



Effects of COVID-19 on Household surveys

The Uganda's Experience

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Presentation Outline




 Background

 Uganda's Experience

 Challenges

 Conclusion



BACKGROUND

-  The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) is the National Statistics office in Uganda
-  The COVID-19 pandemic impacted ongoing and planned activities
-  Ongoing Surveys were halted



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BACKGROUND Cont'd

-  Introduced working from home-a new way of working
-  Adjustments to new ways of working-working mainly through virtual communication following strict COVID-19 guidelines



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UBOS's Experience


Effect of Covid-19 on household surveys

- 🇺🇬 Face-to-face interviews stopped following two lockdowns (UDHS, UNHS)
- 🇺🇬 Needed to construct frames to support survey undertakings. For example, Telephone contacts were needed, yet there is no National register
- 🇺🇬 UBOS relied on the panel survey list since the contacts were updated annually



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Effect on household surveys Cont'd

 Cases of proxy telephone contacts, some respondents are reached through Local Council official's contacts or contacts of neighbors, finding an appropriate time for phone sharing




 Seeking the respondents convenient time on phone




Effect on household surveys Cont'd

-  For the National Labourforce Survey, there was a shift in survey implementation timelines plan from 4 months to 6.
-  Cost of survey increases due to the need to enforce Covid-19 guidelines
-  For Income and Expenditure survey (UNHS) and Demographic and Health Survey, activities were halted

Effect on household surveys Cont'd




-  Most of the staff worked from home, and this only favored non field activities
-  Most of the activities conducted in virtual settings
-  Field activities had to be cleared by Office of the Prime minister

Challenges experienced




 Delays in implementation of some technical surveys such as the DHS, (training postponed twice)

 Increased survey costs arising from COVID19 requirements before field operations

Challenges Cont'd

-  Could not meet all the data demands due to limitations on travel, staff
-  Inadequate frames to address specific data needs
 - δ resorted to existing frames and in some cases linked a number of frames
-  The temptation that quick methods are a replacement of the face-to-face interviews .

Challenges Cont'd

-  Reduced Response rates due to anxiety, fear and mobility of the sampled respondents
-  Endeavored to cover all population groups (including those without phones)
-  Clearance to conduct field activities during partial lockdown was granted much later than had wanted and hence could not meet some of the user demands



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Conclusion

- Both approaches i.e Telephone and Face-to-face interviews complement each other
- NSOs should invest more in innovative approaches to ensure both quality and completeness of data post COVID,
- Invest in ICT infrastructure to strengthen both the traditional and the new approaches to data collection



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THANK YOU