

Online meetings on measuring poverty and inequality, 30 November - 2 December 2021

I. ABSTRACT

Title	<i>UNDP socio-economic impact assessments during COVID-19 outbreak</i>
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Topic	<i>Data collection on poverty during the pandemic</i>

15 countries/territory in Europe and CIS region conducted Socio-economic impact assessments (SEIA), thirteen of which embarked on primary data collection as evidence basis for SEIA, while two countries used secondary data. Context specific approaches have been applied in conducting SE assessments across the region, which resulted in set of different research methodologies used.

Primary data collected focused on economy, business, and wellbeing impact. The primary data collection usually included quantitative surveys – MSME survey and Household survey. The surveys in general met the criterion of randomness and representativeness. Nine countries conducted HH surveys and one country municipal survey.

Secondary data collection included high-frequency data, statistics, desk review. Adapted PDNA methodology was also used by some countries. Sensemaking through combing evidence was also employed during SEIA and included qualitative studies to support quantitative data or secondary data. Some countries were using Big Data to sense Covid19 context, i.e. Telecom, satellite data.

Emerging issues from SEIA assessments point to varying impacts on countries. While there are similarities in the types of impacts, the degrees of intensity were varying dependent on different vulnerabilities, e.g. economic structure, robustness of social protection systems, etc. Macro-economic vulnerabilities in countries are leading to micro-economic impacts at individual, household and SME level. On individual and household level, the SEIAs results indicate that development gains are unwinding. The assessments on household and individual levels point to the agency of poverty and rising inequality. On MSMEs level, operations and viability of MSMEs are being impacted in multiple ways. Results show that self-employed, micro and small enterprises seem most at risk. The results point to regional and rural-urban disparities, with informal business in service sectors in urban areas most affected. The emerging results from SEIAs also show that there is need to rethink social protection systems which cover the new classes of vulnerability (so-called the missing middle) comprised.

Doing primary data collection right was one of the main challenges early on in conducting SEIA in terms of research methodology, questionnaire design, sampling, targeting vulnerable groups, timing, fieldwork constraints.

Few best practices emerged from SEIA exercise, such as Digital SEIA, innovative Big Data use, combining thick data (micronarratives), use of high frequency data and other data collection methods for Covid19 sense making, UNDP capacity building on data product chain.

Few lessons learnt could be highlighted from regional SEIA exercise. Digital survey tools (KoBo) allow to speed up data collection and processing. The exercise shows that sampling and questionnaires could and should be standardized to extent possible to promote cross-country learning as well as improve regional comparability of data. SEIA work could benefit from constant refining of research hypotheses and making use of existing high-frequency data. In addition, collaboration for data use needs strengthening.

Resources:

<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	<u>COVID-19 and Central Asia: Socio-economic impacts and key policy considerations for recovery</u>
Armenia	<u>Socio-economic impact assessment of the COVID-19 outbreak in Armenian communities</u>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<u>Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in BiH</u>
Kosovo (as per UNSCR 1244)	<u>Rapid Socio-Economic impact assessment of COVID-19 in Kosovo</u>
Kyrgyz Republic	<u>COVID-19 in the Kyrgyz Republic: Socioeconomic and vulnerability impact assessment and policy response</u>
Republic of Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Social and economic impact assessment of COVID-19 in the Republic of Moldova (first assessment)</u> - <u>Social and economic impact assessment of COVID-19 in the Republic of Moldova (final assessment)</u>
Republic of North Macedonia	<u>Socio-Economic Assessment of COVID-19 in North Macedonia</u>
Serbia	<u>Socio-economic impact assessment</u>
Tajikistan	<u>Impact of COVID-19 on lives, livelihoods and Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Tajikistan</u>
Turkey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Survey on impact of COVID-19 on enterprises and needs</u> 2. <u>Survey on Impact of COVID-19 on enterprises</u>
Ukraine	<u>COVID-19 in Ukraine: Impact on households and businesses</u>
Uzbekistan	<u>UN consolidated multilateral COVID-19 socio-economic response & recovery</u>