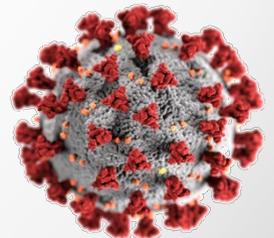


# Study of the practices of national statistical offices in adapting to the COVID crisis situation their household surveys that are used for poverty measurement

Rafkat Hasanov, UNECE consultant



# Objectives of the study

- Designing a short questionnaire to be sent out to NSO in the UNECE region
- Analyzing the information obtained from NSO through the questionnaire and through documents, websites and presentations, to identify and describe emerging good practices that could be recommended to countries
- Engaging with NSO offices in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to understand their demand for capacity development for poverty measurement in the COVID crisis
- Developing proposals and recommendations for providing technical assistance to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, based on their demand, and considering the recommendations in "Poverty measurement: guide to data disaggregation" (UNECE 2020)

# Questionnaire: Poverty measurement in the pandemic (2020, July)

- General part (1 question)
- Adaptation of survey-taking to the physical contact restrictions (4 questions)
- Special surveys designed for the pandemic crisis context and its impact (3 questions)
- Coverage by surveys of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups who may suffer disproportionately in the crisis (3 questions)
- Coverage by surveys of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups who may suffer disproportionately in the crisis (1 question)
- Statistical offices' needs for capacity development on the above mentioned issues (3 questions)

25 countries, including 16 – ECCAA region

# Work of NSOs during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Most of NSOs (22 out of 25) continued to conduct surveys
- 20 NSOs switched to remote survey-taking methods
- the main remote method – telephone interview

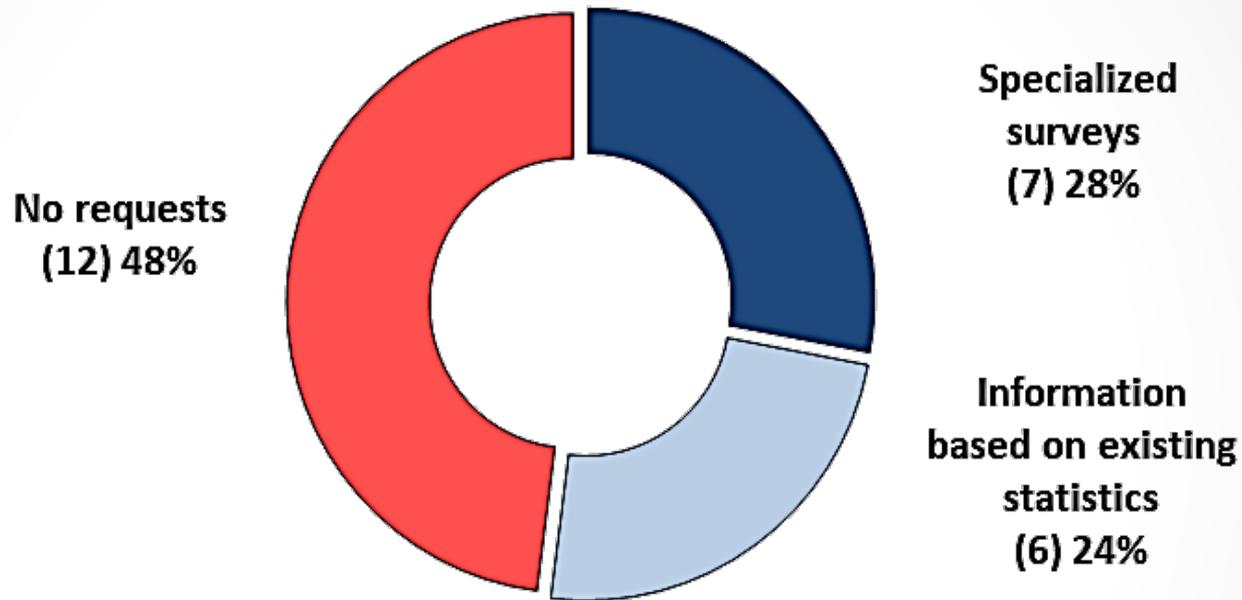
*Belarus, Kazakhstan and North Macedonia:* The main method is personal interviews subject to physical distancing and PPE requirements

*Russia:* in addition to the telephone interview, personal interviews were conducted with the mandatory use of PPE

 *Canada and Latvia* in addition to the telephone interviews takes online surveys on its website.

