



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### A Study on Estimating Excess Deaths, Births and Migration in the Philippines as an Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Hiring Office:	United Nations Population Fund – Philippines Country Office
Bckground and purpose of the consultancy:	<p>On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern'. Later on 11 March, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by WHO. Globally, as of 19 May 2020, there have been 4,735,622 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 316,289 deaths reported to WHO. <a href="#">In the Philippines, the National Government is leading the health sector response to the COVID-19 outbreak and as of 2 September 2020, there have been 226,440 confirmed cases, with fatalities at 3,597.</a></p> <p>As governments around the world respond to the crisis, people have become aware of the increasing number of deaths each day directly attributed to the COVID-19 virus. However, there is a concern around the under-counted death toll. In a pandemic, deaths rise sharply, but causes are often inaccurately recorded. The death count attributed to COVID-19 may thus be significantly undercounted. In many cases, only those who died in hospitals and confirmed to have become infected with COVID-19 are included in official daily figures. On the other hand, deaths that occur at home, involving untested individuals or those whose COVID-19 test results came after they die may not be included. Likewise, those who died during the epidemic but not from the disease, such as people who were killed by illness unrelated to COVID-19 that might normally have been treated, had the resources not been diverted to the COVID-19 response may also be uncounted. These gaps in mortality figures during a pandemic are called “excess mortality” or “excess death”.</p> <p>The World Health Organization (WHO) defines ‘excess mortality’ as “mortality above what would be expected based on the non-crisis mortality rate in the population of interest. It can be expressed as a rate (the difference between observed and non-crisis mortality rates), or as a total number of excess deaths.”<sup>1</sup></p> <p>The WHO emphasizes that excess mortality is thus mortality that is attributable to the crisis conditions and, therefore, needs to be counted</p>

<sup>1</sup> Excess mortality from the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) - Our World in Data. 22 May 2020.



in order to get an overall picture of the impact of the medical crisis on the lives of the population - thus, the imperative to estimate “excess mortality” or “excess deaths”.

At the same time, initial estimates from the University of the Philippines Population Institute show that there will be increases in unintended pregnancies attributable to the COVID-19 crisis. These increases will eventually translate into increased pregnancies over and above the rate under a normal situation. On migration, we are seeing a flow of thousands of returning migrants and overseas Filipino workers due, among others, to the loss of job opportunities abroad during this pandemic.

In these contexts, the study aims to estimate excess deaths, births and migration flows to understand the full impact of the COVID-19 crisis in the Philippines and gather evidence in calculating the possible effect of the crisis on population growth rate. Using these data, the study will analyse the social and economic consequences of the pandemic and formulate appropriate policy recommendations for immediate and long-term societal response.

In the study, excess deaths, births and flows will be calculated monthly starting from the confirmation of the first COVID-19 positive cases in February 2020 up to June 2022. The end calculation is due to the fact that the development of the COVID-19 vaccine will last for 18 months or more. [Likewise, June 2022 will mark the end of the initial enhanced community quarantine for several regions of the Philippines, including the National Capital Region](#), and data will also serve as baseline for programming in the next administration’s national development plan.

Research questions:

1. Based on current trends, what is the monthly projection of excess deaths, births and migration flows from 01 February 2020 to 30 June 2022, both in number and rate, and disaggregated by age, sex and by region? On excess deaths, what proportion of excess deaths is due directly to COVID-19 infection and other medical causes (disaggregated by cause)?
2. What will be the comparative monthly crude birth and death rates at the national and regional levels up to 30 June 2022 with and without COVID-19?



