

Official Statistics

User

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

Partner

Geodata Systems Technologies Inc.

Challenge

Implement GIS across various divisions of PSA and identify areas of high value to the organization.

Solution

Provide a modern platform, ArcGIS, for collaboration among data producers and data users.

Results

PSA embraced GIS and is modernizing its approach to data collection, operations and dissemination

Modernizing Statistics: Philippine Case Study

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is a young organization, having been formed in 2013 from the merger of four separate agencies. With PSA's creation, the policy is to affect the "necessary and proper changes in the organizational and functional structures of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS), to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of statistical services." In line with this, the Philippines is also committed to achieving the SDGs. The PSA is responsible for acquiring and managing SDG data for the country. It was in the context of 1) the policy in its creation and 2) its designation as the official repository of SDG indicators in the Philippines that PSA agreed to a location value assessment (LVA) seminar facilitated by Esri and Geodata Systems Technologies Inc. in August 2016. The results of this LVA provided PSA with a road map for implementing GIS inside of PSA and identified areas of high priority and value to the organization.

Challenge

PSA administrators believe that GIS technology has a critical and integrative role to play in national statistics projects. They found that ArcGIS makes building and scaling up platforms vastly simpler and cheaper than other solutions. They also noted that it allows nearly frictionless participation that strengthens network effects and enhances a user's ability to capture, analyze, and exchange huge amounts of data. This functionality increases the value of census data to the entire nation.



Philippine Statistics Authority SDG hub.

The UN noted the Philippines modernization efforts and chose PSA to participate in an SDG research exercise called the Federated System for the SDGs. As a member of the UN, the Philippines is expected to own the mission and establish national frameworks for sustainability. The country is required to set its own goals and incorporate them into its national planning processes, policies, and strategies.

Solution

In partnership with Esri, the UN Statistics Department provided a modern platform for collaboration among data producers and data users. The platform facilitates interoperability across a wide range of data and information sources, including those outside the traditional boundaries of the national and global official statistical systems.

Dr. Lisa Bersales presented the work of the Philippines on integration of statistics and geospatial information efforts during the initial UN research project meetings in Redlands, California. She also presented what the PSA is doing toward

SDG monitoring. Dr. Bersales identified two activities that the PSA is pursuing as the way forward: "1) PSA is now on the planning stage to pre-test ArcGIS solution for its possible use in the 2020 Census of Population and Housing, i.e., planning, pre-enumeration activities, data collection, post-data collection processing, and data dissemination, and 2) PSA shall also work closely with a newly created ministry, the Department of ICT, on integrating geospatial and statistical information." This jump-started the use of ArcGIS not just for SDG monitoring but for the pilot activity to adopt the technology in the 2020 Census of Population and Households.

During the census pilot project, PSA tested two data collection mobile apps. One was Collector for ArcGIS® for geotagging buildings nationwide. The other was Survey123 for ArcGIS® for gathering census data. The field apps improved the accuracy and completion of data and speeds data processing.

Another GIS strategy was to host the Philippines SDG-related spatial content on ArcGIS Hub® technology. This portal improves timeliness, data quality, and accessibility to user-friendly products and services. Hub incorporates open-data formats and includes geospatial dimensions in data presentation.

Results

PSA adopted the open-data approach to ensure interoperability with other data management systems and tools. Others can download published datasets to their own GIS and map it.

By modernizing its census and survey operations, PSA is fulfilling its vision of becoming a solid, responsive, and world-class authority on quality statistics and civil registration.



go.esri.com/census