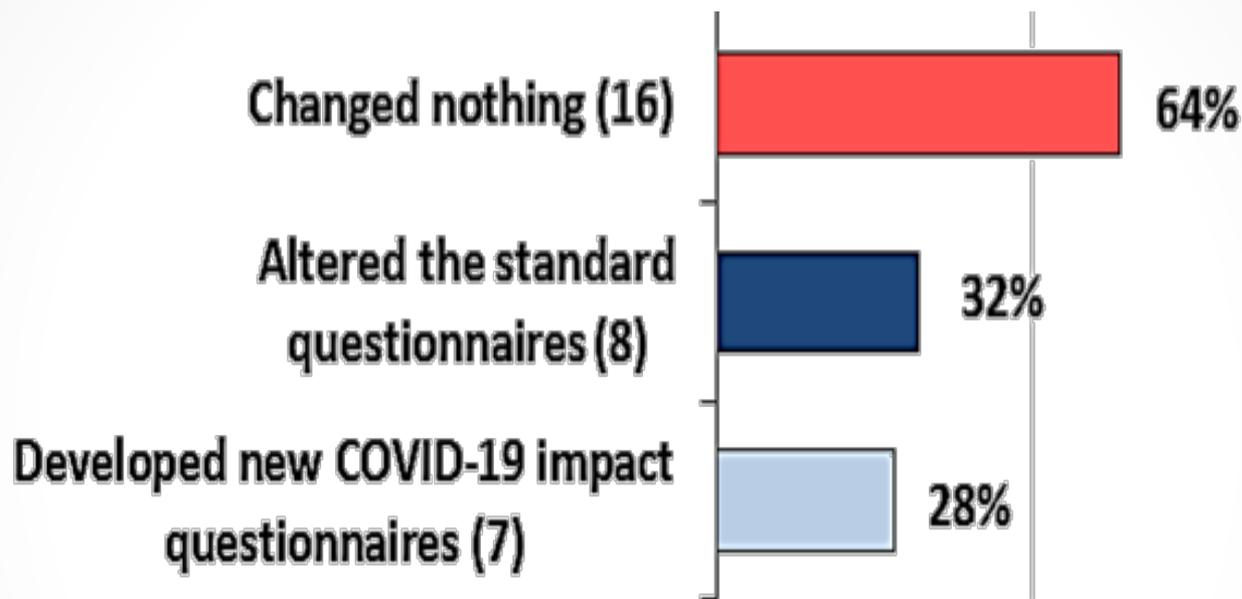
 *Canada:* only NSO using the Citizen-generated data / Crowdsourcing Method at the time of this survey

# Requests from government agencies



- *Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Switzerland*: prepared relevant statistical information based on existing statistics
- *Austria, Canada, Israel, Moldova, Slovakia, United Kingdom, USA*: took specialized surveys at the request of government agencies

