Adapting Household Survey Data Collection in Challenging Situations

(Module effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic into Official Statistics)

The Philippine Experience

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Outline of the Presentation

- Background
- Specific Activities under the COVID-19 lockdown
- The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19
- New answer category related to COVID-19
- Way Forward
Background

Authority of the Survey

The authority and mandate of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to the Labor Force Survey emanates from Republic Act (RA) No. 10625.

PSA is primarily responsible for all national censuses and surveys, sectoral statistics, consolidation of selected administrative recording systems and compilation of national accounts.

*Article 5, Rule 4 of the Republic Act 10625*  
*(Philippine Statistical Act of 2013)*
The IATF placed the entirety of the biggest island group, out of the three major islands in the Philippines, under very strict restrictions in movement of people except for necessity, work and health circumstances.

The PSA has requested for exemption from the strict restrictions.......
Specific Activities under COVID-19 Lockdown

- Provided estimates to the Office of the President and to the Senate Oversight Committee on the number of families that should be given social amelioration. The estimates considered inclusion of the “middle class” in the 6th and 7th income decile.

- Submitted of listing of businesses engaged in the production of medical supplies and equipment, including but not limited to personal protective equipment (PPE) and mechanical ventilators;

- PSA NSCRG participated at the Board Meeting of the PARIS21 and is one of the panelists in a webinar on the SDGs organized by PARIS21.
Specific Activities under COVID-19 Lockdown

- inclusion of the Rapid Assessment Questionnaires (consumers and business) into PSA regular surveys (LFS, Agri, and QSPBI);
- coordination with the Dept Of Affairs - Office of Migrant Workers Affairs to assist OFWs with problems on civil registration documents during the Luzon strict restrictions;
- entered into data sharing agreements with academic institutions (UP, Ateneo, DLSU, AIM), Asian Development Bank, Senate Oversight Committee, Department of Finance for access of survey data sets of the PSA (other researchers may access the data sets).
The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

The LFS:

- is a nationwide quarterly survey of households;
- gathers data on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population; and
- aims to provide a quantitative framework for the preparation of plans and formulation of policies affecting the labor market.
The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

Changes in the survey protocol for the LFS were implemented for the first time using hybrid platforms in keeping with the government’s policy to maintain social distancing.

- Conduct of Trainings was done through virtual meetings and face-to-face (F-to-F) trainings:
  1\textsuperscript{st} Level /National (TASK Force Training) – virtual (Regional Trainers)
  2\textsuperscript{nd} Level (Regional Level Training) – virtual & F-to-F (Provincial trainers)
  3\textsuperscript{rd} Level (Provincial Level Training) – F-to-F (data collectors)
The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

• Conduct of data collection was a combination:
  1) face to face interview (FTF-in);
  2) telephone interview (Tel-in);
  3) Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI);
  4) downloadable excel-based questionnaire

These approaches are options to choose from, whichever is feasible and according to the respondent’s choice.

• The LFS included a rider on Consumer and Business Rapid Assessment Questionnaire for the Nat’l Economic
The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

• Closer monitoring of data collection was implemented for the first time on a weekly basis. The ever reliable face to face interview registered 84% completion, telephone interview registered 5.2% and the CAWI registered merely 0.04%. But we are happy to have the CAWI tried for the LFS.
The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

Monitoring of data collection by approach of data collection:

April 2020 Labor Force Survey
Status Report on Enumeration
as of 11 MAY 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RO/Prov/City/ Mun</th>
<th>Workload Number</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Complet ed</th>
<th>Refusal</th>
<th>Entire HH Absent for Extende d Period of Time</th>
<th>Vacant Housing Unit</th>
<th>Housing Unit Destroyed / Demolish ed</th>
<th>Address Not a Housing Unit</th>
<th>Housing Unit Not Found</th>
<th>Critical or Flooded Area</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>CAWI (OnlineQ )</th>
<th>Tel-in</th>
<th>UPLOADED (CO downloaded from server as of 08 May)</th>
<th>UPLOADED (FO reports as of 08 May)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>43,995</td>
<td>44,017</td>
<td>100.1</td>
<td>36,989</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>1,061</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>2,277</td>
<td>30,227</td>
<td>10,958</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSSO NCR</td>
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<td>6,633</td>
<td>105.9</td>
<td>5,907</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>59</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>3,318</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>2,521</td>
<td>2,337</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>2,096</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REGION I</td>
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<td>109.4</td>
<td>1,125</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>1,722</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In April 2020, response rate was 98 percent.
Core to our work is to ensure that the data we produce are unbiased such that it can be used to make inferences about the general population.
(1) If it was possible to do the face to face interview (FTF-in), the interviewer must use the following digital tool:

(a) Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) for the LFS
The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

(2) If the approach was to have a telephone interview (Tel-in), the interviewer must use any of the following digital tools:

(a) the CAPI, or
(b) CAWI - the Online Questionnaire (OnlineQ) which will be accessed electronically with a code/link to be provided; or,
(c) the LFS E-Questionnaire (Excel format), which can be accessed through email.

Note: The interviewer/statistical researcher need to get the contacts (telephone numbers, emails, and/or social media accounts of the sample household respondents (SHR) through quick visits to the SHR.
(3) If it was **NOT possible** to do the **FTF-in** and **Tel-in**, the **CAWI** will have to be implemented.
One of the interests of policy makers and legislators is on the impact of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) due to COVID-19 on employment/unemployment.

How many became unemployed due to the ECQ?

In the LFS Questionnaire:

- **Column 11.** Did ___ do any work for at least one hour, including work from home or telecommuting, during the past week?
- **Column 12.** Although ___did not work, did ___ have a job or business during the past week?

If the response in **Column 11** is 2-NO but the response in **Column 12** is 1-YES, … In **Column 29**, “ECQ/lockdown/Covid-19 pandemic” was added among the reasons for working less than 40 hours (Code 32) …and for worked more than 48 hours (Code 15)
NEW answer CATEGORY Re: COVID-19

- One of the interests of policymakers and legislators is on the impact of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) due to COVID-19 on employment/unemployment.

How many became unemployed due to the COVID-19 ECQ?

In the LFS Questionnaire:

**Column 11.** Did ___ do any work for at least one hour, including work from home or telecommuting during the past week?

**Column 12.** Although ___ did not work, did ___ have a job or business during the past week?

**If the responses to both questions is 2-NO, … proceed to Column 30 and if the response is 2-NO, then proceed next to Column 34, where “ECQ/lockdown/Covid-19 pandemic” WAS added AMONG THE REASONS FOR not LOOKING FOR WORK** (Code 0).
Way Forward

- Measuring the gig economy has started with the collection of grab drivers. We are quickly studying the gig economy statistical framework so that we can measure this soonest.

- MONHTLY LFS starting February 2021 to have higher frequency labor and employment statistics due the COVID-19
Thank you!