

**Principles and Recommendations  
for Population and Housing  
Censuses  
Revision 1**

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**ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/REV.1**

# Reasons for revision

- Last revised in 1980 - a supplement issued in 1990
- Social and economic development in many developing countries
- Rapid changes in technology
- Changes in users' demands - users are more sophisticated than before.

# **New approach in census planning**

## **- cheaper, quicker, better**

- How to make the census more cost - effective
- How to produce the results quicker
- How can census data be accessed by much wider data users
- How to make the results be more useful

# Process in the revision

- UN invited countries to suggest changes
- UN invited census experts prepare papers based on countries' suggestions
- UNSD prepared draft revised document
- UN convened expert group meeting
- UN revised draft and submitted to the Statistical commission

# Process in the revision

- Statistical Commission endorsed the PRPHC and urged all countries to use the document
- UN finalized the document to be published in all United Nations languages

# SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

## PRPHC Rev.1

- Part One: Operational aspects of population and housing censuses
- Part Two: Topics for population and housing censuses
- *Part Three: Census products and data utilization*

# Series of census Handbooks

- Part I: Planning, organization and administration of Population and housing censuses
- Part II: Demographic and social characteristics
- *Part III: Guide for the collection of economic characteristics in population censuses*
- Part IV: Economic activity status
- *Part V: Guide for the collection of fertility and mortality in population censuses*

# Series of census Handbooks

- *Part VI: Census management*
- *Part VII: Data editing in population and housing censuses*
- *Part VIII: GIS and Digital census mapping*

# **Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing**

**Censuses**

Revision 1

**Part One**

# PART ONE

- Chapter I. Definition, essential features and uses of PHC
- Chapter II. Planning, organization and administration of PHC
- Chapter III. Use of Sampling in PHC
- Chapter IV. The units, place and time of enumeration for PHC

# Chapter I

- A. Definitions
- B. Essential features
  - individual enumeration
  - Universality
  - simultaneity
  - Defined periodicity
- C. Strategic Objective
- D. Uses in integrated programme in data collection and compilation

# Chapter II: Planning, Organization and Administration

*In general census operations can be divided into:*

a. Preparatory work, b. enumeration, c. data processing, d. building of the needed databases and dissemination of the results, e. evaluation of the results and f. analysis of the results.

*In addition:*

Systematic recording of census experience and the quality and improvement programme must support and accompany the main census operations.

# Chapter II: Planning, Organization and Administration

- A. Preparatory work
- B. Quality control and improvement programme
- C. Enumeration
- D. Data processing
- E. Databases
- F. Dissemination of the results

# Chapter II: Planning, Organization and Administration

- G. Evaluation of the results
- H. Analysis
- I. Systematic recording and dissemination of census experience

# A. Preparatory work

- 1. Legal Basis
- 2. Budget and cost control
- 3. Census calendar
- 4. Administrative organization
- 5. Communications activities
- 6. Plan for quality control and improvement programme

# A. Preparatory work

- 7. *Cartographic (mapping) work*
- 8. Small area identification
- 9. Living quarters and household listing
- 10. Tabulation programme
- 11. Questionnaire preparation
- 12. Census Tests
- 13. Plan for enumeration

# A. Preparatory work

- 14. Plans for data processing
- 15. Plans for dissemination
- 16. Staff recruitment and training
- *17. Avoiding gender biases and biases affecting data on minority population*

# A7. Cartographic (mapping) work

- Maps are needed in all stages of census
  - Data collection
  - Data presentation
  - Data analysis
  - Data dissemination

# A7. Cartographic (mapping) work

- All available maps that are accurate should be screened and utilized
  - national maps
  - topographic maps
  - maps of major administrative division
  - city and town maps
  - special maps (transportation, physical, population, etc..)

# A7. Cartographic (mapping) work

- Application of new technology
  - Use of computer assisted mapping
  - Use of satellite-based global positioning system
  - Establishment of national spatial database
  - Development of census mapping system

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## A.17 Avoiding gender and other biases

- Gender-based stereotypes should be addressed in census planning:
- - Census contents (*should be alert to respondents stereotypes - in definitions, classifications*)
- - Census operations (*selection, training and supervision of field staff*)
- Stereotypes and biases affecting minority groups (*ethnic, linguistic, national, racial and religious minorities and indigenous and nomadic populations*)

# **B. Quality control and improvement**

- 1. Need for a quality control and improvement system
- 2. Quality control techniques
- 3. Implementing quality control and improvement programme
- 4. Management of quality control and improvement programme

# C. Enumeration

- 1. Method of enumeration
- 2. Timing and length of the enumeration period
- 3. Supervision
- 4. Use of sampling in the enumeration

# D. Data Processing

- 1. Method of data processing
- 2. Coding
- 3. Data capture: keyboard, OMR, OCR, imaging
- 4. Data editing
- 5. Processing control
- 6. Master file for tabulation
- 7. Methods of tabulation
- 8. Provisional census results

# E. Databases

- 1. Database for microdata
- 2. Database for macrodata
- 3. Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

# **F. Dissemination of the results**

- 1. Publication of printed tables and reports
- 2. Dissemination on computer media
- 3. On-line dissemination
- 4. Privacy and confidentiality
- 5. Acceptance of the results

# G. Evaluation of the results

- 1. Purpose of evaluation
- 2. Methods of evaluation
- 3. Demographic Analysis
- 4. Post-enumeration survey
- 5. Re-interview surveys

## **H. Analysis of the results**

- It is advisable to draw up a comprehensive and coordinated programme of analytical studies, phased over a period of time
- Data from the current census should be examine not only by themselves but also as complemented by relevant data from other sources and from earlier censuses.
- Research organizations and universities should be encouraged to do census analysis

# **I. Systematic recording and dissemination of census experience**

- Every country should prepare and publish a methodological and administrative report providing:
  - specimens of all census instruments
  - detailed information on the cost of the census
  - implementation of census budget

# **I. Systematic recording and dissemination of census experience**

- Detailed information in the manner in which the census was planned, organized and conducted
- Methodological and other problems encountered at the various stages of the programme
- All points that need to be considered in future censuses.

# III. Use of sampling

- Role of sampling (*a. in data collection, analysis and evaluation; b. as sampling frame*)
- Acceptable sampling operations (*accuracy and precision; resources*)
- Sampling as integral part of the census (*test procedure; enumeration of certain topics; PES; Quality control; advance tabulation; processing and tabulation*)
- Sampling frame

## **IV. Units, place and time of enumeration for PHC**

- Unit of enumeration (*person, household, institutional population; living quarters, building*)
- Place of enumeration (*de facto; de jure*)
- Enumeration point of time
- Time reference period

# Summary

- Census Offices faced with new challenges
  - Census content - to meet the requirements of users
  - Impact on the public and on the census staff
  - Census results must meet legal obligation
  - census cost-effectiveness

# Summary

- Constant changing technology
  - More sophisticated data users
  - Much wider applications for data utilization
  - Varied means in data dissemination
- Closer dialogues between producers and users of data

# Points for discussions and Exercises

- What suggestions can you make for the last/next census (in your country) more cost-effective ?
- What suggestions can you make for better utilization of the next census results ?