# Reflection of the pandemic context and its impact

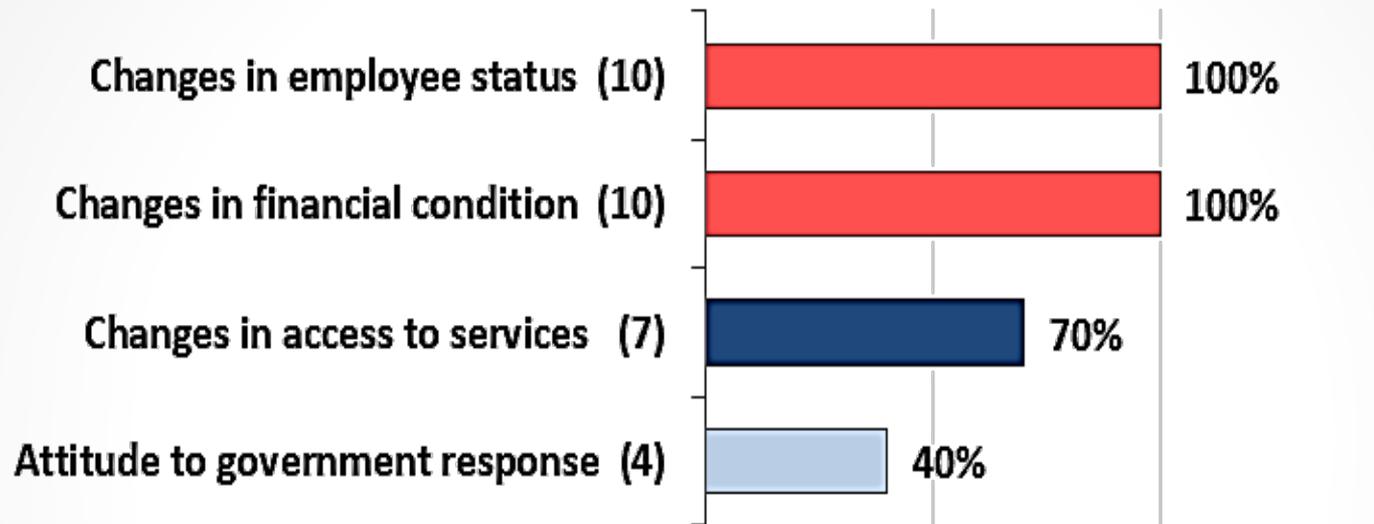


- *Austria, Canada, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Russia, United Kingdom and USA*: altered the standard questionnaires and added COVID-19 impact related questions
- *Austria, Canada, Luxembourg, Moldova, Slovakia, UK and USA*: new COVID-19 impact questionnaires

# Surveys on the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable populations

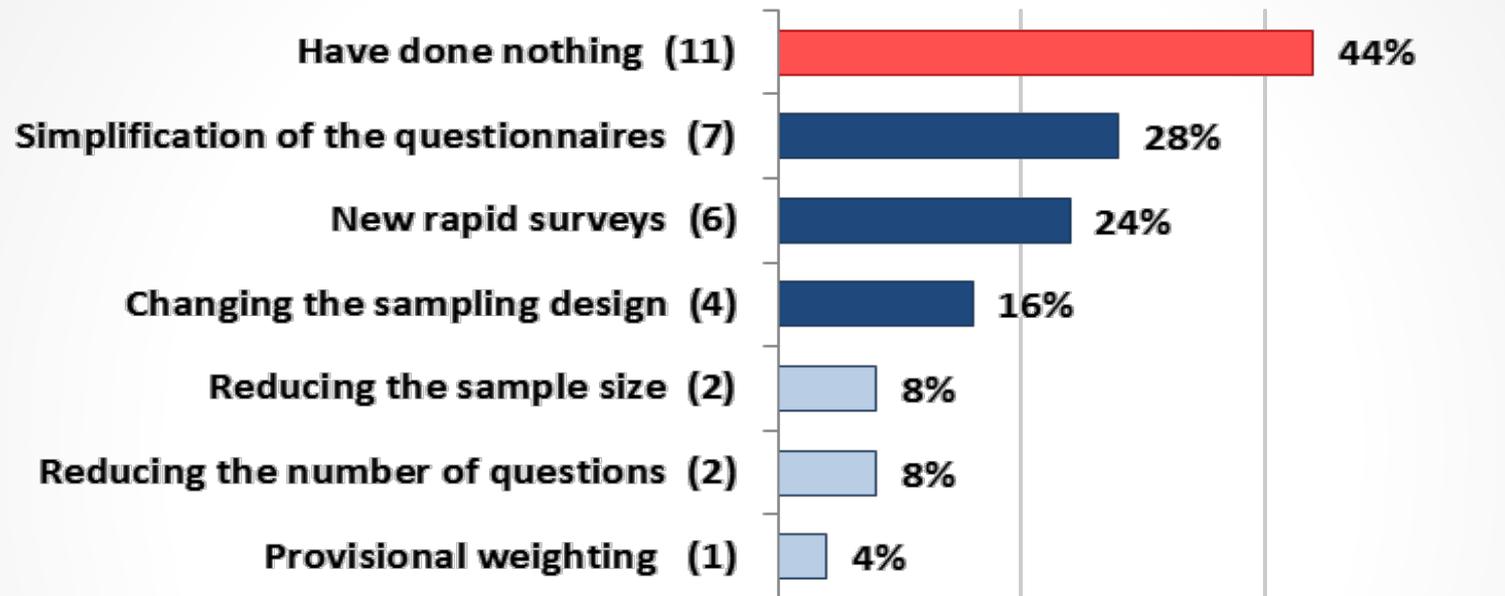
	United Kingdom	Switzerland	USA	Canada	Mexico
Poor and vulnerable population	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Informal workers			✓	✓	✓
Small (micro) business	✓	✓	✓		✓
Pensioners	✓	✓	✓		
People with disabilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Women	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health workers	✓		✓	✓	

