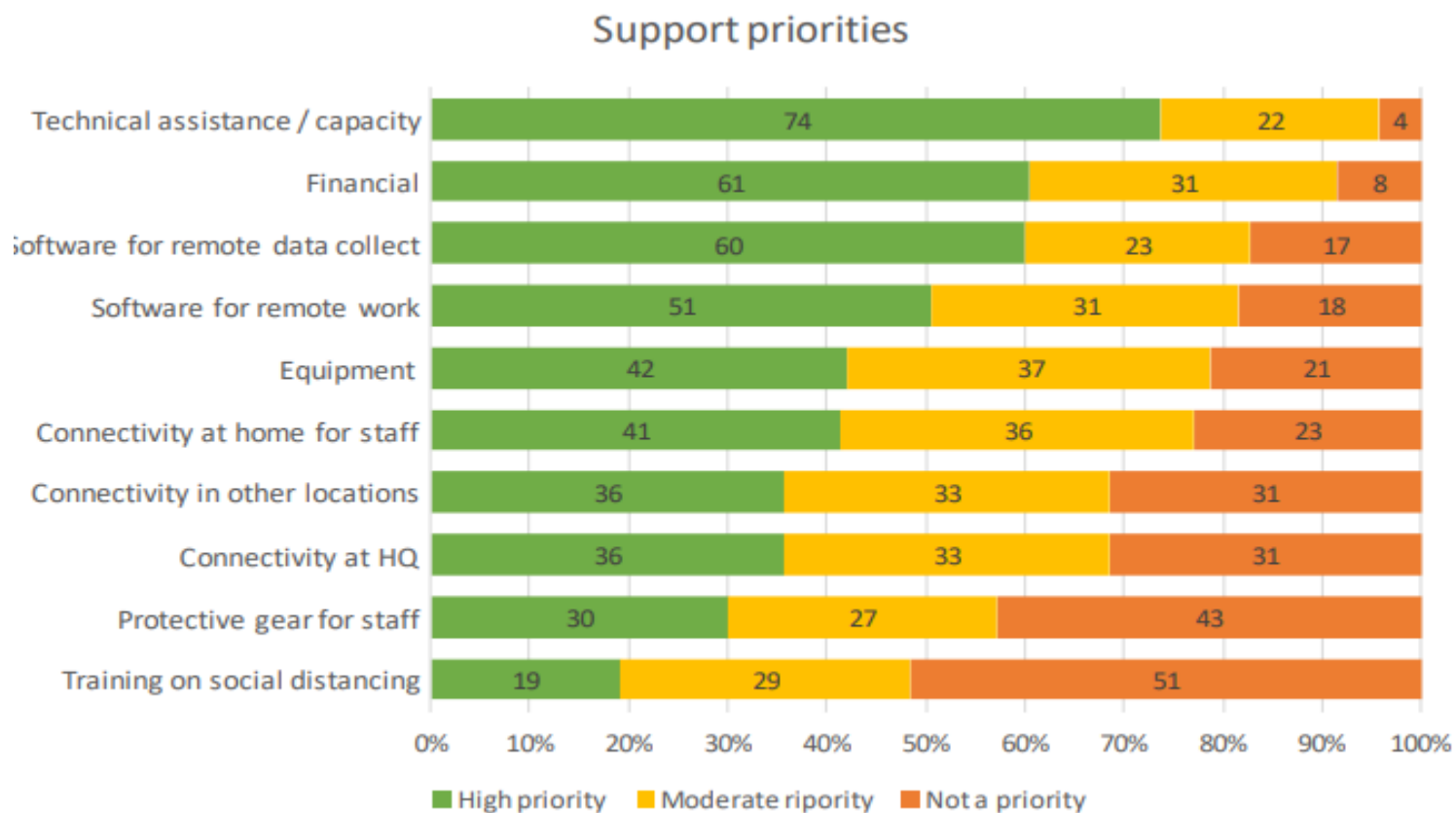
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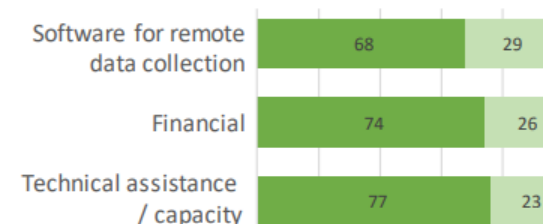
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NSOs response calls for greater investments

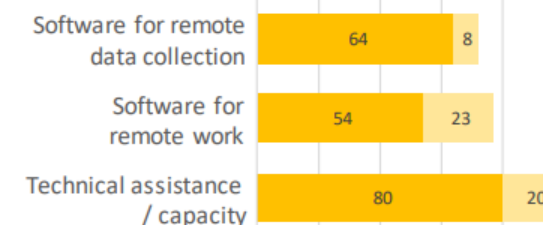


Top three support priorities by income group

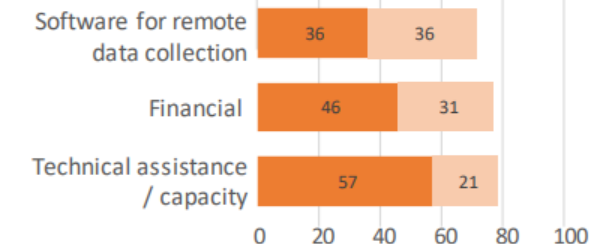
Low and lower middle income countries:



