

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

**Part Three**

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# Census Products and Data Utilization

- VII. Promotion of User-Producer Dialogue
- VIII. Products and Services
- IX. Census Data Utilization

# **VII. Promotion of users- producers dialogue**

- A. Value of censuses of population and housing
- B. Users Needs
- C. Dialogue between users and producers

# **A. Value of censuses of population and housing**

- Serves many need on demographic, human settlements, social and economic issues for local, national and international purposes
- Principles sources for sampling frame
- Important source of data for the calculation of social indicators
- Benchmark statistics on the current housing programmes

## **B. Users needs**

- Census organizations are concerned with meeting diverse users needs
- It is important for data users to recognize the competing demands and limited resources impose constraints to census organizations

## **C. Dialogue between users and producers**

- Users needs and producers constraints must be balanced at all stages.
- Users need to learn how to provide input in the most effective way to census organization.
- User conferences provide forum where each side learn to understand each other's priorities and constraints and develop a process to reach consensus.
- End results decision must be made to maintain the success of the census, due to the high census cost.

# VIII. Census products and services

- Increasing users demands for various type of products and services
- Since costs can be high - countries need to have very careful planning
- Some data users need data that are not published - special services for ad hoc demand should be made available
- Certain data may not be tabulated until they are needed by users

# Census Products and Services

- A. Publication of census results
- B. Mapping products
- C. Computer media products
- D. Customized products and services



# A. Publication of census results

- 1. Descriptive reports: *information on all types of products that will be should be published; census dictionary; census methodology; census evaluation.*
- 2. Basic statistical reports
  - Population census tables
  - Housing census tables
- 3. Thematic statistical or analytical reports: *regional analysis, community or specific groups reports; population growth and distribution; administrative report.*

## **B. Mapping products**

- Maps serve two purposes:
  - to provide census area identification, which locate and show the boundaries of all areas for which data are reported
  - to present census results in the form of thematic maps, thus allowing the general user to visualize the geographic distributions and patterns inherent in the data

## B. Mapping products

- Map-publication programme should be developed as part of overall programme at the initial planning stage.
- It should include production of population atlas. Collaboration with other department should be sought. *Three types of maps: national, provincial and urban and metropolitan maps*
- Thematic maps: *containing priority indicators for population and housing census e.g.. total population, density, urban population, changes since last census, fertility, employment, migration.*

# **C. Computer media products**

- **Statistical tables, maps or census records may be disseminated on computer media products, such as floppy disks or compact disks.**
- **It is necessary that the products include easy-to-use software which enable the users to retrieve and display the data as well as to manipulate them for their own needs.**
- **Similar data can also be disseminated through online computer media such internet, or bulletin board system.**

# **C. Computer media products**

- **Digital census maps, and atlases can also be disseminated through computer media.**
- **The capability of dynamic mapping linking database of indicators and base maps that allow users to establish maps, on-the-fly, is the ultimate goal of a census mapping exercise.**
- **Microcomputers and appropriate software today can deliver this capability allowing census organization to develop user-friendly integrated databases.**

## **D. Customized products and services**

- **The increasing activity in economic and social planning are placing new demands for tabulations and mapping not only by major, minor civil divisions or metropolitan areas but by specialized local areas or groups of areas. It is useful to establish an *on demand* service for users.**
- **Other services may include provision for special requests for census products, such as thematic databases, tables, graphic and mapping outputs which can be designed for small, medium, and large businesses, communities or special interest groups.**

## **D. Customized products and services**

- **Census products could be governed by a license agreement. The license permits the users to use the product without transferring of the ownership. The ownership remain with the government.**
  - **Products for own use**
  - **Products for repackaging to be marketed**
- **In cases where copyright laws protect census data ownership, some royalty fees and data usage fees may be charged to the distributors to ensure a minimum return. However, if prices are too high it can also be a barrier to the use of the census data.**

# **IX. Census data utilization**

- A. General uses of population and housing censuses
- B. Uses of local area data
- C. Cross-cutting social issues
- D. Social indicators



# **A. General uses of census data**

- **Censuses are traditionally used for policy-making, planning, administrative, sampling frame and research purposes.**
- **Also, for demarcation of constituencies and the allocation of representation on governing bodies.**
- **Housing censuses are used to develop bench-mark housing statistics and to formulate housing policy.**
- **Recently include for studying changes in social, economic and environmental issues. Many new uses and users of census information have arisen**

# 1. Uses of population censuses

- Total population as legal requirement to determine the apportionment of representation in legislative bodies
- Demographic and social characteristics of the population are fundamental for any study in population
- Fertility and mortality information are very useful particularly in countries without good C.R. system
- Socio-economic characteristics are some of the key information that can only be obtained from the census.

## 2. Uses of housing censuses

- The primary uses of information from housing censuses include:
- As basis for planning on housing and human settlement programme and policies;
- Studies on urban and other non-agricultural land use;
- Evaluation of the adequacy of housing stock and assessment of the need of new housing;
- Studies on the living condition of the homeless and those living in temporary housing.

## **B. Uses of local area data**

- Censuses in most cases are the only source of small area data
- Flexibility of local area data to be combined to form any defined statistical areas increases the value of census data for various needs
- Enhance research works

# **C. Cross-cutting social issues**

- 1. Statistics on gender
- 2. Statistics on children and youth
- 3. Statistics on the elderly
- 4. Statistics on people with disability

## **D. Social indicators**

- Follow-up of recent international conferences
- Minimum national social data set

# **D. Social indicators**

- **The Statistical Commission formed an Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences. Among the main objectives of the Expert Group were to:**
  - **(a) Consider the programmes of action adopted by the International Conference**
  - **(b) Agree on a number of critical policy domains;**
  - **(c) Identify relevant statistical issues arising from such policy domains.**

# **D. Social indicators**

- **The Expert Group identified broad policy themes on statistics which could be compiled for the purpose of monitoring achievement of conference goals:**
  - (i) population and development;
  - (ii) eradication of poverty;
  - (iii) expansion of productive employment and reduction of unemployment;
  - (iv) social integration; and
  - (v) status of women and men



## **D. Social indicators**

- The Expert Group identified a number of indicators that may be used to monitor or assess progress towards development, and recommended a basic list of 15 indicators which would make up a minimum national social data set (MNSDS)