

## Strengthening data and policy capacities for an inclusive COVID19 response and recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic is a crisis unprecedented in the modern era. Aside from the immediate adverse health effects, the disease threatens to undo progress on sustainable development by decades, with the poorest and most marginalised bearing the brunt.

To combat the pandemic and ensure that recovery efforts are effective, inclusive and sustainable, policymakers and other actors need data that are timely, accurate and representative of the populations affected. Citizens also need trustworthy data in order to make informed decisions and to hold their governments to account.

National statistical organisations are struggling to respond to greater demands for data while at the same time facing historic capacity and institutional constraints, and demand for support among PARIS21's national statistical partners, especially in low- and middle-income countries, has been overwhelming.

They have been calling on PARIS21 as a trusted, longstanding partner able to engage relevant stakeholders at all levels to design and implement capacity strengthening solutions for better response, resilience and recovery. PARIS21's role as a bridge between national and global efforts also provides a critical platform amidst the pandemic for scaling-up national solutions and best practices, South-South cooperation and partnerships.

We have been agile in our response - shortly after the WHO defined the outbreak as a global pandemic, PARIS21 started its COVID-19 response initiative. Within the scope of this initiative, partner countries have received immediate advice and technical support to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis through online services. At the same time, our staff re-prioritised and adapted our programme of work to maintain essential capacity development activities in the medium and long-term. We will continue to be responsive and to provide our partners with the support they require as the context evolves.

### RESPONSE

**Leveraging new data sources for gender-sensitive response:** PARIS21 is helping Maldives incorporate data from civil society organisations to understand and respond to gender issues during the COVID-19 crisis

**Improving NSO crisis communications:** A recent PARIS21 policy brief examines how NSOs communicate about the COVID-19 crisis and makes recommendations on how to strengthen social media

**Undertaking rapid data needs assessments with ADAPT:** PARIS21's Advanced Data Planning Tool is being used by Paraguay and El Salvador for rapid data needs assessments

### RESILIENCE

**Hosting peer learning and matchmaking forums on crisis management and recovery:** PARIS21, AfriStat, INSEE and UNECA are hosting a forum on high-frequency phone surveys and CRVS for COVID-19 data. PARIS21 and NSOs in Latin America are hosting a virtual peer exchange on 'Communicating in the time of COVID-19'

**Developing disaster management plans for NSOs:** PARIS21 is supporting Vanuatu in developing a COVID-19 disaster management plan

**Providing operational guidance:** PARIS21's Strategic Operations Guide for NSOs provides practical guidance on how to adapt operations during confinement measures

**Developing dashboards & indicators:** Together with UNESCAP & the World Bank, PARIS21 is developing a resilience indicator dashboard to measure national statistical resilience to the crisis

**Strengthening planning for improved crisis resilience:** PARIS21 is working with the Eastern Caribbean Community to strengthen data planning during the crisis

### RECOVERY

**Developing new methodologies for data collection:** PARIS21, the World Data Lab and DANE Colombia are piloting an innovative approach to population and poverty mapping to guide response and recovery

**Leveraging government data for more effective response & recovery:** Uruguay is calling on PARIS21's expertise to leverage admin data and CRVS for COVID-19 data to target response & recovery efforts

**Matching donor flow supply and demand:** As the secretariat of the Bern Network, PARIS21 is spearheading efforts to build a clearinghouse to match donor funding to data to country needs

**Sharing best practices on mobilising gender data:** PARIS21 and UN Women are sharing country experiences of mobilising gender data for better decision-making