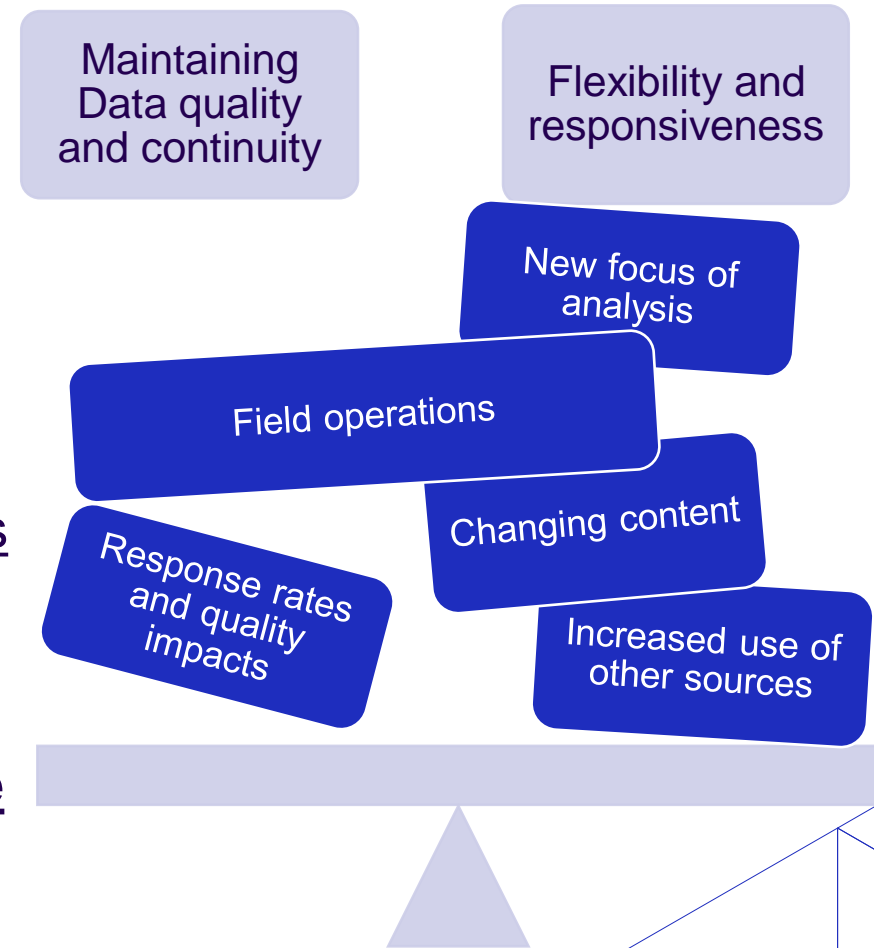


# COVID-19 – ILO Guidance for LFS and Labour Market Statistics



## Background

- ILO has published 4 complementary notes to date on COVID-19 impacts on labour market statistics
- Note 1: Overview of country challenges and responses
- Note 2: Guidance on essential labour force survey content and treatment of special groups
- **Note 3: Guidance on the different options available to countries to maintain their labour force survey data collection**
- Note 4: Guide on capturing impacts on employment and unpaid work using Rapid Surveys

