



2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme (2005 - 2014) Newsletter

July 2012

United Nations Statistics Division, DESA

No. 12

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UNSD conducted regional and national workshops on CensusInfo for the Asian region

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organized one regional and three national workshops on CensusInfo with a view to assisting countries in the Asian region to enhance their census data dissemination and utilization. The main objective of these workshops was to introduce and demonstrate CensusInfo's potential as a platform for disseminating census data at any geographical level.

The workshops imparted knowledge to participants on the various processes involved in the adaptation of CensusInfo, including the preparation of CensusInfo template and database, importing data, language translation and customization of the software. The workshops also provided forums for discussing and exchanging experiences and practices in the dissemination of census data including strategies and technologies used for dissemination. The discussions helped to bring out some of the main issues and challenges in the dissemination and use of census data in the region.

The United Nations Regional Workshop on CensusInfo for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 15 to 18 May 2012. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Agency for Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The workshop was formally opened in the presence of Mr. Aidyn Ashuyev, Deputy Chairman of the Agency for Statistics and Mr. Nikolai Botev, Director of UNFPA Subregional Office in Almaty. The workshop



Workshop on CensusInfo for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Almaty, 15-18 May 2012

UNSD conducted national and regional training workshops on CensusInfo *(continued from page 1)*

was attended by 18 staff from 7 national statistical offices in the CIS region—Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine. The workshop was also attended by staff from the UNFPA Subregional Office for Central Asia and the UNICEF Country Office. The participants comprised mostly of census managers, senior census practitioners and IT experts with responsibility for the dissemination of census data.

The three national workshops on CensusInfo were conducted for the staff of national statistical offices in China, Tajikistan and Cambodia. The national CensusInfo workshop for China was held in Beijing from 9 to 13 April 2012. The workshop was attended by 45 participants—43 from the National Bureau of Statistics of China (35 of whom came from provincial statistical offices) and 2 participants from the national statistical office of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The national CensusInfo training for Tajikistan was conducted in Dushanbe in the period 14–18 May 2012. Eleven staff from the national statistical office and one from the UNICEF country office were trained. The national statistical office staff comprised of demographers, census specialists and IT personnel. Carried out in Phnom Penh from 25 to 29 June 2012, the national CensusInfo training for Cambodia was attended by 15 staff members of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) drawn from different departments including census, social statistics, economic statistics, database administration and information technology.

CensusInfo is a software package developed by the United Nations Statistics Division in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA to help countries disseminate their census data on CD-ROM and on the web. It was officially launched at the United Nations Statistical Commission on 23 February 2009 and is distributed royalty-free. More information on CensusInfo is available at the website dedicated to its promotion: <http://www.censusinfo.net>



Workshop on CensusInfo for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Almaty, 15-18 May 2012

Workshop on collection and dissemination of socio-economic data held for South Asian countries

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) conducted the Workshop for South Asian Countries on Collection and Dissemination of Socio-Economic Data from Population and Housing Censuses in New Delhi, India from 28 to 31 May 2012. The workshop brought together participants from 8 member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The purpose of the workshop was to present international standards, discuss the use of technological tools and of GIS web-based mapping and spatial analysis in the dissemination of census data. The workshop was also intended to serve as a forum for participants to share national practices and experiences on these topics.

The workshop was inaugurated with opening remarks by Mr. Deepak Rastogi, Deputy Director General, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Mr. S. K. Das, Director General, Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, and Ms. Margaret Mbogoni, Statistician, United Nations Statistics Division. All three opening remarks highlighted the crucial importance of data for policy decision making and the need for adequate census data dissemination and utilization. The three representatives also recognized the collaboration between UNSD and the Government of India in the organization of the workshop, which enabled to gather key statisticians and census managers from countries of the sub-region.

In the session dealing with the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, UNSD introduced the background of the programme, its objectives and the wide range of activities that UNSD has carried out to support the programme. The presentation by UNSD also provided the participants with the status of census implementation to date by countries in the world.

The session on recommended topics and tabulations of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2, stressed the importance of the extensive regional and international consultations as a major corner stone in the development of both the core topics and the recommended tabulations. The presentations in this session defined the core topics as the main variables for the recommended tabulations. These are those census topics on which there is substantial agreement among regions of the world in regard to both their importance and the feasibility of collecting data on them in a census. The presentation summarized the core topics of Revision 2 of the Principles and Recommendations and highlighted the differences between this set and the



Workshop on Collection and Dissemination of Socio-Economic Data from Censuses
New Delhi, 28-31 May 2012

Workshop on collection and dissemination of socio-economic data held for South Asian countries *(continued from page 3)*

one contained in its predecessor, Revision 1 of the census recommendations, which was developed for the 2000 round of censuses. It was mentioned in the presentation that there are 33 recommended tabulations on population characteristics and 19 on housing characteristics. Recommended tabulations reflect essential data needs—and relevance at national and international levels—for evidence based decision making.

