

2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses **Progress Report March 2007 to February 2008**

A. SUMMARY

Over the period March 2007 to February 2008 the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), under the guidance of the Statistical Commission, played a key role in coordinating the 2010 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses (WPPHC). The Statistical Commission at its 38th Session in March 2007 adopted the *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census, Revision 2*. The Programme now focuses on the implementation and monitoring of censuses undertaken to identify countries in need of external support.

In a long term attempt to continually monitor successive stages of the census process to ensure that guidelines and best practices are updated or developed in a rational manner, a *2010 World Census Programme On-line Resource Center (Resource Center)* has been developed to provide direct technical and methodological assistance to census takers. This centre point resource centre includes *Country Profiles and Census Metadata Database*, serving as a platform for the community of census managers to follow-up census activities around the world and to access worldwide documentation on country practices. Its functions are (1) to provide information and news on census taking worldwide, and (2) to offer a knowledge base and user-friendly repository presenting technical and methodological documentation.

Technical guidelines were provided in a consultative approach, and responsive manner to new developments / applications in census taking field. The main theme in 2007, as identified in the Expert Group Meeting in New York (May 2007) was on **census cartography** and the use of new technologies such as the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS). These new techniques are crucial for efficient preparation of census maps and for dissemination and analysis of census data, especially in case of emergencies and disaster management requirements. The Meeting also provided input material for the revision of the Handbook on Census Mapping and GIS.

Six regional **workshops** were prepared to take place in the last four months of 2007 and the beginning of 2008, covering topics identified through earlier consultation: international standards for census taking, enhancing census quality, training in use of contemporary technologies for census geography, census as input for effective disaster management, census and civil registration and vital statistics systems. About 78 countries participated where around 200 national statisticians and representatives from international and regional organizations were trained and country experience sharing facilitated. This also gave UNSD an opportunity to assess countries' needs and to plan for technical assistance accordingly.

The WPPHC has also attracted considerable attention and contribution from the international community. In particular, the UNSD has worked in close **collaboration** with other organizations including the United Nations Regional Commissions, United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and sub-regional organizations to minimize duplication and maximize efficiency of respective work programmes. The UNFPA organized an advocacy workshop in April for African countries and in September for South American countries. Similarly, UNFPA actively contributed in technically and financially in UNSD organized workshops.

Regional efforts were contributed by various regional commissions, e.g. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and EuroStat for a workshop in Kazakhstan, United Nations Economic Commission for two African workshops, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asian and the Pacific for a workshop in Asia and the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) for a Caribbean workshop.

B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2007

As the objectives of the 2010 Census World Programme are for the whole duration of the programme (2005-2014) the specific expected accomplishments for 2007 are as follows (a Logical Framework can be found in Annex 1):

- EA1** Monitor country progress in conducting population and housing censuses and their financing needs;
- EA2** Assist countries to implement the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2; and
- EA3** Build technical systems to help countries conduct their population and housing censuses.

C. REVIEW OF IMPACT AND ACTIVITIES

Expected Accomplishment 1 (EA1)	Monitor country progress in conducting population and housing censuses and their financing needs
Results/Impact achieved for EA1	<p>In the reporting period, the Resource Center enabled continued monitoring activities such as following-up census undertakings and alerts for postponed or not planned censuses. In 2007, 10 countries or areas conducted a census. For this 2010 Round, 44 out of 232 countries have conducted a census at the end of 2007.</p> <p>This monitoring exercise also provided support statistically under developed countries, enabling 13 countries (out the 21 countries which did not undertake a census in the 2000 Round) to have conducted or planned in this 2010 Round.</p> <p>This served as a central point for sharing and support, both technically and financially, drawing attention from the international community.</p>
Activities related to EA1	<p>A3 - Updating UNSD population and housing census data This continuous activity aimed at better identifying countries in need of support, and improving the quality of data.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the Demographic Yearbook (DYB) master-database has been checked and uploaded. The next step will be the development of a more user-friendly interface for on-line access through the online focal point Resource Centre.</p> <p>A4 - Development of country profiles, standards and metadata database Work on the development of the database on country profiles, standards and metadata continued during the period under review. The database consists of metadata information relating to the census and the questionnaire(s) used, as well as details of questions that were asked and the corresponding answer categories. The census questions in the metadata database are organized according to the topics in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and as such, the database is a crucial resource to assist national census</p>

takers in developing content and basic methodology for the census.