# Surveys on the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable populations: main topics



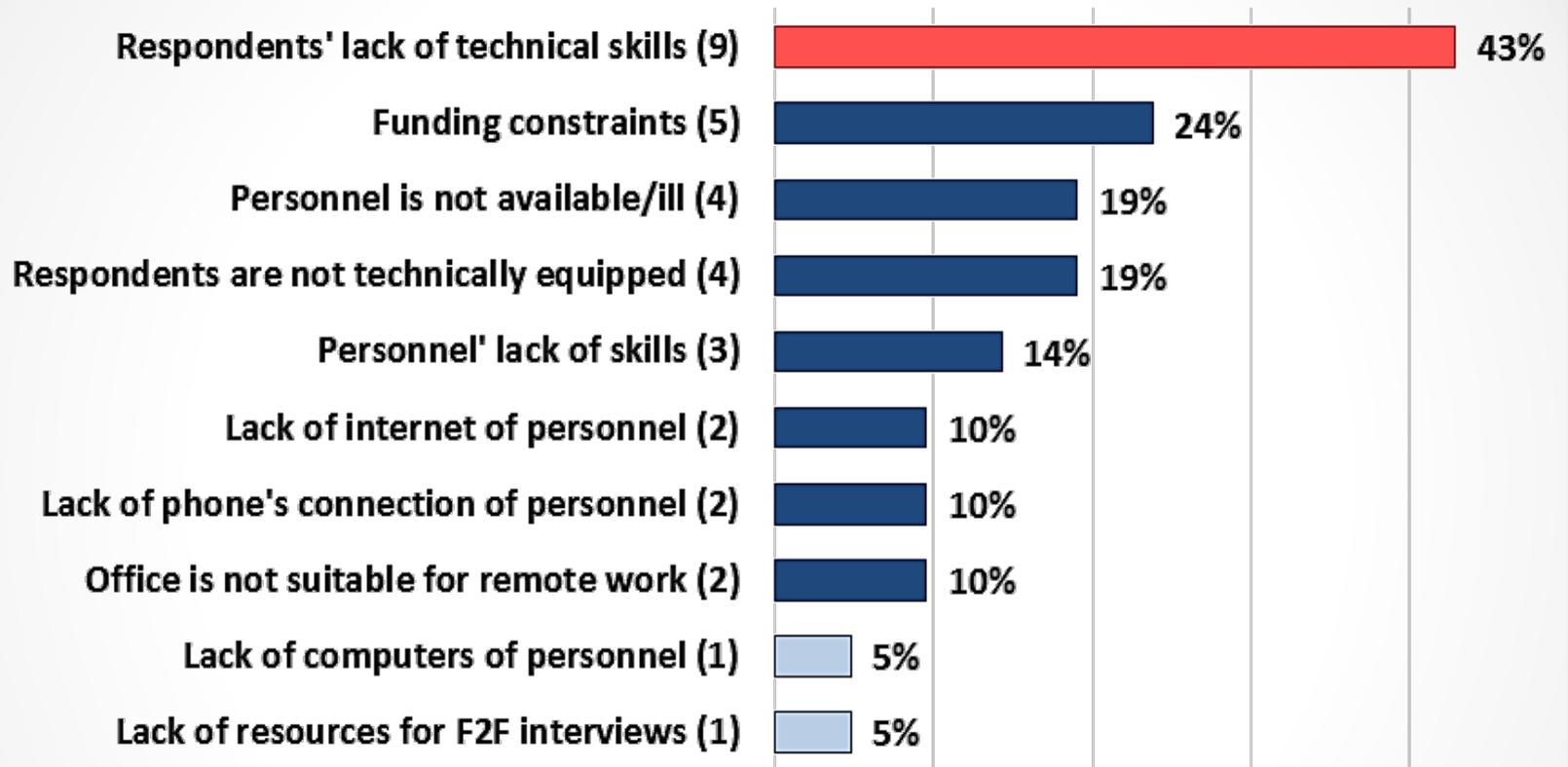
- Problems associated with distance education (*Moldova*);
- Health symptoms related to COVID-19 and general health status (*Austria*);
- Some prevention measures (*Mexico*);
- Questions of satisfaction with certain financial and socio-psychological aspects of life (*Switzerland*).

