Planning the 2020 CPH During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Approaches

Minerva Eloisa P. Esquivias
OIC – Deputy National Statistician
Censuses and Technical Coordination Office
Philippine Statistics Authority

Asia Pacific Stat Café Series
29 June 2020, 10:00 am
OUTLINE

I. Introduction
II. Impact of the COVID-19 on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) Field Operations
III. Mitigating Measures
IV. Concluding Statements
I. INTRODUCTION

- May 2020
- Majority PAPI and SAQ using GIS-based printed maps
- Two provinces will use the CAPI
- CAWI for targeted respondents
I. INTRODUCTION

Public School teachers with augmentation of hired census workers will act as Enumerators, Team Supervisors and Census Area Supervisors.
I. INTRODUCTION

- Procurement of supplies, materials and other requirements began in 2019
- Recruitment and hiring of temporary office census workers started in February 2020 for only a few provinces
- PSA has conducted its First Level Training on 8-12 March 2020 prior to lockdown
I. INTRODUCTION

• 8 March 2020 – declaration of a state of public health emergency throughout the country

• 16 March 2020 – entire Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) effective 17 March to 15 April.

• 7 April 2020 – extended ECQ until 30 April 2020

• 1 May 2020 to present – ECQ and General Community Quarantine (GCQ)
I. INTRODUCTION

• On 20 March 2020, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) issued an Advisory delaying the conduct of the Census in the light of the Covid-19 outbreak and to support government efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

• Huge impact on the timetable of activities
II. IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 ON THE CPH FIELD OPERATIONS

- Procurement was heavily affected
- Recruitment and hiring of census workers was suspended
- Series of training for census fieldworkers was postponed
- Data collection need to be rescheduled
II. IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 ON THE CPH FIELD OPERATIONS

- Printing of CPH forms and manuals and its delivery to the field offices are affected by the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).
  - printing and delivery of questionnaires and manuals stopped
II. IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 ON THE CPH FIELD OPERATIONS

- While most field offices reported completion of procurement of supplies and other essential materials for the census, delivery of such materials are affected.

- Most suppliers could no longer meet the delivery date requirements due to the lockdown.
II. IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 ON THE CPH FIELD OPERATIONS

- Public school teachers from the Department of Education (DepED) are no longer available to serve as census enumerators beyond June 15.

- Classrooms to be used as training centers are no longer available when schools open.

- Thus, PSA needs to recruit and hiring more than 100,000 census field workers.
II. IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 ON THE CPH FIELD OPERATIONS

• Fear of Covid-19 will affect the conduct of the face to face data collection
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• Coordination at the local and national levels

  • Inter-Agency Committee on Population and Housing Statistics
  • Regional and provincial offices of PSA
  • Local government units
  • Census Boards – national, regional, provincial, city/municipal
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• Coordinated with the
  • Inter-Agency Task Force for Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) thru the Department of Health (DOH),
  • Office of the President
  • Congress

• IATF has advised to resume activities for the CPH after the lifting of the ECQ.
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• PSA is given exemption by the IATF to continue doing its data collection activities using minimum health standard protocols
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• PSA assessed various timelines in consideration of
  • local conditions in the regions and provinces
  • other activities of PSA such as the various surveys and registration for the national ID
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• Re-alignment of the budget is necessary to cover
  • Emergency purchase of alcohol, masks and soap
  • Additional training and processing expenses to consider social distancing
  • Rental of training centers and processing areas
  • Hiring of census workers instead of teachers
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• Recruitment has resumed as of date
  • Online recruitment process
  • Coordination with local government units, legislative district representatives and other partners to boost recruitment
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• Advocacy
  • Time for interview
  • Confidential
  • Safe
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• Conduct of training revisited for all levels
  • With social distancing
  • Using minimum health standard protocols
  • Training to include protocols for proper hygiene during training and data collection; and steps/measures to take in case of observation of symptoms, etc..
  • Technology-driven alternative mode of training
    • Google classroom for online training
    • AVP
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• Use of alternative mode of census data collection that could minimize face-to-face contact with the respondent

Computer-Assisted Web-based Interview (CAWI)

Paper Assisted Telephone Interviewing (PATI)
III. MITIGATING MEASURES

• Constant monitoring of covid cases to identify high risk areas
IV. CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

• While the Covid-19 pandemic may substantially affect the usual statistical business processes, this will not stop the PSA to deliver good quality statistics.

• Anticipating the “new normal” amidst global pandemic, alternative census data collection methods and technology that would not require face-to-face interview (e.g. PATI, CATI, CAWI) may be further improved and developed.

• Public awareness campaign about the assurance of safe conduct of interview during this difficult time may convince people to participate and support the census taking.
Thank You

http://www.psa.gov.ph
/PhilStatAuthority
@PSAgovph