Several sessions of the workshop dealt with the use of technological tools in the dissemination of census data. The presentations and discussions in these sessions highlighted the importance of the development and use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geographic databases, digital hand-held devices, web-based mapping tools and other advanced spatial analysis for census data collection and dissemination. The discussions stressed the importance of using GIS, GPS, spatial analysis and other geospatial tools by NSOs in order to build a geographic infrastructure in support of their statistical activities, including census data dissemination. It was recognized, however, that building a geographic infrastructure in support of census activities, at the enumeration level, require technical as well as human capacities that may not be adequately available currently in some countries in the region.

Based on the presentations delivered and the interactive discussions held at the workshop, participants adopted conclusions and recommendations. Among these were:

(i) Participants recognized the role that UNSD is playing in the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and on enhancing national capacity to undertake censuses. In this connection, participants expressed interest in UNSD assistance for national and regional training, particularly in census data analysis and also in implementation of the CensusInfo software for census data dissemination.

(ii) Some countries are interested in adopting innovative approaches to census taking including use of modern technology such as the Internet and also of registers to generate their statistics. It was pointed out, however, that there is generally a lack of knowledge about successful experiences of other countries in the use of innovative approaches. In the context of the Knowledge Base of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, it was suggested that countries should contribute material on their census practices in order to enhance the sharing of national experiences.

(iii) Participants requested guidance on how to schedule the release of the various types of reports and tabulations with regard to both preliminary and final results.

(iv) In the context of census evaluation, countries requested guidelines on how to handle dissemination of adjusted census results.

(v) Participants expressed concerns about the proliferation of data dissemination softwares and requested clarifications on the comparability and interoperability of these tools, for example, CensusInfo and DevInfo.

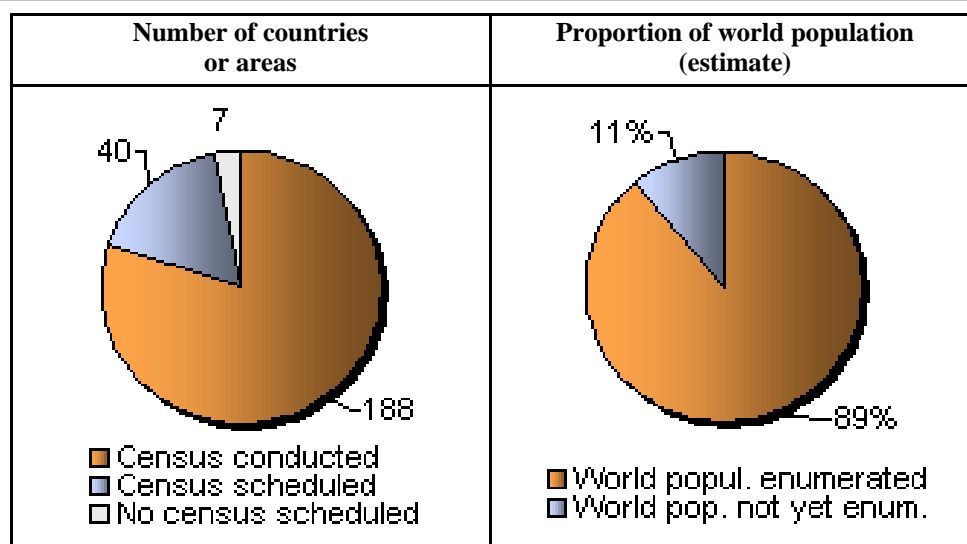
(vi) Participants recognized the importance of using GIS, GPS, and other geospatial tools and the building of a geospatial infrastructure. Most of the countries in the region are building their census geographic databases and recognize that their development are fundamental for a full digital census programme and a basis for spatial analysis, which are emerging techniques for census data analysis and presentation. This requires strengthening of capacities and allocation of adequate resources.

(vii) Participants recognized that national statistical and census offices are often not custodians of base maps and other mapping products which may be difficult to acquire but much needed for census cartographic operations. In this regard, national statistical and census offices are encouraged to collaborate with respective national mapping authorities.

(viii) Participants recognized the need to diversify the means for dissemination by using emerging technologies such as web-based mapping, cloud applications and services, mobile technology, etc., to reach a wider audience. These interactive tools are more effective and user-friendly than for example static tabulations. However, security of data should be taken into account.

For more information on the workshop see: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/India/2012/default.htm>

Update on implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses



Information available to UNSD at the end of July 2012 indicates that thus far in the 2010 round a total of 188 countries or areas have conducted a population and housing census. These censuses have enumerated an estimated 89 per cent of the world's population. By the end of 2012, another 22 countries or areas are expected to conduct a census, bringing the percentage of the world's population counted to about 92 per cent. In 2013, about 11 countries or areas have scheduled to conduct a census. By the end of the census round in 2014, it is estimated that close to 96 per cent of the world's population would have been counted. A census has not been scheduled in 7 countries or areas for the 2010 round.

Under the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, UNSD monitors and publishes information on the progress being made by countries in conducting population and housing censuses in the 2010 round. For more information on progress in implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, see: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/census2010.htm>

