



Statistical Activities in Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Experiences from Ghana

Samuel Kobina Annim

UNECA Statistical Commission for Africa

Seventh Meeting

13th October 2020



**GHANA
STATISTICAL SERVICE**

Outline

1. Background
 - a. Stage of Census preparations at the time of outbreak
 - b. COVID-19 Business continuity plan
2. Methodologies to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - a. Innovative and pragmatic statistical solutions
 - b. Census implementation in the COVID-19 era

Stage of Census Preparation at the Time of Outbreak

1. Preparations were well advanced
 - a. Two trial censuses completed
 - b. Training of Master Trainers initiated
 - c. District Census Officers engaged
2. Census date is three months away
 - a. Cost implications
 - b. The pandemic can only be monitored
3. Options available to carry on with preparatory activities
 - a. Opportunity to catch-up on activities that were lagging behind

COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

- Dynamic Business Continuity Plan
 - Reviewed at all levels of management every other week
- Emergency meeting with the National Census Steering Committee
 - Estimation of the cost implications of postponing the Census
- Teleworking guideline to enable staff to work from home
 - Resources and financial token to incentivize staff to continue working
 - Sustained the engagement of non-permanent staff
- Revision of data collection approaches
 - Review of scope of work
 - Assessment of methodological implications of the changing approaches

Innovative and Pragmatic Statistical Solutions

- Virtual engagement with Trainers
 - Collaboration with academics from four public universities to review methodologies and assess trainers
 - Virtual training and assessment of Master Trainers
 - Development of virtual engagement protocols
- Setting up an interactive dashboard to monitor COVID-19 statistics
 - Data disaggregated to the regional and district levels
 - Highlight hotspots
 - Identify districts with vulnerable populations

Innovative and Pragmatic Statistical Solutions

- Using Call Detail Records for mobility analysis to guide government COVID-19 interventions
 - Collaboration with Flowminder Foundation and Vodafone Ghana
- Launching survey trackers to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19
 - Household and jobs survey (3265 households)
 - Business survey (4311 businesses)
 - Local Economy survey (2770 localities)
- Conducting pilot surveys to monitor SDGs
 - Recruitment costs pilot survey measure SDG Indicator 10.7.1
- Collection of monthly CPI data in adherence with safety protocols

Census Implementation in the COVID-19 era

- Adherence to safety protocols
 - Reduction in class sizes for in-person trainings
 - Provision of sanitizers and face masks to Trainers and Field Officers
- Increased Regional collaboration to aid decentralized census operations
 - Weekly virtual meetings with all 16 Regional Statisticians
- Integration of virtual training at all levels
 - It is not an issue of replacement but hybridization
 - Combination of virtual and face-to-face training is cost effective

Census Implementation in the COVID-19 era

- Third trial census needed
 - Phased approach to overcome time and resource constraints
 - Designed to allow for trial post enumeration survey as well
- Pre-certification training course for trainers
 - Longer period of engagement with trainers
 - Ability to build critical soft skills such as emotional intelligence, classroom management and administration into training content
 - Flexibility for trainees and Offline options to mitigate internet connectivity challenges
 - Open-up training to include experienced external resource persons in a virtual mode to enhance the engagement
 - Standardization of content as trainers at all levels have access to the same learning materials

Census Implementation in the COVID-19 era

- Testing Protocols using Ghana National Household Registry (GNHR) exercise
 - Piloting COVID-19 health and safety protocols for training and fieldwork
 - Testing of listing instruments and protocols
- Postponement of census provided opportunity for added quality assurance of workstream processes
 - Validation of census maps
 - Review of training materials
 - Updating of workstream strategies and protocols



Thank You

www.statsghana.gov.gh