Side-event of the 53rd Statistical Commission on the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses

2021 Ghana PHC: Changes Introduced in the Processes Due to Covid-19

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Outline

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4. Changes in the 2021 PHC plans
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Introduction

Ghana has conducted 12 censuses almost every ten years since 1891. Adopted the UN recommendation for decennial censuses after independence.

1. Complete coverage and quality data

Ghana added Housing Census from 2000, and 2021 is first Ghana’s E-Census.

2. Population and Housing Censuses

Goal of the 2021 PHC

3.
Initial plans for the 2021 PHC

- Cartographic mapping: completed pre-Covid
- Recruitment of Field Staff: online application with in-person screening
- Training of Field Staff: in-person
- Method of data collection: in-person
- Duration of data collection: 7 days of listing and 14 days of enumeration
Postponement of the Census

- The Census had been scheduled for March 2020 per the Statistical Service Act (Act 1003)

- Postponed as a result of the Covid-19 and the associated restrictions; with mixed impact
  - Burden:
    - Requirement of additional resources
    - Modification of instruments (no change in information collected) and strategies
  - Benefits:
    - Procurement - Tablets
    - Extra development time – e.g. ISCO/ISIC codes, map production
Changes in PHC Plans due to Covid-19

- Recruitment and training
  1. Recruitment of Field Staff: online application with in-person screening
  2. Hybrid of training methods - virtual self-learning, virtual training for all levels of trainers to complement face-to-face training
  3. Virtual technical working group meetings
  4. Virtual meetings with regional and district teams

- Method of data collection
  - In-person with Covid-19 protocols (mask wearing and 2 metres social distance between persons)

- Duration for training extended

- Census publicity/communication – webinars for stakeholders; social media public education campaign; live streaming of in-person publicity, education and advocacy events with limited participants
Potential adjustments to census questions (1/2)

- Reduce the number of questions?
  1. No change in the instruments and the amount of information collected
  2. 14 days of enumeration – Less number of days means reduction of questions
  3. In anticipation of Covid-19 related hesitancy,
     - Publicity, education and advocacy used to raise awareness of the importance of census data for targeted policies such as for pandemic response
     - Enumerators were provided with PPEs and trained on maintaining social distance
  4. Use of an enumeration tracking dashboard for real-time data checks
  5. DQM set up - edits to detect errors for correction while in the field
Potential adjustments to census questions (2/2)

▪ Additional guidance to support respondents in answering questions in the context of the pandemic
  1. Internal migration
  2. Emigration
  3. Economic activities
  4. Fertility
  5. Mortality
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