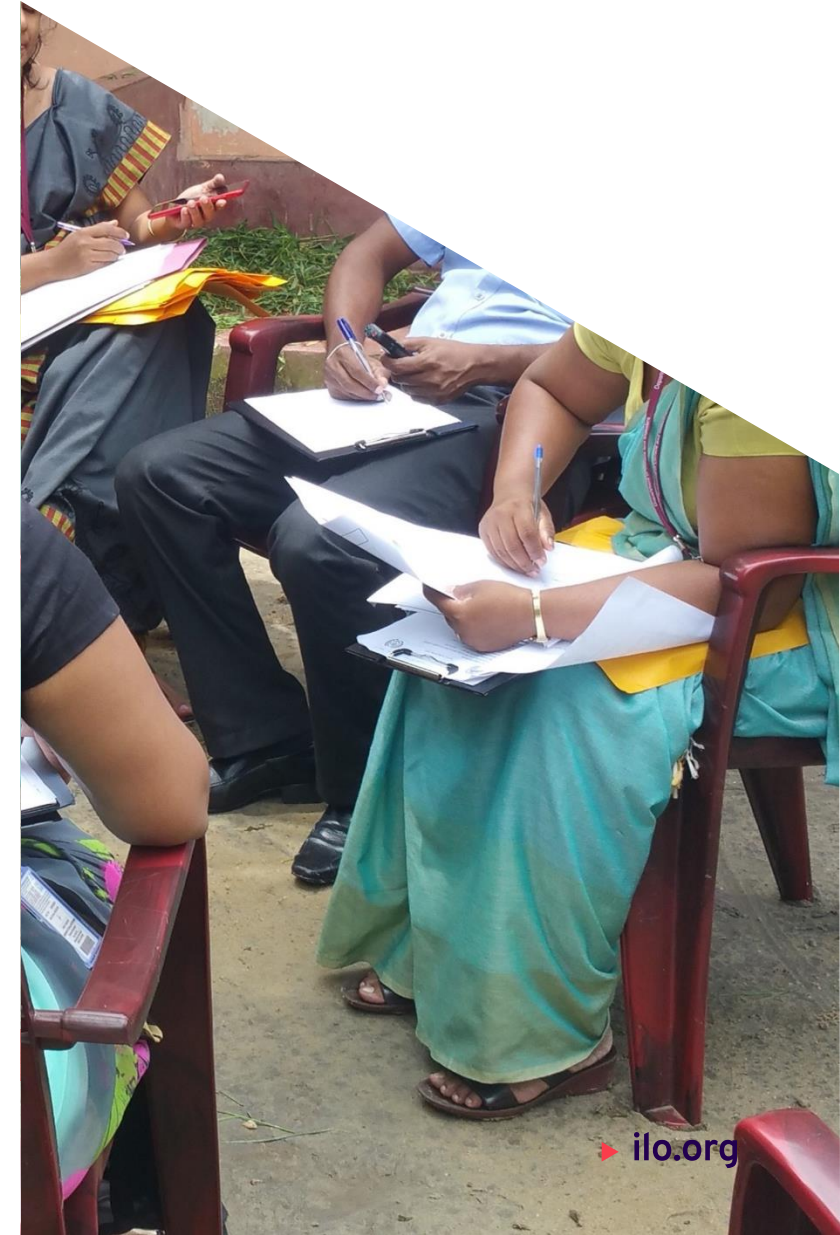


## ► Guidance on maintenance of LFS data collection

### Mode of data collection

Mode of data collection used largely determines impact of COVID-19 disruptions

- Face-to-face interviewing (PAPI and CAPI) suspended by most
  - 80% of respondents to an ILO survey in 2018 use these as main mode
- Those with regular collection generally trying to move collection to telephone interviewing (CATI or PAPI by telephone)
- Challenge depends on existing systems, infrastructure and availability of contact details (e.g. published telephone numbers)



