

Challenges and Lessons Learned from the 2020 Census Round

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Overview

- 2020 Census Round - New technologies and methodologies
- COVID-19 related challenges
- Other challenges
- Lessons learned
- Looking forward to 2030

2020 Round of Censuses in LMICs - New Technologies and Methodologies

- Two main shifts in the 2020 round of censuses -
 - Moving GIS and imagery into the field, developing digital frames
 - Shift to multi-mode censuses – PAPI, CAPI, CAWI

COVID-19 Related Challenges

- Delayed censuses/advocacy/reduced budgets/crashed schedules
- Mapping
 - slowed and stalled
 - Some suffered a long gap between mapping and enumeration
- Budgets and supply chains issues affected procurement
- Data capture applications developed in a rush
- Enumeration issues
 - due to movement or displacement of respondents
 - due to safety protocols and shutdowns

Other Challenges

- Planning and management
 - Insufficient early advocacy for the census
 - Pressure to use the latest technologies without adequate planning, budget and qualified staff
 - Retirements leading to loss of census knowledge – little succession planning
- Mapping
 - Late start in mapping
 - Access to satellite imagery
 - Lack of training in demarcation or verification
 - Incomplete list of geocodes before census -Geocode lists especially at lowest levels – villages, localities are not fully demarcated

Other Challenges

- CAPI and CAWI
 - Cost of tablets
 - Limited collaboration between subject matter/mapping/IT
 - Lack of testing the application, the system, or the tablets
 - Questionnaire changes and application changes till the last moment
 - False assumption that technology results in perfect data – minimal editing required
- New Topic- Third Gender (?)
- Lack of Strategic Dissemination Plan
 - Pressure to release all census data products within a year because of technology used – affects quality
 - Weak disclosure avoidance methods
 - Inadequate census product review systems

Lessons Learned for 2030 Round of Censuses

- Planning and Management
 - Strong NSO leadership to advocate for the census, especially time and budget required
 - Census project documents that reflect not only technologies to be used and budget, but also detail the new methodology, quality assurance procedures and risk management plans
- Adoption of new technologies and methodologies- GIS, CAPI, CAWI
 - Adoption of new technologies requires adequate time, resources and trained staff
 - Better change control processes

Lessons Learned for 2030 Round of Censuses

- Geocodes
 - Creation of comprehensive, nested, and unique geocodes at lowest levels of geography *before* the census
- Risk management
 - Robust plans to manage risk
 - Stronger system of written procedures and documentation

Looking Forward to the 2030 Census Round

- Increased use of CAWI – UN needs to provide caution and guidance
- Increased use of administrative registers – UN needs to provide caution and guidance on how best to use them/minimal conditions required
- Guidance on new topics – Gender; National ID, others (?)
- Methodology – Better guidance and training on counting hard to count population
 - Homeless
 - Areas of conflict/violence
 - Nomadic populations

Looking Forward to the 2030 Census Round

- Dissemination
 - A more robust census dissemination platform in country control
 - Creating platforms that allow the use of census data in Application Programming Interface (API)
- Guidance on incorporating EGRISS recommendations for refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations. Possibly field testing of questions

Thank you!

For questions, contact -
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