During the reporting period 2462 questions and answers were entered or edited in the database from 156 censuses taken in 148 countries and areas during the 2000 round of population and housing censuses. To date, the database contains information on 238 censuses representing 213 countries and areas that carried out a census in the 2000 round of population and housing censuses. From these censuses, 8448 questions and answers representing 337 questionnaires have been entered into the database. In addition, questions on selected topics in the metadata database have been made available on the internet.

The work on the database entered a new phase where the main effort is not any more the entering of new data but the proofreading, evaluation and editing of already existing data. To serve this purpose better it was necessary to modify the structure of the database and its user interface.

The database has already been intensively used: (a) to generate questions on selected topics; (b) to answer queries on migration, ethno-characteristic and disability; (c) in the revision of the Handbook on Migration; and (d) by countries for the preparation of their census questionnaires.

A5 – Monitoring of country activities related to census-taking

The major goal of the 2010 World programme on Population and Housing Censuses is to ensure that all the countries/areas conducted a population and housing censuses at least once in the decade 2005-2014. Consequently, the primary function of monitoring national census activities is to set up an alert-system to identify countries where censuses have not been planned at all or have been postponed. The secondary function relates to identifying difficulties that countries may face in implementing the 2010 Programme to ensure proper and timely support during the different phases of census preparation and undertaking.

In the reporting period the monitoring mechanisms developed for these purposes continued to operate on a daily basis, taking advantage of networks established in the previous reporting period and other sources of information at the disposal of the UNSD. This monitoring process indicated that there are solid breakthroughs in certain cases: (a) Angola, a country without a census since 1979 is about to enact a law on census and the census preparations are underway; (b) despite some setbacks, the preparations for a coordinated census in Sudan (one for the South of the country and the other for the rest) are underway; (c) Ethiopia conducted the first part of its census in May and the second in November; (d) Burundi conducted a pilot census; (e) Liberia will conduct a census in 2008 and is currently mapping the country for census purposes; and (f) Nigeria conducted successfully a full count of its population in 2006. It is worth noting that none of the countries mentioned above conducted a population and housing census in the previous census round.

Along with improvements, the monitoring in the reporting period also signaled the need to focus on several countries that are still lagging behind: most notably, given its size, is the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the initiative for census-taking exists but few tangible steps have been taken and concrete plans are not yet in place;

	<p>Somalia is another country in that position. The Occupied Palestinian Territory conducted a census in December. Togo has undertaken an electoral census – enumeration of voters, but not yet the full-fledged population and housing census. Two planned censuses were postponed in Iraq and in Congo.</p> <p>Africa Symposium (December 3-7): following the two previous symposia in 2006 and January 2007, the symposium had a specific focus on the progress of the 2010 census round in Africa, in regard the major components achieved so far and planned activities, thus inviting participants to comment on the Programme itself and provide guidance related to the particular situation in Africa. The Addendum to the Principles and Recommendations was also presented and UNSD presented the resource center as well as the results of the workshops in Zambia and Morocco. The objective was to ensure that participants exchange their knowledge and establish channels for assisting one another in the future.</p> <p>Monitoring will continue and findings will be brought to the attention of the international community in an attempt to generate support and attract donors.</p>
<p>Expected Accomplishment 2 (EA2)</p>	<p>Assist countries to implement the United Nations <i>Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2</i></p>
<p>Results/Impact achieved for EA2 Activities related to EA2</p>	<p>The <i>Principles and Recommendations</i> have been adopted and the official version will be soon available on the web.</p> <p>The 2010 World Census Programme Website has been developed to present the latest information available on census operations in the world. In addition, a knowledge base website (Resource Center) provides technical documentation for census takers. A prototype was presented and well received by 34 country representatives at the Joint ECE/Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses held in Astana, Kazakhstan.</p> <p>Six workshops were organized for a total number of 197 participants from 78 countries on the following themes: international standards for census taking, enhancing census quality, training in use of contemporary technologies for census geography, census as input for effective disaster management, census and civil registration and vital statistics systems. This is a response to the new technology developments applicable in the field of population and housing census identified by expert group meeting.</p> <p>Advocacy materials – at a Workshop with UNFPA on <i>Advocacy for Use of Census Data and Census Mobilization</i> (Praia, Cap Verde, April – 17) countries have developed and adopted a document intended to facilitate decision-making process for the donors.</p> <p>A1 - Distribution and promotion of the revised United Nations <i>Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census</i></p> <p>The Statistical Commission at its 38th Session has adopted the <i>United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census</i>. The document has been reviewed by the Editorial Service of the United Nations and its comments integrated. The official English version is available on the web since mid-September and was used as</p>