# Scenario 1: Surveys planned to be fully carried out with face-to-face interviewing (PAPI, CAPI)

Problem

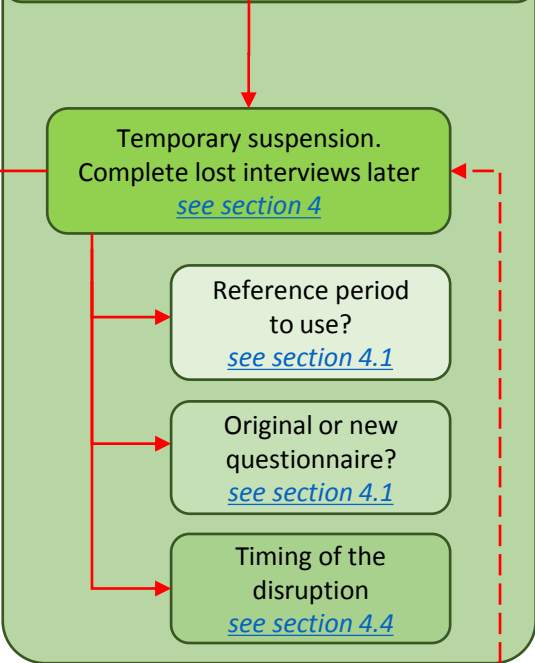
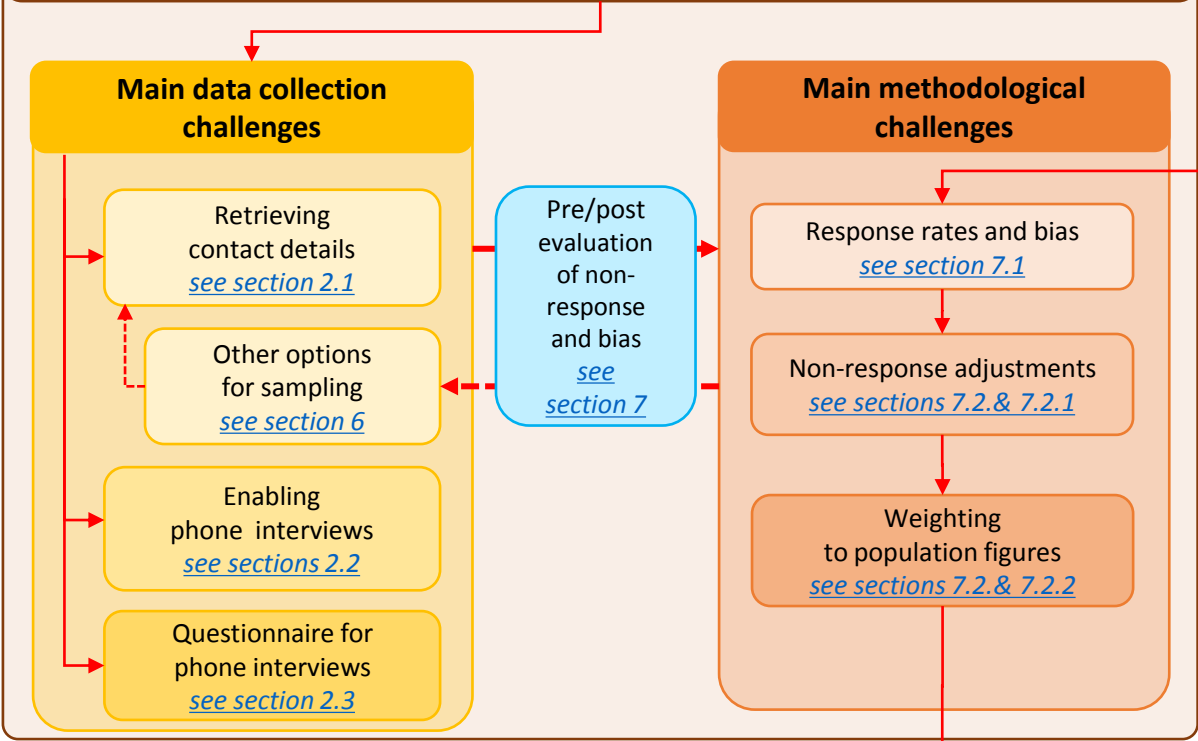
Face-to-face interviewing suspended

Possible solutions

Data collection could continue by moving to telephone based interviews

Survey cannot move to telephone interviewing

Challenges and options



Quality Assessment (see section 8)