# What was done to reduce the time interval for survey-taking



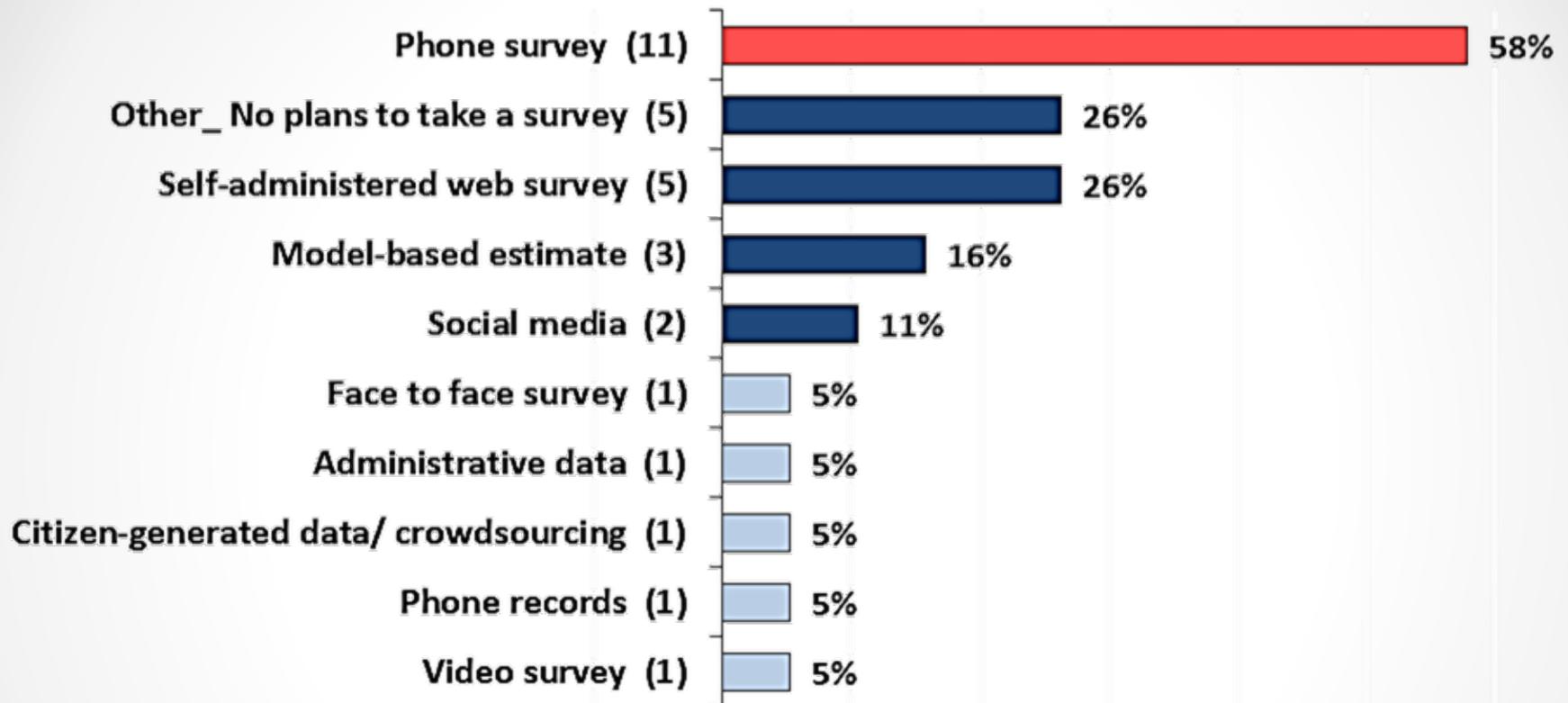
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Mexico, North Macedonia and Russia*: simplification of questionnaires, deletion of some additional modules
- *Austria, UK, Luxembourg, Slovakia, USA, Canada*: introduction of new, rapid surveys on selected COVID-19 topics
- *Armenia, Canada, Mexico, Slovakia*: changes in the sample design

