

Census of crisis-affected populations



Background



A powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 degrees in the Richter scale struck Peru on the 15 August 2007, seriously damaging hospitals, schools, churches and government buildings (at least 85% of housing has been damaged) in the cities of Pisco, Chincha Alta, Ica and Cañete in the departments of Ica and south of Lima. At this time, the death toll stands at over 500 and the number of injured exceeds the thousand (both these numbers are likely to increase since there are still areas that have not been assessed). The Peruvian Government and civil society immediately mobilized available resources, while the

coordination of the response has been led by the National Institute of Civil Defence (INDECI).

The Peruvian Government has officially requested support from the international cooperation and has also declared the state of emergency in this region. The estimated number of people affected by earthquake crisis is 200,000. From the total women affected, more than 9,500 are adolescents (15 to 19 years old).

Rationality

Following the 15th of August Earthquake in Peru which hits principally the Southern region of Lima, support is being coordinated for the affected people. After a gross assessment of the situation, it is urgent to know the exact situation of those suffering damages. Indeed, the availability of robust, reliable information is scarce or non-existent. It has become critically important to the successful intervention to rely on proper information. Up to now, the available basic information is scattered and not gathered on a regular basis nor centralized despite efforts of the National Institute of Civil Defense to assess crisis-affected

populations. Basic precise numbers and profiles of affected population are essential in designing effective humanitarian programmes or recovery planning. The government as well as the humanitarian community needs such data in order to design and implement programmes, monitor and evaluate such support in an effective way. For these reasons, the government urges UNFPA to support the National Institute of Statistics in conducting a census of the earthquake-affected population in a rapid manner.

General Objective

Undertake a census of the earthquake affected population to support operations of the government, UN organizations and civil society organization, in the southern region of Lima and the region of Ica.

Specific Objectives

- 1: Identify and register the number of households and people affected by the earthquake as well as define their socio demographic profiles including information related to their economic activity.
- 2: Provide information on the damage caused to houses affected by the earthquake and on the material losses suffered by each affected household.

Strategy

The census will be conducted in the areas affected by the earthquake using two ways of gathering information. The first approach consists in interviewing a qualified informer according to the established questionnaire set up for this purpose. The qualified informer will be asked information divided in four chapters. The first section defines where the census is taking place; the second refers to the localization of the house and its characteristics in a third section. The last section deals with the socio demographic profiles of the population. The qualified informer has to report for all the members who are/or were living in the house. For obvious reasons, the second approach will complete the first one by applying the same questionnaire to people who transit in emergency shelters. This project will last 20 days and the census will be conducted on the 29, 30 and 31 of August in order to have the first results by the 10th of September.

Activities

Step 1: Preparation, design and strategy:

- Design the questionnaire draft version, the manuals and guidance materials
- Define the cartographic basis and segmentation
- Visit the affected area in order to:
 - Polish the adequate strategy (see above) to gather information on the crisis affected population and housing.
 - Confirm the basic information that is needed in order to validate the questionnaire.
 - Define the limits of the area
 - Validate the cartographic basis

Step 2: Implementation:

- Print questionnaire, manuals and guidance materials for census register
- Human resources mobilization: recruitment and staff training
- Field operations: conduct the census

Step 3: Process and broadcast data

- Data consistency analysis and evaluation
- Data processing and final report
- Broadcast results

Budget

Direction and coordination	\$US 37,450.00
Segmentation	\$US 13,167.76
Guidance materials, manuals	\$US 26,372.66
Human resources mobilization: recruitment and training	\$US 25,623.33
Field operations	\$US 193,550.00
Data consistency analysis / Evaluation	\$US 8,996.13
Data processing	\$US 31,481.72
Broadcast	\$US 13,378.99
Total	\$US 350,020.59