If response rate too low and risk of important bias

Results

Dissemination

## Contact details and sample frame

Preferred to retain current sample design if possible

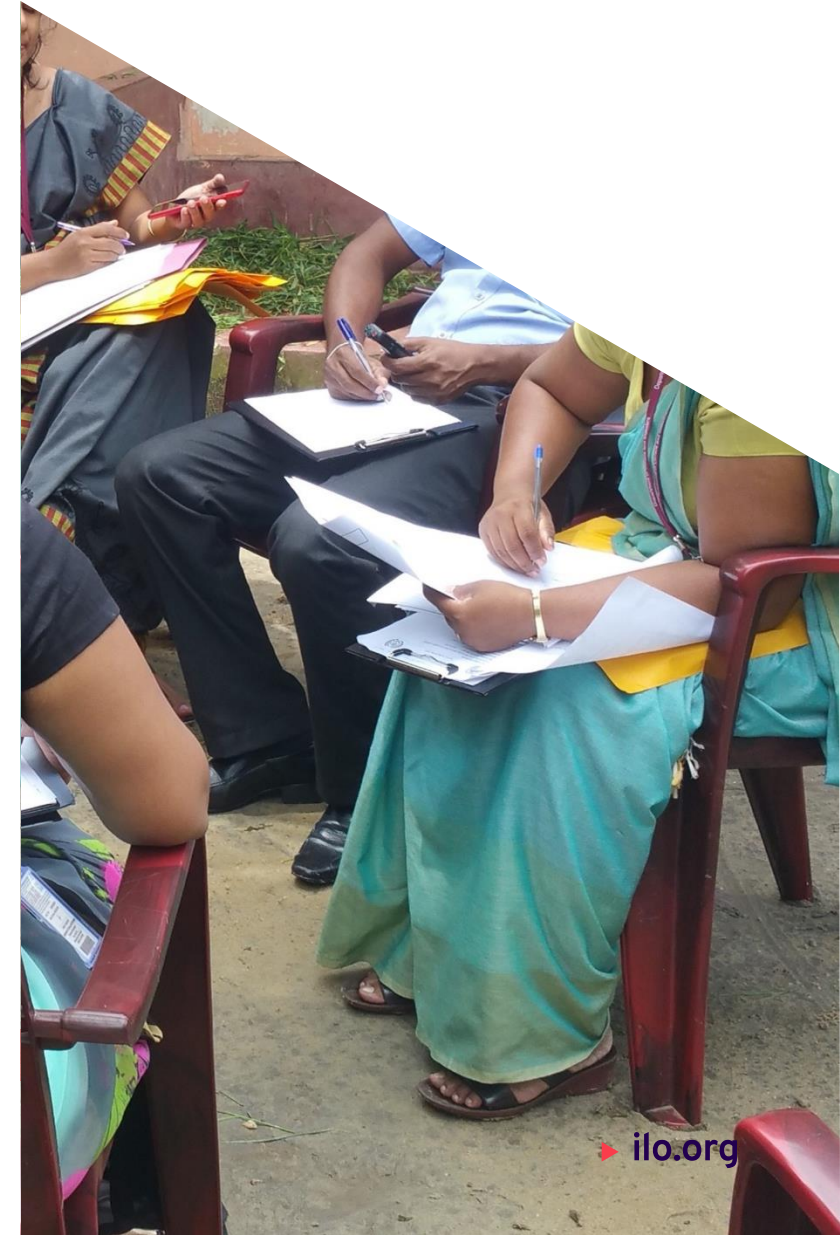
Many countries concerned with lack of contact details from respondents

- First challenge – assess possible coverage through different approaches
- Assess alternatives to attach contact details to the frame or selected sample
  - E.g. Introductory letters sent to respondent households, searches, merging sources, local contacts

Some countries are re-using old samples for which contact details are available

Alternative sampling frames are being considered by some

Regardless of option care needed to assess coverage and possible biases, breaks in series may arise



## Other challenges

Enabling phone interviews – maybe also CAWI, technology, processes, legal requirements