	<p>training document for the workshops conducted in 2007. The publication has been sent for printing and translation in the 5 other official languages.</p>
	<p>A6 - Development of a resource centre on the website The objective of the resource center is to provide continuously updated information on census taking, and on-line documentation on methodological standards and good practices. The target-users are census takers in developing and developed countries, as they need to exchange on their practices and learn from each others.</p> <p>The reporting period has been used to design and develop the project. Two major components have been developed. First, a home page of the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme presenting the latest information available on census operations in the world: census taking in the countries and supporting activities (seminars, workshops) conducted by different organizations (UNSD, UNFPA, UN Regional Commissions, Eurostat). This home page also gives access to additional information such as: the expected dates for the next census in every country; and websites of National Statistical Offices and International Organizations. The second component of the Resource Center is a comprehensive knowledge base facility that provides technical documentation for census takers. This base includes the finalized <i>Principles and Recommendations</i> and other reference materials for use by National Statistical Offices in the planning, execution and dissemination phases of their population and housing censuses. The knowledge base presents information organized by topics: cartography, data collection, data capture, editing, quality assurance, dissemination, etc., in a user friendly way. The documents presented are reference materials such as United Nations handbooks and other documents produced by countries or experts for seminars or for their national use.</p> <p>The project has been presented at a joined UNECE-Eurostat seminar on population and housing censuses in Astana (Kazakhstan) in June 2007, attended by 90 representatives from 34 countries. The participants welcomed the project and acknowledged its usefulness particularly for census takers who need access to the latest methodological and practical developments from a single point online depository.</p> <p>The knowledge base is now developed and contains more than 247 documents. The resource center was officially launched in October and every NSO was informed. Since this date, the resource center receives around 120 visits per day. The Resource Center was presented in the workshops and in the African Symposium in Accra in December. Active participation of census managers in consulting available documentation and providing additional information will be the success criteria for the resource center. Several NSOs have already spontaneously proposed documents on their census to be included in the Knowledge base or news on their census.</p>
	<p>A7 – Training workshops In the reporting period a set of regional workshops for empowering countries in conducting population and housing censuses was undertaken, in fall 2007 and early 2008:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sub-regional for English-speaking African countries – Lusaka, Zambia, 8-12 October, 14 countries, 28

	<p>participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Sub-regional for French-speaking African countries – Rabat, Morocco, 12-16 November, 10 countries, 48 participants c. Sub-regional for Asia (without Pacific islands), Bangkok (ESCAP), Thailand, 15-19 October, 16 countries, 31 participants d. Sub-regional for Caribbean countries, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 22-26 October, 16 countries, 32 participants e. Regional for ESCWA countries, Cairo, Egypt, 3-6 December, 11 countries, 43 participants f. Sub-regional for Pacific region, Noumea, New Caledonia, 4-8 February, +11 countries, 15 participants <p>These workshops are all co-organized with the relevant Economic Commissions for the region, and other regional governmental organizations. The themes of these workshops included the revised Principles and Recommendations, and the latest developments in the field, as identified through the consultative process of the <i>Expert Group Meeting on Contemporary Practices in Use of Geographical Information Systems for Census Mapping</i>, held in New York, June 2007 under the aegis of the 2010 World Programme. This meeting brought together experts from 17 countries and 6 different organizations and vendors of geographical products.</p> <p>Other themes included relationship between census data and disaster management, focused on type and volume of detailed small area statistics that disaster relief agencies need for efficiently developing mechanisms for mitigating consequences and organizing relief efforts in case of emergencies.</p> <p>Training in international standards for civil registration and vital statistics systems, as a necessary continuation of the foundation laid by the population and housing census, was one of the workshop themes.</p> <p>As elaborated above, these workshops provided training to census takers from 78 countries. The impact of this training will be assessed in the forthcoming period and in the efficiency with which countries implement international standards and contemporary technologies. The overall rating of these workshops was 4.4 (on a scale of max. 5). A follow-up of the workshops will be done after a few months to measure the impact of these workshops and to detect potential needs of cooperation. For example, study visits in a more advanced country can be supported.</p> <p>A8 - Study Visits</p> <p>In the reporting period 2 staff members from the National Statistical Office in Mauritius visited Statistics South Africa for one week to obtain practical knowledge from their peers on the planning, conducting, processing and dissemination of population and housing censuses with a special focus on (i)GIS & (ii) Census and survey data capture through scanning devices. The visit took place from 12 to 16 November 2007.</p> <p>A seminar on recent experiences in Population and Housing Census</p>
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	<p>was organized as a side event to the 39th session of the Statistical Commission, 28 February 2008. The Seminar presented two recent African countries experience in censuses: Ethiopia and Mozambique. Representatives from these two countries gave presentations to share their experience on census practices with their peers in the international community.</p> <p>A10 – Advocacy In the reporting period, countries have been assisted to develop advocacy material that will provide the sponsors of censuses at national and international levels with convincing arguments in support of census taking. The focus was on countries that are now in the phase of early planning for the census when advocacy and resource mobilization comes to the forefront of national activities.</p> <p>Together with the UNFPA, the UNSD organized in April the <i>Workshop on Advocacy for Use of Census Data and Census Mobilization</i> in Praia, Cap Verde. The major achievement of this workshop is the outline of an advocacy document that participating countries will use at the national level. The uniformity of the document (the rationale for the census, the legal basis, the budget and the level of budget items provided as appendices) is expected to enable donors to more efficiently identify the phases of different national censuses, in need of support.</p> <p>The workshop was attended by census managers from 17 countries, several donors (African Development Bank, United Kingdom Department for International Development) and a number of international and regional organizations.</p> <p>A similar workshop was held in Panama, September 17-21, with a special focus on the gender approach in censuses and on guidelines on reporting of census operations.</p>
<p>Expected Accomplishment 3 (EA3)</p>	<p>Build technical systems to help countries conduct their population and housing censuses</p>
<p>Results/Impact achieved for EA3</p>	<p>The following four critical guidelines are in the making: (a) Handbook on use of Geographical Information System in Censuses, (b) Handbook on Editing for Population and Housing Censuses, (c) Handbook on Use of Population and Housing Census in Measuring International Migration, (d) Guidelines for Administrative Reporting of Census Operations.</p>
<p>Activities related to EA3</p>	<p>A11 - Expert group meeting on collection of selected topics in population censuses</p> <p>An Expert Group Meeting on Contemporary Practices in Use of Geographical Information Systems for Census Mapping has been held in New York, June. It brought together 23 experts from 17 countries and 6 different organizations and vendors of geographical products. The purpose of the meeting was to critically review contemporary frameworks and different approaches to census mapping and the capabilities offered by advanced technologies (Geographical Information Systems, Global Positioning Systems, Remote Sensing, Internet, etc.) to support census mapping operations, with an emphasis on possible institutional, organizational and technological obstacles. The Expert Group Meeting has provided a significant input for the preparation of the Workshops on this topic and the revision of the Handbook on Census Mapping. Participants expressed their satisfaction</p>

