EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 2020 POPULATION CENSUS

Edgar Vielma Orozco
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

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COUNTRIES THAT CONCLUDED
THE 2020 CENSUS ROUND

53 countries planned to conduct their census in 2020.

Mexico is one of only eight countries in the world that managed to carry it out.

And one of the first to publish results.

Source: UNSD, February 2021
Mexico concluded the 2020 Census

- Thanks to this, Mexico now has updated socio-demographic information.

- This allows, among other activities, the allocation of public resources to the states, electoral planning, and the identification of the population vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- It is useful for the design of ad hoc public policies, such as vaccination and medical care.

- Historical statistical information from other pandemics and the use of technologies were relevant for the completion of this Census.
1) Evidence-based decision making

- Analyzed statistical and historical information from previous pandemics.
- During 1918-1919 it affected mostly young adults aged 20-40 years.
- About **500 million people were infected** and at least **50 million died**.

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Severe respiratory acute syndrome demonstrated how quickly an infection spreads in a mobile and interconnected world.

SARS spread in 2002 and 2003

Number of probable cases between November 2002 and July 2003

- 0-9
- 10-99
- 100-999
- 1,000-5,327

- The international collaborative effort allowed health experts to quickly contain its spread.
- Just over 8,000 people became ill, of whom about 1,000 died.
Total of excess of mortality from all causes: 326,610
(December 29, 2019 to January 2, 2021.)

Source: "Statistical bulletin on excess all-cause mortality during the COVID-19 emergency". Num. 10. Inter-agency group SSA, INSP, IMSS, CONAPO, RENAPO, OPS & INEGI.
Knowing the historical dynamics

• Knowing the historical dynamics of pandemics, and their waves, makes possible to act at the right time with creativity and social commitment.

• Statistics contribute to know the excess mortality and the situation of employment, health and, education, among others. It is useful for defining vaccination, medical care and, economic and social recovery programs.

• It is also useful for making decisions regarding the implementation of ongoing statistical programs.

• When pandemics occur, public resources are channeled to health care, so NSOs must act quickly and not wait for the crisis to escalate, as resources will be limited.
Lessons learned:

2) Importance of planning

- Planning the Census and its technification favored the speed of its data capture, validation and, processing processes, even during the pandemic.
- Due to its technification, a considerable part of our work was oriented to planning, design and, technological development.
General program of activities

Due to the *technification* of our census, a large part of the work was devoted to the planning, design, and technological development phase, *before the census enumeration*, which subsequently facilitated the fieldwork, even during the pandemic.
3) Strong risk management

- NSOs should perform robust risk management that:
  - Includes all phases of a census.
  - Consider not only the usual or obvious risks but also those that are unlikely.
  - High impact risks: Epidemic, pandemic (AH1N1, COVID-19), natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes), political and civil conflicts.

- A complete risk management must be carried out for all statistical projects.

- Risk analysis will make it possible to adopt a clear position in the face of a crisis and to have a predefined course of action.
Final thought

- It is important to have high-level officers with managerial skills and experience in:
  - Decision-making within organizations.
  - Statistical and operational matters, but also...
  - Knowledgeable of other phenomena, such as social, environmental, political, and economic phenomena at national and international levels.

- This will allow them to understand the nature of the challenges or situations they face.

- It is essential that in their decision making they consider present and historical information related to the phenomenon they are facing.
THANK YOU

MEXICO

126 014 024 Inhabitants