



Latin America and the Caribbean Snapshot: Stakeholder engagement around the SDGs during the COVID-19 pandemic

Executive Summary

This paper presents some key findings from a **survey** addressing the current and future impacts of COVID-19 on stakeholder engagement and partnerships for implementation, follow up and review of the SDGs. The main report - which assesses data at a global level - is available [here](#) and an Executive Summary highlighting key themes and findings can be found [here](#).

This additional data summary presents a snapshot of approximately **95 stakeholders from Latin America and the Caribbean who responded to the survey, providing insights from across the region on four key findings in the report**. The largest single group of respondents to the survey were from civil society organisations and NGOs but a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, national, regional and local governments also responded.

The survey was commissioned by UN DESA and supported through a grant from the European Commission. This regional summary for Latin America and the Caribbean has been developed in **partnership between UN DESA and a research team from Newcastle University in the UK, with financial support from the University**.

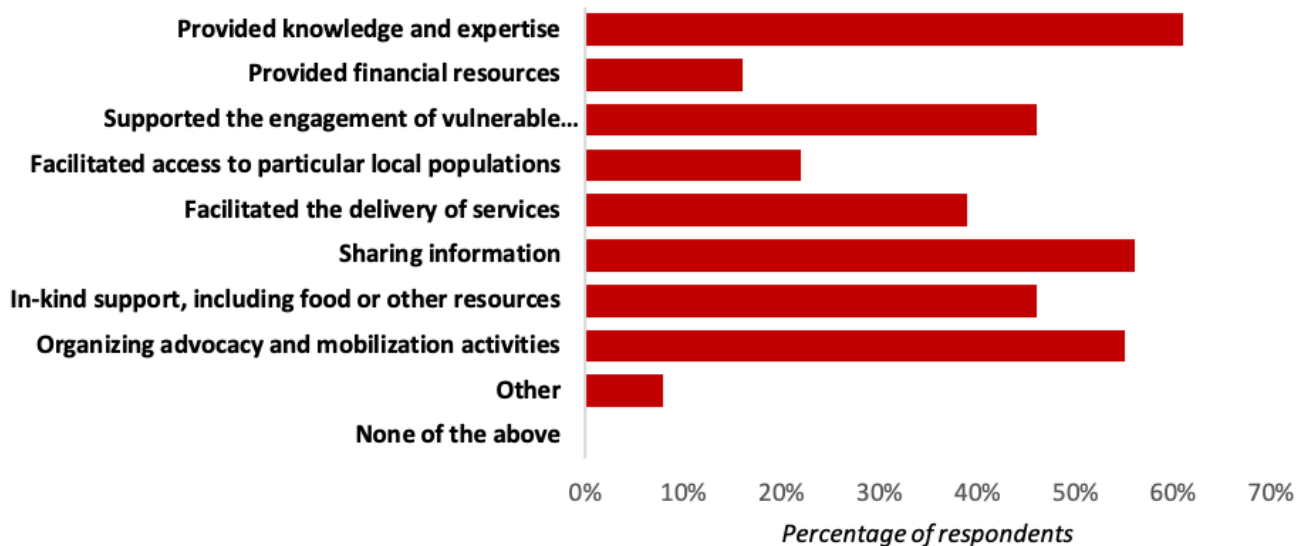
Key Messages

(1) Stakeholders are making important and diverse contributions, and creating new partnerships, to advance the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the pandemic.

As Figure 1 below shows, the most common contributions of stakeholder respondents were in providing knowledge and expertise (**61% of 93 respondents**), closely followed by sharing information (**56%**) and organizing advocacy and mobilization activities (**55%**). Stakeholder respondents also perceive a key role as supporting the engagement of vulnerable and marginalised groups and providing in-kind support (**both 46% of respondents**).