Reviewing questionnaire content – reduction for telephone interview but maintain priority items

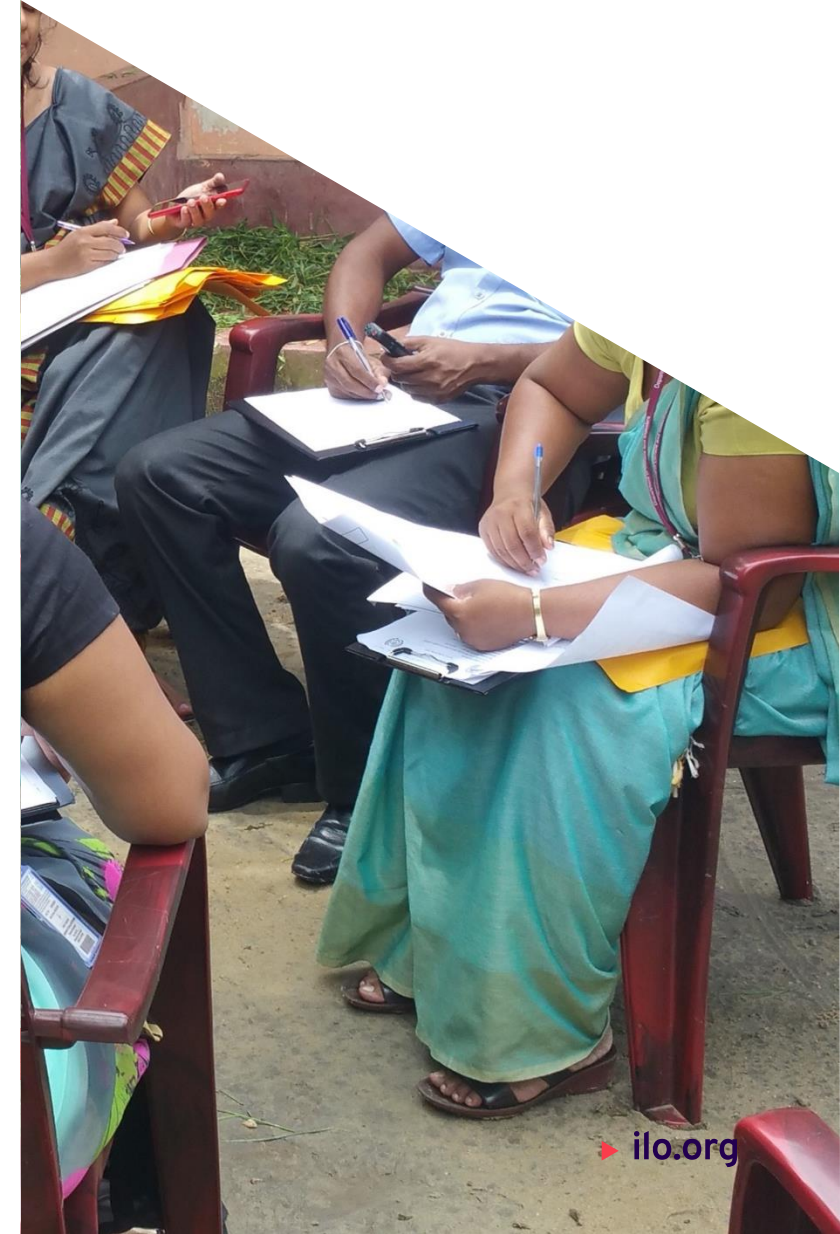
Maintaining response rates

Assessing biases

Reviewing weighting approaches and non-response adjustment

Selecting reference periods if collection is delayed

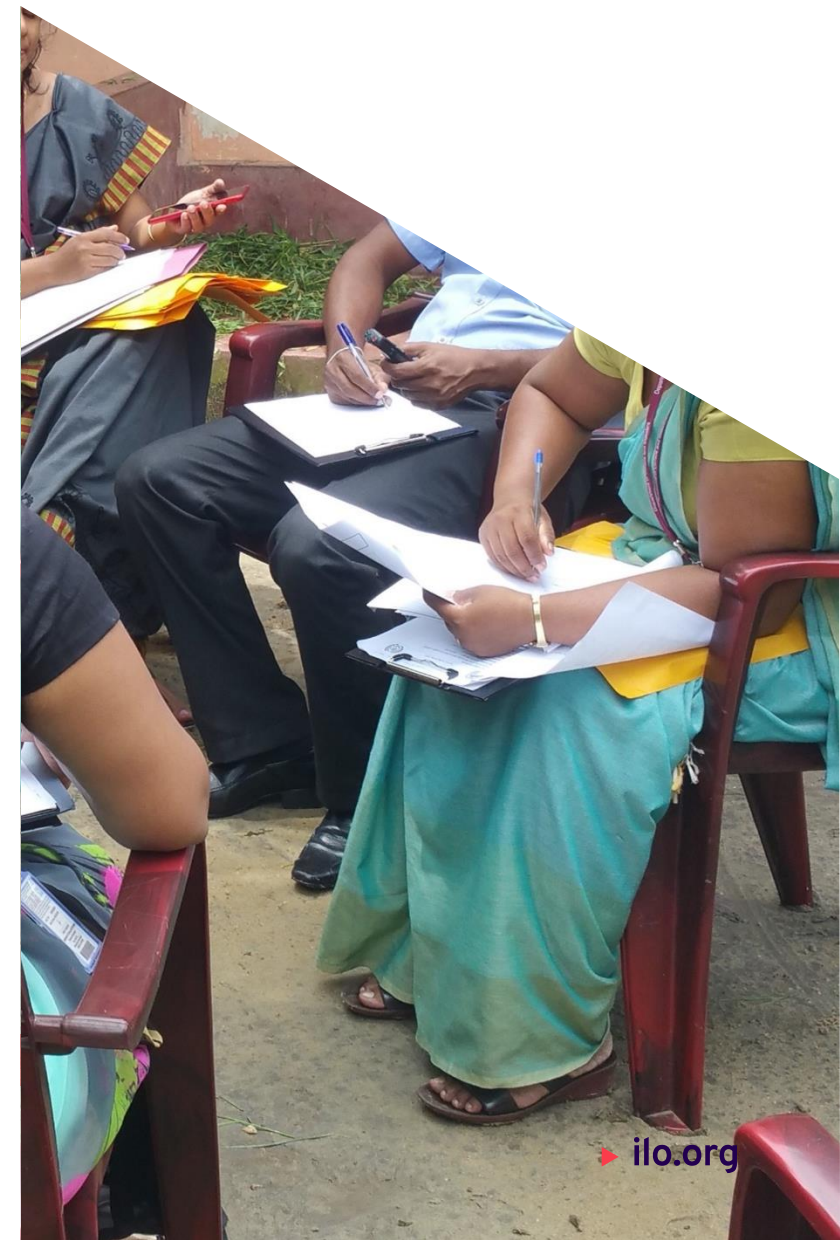
Assessing quality and deciding on dissemination strategy



## Range of challenges

### Other things to note

- ▶ National circumstances and infrastructure critical – challenge is slightly different for every country
- ▶ Some countries already entirely use CATI/CAWI – low impact
- ▶ Others partially use CAPI (e.g. for first interview) and then telephone interview – some impact (can be substantial)
- ▶ Others using PAPI or fully face-to-face CAPI – generally a major impact



