

ECORYS



90
Years

Answering
tomorrow's
challenges
today



Our Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 global pandemic has triggered a public health emergency and economic crisis worldwide. Ecorys' work within the Social Policy sector is proving more relevant than ever and we have full capabilities to support our clients during this pandemic and beyond.

To underpin policy responses to COVID-19, there is an urgent need for rapid support, research and evaluation for governments and donors to make evidence-based decisions, to measure the impact of COVID-19 programming and adapt to changing circumstances.

Ecorys' Policy and Research team are adapting existing evaluation and research designs, and proposing alternative methods and approaches, to operate under the 'new normal' of remote working. As well as adapting existing research, we are directly exploring the effects of the pandemic through new research, evaluation and consultancy projects.

Our teams continue to work across multiple offices, in the UK and Brussels, interacting remotely using the Ecorys cloud infrastructure. Our teams have access to a range of online applications to hold virtual meetings, including Webex, Microsoft Teams, GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar. For online qualitative data collection we are using cutting edge digital participatory and ethnographic methods, including online focus groups software.

Ecorys also has access to a network of global partners, who we can work with locally while adhering to national and local travel restrictions. We have been working closely with clients and networks in the UK, across Europe and globally to adapt, support and approach these unprecedented times together.

ECORYS

Who we are

Ecorys is a leading research, consultancy communications and programme management services company with 90 years' experience and over 600 staff.

We aim to make a positive impact on society by tackling the issues that affect communities around the world, working at all stages of the policy cycle.

Where we work

Our network extends to 12 country offices, with over 600 employees from over 40 nationalities, speaking over 30 different languages. We have worked in over 150 countries and worked on over 5,000 contracts.

Our thematic expertise

Our Social Policy portfolio spans the following areas:

- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Health and healthcare
- Education
- Poverty, debt and financial inclusion
- Employment and labour markets
- Children, young people and families
- Sport, culture and heritage

Our Policy & Research team has an in-house survey unit offering full service data collection services. We collaborate across the business with our International Development Unit, Communications & Digital and Programme Management teams.

We enjoy working in partnership and have a vast network of internal expertise, augmented by a global network of carefully selected partners and associate specialists.

Contact us

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Young People

Ecorys has received **Nuffield Foundation** funding for a comparative study of **young people's experiences growing-up under COVID-19**. Over 18 months, we are training and supporting young people as co-researchers in **Singapore, Lebanon, Italy and the UK**, to assess the implications of the crisis for their education, wellbeing, civic participation and access to services. Our methods include **digital and participatory methods** to assess the **social impacts** of COVID-19, including Yammer and Visions Live. The research will inform the development of tools for public authorities, professionals, and NGOs to safeguard children's rights during the crisis. Read first report ['To lockdown and back'](#) here, alongside [action research outputs](#) from the young people involved.

Vulnerable People

Ecorys is conducting a study for DG Employment of the **European Commission** on the use of **electronic vouchers in supporting Europe's most vulnerable**. The vouchers have become particularly relevant in the context of COVID-19, with increasing numbers of vulnerable people being affected. The study has adapted to reflect this evolving reality and **support policy-makers** in ensuring their support reaches the most in need. For more information, please see a recent press release [available online](#).

Conflict

For our evaluation of the **African Union Support Programme**, Ecorys is **collaborating with key implementing partners** at the World Bank, UNITAR and UN OHCHR. Together we are assessing how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting early **warning and conflict prevention mechanisms** across the continent, and how work delivering under the support programme can adapt.

COVID-19 Effects on Global Health

Upon completing a review of the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) **nutrition portfolio** and strategy, ICAI has commissioned a **blog article**. This explores the **longer-term impact of COVID-19 on nutrition and food security** and the experience of Zambia. To read about how the FCDO (formerly DFID) are adapting its programming, the review is [available online now](#).

In response to delays and lack of access to data for the **Third-Party Monitoring (TPM)** of the Sustainable Control and **Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ASCEND)**, Ecorys has shifted deliverables. We have adapted our **systems assessment tool**, adding a **light touch COVID-19 verification component** to capture learning.

The Policy & Research team, in partnership with the International Development Unit, are currently conducting the **Development Evaluation, Learning and Verification (DELVe)** of the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) portfolio work in Nigeria. As part of their work on two **eight-year programmes in education and health**, and a programme to support malaria **prevention and treatment**, Ecorys are conducting research into the **effects of COVID-19 on programming and communities in Nigeria**.

We completed a review into the **impact of COVID-19 on dental professionals** and draw out implications for the future for the General Dental Council (GDC). The study included a survey distributed to over **100,000 dental professionals**, supplemented with a series of online focus groups. The rapid delivery of this project concluded within the 11-week timeframe and with the [final report here](#).

Education & Sport

We provided additional learning for DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the **European Commission** linked to a wider project in which Ecorys are managing a network of 27 EU level experts. Together we prepared **assessment reports of the impact of COVID-19 on education systems** in each EU member state, including learning, challenges and best practice examples.

Ecorys's Policy & Research team, along with SportEconAustria (SpEA), undertook research for the European Commission's DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture on the **economic impact of COVID-19 on the sport sector**, reviewing relevant measures and initiatives being implemented across EU Member States. This involved two separate surveys, desk research and key stakeholder interviews. More detail on this work and the full report are [available online](#).



Impact Bonds

Adaptation has taken place for both our work in **South America** with the Inter-American Development Bank on **Social Impact Bonds (SIBs)** and in **India** with FCDO on three existing **Development Impact Bonds (DIBs)** projects. Due to COVID-19 **all fieldwork has switched to online and remote**. For our DIBs project, work will be delivered on the **impact of COVID-19 on the delivery** of the impact bonds, and used to publish topical briefs. The report on SIBs in Latin America is now [available here](#).

Engineering in Sub-Saharan Africa

Our three-year research project building evidence on **professional engineering institutions (PEI)** promoting the engineering profession in **Sub-Saharan Africa** and in turn sustainable growth, has been extended to include a **COVID-19 expansion project**. Building on existing networks and connections to the Federation of African Engineering Organisations, researchers have undertaken a **rapid snapshot** of PEI's contribution to tackling COVID-19 in ten countries. The final report discussed themes such as the differentiated impact across engineering sectors and on different demographic groups, including **women in engineering** and the additional care burden they face. The report then explores how the industry is responding to the crisis and the outlook for the future.

In the **Western Balkans**, Ecorys is assisting the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) Conflict, Security & Stability Fund (CSSF) to map and monitor the crisis. Ecorys is providing **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) support** to British Embassies in the Western Balkans region to revise their tools to account for and respond to COVID-19, including likely differential effects due to **gender, ethnicity, and disability**.

In **Ethiopia**, Ecorys is assessing the impact of the pandemic, with an emphasis on **women and children**. In partnership with OGRsearch, our work includes identifying **vulnerable population groups**, proposing **policy recommendations** and **mapping opportunities for UNICEF** to engage with citizens and decision-makers.

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