

Document E/CN.3/2021/16 – Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS)

Statement provided by:

PHILIPPINES

Philippine Statistics Authority

Statement:

The Philippines, through the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), appreciates the work of the different task forces on coordination, methodological development, and advocacy and communication.

With the challenges posed by the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on statistical operations, the PSA takes particular interest on the proposed collective vision on the “new normal” for household surveys. In 2020, despite the various community quarantine restrictions and public health and social measures that were imposed amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the PSA strived to adhere to its mandate to deliver quality statistical products and services.

For instance, the Labor Force Survey of households that was conducted on its regular schedule in April 2020 was very challenging and risky. Thus, the PSA began to employ alternative modes of data collection such as telephone interviews and computer-assisted-web interviews (CAWI), in addition to the usual face-to-face mode. The PSA was also able to conduct the monthly and quarterly agriculture and fisheries household-based surveys through face-to-face and telephone interviews. The observance of minimum health protocols including the use of personnel protective equipment, transport facilities, implementation of weekly monitoring of progress of data collection, and provision of sufficient replacement samples to ensure the representativeness of the estimates were paramount concerns for a successful data collection during the pandemic. The PSA agrees that the COVID-19 pandemic presented a great opportunity to fully explore and implement strategies for the sustainability of household surveys. Hence, we welcome any guidance in establishing a more sustainable household survey programme.

With respect to the future work programme of the Working Group, the PSA expresses its willingness to collaborate as the guiding principles will yield more valuable results. The move to enhance engagement by aligning the priorities of the Working Group with the needs of countries encourages stronger participation and action. As countries have

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different experiences and needs, there may be a need to identify parameters to facilitate priority-setting. Further, broadening outreach and collaboration with partners is a good strategy to ensure a sense of shared responsibility and understanding. Likewise, focusing on innovative topics and exploring innovative survey methods will aid in moving towards the sustainability of household survey programmes.

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