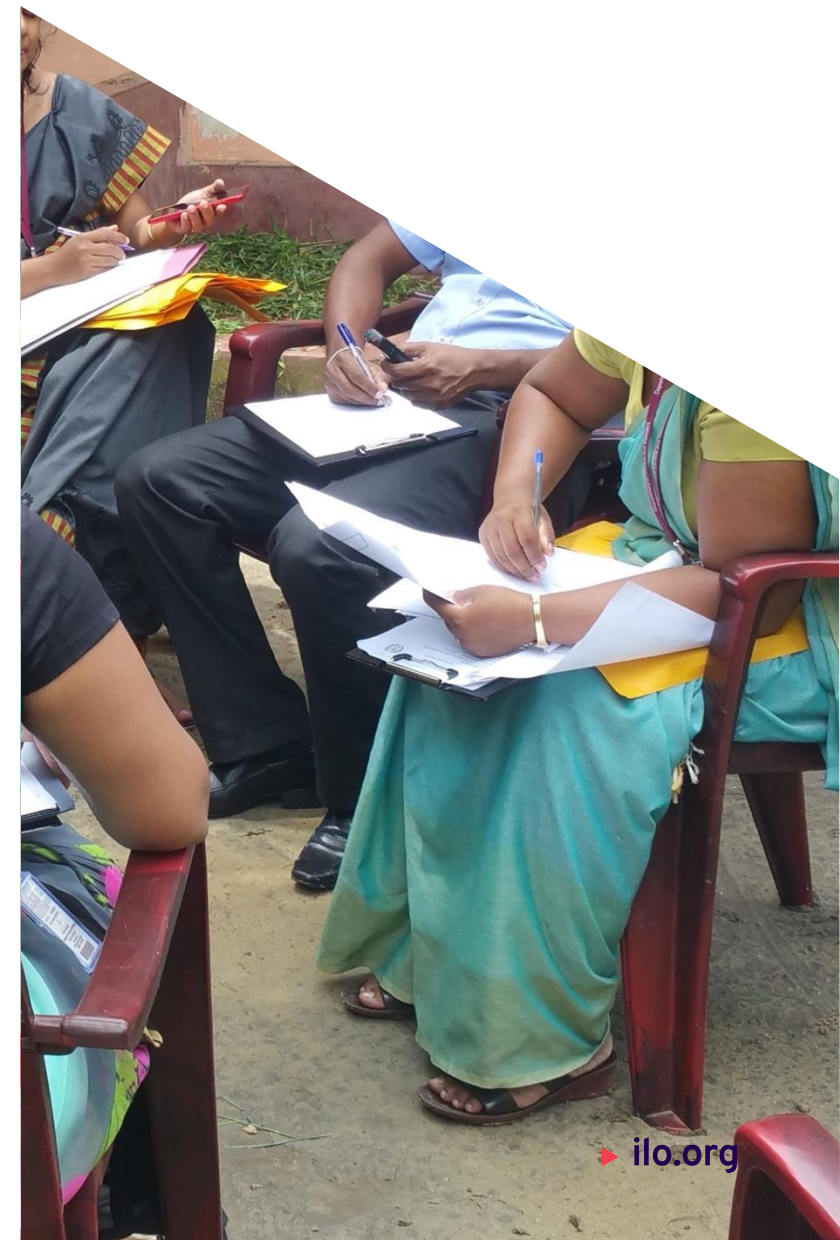
## Other issues to consider

### Note 2

- ▶ Need to carefully decide how to treat people on different types of absence depending on national circumstances
- ▶ E.g. ILO generally recommending to treat as employed if there is an expected return at the end of a lockdown or if some payment still received from the employer
- ▶ Use supplementary analysis to illustrate impacts (reasons for absence, working time etc.)

