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Planning the 2020 Census in Mexico: perspective and challenges for data collection

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Abstract

Until 2010, censuses in Mexico have been conducted through a direct interview using paper questionnaires. For the 2020 Census, it is estimated that in Mexico there will be a population close to 130 million persons; and INEGI has set the challenge of modernizing the collection of census data through a CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) method. Although INEGI already has experience in conducting socio-demographic surveys, Economic Censuses and the Schools Census with mobile devices and the institutional capacity to manage information collected thru CAPI, in the case of the Population and Housing Census the magnitude of the structures is an important aspect to consider, since it is estimated that about 200 thousand mobile devices will be required for its realization. This change in data collection presents several technological challenges, as well as in operational structures and procedures. Current status of the planning of the 2020 Census will be presented, the operational structure proposed, as well as the main challenges identified for its achievement and the actions planned to manage them.