

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

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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 ?