### Note 4

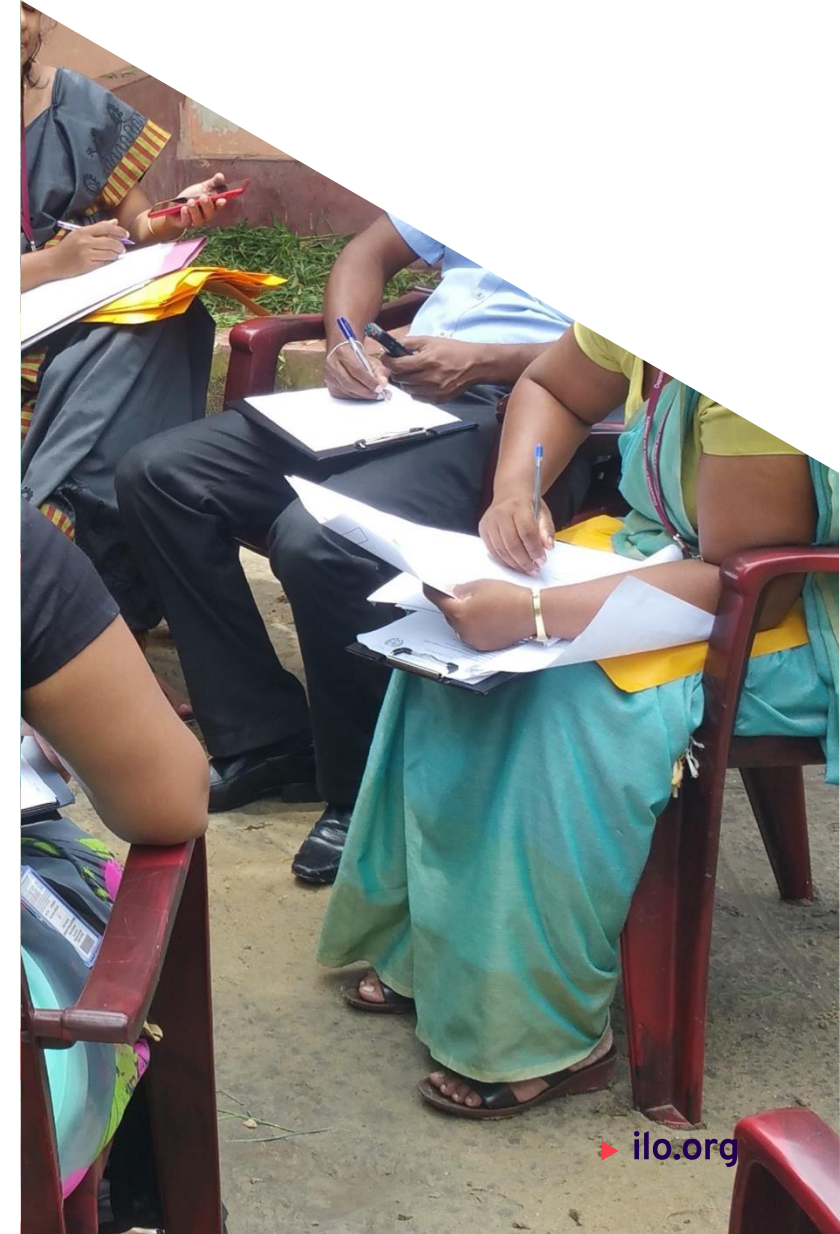
- ▶ Rapid surveys can be considered as a way to generate data on labour market impacts
- ▶ Potential useful source of information but not comparable to the LFS





## Summary messages

- ▶ Challenges are major – maintaining any continuity or flow of data will be an achievement
- ▶ Challenges vary substantially by country and the right solutions can only be identified through assessment of the national context
- ▶ Temporary disruption of publication may occur
- ▶ Flexible approaches needed to try and maintain data – e.g. use of admin data, old samples, rapid surveys etc.
- ▶ In all cases quality assessment and transparent publication approach required to keep users informed
- ▶ Consider lessons for the future



# THANK YOU

## LINKS

**Note 1:** <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/covid-19/covid-19-impact-on-labour-market-statistics/>

**Note 2:** [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms\\_741145.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms_741145.pdf)

**Note 3:** [https://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms\\_743156.pdf](https://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms_743156.pdf)

**Note 4:** [https://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms\\_745658.pdf](https://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms_745658.pdf)