	<p>toward the high level of quality and usefulness of the meeting. The overall rating of the value of the meeting was 4.7 (on a scale of max. 5), with 16 Excellent and 7 Good opinions. The overall rating of the planning and organization was 4.4.</p> <p>Two expert group meetings have been conducted in September and November to review a handbook on the <i>Use of Census for the Collection of Statistics on International Migration in Population Census</i> and to discuss the outline of a handbook on the <i>Economic Characteristics</i>.</p>
	<p>A12 - Preparation and production of training and reference materials</p> <p>In the reporting period the UNSD initiated the preparatory work for four essential reference materials:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Handbook on Census Mapping and GIS</p> <p>The revision and update of the Handbook on GIS and Digital Mapping is undertaken upon request from 26 countries participating at the Expert Group Meeting on Contemporary Practices in Use of Geographical Information Systems for Census Mapping and 52 countries participating at two workshops held in Africa in late 2006. This is in response to the need of guidelines on the recognized new development in census taking.</p> <p>A consultant has been engaged to prepare the revision of the handbook. His proposals for the new structure of the Handbook and new chapters have been approved and he has provided a draft that will reviewed by an expert group meeting in April 2008.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Handbook on Census Editing</p> <p>The update and revision of this Handbook was initiated in the reporting period. This highly technical manual is used in many countries as practical tool for ensuring the quality and accuracy of the row data collected by the census and to increase the exploitation of census data by producing as error-free as possible master census dataset. In the light of the changes in the <i>Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses</i>, the revision will introduce the checking procedures for all the recommended variables, as well as elaboration of micro-editing (at the level of individual records) and macro-editing (at the level of small areas)..</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Handbook on International Migration</p> <p>Three consultants have been engaged to prepare technical reports on the use of censuses and surveys to measure international migration.</p> <p>Based on recommendations expressed by the expert group meeting (and backed by many countries) in December 2006, a technical report is being prepared to provide guidance on the use of censuses and surveys to derive international migration statistics. Through the use of country examples and a critical assessment of questions currently used in population censuses, this report will provide practical guidance on how to collect data on various aspects of international migration in a census. The ultimate use of this report is to assist countries interested in international migration statistics to effectively plan their census in the 2010 round to obtain relevant statistics on international migration.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">- Handbook on Economic characteristics</p> <p>One consultant has been engaged to revise selected chapters of an existing technical report for inclusion in a Handbook on the collection of data on the economically active population in censuses.</p> <p>The Handbook on the collection of data on the economically active population will be published in 2008, for countries to draw from in preparing their censuses in the 2010 round. The Handbook will provide specific guidance to avert some of the difficulties presented by the concepts related to economic activity, employment and unemployment. While this is a very common topic in the population censuses of many countries, it is also one of the most difficult, and therefore poorly measured. There is strong indication from the wide variations in the formulation of questions used in national censuses over the years that more direction is needed. The ultimate use of this report is to assist countries to effectively plan, collect, disseminate and use data on the economically active population from censuses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Guidelines for Administrative Reporting of Census Operations</p> <p>Another new reference material initiated in the reporting period is the <i>Guidelines for Administrative Reporting of Census Operations</i>. This document is designed as an on-line 'live' publication that will index all the census operations and then link them with write-ups and national examples and practices. This reference material was requested by 52 countries that participated at two workshops in Africa in late 2006.</p>
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D. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