# Survey taking difficulties in the pandemic



- availability of telephone numbers was limited;
- non-response rate is increased / interruption of the survey before its completion
- mistrust of respondents to telephone interviewing

# The COVID-19 impact: what survey methods you would like to use?



✓ 10 out of 13 NSOs mentioned one or two survey methods

✓ only three NSOs (*Kazakhstan, Russia and Canada*) would like to use a wider set of methods (from 3 to 5)

• **After the survey:** some developing countries has introduced web-survey methods (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)

# Best practice: rapid development of new survey topics

- *Switzerland*: a wide range of questions to provide a more detailed picture of a respondent's well-being and satisfaction with life in a pandemic
- *Luxembourg*: study on the socio-economic COVID-19 impact in particular, on the effects of the lockdown on mental health
- *Austria*: questions on the perception of protective measures taken by the federal government, well-being, changes in the work situation, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and their subjective perception
- *Canada*: Survey on Citizens' Fear of Stigma from the Pandemic; the impact of COVID-19 on mental health; education during a pandemic
- *Latvia*: mapping of areas with the highest density of older people for special protection during quarantine

# Best practice: rapid online surveys and new data products

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Я виноват - "Адам женится на Еве" - Адам женится на Еве - Песни из отечественных к  
pesnifilm.ru/load/adam\_zhenitsja\_na\_eve/ja\_vinovat\_quot\_adam\_zhenitsja\_na\_eve\_quot/11

About us Frequently asked questions Contact us

Start of questionnaire → Getting started

Impacts of COVID-19 on Health Care Workers: Infection Prevention and Control 0%

Getting started Cancel

**Why are we conducting this survey?**

The purpose of this crowdsourced questionnaire is to understand the impact of COVID-19 on Canadian health care workers, with particular focus on access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in the workplace.

This voluntary questionnaire will cover job type and setting, training and information on PPE and IPC practices and protocols, use and access to PPE, and personal health. It also includes general demographic questions.

Information collected may be used by the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada, the Canadian Institute for Health Information and other government organizations to help to inform the delivery of health care services and to better understand what health care workers need in terms of equipment, training and support. Your information may also be used by Statistics Canada for other statistical and research purposes.

Although voluntary, your participation is important so that the information is as complete as possible.

US Census Bureau COVID-19 Site

*the Statistics Canada*

## Highlighted Census Programs

These Census Bureau experimental data products are innovative statistical products created using new data sources or methodologies that benefit data users in the absence of other relevant products.

