



2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Newsletter

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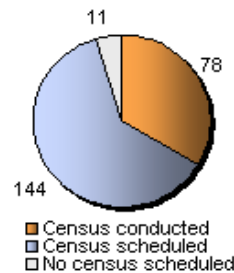
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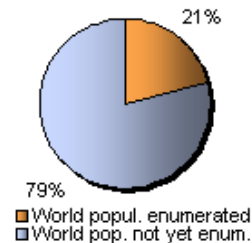
Update on 2010 round population and housing censuses

According to information available at UNSD as of 1 March 2010, 78 countries or areas have conducted a population and housing census in the 2010 round, enumerating altogether an estimated 1,453,442,368 people, representing 21 per cent of the world's population. By the end of 2010 another 63 countries or areas are expected to conduct a census, bringing the percentage of the world's population counted to over 63 per cent. The population covered by a census is expected to reach 94 per cent by the end of 2011.

Number of countries or areas that have conducted a census in the 2010 round



Proportion of enumerated population



The following countries or areas have planned to conduct a census in the first half of 2010: American Samoa, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cape Verde, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Indonesia, Mauritius, Northern Mariana Islands, Oman, Panama, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and United States Virgin Islands.

For more information on the progress of 2010 round censuses see:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/default.htm

UNSD reported to the 41st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission on population and housing census activities

UNSD prepared a report for the 41st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 23 to 26 February 2010. The report presented a full elaboration of the varied activities carried out by UNSD in respect of the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The activities include UNSD's continuing work in the development and publication of international census guidelines. UNSD has rendered technical assistance to several countries and, in collabo-

UNSD reported to the 41st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission on population and housing census activities *(continued from page 1)*

ration with regional and sub-regional organizations, conducted workshops on various census related topics including on census evaluation and on the use of CensusInfo, a software package aimed at enhancing the dissemination of census data by countries. Furthermore, UNSD has developed a website to serve as a census knowledge base. The website also provides the latest information on census-related activities in the world.

In view of the fact that the majority of countries will undertake their 2010 round census either in 2010 or 2011, the future UNSD work programme will emphasize activities aimed at supporting census data dissemination and analysis. In this regard, UNSD will continue to promote and conduct training workshops on CensusInfo. It will also conduct regional and national workshops on data analysis and dissemination as well as hold an expert group meeting on contemporary national practices in census data dissemination. Furthermore, UNSD will prepare a technical report on census data dissemination and analysis, and undertake technical assistance missions to provide country-specific support, especially to countries that are in difficult situations or emerging out of conflict. Last but not least, as part of the monitoring of the 2010 census round, UNSD will continue to monitor and publish information on the progress being made by countries in conducting population and housing censuses.

The full Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2010.htm>

For more information on the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme see: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/default.htm

Press conference addressed the challenges faced by countries emerging from conflicts in conducting a census

A press conference was held on 25 February 2010 in order to highlight the unique challenges faced by countries emerging from conflicts in conducting censuses. UNSD and UNFPA as well as government census officials from Iraq, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed reporters at the press conference. It was noted that the 2010 census round was crucial in helping countries emerging from conflict better plan national development strategies and help guide democratization efforts.

It was learned that in Iraq the forthcoming census is being viewed as a potential peacemaking tool that could be employed for national reconciliation. The census results are expected to guide the distribution of oil revenues and the allocation of electoral seats. However, outdated technology, the dearth of census experts and security risks are posing formidable challenges. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is also facing difficulties as it prepares to conduct its second census in July 2011, the first national census in 27 years. Due to its poor transportation and communications infrastructure, however, there is concern that it would be difficult to reach everyone in the vast country. Mobilizing resources for census-taking would also be a challenge, because humanitarian aid remains the top priority.

For more information on the press conference, see the official press release at: http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs//2010/100225_DESA.doc.htm



Side event organized on dissemination of census results with CensusInfo

As a side event of the 41st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, UNSD organized a seminar entitled *Dissemination of Census Results with CensusInfo*. The primary objective of the seminar was to provide a forum for countries to exchange their experiences in using CensusInfo for disseminating the results of their population and housing censuses. Representatives of national statistical offices from four countries – namely, Aruba, Gambia, Liberia and the Occupied Palestinian Territory – shared their experiences in developing their national CensusInfo databases and in disseminating results from the 2010 or previous census rounds. The seminar, which was held on 22 February 2010 and attended by more than 50 participants, also provided an opportunity to discuss ways and means of improving the quality of dissemination of census results.

CensusInfo is a free software package developed by the United Nations Statistics Division in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA. CensusInfo helps countries disseminate detailed population and housing census data at any geographical level with interactive tabulation, mapping and graphing facilities. CensusInfo was officially launched at the 40th United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2009. UNSD provides CensusInfo with a proposed list of indicators and metadata with a view to enhancing the international comparability of census data while at the same time allowing countries the flexibility to disseminate census information according to their national priorities and needs. CensusInfo strives to increase the usefulness of census information for national and local development programmes and promotes the use of census information especially by policy and decision makers at different administrative levels. UNSD has been conducting regional workshops as well as in-house training on the implementation of CensusInfo.

For more information, including side event programme and presentations, see:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/statcom_2010/Seminars/Censusinfo/default.html

More information on CensusInfo is available at:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/CensusInfo/index.htm



Seminar conducted on population censuses in post-conflict countries

The seminar on *Population Censuses in Post-Conflict Countries* was co-organized by UNSD and UNFPA on 25 February 2010. The aim of the seminar was to discuss the specific challenges faced by countries emerging from conflicts in the preparation and conduct of population and housing censuses. Case studies based on four countries emerging from conflicts were presented at the seminar: the 2008 census in Liberia, the preparation of the 2010 census in Iraq, and the challenges of planning for the next census in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



The seminar highlighted that countries transitioning from long periods of conflict often lack the basic demographic and socio-economic data needed for reconstruction and for formulating and implementing development programmes. It was emphasized that post-conflict countries face significant challenges in planning for censuses, including security and political uncertainties; lack of institutional capacity and expertise; and inadequate information technology and infrastructure. Capacity building in post-conflict situations requires significant resources, technical assistance and concerted effort by all, including regional and international partners committed to statistical capacity development. The seminar underscored that to plan and conduct censuses successfully in post-conflict situations it is critical to: secure political commitment at the national and local levels; strengthen institutional capacity-building; forge national consensus using the census as a peacemaking tool through broad publicity and advocacy initiatives involving all segments of society; and, mobilize resources and technical assistance from regional and international partners.

For more information, including seminar programme and presentations, see:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/statcom_2010/Seminars/Pop_Census/default.html



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