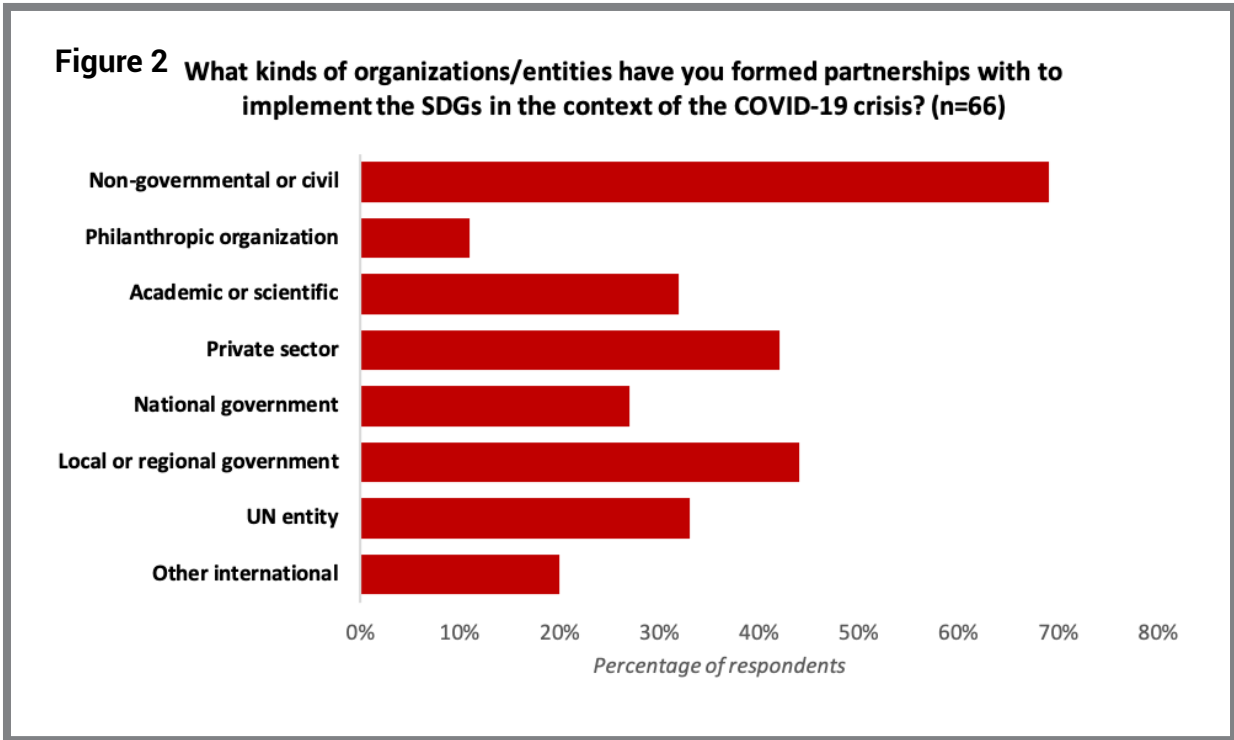
Figure 1

What kinds of contributions has your organization made to implementing the SDGs in the context of the COVID-19 crisis? (n=93)



Stakeholders were also asked who they have partnered with in implementation of the SDGs during the pandemic. Figure 2 below demonstrates that NGOs and civil society organisations are identified as key partners by most respondents (**69% of 66 respondents**). Both private

sector organisations and local/regional governments are also perceived as significant partners (**42% and 44%**). The range of partners identified (all more than **20%** except philanthropic organizations) demonstrates that all sectors are engaged (to an extent) in partnerships for implementation of the SDGs.