	<p>3. What will be the comparative population growth rates at the national and regional levels up to 30 June 2022 with and without COVID-19?</p> <p>4. What are appropriate policy recommendations under a “new normal” to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on deaths, births and migration?</p>								
<p>Scope of work: (Description of services, activities, or outputs)</p>	<p>In pursuance of the purpose of the consultancy, the consultant will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a modelling study estimating monthly excess deaths, births and migration due to COVID-19, with data disaggregated by age, sex and geographical location;</li> <li>Prepare a <b>power point</b> presentation (no more than 10 slides) showing the results of the study, both in data matrix and graphical formats;</li> <li>Present the study results in meetings with UNFPA management and technical staff and 2) with government partners; and</li> <li>Prepare a brief technical report and two policy briefs presenting the results of the study.</li> </ol> <p>The detailed activities for each output are as follows:</p> <p>The research period will be from 14 September 2020 to 31 December, 2020 (3.5 months), with outputs on 31 October 2020 (preliminary results on excess deaths), 30 November 2020 (preliminary results on excess deaths and migration), and the final model results and technical report on 31 December 2020.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Outputs</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Output 1: “Population Projection with the Excess Deaths for Feb 2020 to June 2022”</td> <td>This will be preliminary results with data on deaths from the field offices (local civil registrars reported to the PSA).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Output 2: “Population Projection with excess deaths and migration from February 2020 to June 2022”</td> <td>This will be preliminary results with information on excess deaths and migration resulting from the returning OFWs and the impact of the Balik-Probisya Program on the Regional Projections.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Output 3: “Population Projection with excess</td> <td>This will be preliminary results incorporating the excess deaths, information on migration</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Outputs	Description	Output 1: “Population Projection with the Excess Deaths for Feb 2020 to June 2022”	This will be preliminary results with data on deaths from the field offices (local civil registrars reported to the PSA).	Output 2: “Population Projection with excess deaths and migration from February 2020 to June 2022”	This will be preliminary results with information on excess deaths and migration resulting from the returning OFWs and the impact of the Balik-Probisya Program on the Regional Projections.	Output 3: “Population Projection with excess	This will be preliminary results incorporating the excess deaths, information on migration
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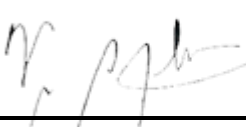
	deaths, migration and births from February 2020 to June 2022”	resulting from returning OFWs and the data on births.										
	A brief technical report and two policy briefs presenting the results of the study	A technical report will be submitted to present the final models incorporating the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on deaths, births and migration. The technical report will have as annex two short policy briefs.										
	<p>Data used for this study will be sourced from administrative data and results of relevant surveys generated by the Philippine Statistics Authority. It is important that the consultant should have full access to these datasets from the said agency.</p> <p>The consultant will form a research composed of experts in the following fields: 1) statistics/economics; 2) population studies, and 3) impact evaluation.</p>											
Duration and working schedule, fee basis:	<p>The consultancy will involve <b>75</b> person-days spread over a three and a half-month calendar period, commencing immediately upon awarding of contract.</p> <p>The consultant will be paid on a quarterly basis based on the following deliverables:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tranche</th> <th>Deliverables</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1<sup>st</sup> (20%)</td> <td>Upon submission of the concept note (two weeks after signing of contract).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> (30%)</td> <td>Upon submission of the report on Output 1 (on or before 31 October 2020).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3<sup>rd</sup> (30%)</td> <td>Upon submission of the reports on Outputs 2 and 3 (on or before 30 November 2020).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4<sup>th</sup> (20%)</td> <td>Upon submission and satisfactory acceptance the technical report and policy briefs (by 31 December 2020).</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Tranche	Deliverables	1 <sup>st</sup> (20%)	Upon submission of the concept note (two weeks after signing of contract).	2 <sup>nd</sup> (30%)	Upon submission of the report on Output 1 (on or before 31 October 2020).	3 <sup>rd</sup> (30%)	Upon submission of the reports on Outputs 2 and 3 (on or before 30 November 2020).	4 <sup>th</sup> (20%)	Upon submission and satisfactory acceptance the technical report and policy briefs (by 31 December 2020).
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Place where services are to be delivered:	The consultant will be home based and will submit the deliverables to UNFPA Philippines CO
Supervisory arrangements:	The project will be under the overall management of the UNFPA Country Representative, supervision of the Assistant Representative for Programmes, and the direct management of the UNFPA National Programme Officer - Population and Development. The consultant is expected to work closely with the UNFPA Country Office for coordination and guidance.
Expected travel:	No travel will be required
Required expertise, qualifications and competencies, including language requirements:	<p><b>Qualifications and Experience of the consultant Education:</b> Advanced degree in statistics, population economics, demography, or any other relevant field of study, with at least <b>ten</b> years of experience in their areas of specialization.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Bachelor's degree in the fields mentioned above combined with <b>twelve</b> years of relevant professional experience working in demography and/or population studies.</p> <p><b>Knowledge and Experience of the consultant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient years working experience as indicated above.</li> <li>• Knowledge in demographic principles and sexual and reproductive health and rights an advantage</li> <li>• Strong computer skills including proficiency with data software and data visualisation software</li> <li>• Previous experience in modelling and data analysis</li> <li>• Shall have full access to CRVS data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, as evidenced by a certification of support from the PSA management.</li> </ul> <p>The Consultant has the option to hire <u>on his or her own</u> a team of experts in statistics/economics, population studies and impact evaluation.</p>



	<p><b>Languages:</b> Fluency in English</p> <p><b>Required Competencies:</b></p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exemplifying integrity</li><li>• Demonstrating commitment to UNFPA and the UN system</li><li>• Embracing cultural diversity</li><li>• Embracing change</li></ul> <p><b>Competencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Achieving results,</li><li>• Being accountable,</li><li>• Developing and applying professional expertise/business acumen,</li><li>• Thinking analytically and strategically,</li><li>• Working in teams/managing ourselves and our relationships,</li><li>• Communicating for impact</li></ul> <p><b>Functional Competencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conceptual innovation in the provision of technical expertise; Leveraging the resources of national governments and partners;</li><li>• Building strategic alliances and partnerships;</li><li>• Adaptation/application of knowledge in different contexts;</li><li>• Job knowledge/technical expertise; and</li><li>• Integration in a multidisciplinary environment.</li></ul>
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**Prepared by:**   
Vicente B Jurlano, Head, PD Unit

**03 Sept 2020**  
Date

**Endorsed by:** Rena Dona  
Rena Dona, Assistant Representative

03-Sep-2020  
Date

**Approved by:**   
Enrico Gaveglia, Country Representative, a.i.

04-Sep-2020  
Date