Survey on the impact of COVID-19 on CCSA members
October 2020

Key facts & analysis
Final report
Key findings from the survey

1. The strategic programme of work was heavily impacted for most CCSA members. Most negatively affected were the provision of TA/training (80%) and the collection of data (65%).

2. The majority of CCSA members perceive coordination at the international level and coordination with partner countries to be positive.

3. More than 90% of agencies have shifted to remote work. Almost 50% of agencies still face problems with in-country implementation, stemming from travel restrictions.

4. Most technical assistance and training shifted to the virtual space, resulting for the most part in an increased number of webinars, workshops, trainings and remote peer consulting.

5. Very few agencies reported having a reduced budget for data and statistics due to the pandemic.

6. At the same time, the majority of CCSA members did not provide new funding to support countries. A fifth re-allocated already-earmarked funding and a tenth of CCSA members issued no funding.

7. A large majority of countries receiving technical assistance and training were low- and low-middle countries (CCSA members are successfully targeting those countries who need it most).

8. Most agencies did not adapt their technical assistance to provide more hardware, software or data. However, they shared more methodology.

9. Many agencies have adopted alternative methods or data sources in their data production.

10. Timeliness of data delivery is the most impacted area of data collection. Only one-third of agencies believed they could mitigate the impact in the near future.

Survey background

- The survey aimed to provide an understanding of how CCSA member agencies are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It aimed at fostering coordination in agency responses. The survey assessed the crisis resilience of CCSA members in five dimensions: 1) strategic priorities, 2) financial resources and crisis preparedness, 3) data production and dissemination, 4) capacity development and technical assistance, and 5) financial assistance.

- The survey was prepared and implemented by PARiS21 with the support of the World Bank and UNSD in the context of the CCSA.

- The survey was sent to all 45 CCSA member institutions during the period 18 September to 22 October, 2020.

- Overall, 87% of CCSA members responded to the survey (39 out of 45 members).

- The questionnaire can be accessed through the following link: https://survey.oecd.org/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=611961&newtest=Y&lang=en
1. Impact on the (strategic) programme of work and data production

Q1. How strongly is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting your ability to:

- Provision of technical assistance/training (80%) and collection of data (65%) are the activities that suffered the most negative impact.
- Only 40% of respondents indicate that data analysis, dissemination and publication are impacted.
- Most agencies (37 out of 39) established a specific COVID-19 response. Of those, most (31 agencies) indicate that the response resulted in the form of technical assistance. 14 agencies also provided financial assistance to countries.
- The impact on coordinating with partners is the most polarised. While the highest number of agencies experienced positive impact in this area, coordinating with partners is also one of the most negatively impacted areas for development banks.

Q1. How strongly is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting your ability to

[Bar chart showing the impact of COVID-19 on various activities]
Q10. What impact did the COVID-19 pandemic have on the data collected from countries by your organisation?

- Despite the negative impact on the timeliness of data delivery, most organisations were able to ensure the accuracy of data during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Yet six months after the breakout of the pandemic, negative effects persist for most agencies. About 30% of them believed that they would mitigate the negative impact soon (results from 11, not reflected in the graph below).

Q11. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, did you use alternative methods or data sources?

- Agencies have shown diversity in the use of alternative sources and methods during the pandemic.
- Over half (22 out of 39) of agencies used predictive modelling during the pandemic.
- Administrative sources are the most popular alternative data source for agencies: 12 agencies reported using them.
- 13 agencies use private sector data, most importantly, mobile phone data and social media data.
2. Human resources/crisis readiness

Q8. As consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, for how long did your organisation impose travel restrictions on its staff?

- In September 2020, travel restrictions still hold for most agencies (33 out of 39).
- More than 90% (36 out of 39) of agencies have been adapted to remote work.
- However, almost 50% of agencies still face problems with in-country implementation.

Q9. How is your organisation prepared for future crises?

- Both remote working and country work will be impacted (16)
- Well prepared for remote working, and country implementation has been adapted for the "new norm" (20)
- Well prepared for remote working, but country implementation will still be impacted (3)
3. Coordination capacity function at the international level

Q14. In your opinion, current efforts to collect data on COVID-19 in countries/regions that your organisation is working in are well coordinated?

- All of the development banks, as well as the majority of regional and international organisations perceive coordination at the international level positively (activities have been mostly well coordinated in countries and regions).

- Only a quarter of the respondents indicate that coordination capacity is poorly developed. (These respondents represent two regional and seven international organisations).

- Contrary to WB/UNSD Assessment Round 2: National and international coordination on the collection of data on the COVID-19 pandemic has been inadequate in some cases, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. New institutions, or repurposing of existing institutions, with strong local ownership, may be needed to address these coordination problems and enhance effectiveness of individual efforts.

**Potential reason:** CCSA coordinates at the international level, whereas countries often refer to national/sub-national coordination.

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**Q14. In your opinion current efforts to collect data on COVID-19 in countries/regions that your organisation is working in are well coordinated?**

- **Don't know/Not sure**
- **No**
- **Yes, in most countries/regions**
- **Yes, in some countries/regions**

**Chart:**

- Dev Bank
- International
- Regional
4. Financing data and statistics for development

Q5. Due to the crisis, was there a re-allocation of financial resources across your organisation (e.g. shifting financial resources from one project to another)?

- More than 60% of respondents indicated a re-allocation of financial resources within their organisation.
- Among them, more than 60% of agencies did not experience an impact on budget allocation to data and statistics. Only 20% of these agencies (5 out of 39) indicated that the budget for data and statistics was negatively impacted.
- While most development banks are experiencing an organisation-level re-allocation of budget, none of them reported a decrease or increase in budget allocated to data and statistics.

Q21. To support partner countries in their operations during COVID-19, have you provided/are you providing national statistical offices (NSOs) with technical assistance or training on the use of alternative data sources e.g. remote sensing data, citizen generated and social media data for the production of statistics?

- Most respondents do not engage in technical support that involves alternative data sources.
- While 23 out of 39 organisations (see Q11) use alternative methods and data sources in their own data production, only 14 organisations provided technical assistance on the use of alternative data sources.
- Areas of engagement: citizen-generated data, admin data for statistical purposes, geospatial and remote sensing data across all regions - Africa, Asia and Latin-America
Q22. Have you provided additional funding to partner countries to support them amidst the COVID 19 pandemic?

- Around 50% of respondents indicate that their organisation did not provide additional funding to partner countries.
- 10% of respondents supported partner countries with more funding.
- 20% of respondents re-allocated funding away from already earmarked funding.
5. Technical assistance

Q15. To support partner countries in data production during the COVID-19 pandemic, have you adjusted your technical assistance plan to provide more of the following types of assistance?

- 31 respondents mention that the provision of data, software and hardware have not been increased as a response to the crisis.
- Confirms the point the 1st WB assessment: Most NSOs are adapting and responding to the new data needs and demands of the COVID-19 pandemic and are using alternative methods, primarily phone surveys, administrative data and online surveys.

Q16. To support countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, have you engaged in the following types of remote capacity development?

- Most respondents engage in webinars (34), remote workshops (33), and training (28).
- Guidelines for data collection/production/communication as well as remote peer consulting have been issued by 22 respondents, respectively.

Q18. To support countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, have you engaged in the following types of remote capacity development?