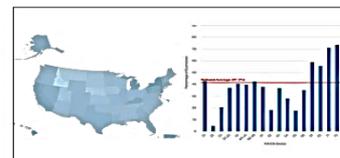
*the United States Census Bureau*



### Household Pulse Survey

This is a 20-minute online survey studying how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting households across the country from a social and economic perspective. The survey asks about how jobs, finances, access to food, health, housing, and schooling of you and those you live with have been affected by the ongoing crisis.

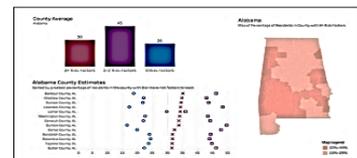
Read More



### Small Business Pulse Survey

This experimental survey measures the changes in business conditions on our nation's small businesses during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Business Pulse complements existing U.S. Census Bureau data collections by providing high-frequency, detailed information on small business-specific initiatives such as the Paycheck Protection Program.

Read More



### Community Resilience Estimates (CRE)

The capacity of individuals and households within a community to absorb, endure, and recover from the health, social, and economic impacts of a disaster.

Read More

# Best practice: broad information on COVID-19 issues

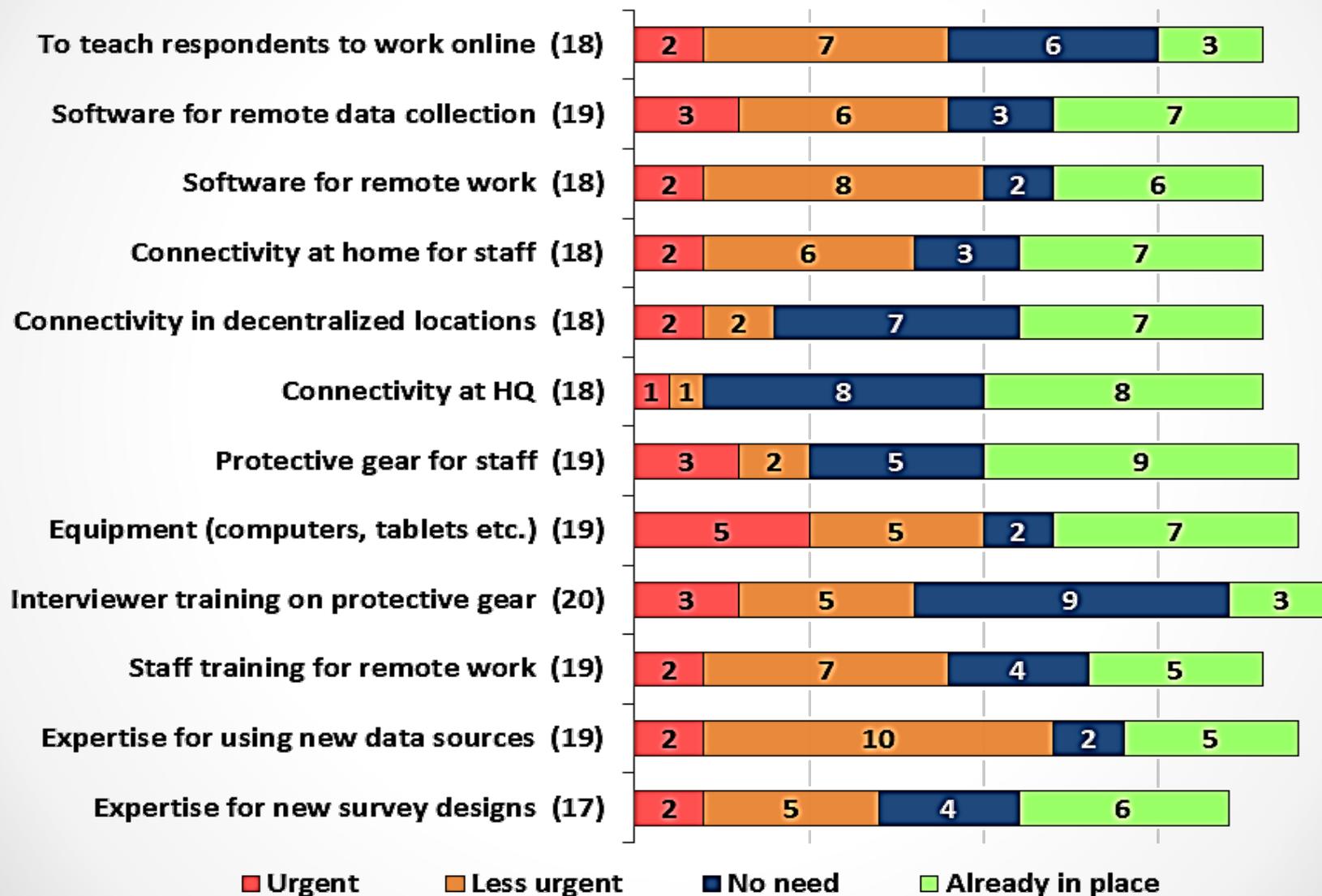
- ✔ not only publishing COVID-19 data on NSOs' websites, but also catchy visualizing
- ✔ providing direct access to databases with the ability to download
- ✔ posting press releases and articles on various aspects of the pandemic