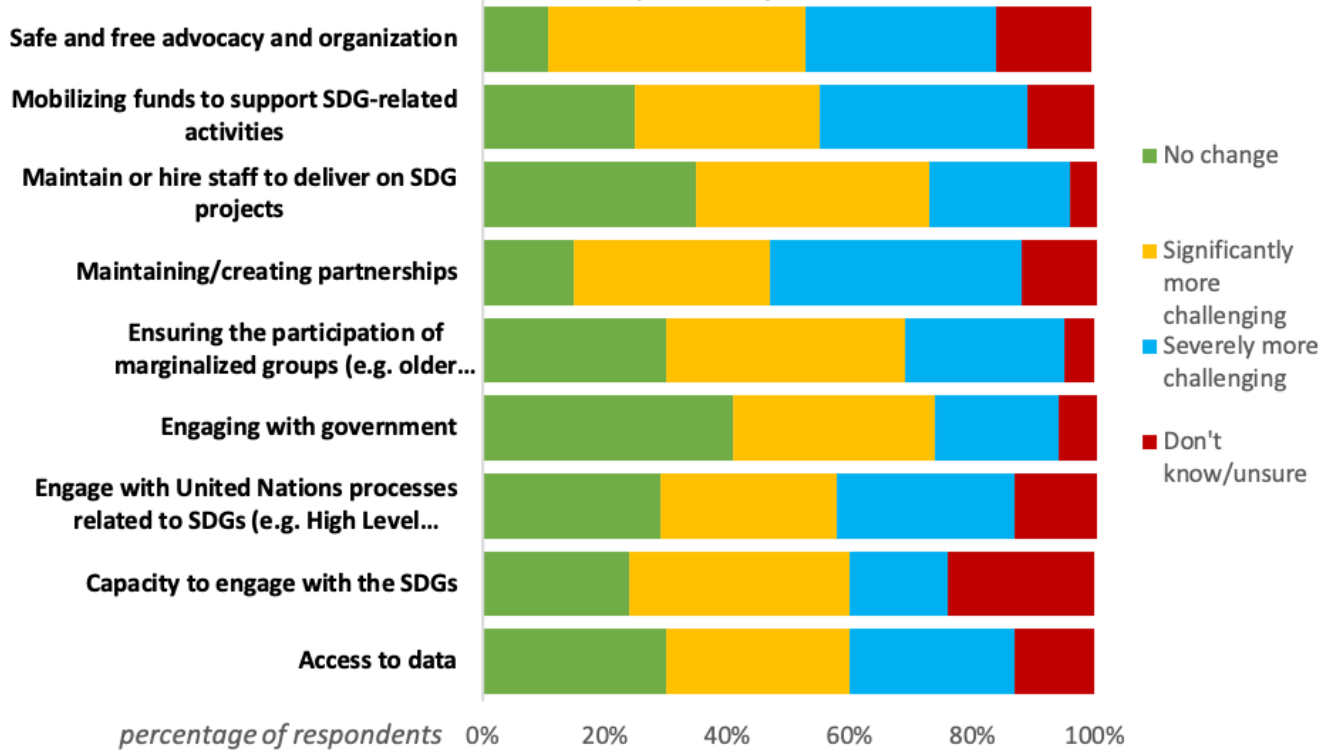
(2) COVID-19 has posed severe challenges for stakeholder organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Figure 3, below, shows that stakeholders identified maintaining and creating partnerships to be the most severe challenge in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (**41% of respondents identified this as 'severely more challenging'**), alongside mobilizing funds and conducting safe and free advocacy and organisation (**34% and 31% 'severe'**).

Overall, stakeholders responded that they had found all challenges to have increased in severity in the context of the pandemic (**all categories received a 'significantly more challenging' and 'severely more challenging' combined response of between 52-73%**). As with the results at the global level, these challenges threaten to undermine the capacity of stakeholder to make the important contributions identified above.

