SPECIAL RELEASE

Technical Notes

I.   Introduction

The Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) is a nationwide household-based survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) generally every five (5) years since 1989. The last round of the survey was conducted in 2019, and the seventh in the series of literacy surveys will be conducted in October 2024.

Basic literacy is defined as the ability of a person to read and write a simple message in any language or dialect with understanding, and to compute or perform basic mathematical operations.

Functional literacy is the ability of a person to read, write, compute, and comprehend. In addition to the basic literacy skills, functional literacy includes higher level of comprehension skills, such as integrating two or more pieces of information and making inferences based on the given information.

Basic literacy rate is computed for individuals five (5) years old and over, while functional literacy rate is computed for individuals 10 to 64 years old.

Furthermore, the 2024 FLEMMS will pilot test new data items that are aligned with the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), which is the recommended tool to measure functional literacy endorsed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

FLEMMS generates critical and essential data for administrators, planners and policymakers in the government, and private sectors; hence the survey is one of the designated statistical activities of the PSA by virtue of Executive Order No. 352.

The 2024 FLEMMS will implement the revised operational definition and methodology in estimating basic and functional literacy. For the first time, the 2024 FLEMMS will utilize the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) System for the collection of the household questionnaire (Form 1) and individual questionnaire (Form 3).

II.   SURVEY OBJECTIVES

The FLEMMS generally provides a quantitative framework that will serve as a basis in the formulation of policies and programs on the improvement of literacy and education status of the population.

The FLEMMS has the following specific objectives:

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1. to estimate the proportion of the population 5 years old and over who are basically literate;

2. to estimate the proportion of the population 10 to 64 years old who are functionally literate and to determine their socio-economic characteristics;

3. to determine the educational skill qualifications of the population in terms of formal schooling; and

4. to determine the mass media exposure of the population.

III.   USES OF DATA ON LITERACY FROM FLEMMS

The data that will be collected for 2024 FLEMMS will be used in the following:

a. Monitoring of the Global indicator SDG 4.6.1: the percentage of the population in a given
age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and numeracy skills.

b. Reporting of the proportion of the population who are (a) basically literate and (b) functionally literate.

IV.   SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE SURVEY

The 2024 FLEMMS involves the collection of data on literacy and education. It also gathers the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population.

The survey will utilize the 2023 Geo-Enabled Master Sample (MS) of household-based surveys of the PSA which will cover about 180,000 households, equivalent to 16 replicates of the MS, and about 720,000 household members five (5) years old and over which is deemed sufficient to generate reliable estimates at the national, regional, provincial, and highly urbanized city (HUC)-level estimates.

The reporting unit is the household, which means that the statistics emanating from this survey will refer to the characteristics of the population residing in private households. Persons who reside in the institutions are not within the scope of the survey.

V.   SURVEY DESIGN

Starting July 2023, the 2023 Geo-enabled Master Sample (GeoMS) framed and design are used in all household surveys conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The 2023 GeoMS is defined as a sample from which subsamples are drawn to serve

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the needs of household surveys. The use of a master sample promotes efficiency on the use of limited resources (e.g. single cost for the development of survey design and preparation of sampling frames). Usually, a master sample is an area sample of clusters of households referred to as Primary Sampling Units (PSus).

The 2023 Geo-enabled Master Sample (GeoMS) design for household-based surveys is a two-stage cluster sampling design with barangays or enumeration areas (EAs) or groups of nearby barangays or EAs as the primary sampling unit (PSU), and housing units serving as the secondary sampling unit (SSU) within the PSUs.

The 2023 Geo-enabled MS sampling frame is constructed based on the results of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing. The EA Reference File (EARF) of the 2020 Census of Population is used as the PSU frame while the 2020 list of households for each of the PSUs is used as the SSU frame.

Sampling Domains

To provide subnational or provincial level statistics with precise estimates the 2023 Geo-enabled MS has 118 sampling domains. Listed as follows: 82 provinces (including Maguindanao del Norte and Maguindanao del Sur); 33 highly urbanized cities (including 16 cities in the National Capital Region); and 3 other urban areas (Pateros, Isabela City, and Cotabato.

Primary Sampling Units

In the 2023 Geo-enabled Master Sample Design, each sampling domain (i.e., province/HUC) is
divided into exhaustive and non-overlapping area segments known as Primary Sampling Units

(PSUs) with about 100 to 300 households. A PSU can be any of the following:
a. a single enumeration area (EA) barangay; or
b. two or more adjacent small EAs within the same barangay; or
c. two or more adjacent small barangays of the same city/municipality; or
d. portion or an EA of a multi-EA barangay

Out of the 42,046 barangays in the Philippines, 127,028 PSUs were formed. A significant
number of these PSUs, or about 15 percent of the total were formed in Region IV-A. CAR has
the fewest PSUs formed, making up about 2 percent of the total.

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