

1) EXPERIENCES WITH THE 1999 KENYA POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

PREPARATION OF CENSUS INSTRUMENTS:

Preparation of census instruments started early enough and involved consulting with stakeholders and subject matter specialists on the list of questions to be asked. Consideration on improvement of previous censuses and UN recommendations and principles guided the process. The instruments developed were; a) questionnaires, b) code sheets, c) enumerators' manuals, and d) supervisors' manuals. The instruments were finalized early for the census.

PUBLICITY/ADVOCACY:

Lessons learnt during the 1989 census indicated that the lack of effective publicity and advocacy could undermine the success of a census operation. An effective advocacy and publicity strategy was therefore developed for the 1999 census and encompassed development of materials, effective use of the media, and involvement of all stakeholders in various activities. An advocacy document was developed and translated into Kiswahili to facilitate easier understanding.

Press conferences, regular briefings and interviews were held with relevant officers. A documentary was produced that underscored the linkage between the data provided and development planning. All these efforts led to the public being aware of what was expected of them and hence the success of the census.

A census slogan "Counting our people for Development" and posters were scouted in a competition.

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF ENUMERATORS:

Various cadres of personnel were involved in the census. A team of trainers, comprising of highly qualified personnel were the first to be recruited and trained. Senior supervisors and Supervisors were at the second level of recruitment and training. They comprised of professionals and academics. They were therefore capable of training the enumerators effectively. Supervisors trained the enumerators under the supervision of senior supervisors. Enumerators were recruited from areas they reside and had a minimum of fourth form academic level. Census committees were formed at the national and lower levels and facilitated the recruitment of the different cadres.

ENUMERATION:

The enumeration exercise went on well within the stipulated period of seven days. Enumeration of population took an average of 3 to 4 days in most parts of the country. Since the exercise was to last 7 days, those who had not been enumerated were informed of where to report.

DATA CAPTURE

The country adopted the use of scanning technology known as intelligent character recognition (ICR). Use of the scanning technology made it possible to have data captured in a short period and hence the release of preliminary results in six months and the basic reports within one and half years.

ANALYSIS

The following publications were produced:

- Preliminary report
- Two basic reports (
- Fertility and Nuptiality Monograph
- Mortality Monograph
- Migration and Urbanization Monograph
- Population Projections Monograph
- Education Monograph
- Labour Force Monograph
- Housing Monograph
- Gender Dimensions Monograph
- Population Dynamics Monograph

DISSEMINATION

Dissemination workshops were held at the national and sub national levels. Among those targeted included: Media personnel, National leaders, parliamentarians, private sector personnel, public sector, NGOs and civic leaders. The census data has been utilized extensively since then.

2) PLANS FOR THE 2009 CENSUS

The next Kenya Population and Housing Census is scheduled in August 2009. This will be the seventh census to be undertaken in Kenyan history, the others having been done in 1948, 1962, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999. A Census Office has been constituted to spearhead the process of planning and tracking implementation of the various activities.

Preparatory activities:

Under preparatory tasks, we have planned for the following activities:

- Field mapping (which has already started)
- Capacity building
- Procurement of GIS hardware and software
- Design and testing of census tools
- Printing of census tools

Field operations

For successful enumeration in the next census, a number of field operations have been planned. These operations include:

- Publicity and advocacy
- Recruitment and training of field staff
- Distribution and return of census materials
- Logistics arrangements

Data processing

Plans for data processing are being formulated as an integral part of the overall planning of the census. The need to adopt efficient and effective methods of data capture and processing are critical for the success of the 2009 census. A critical review of the available different processing systems will be undertaken in advance and the method that is fast, reliable and accurate will be recommended.

Dissemination of census results

The overall plan for dissemination is to provide information useful to users to make more informed decisions. The plan will focus on data relevance, quality and timeliness delivery. A wide range of statistical products will be made available in the form of published reports for general distribution, electronic form and post results on the website. The results will be disseminated at the national and sub-national levels to different users and the public at large.

Evaluation of the Census Process

An evaluation of the 2009 population census will be undertaken so as to ensure that the effort and investment of resources were worthwhile. Evaluation efforts on census will be designed to serve the following objectives:

- To provide some measures of the quality of the census data to help interpret the results;
- To identify types and possible sources of error in order to assist in the planning of future censuses; and
- To serve as a basis for constructing the best estimates of census aggregates or to provide census results adjusted to take into account identified errors.