Figure 3

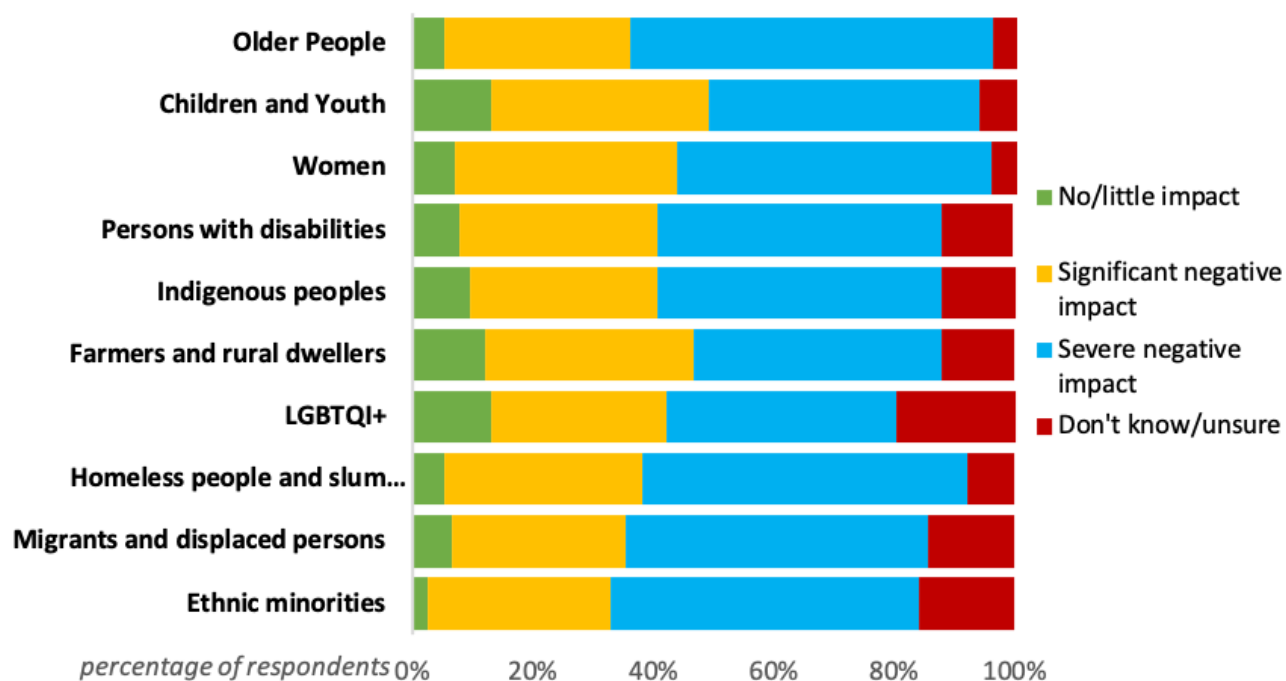
To what extent have the following issues become more challenging for your organization's activities around the SDGs in the context of COVID-19? (n=79-83)



(3) COVID-19 threatens progress on SDGs for vulnerable and marginalised groups across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Figure 4 presents stakeholder perceptions of the impact of COVID-19 on progress towards the SDGs for vulnerable and marginalised groups. Stakeholders identified older people (57% of 75 respondents), women (54%), and homeless people and slum dwellers (52%) to be those most 'severely affected'. However, all groups were perceived to face 'significant' and 'severe' impacts: for each group, at least 65% of respondents saw a significant or severe impact.

Figure 4 In your experience, to what extent has COVID-19 impacted on progress towards the SDGs for the following marginalized and/or vulnerable segments of society? n=73-76