No specific problems were encountered during the period

Annex 1 - Logical Framework

Intervention logic	Indicators	Source of verification
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>Support activities relating to the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses in developing countries.</p>		
<p>EA1</p> <p>Monitor country progress in conducting population and housing censuses and their financing needs.</p>	<p>Number of census country profiles.</p>	<p>Country profiles.</p>
<p><i>Related activities:</i></p> <p>A3 Updating of UNSD population and housing census data A4 Development of country profiles, standards and metadata A5 Monitoring of country activities related to census-taking</p>		
<p>EA2</p> <p>Assist countries to implement the <i>United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2</i>.</p>	<p>Percentage of participants that have increased their technical knowledge at training workshops and study visits.</p>	<p>Responses to evaluation questionnaires.</p>
<p><i>Related activities:</i></p> <p>A1 Distribution and promotion of the revised <i>United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census</i> A2 Development of regional initiatives for creation of joint projects A6 Develop a resource centre on the website A7 Training workshops on Principles and Recommendations and topical technical issues in census-taking A8 Study Visits – sponsor South-South visits A9 Advisory missions A10 Preparation and production of advocacy materials</p>		
<p>EA3</p> <p>Build technical systems to help countries conduct their population and housing censuses and improve their efficiency.</p>	<p>Number of reference and technical materials produced and initiated.</p>	<p>Reference and technical materials.</p>
<p><i>Related activities:</i></p> <p>A11 Expert group meetings on collection of selected topics in population censuses A12 Preparation and production of reference and training materials, workshops in various regions</p>		

Annex 2 – Activities funded by the 2007 World Bank Grant

The following activities were funded in part by the 2007 World Bank Grant to the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses:

1. United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Contemporary Practices in Census Cartography and Use of Geographical Information Systems (UNHQ, New York, 29 May – 1 June 2007)
2. United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Censuses to Measure International Migration (UNHQ, New York, 24-28 September 2007)
3. United Nations Regional Workshop on Census Cartography and Management for English-speaking African countries (Lusaka, Zambia, 8-12 October 2007)
4. United Nations Regional Workshop on Census Cartography and Management for Asia (without Pacific Islands) (ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand, 15-19 October 2007)
5. United Nations Regional Workshop on Census Cartography and Management for Caribbean countries (CARICOM) (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 22-26 October 2007)
6. Study Visit of two participants from Mauritius NSO to Stats South Africa on the topic of planning, conducting, processing and disseminating of population and housing censuses with a focus on (i) GIS & (ii) Census and survey data capture through scanning devices (Pretoria, South Africa, 12-16 November 2007)
7. United Nations Regional Workshop on Census Cartography and Management for French-speaking African countries (Rabat, Morocco, 12-16 November 2007)
8. United Nations Workshop on International Standards for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and on Assessment of the State of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in ESCWA Region, Cairo, Egypt 3-6 December 2007
9. Africa Symposium, Accra, Ghana, 3-7 December 2007
10. United Nations Regional Workshop on International standards, contemporary technologies and regional cooperation for South Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia, 4-8 February 2008
11. Population and Housing Censuses Seminar, side event to the 39th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, UNHQ, New York, 28 February 2008
12. Advisory missions
13. Updating UNSD population and housing census data
14. UNSD developed web-based resource centre
15. Preparation and updates of various handbooks and guidelines

Additional funding for the above activities and the rest of the activities was provided in part by the United Nations, national statistical offices and international/regional organizations.