- *Canada:* The COVID-19 - A data perspective presents, among others, the government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan for Canada; latest articles on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and society
- *UK:* regular and timely publication of statistical bulletins and articles
- *Luxembourg:* Coronavirus Dossier portal contains a significant number of different links to press materials, think tanks / networks, YouTube videos, scientific journals

# Best practice: active partnerships in research consortia

- *Canada : The Statistics Canada, the Chamber of Commerce and private sector*  
- *the Canadian Business Environment Survey*
- *Canada: The Statistics Canada , the Public Health Canada* - *detailed preliminary data on confirmed COVID-19 cases as quickly as possible*
- *the Statistical Office of Austria, the Ministry of Science, Austrian Red Cross and the Vienna Medical University,* - *a study on the prevalence of COVID-19*
- *the U.S. Census Bureau, the Economic Research Service , the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics, the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development*  
- *The Household Pulse Survey*

# What support does NSO need?



# Most pressing NSOs needs (country replies –urgent and less urgent)

- ✔ Expertise for using new data sources (12 replies);
- ✔ Equipment: computers, tablets, servers, etc. (10);
- ✔ Software for remote data collection (10);
- ✔ Software for remote work (9);
- ✔ To teach respondents to work online (9) ;
- ✔ Staff training for remote work (9).

21 countries replied

# Most pressing problems in conducting poverty and vulnerability surveys (developing countries)

- the difficulties, both technical and financial, in conducting telephone interview
- the traditional HBS questionnaires, which are quite lengthy, are not adapted to the telephone interview
- the sampling problems both for traditional (rotation) and new methods (weighing)
- the increase in the non-response rate
- the formal procedures adopted in the NSO to approve survey forms could be a barrier to speeding up the data collection and conducting rapid surveys

# Recommendations for technical assistance to the NSOs (developing countries)

- trainings for NSOs on new approaches, methods and good practices of survey-taking
  - new methods of survey-taking, such as crowdsourcing / citizen-generated data; surveys on the NSO website; social media and other methods
  - creation of updated database of respondents (digital database of contacts)
  - improving the NSO's websites and friendly interfaces for users
- technical assistance on the organization of the HBS and rapid surveys in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
  - improvement of sampling methods
  - decreasing of non-response rate
  - rapid surveys topics and sampling issues
  - revising HBS questionnaires for online

# Recommendations for providing technical assistance to the developing NSOs

- Providing technical assistance to create monitoring system of the COVID-19 impact on the socio-economic situation in the country
  - conducting training on good practice;
  - assisting in the selection of relevant indicators:
    - development of metadata requirements: calculation methods, frequency, measurement units, national and regional aspects, data sources, etc .;
    - development of recommendations for monitoring indicators based on surveys and mass statistics
- Conducting trainings on methodological materials in the field of statistics, developed by the UNECE,
  - the publication "Measuring Poverty: Guide to Data Disaggregating"

Thank you very  
much!