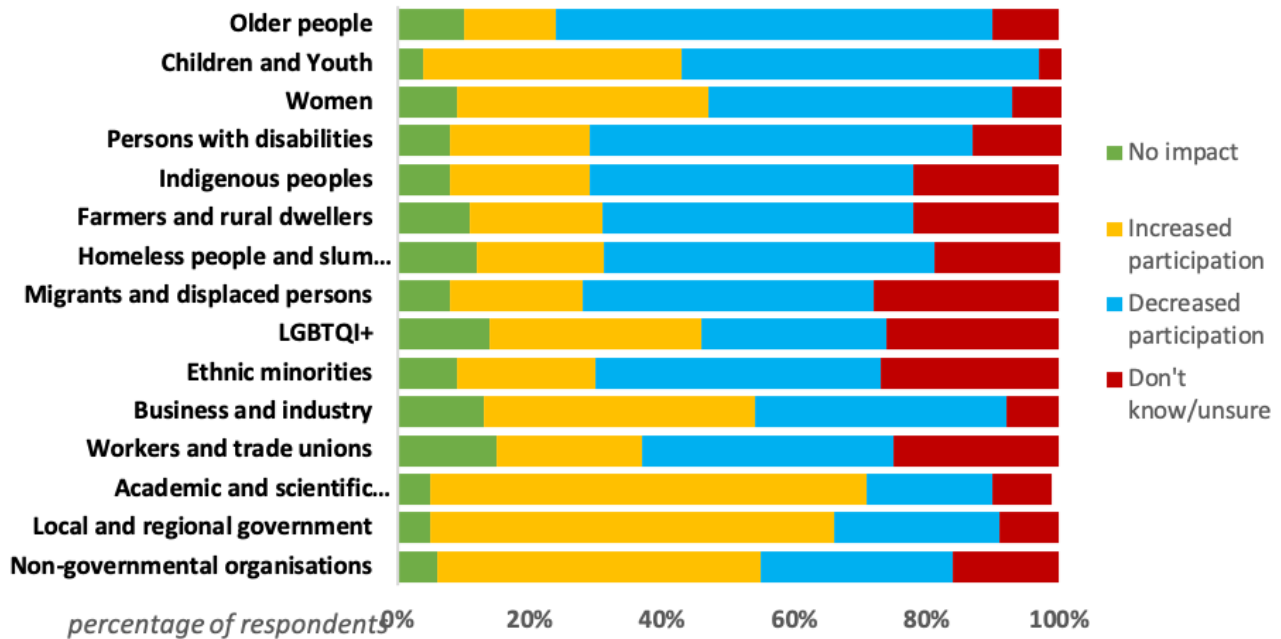
(4) Vulnerable and marginalised groups across Latin America and the Caribbean risk being 'left behind' by efforts at engagement in the context of COVID-19.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, stakeholders perceive participation among vulnerable/marginalised groups to have decreased, as shown in figure 5 below. Older people (66% of responses perceiving 'decreased participation'), persons with disabilities (58%), and children and youth (54%) are regarded as most affected. Only LGBTQI+ groups were perceived by respondents to have increased participation on balance (32% 'increased' and 28% 'decreased'). Thus, despite changes in engagement practices in response to the pandemic, or perhaps because of these changes, the ability of already marginalised groups to participate has been impacted.

(4) Vulnerable and marginalised groups across Latin America and the Caribbean risk being 'left behind' by efforts at engagement in the context of COVID-19.

In terms of organisations, stakeholders noted increased participation of NGOs (49%), local and national governments (61%) and academic and scientific institutions (66%). As found in the global results, the move to remote and online working practices has had a positive impact on the engagement of certain groups. However, workers and trade unions and businesses were seen to have decreased participation (both 38%) in SDG implementation and review. Therefore, while the COVID-19 pandemic has had a mixed impact on organisations, all disadvantaged groups have been identified as negatively affected.

Figure 5 In your experience, how has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the participation of the following groups in SDG implementation and review? (n=77-80)



That some groups are perceived as 'left behind' in both progress and participation reinforces the need for meaningful and inclusive approaches to stakeholder engagement. However, Latin American and Caribbean countries' efforts at the most meaningful and inclusive kinds of engagement are perceived as most under threat from the effects of the pandemic – reflecting a similar pattern at global level. The answers to other questions asked in the survey (addressing 18 practices of engagement around implementation and review) provide evidence for this.

In general, stakeholders see the greatest current and potential impacts of COVID-19 as falling on efforts at inclusivity – for example, making resources available to overcome barriers to participation in review (**84% of 90 respondents perceiving 'severe' or 'significant' impacts here**); including 'left behind groups' in review processes (**81% of respondents**) - and on especially meaningful engagement, such as the inclusion of stakeholders in policymaking processes (**82% of respondents**).