



Intersectional Data on Unemployment & Poverty during COVID-19

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What is the data blind spot?

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased rates of unemployment and poverty. However, who those people are that lost their jobs and livelihoods often remains unclear. Therefore, the data blind spot around unemployment and poverty is that not every collective has been affected in the same way and the information available is not equal for each of them. While on the one hand the COVID-19 pandemic has led to people feeling a rarely seen sense of cohesion, helpfulness and charity, on the other hand it has revealed several issues. People are much more sceptical about information, statistics and recommendations from trusted sources than they were before the pandemic, but at the same time they are much more indifferent when it comes to accepting them or gathering information on their own. People will accept 140,000 Jobs have been lost in the US, because obviously COVID-19 happened and everyone had to stay home. However, people will not further ask what exactly happened. [That would reveal, that all of these 140k jobs were lost by women, in December. Additionally, men even gained 16k jobs.](#) And while all those jobs were lost, no one lost a word about these now jobless women's age, whether they would deal with any disabilities or their ethnicity. All three of those (age, ability, ethnicity) are in turn enormously important factors when it comes to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for example SDG 8, 9, 10, 11.

Why should we fill the data blind spot?

The data is the first step for any decision-making process. Data is the baseline and without it we cannot proceed beyond the point of uncertainty. Only with the full breadth of knowledge are decision-makers able to develop a full-scale response in order to fulfil goals. As with COVID-19 in general, policy makers are highly dependent on real-time updates on the situation in their country/jurisdiction. As the [COVID-19 Population Vulnerability Dashboard](#) shows, the situation is monitored in every country, but not with the same precision, since some information is missing in some countries. The same issue can be found with data related to unemployment. Not only do policy-makers need to understand why people lose their jobs, but who exactly those people are. In the long run it will not be enough to accept that people lost their jobs due to lockdowns, isolations or missing customers, because these people will demand new jobs post-COVID. Rightfully so, as defined in SDG No. 8, it is everyone's right to have a decent job.

How should we fill the data blind spot?

Countries should agree on the critical areas to analyse. To collect all the data there should be easy to implement methods. There should be a kind of scale where local organisations inform the next organisation in the chain. There should be standard and periodical report where each country should send the information in the same format to make is easier to analyse. There should be a promotion of Citizen-generated data to increase the data available. This proposal is not new because is already included in the [Inclusive Data Charter](#) project. To support all the projects economically in the long term, it should be financed through taxes.