Upper middle income countries:



High income countries:



Share of responding countries

■ High priority ■ Moderate priority



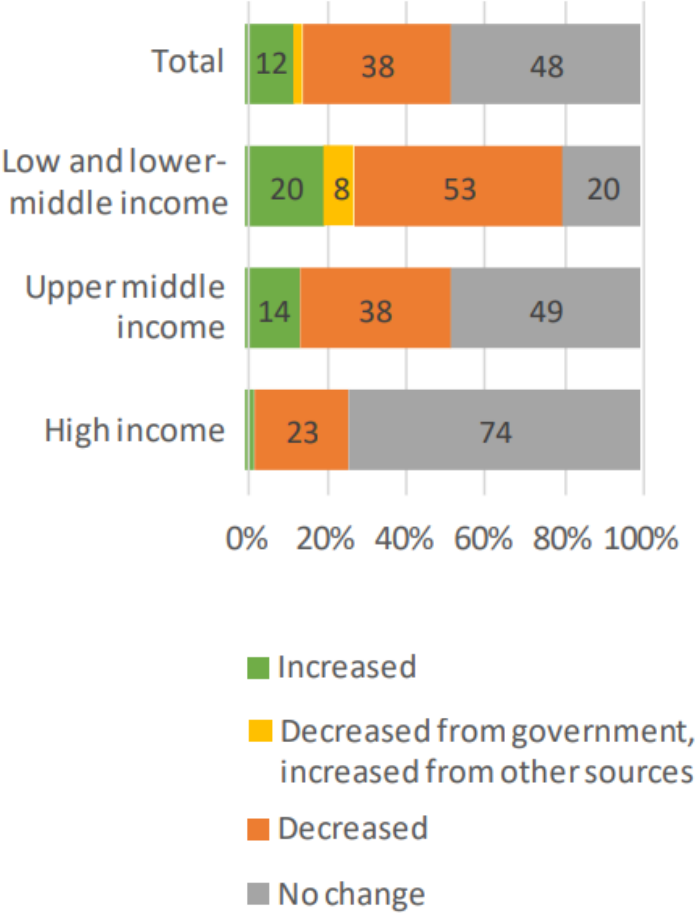
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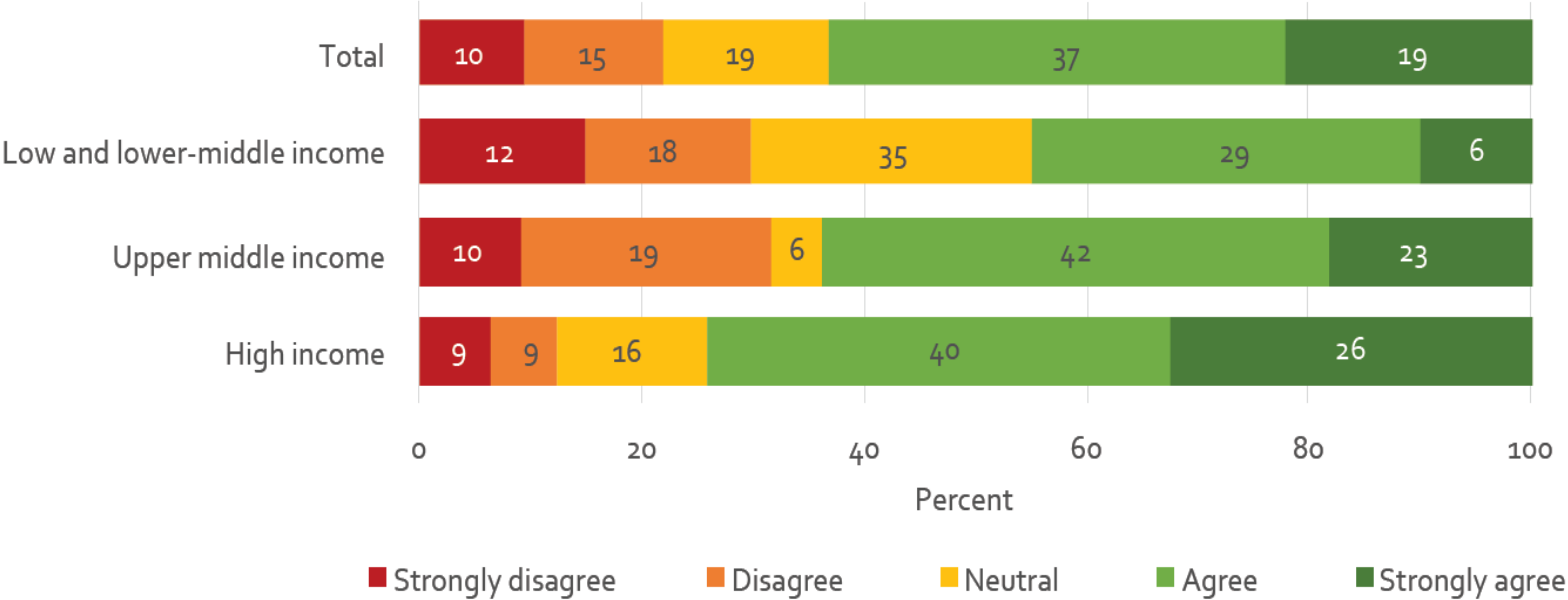
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Has your funding been affected due to the current COVID-19 pandemic?



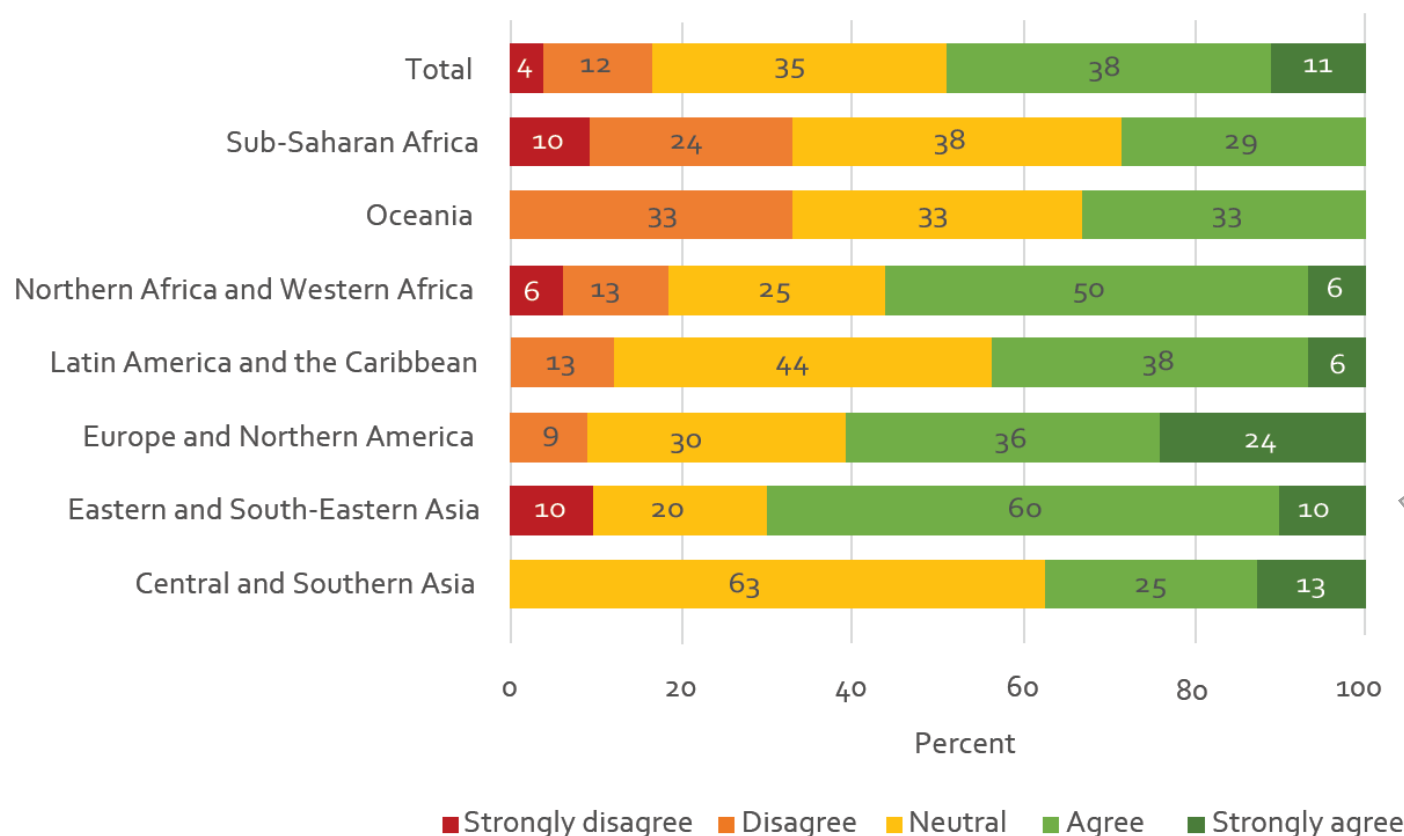
Decrease in funding and ICT constraints particularly severe in LMICs

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



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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: ICT infrastructure, TA, coordination and \$\$\$
- Feed results to influence design of statistical operations





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Thank you!
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<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/>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/brief/survey-of-national-statistical-offices-nsos-during-covid-19>

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