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2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses
22-26 August 2005
United Nations, New York

**Postings on the discussion from of the United Nations Expert Group on the 2010 World
Programme on Population and Housing Censuses^{***}**

* This document is being reproduced without formal editing.

** Postings as of 19 August 2005.

Drafting Group

Topic: Excerpt from the Symposium report

Srdjan Mrkic

What follows is the relevant excerpt of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the United Nations Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses, held in New York, 13-14 September 2004. The full text and papers of both the Symposium and the United Nations Expert Group Meeting that followed it are available on the "Background documents" page of the 2010 World Programme website at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/default.htm>.

What is a census? The Symposium reviewed the definition of a census as stated in the current version of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and in light of experiences from the previous decade round. The current internationally recommended definition consists of four criteria for a census: individual enumeration, universality within defined territory, simultaneity and defined periodicity. While most countries continue to conduct traditional census and some use national registers, new forms such as rolling censuses are emerging which do not necessarily have all of these characteristics. The Symposium recommended revisiting the essential features of a census to determine whether or not—and if so in what way—the definition might be revised.

Srdjan Mrkic
UN Statistics Division

Working Group 1

Topic: Some key areas of work for Working Group 1

Susan Linacre

Working Group 1 is tasked with contributing to enhancing the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses in a number of ways.

We are asked to consider potential new topics for the 2010 round of censuses. Suggested additions have been environmental statistics and access to technology. Are there other new topics we should consider for inclusion?

We have also been asked to review topics currently in the Principles and Recommendations. Issues have been raised in relation to migration, usual residence, citizenship, families, disability, and housing topics. Are there additional issues in relation to these topics, or views on the issues raised. Are there other topics that require review?

Internal and international migration are increasingly important for social and economic policy, so it is important the Principles and Recommendations are updated to clarify the definitions of usual residence and migrant. Citizenship within a country is also an issue for many countries. The Principles and Recommendations currently propose that citizenship be collected and fully coded. Is information on all different countries of citizenship needed, and if so how the issue is raised as to how dual citizenship should be handled?

For a variety of reasons, some families could be considered to involve more than one household. Examples include shared custody and support arrangements in some countries, and polygamous families in other countries. We need to consider whether the Principles and Recommendation on families and households should be revised to cater for these cases, or if the Principles and Recommendations should continue to prescribe that a family cannot comprise more than one household (leaving individual countries to decide how best to classify families and households to this structure).

The ICF provides a new 'common language' for disability question set development and comparison, as well as for comparison and relatability of question set output across countries. The Principles and Recommendations should be updated to reflect the development of ICF and related question modules. Testing of these modules is occurring in a number of areas and should guide the Recommendations.

Finally, we are reviewing the housing census related Principles and Recommendations, including emerging housing census issues. Are there any comments in relation to this?

In order for our discussions at the forthcoming UN Expert Group Meeting to be as productive as possible, I would appreciate your input to key issues for discussion in relation to the work of Working Group 1.

Susan Linacre
Deputy Australian Statistician

Topic: COMMENTS ON CENSUS TOPICS

sylvanroberts

Dear All,

I wish to raise an issue with regard to the topic of "Economic Activity" in PHCs, and make two remarks on the question of collecting information on "Citizenship" and the use of the term "Family" in data collection.

(i) First, on the topic of Economic Activity which is extremely important particularly for countries that are not yet conducting Labour Force Surveys on a continuous basis. Many countries report that when the traditional questions are used in a Population and Housing Census to measure Economic Activity, the results, particularly the "Unemployment Rates" can differ significantly from those obtained in a more intensive Labour Force Survey. The consequences of this difference are well known. One serious consequence relates to the political arena where the politician can use the rates that are more convenient to him. In this case he will argue that the source of these rates is the more reliable vehicle to generate them. Hence, if the PHC reveals rates that are lower than those from the LFS, there will be a strong tendency for political masters to use these and claim that the PHC is more reliable. This is in spite of expert opinion that the rates from the LFS are

more reliable for various reasons. For several developing countries having both rates, that differ significantly in their levels, this scenario can be very embarrassing.

In view of the above, should we continue to ask these questions in the PHCs of this modern age? I suggest that we may want to keep the questions relating to the measurement of "Employment" but those to measure "Unemployment" should be better asked via a LFS. Alternatively, research should focus ways to reconcile the two results from the PHC and the LFS.

(ii) The UN Principles and Recommendations does recommend that we collect data on citizenship. The usefulness of these data is well known. However, I want to sound a warning about situations when we are attempting to include (and we should always do so) those immigrants who have not yet regularized themselves. The PHC is usually conducted by an entity of government, and this entity may easily be seen by the undocumented migrant as being affiliated with the Immigration department. The migrant sees this affiliation as dangerous since the authorities can use this information against her/him. This could seriously affect the response rates. The question therefore, has to be carefully worded and the publicity must be reassuring such that census takers obtain the level of cooperation from the migrants that is desirable for this exercise;

(iii) With respect to the use of the word "Family" care should be taken that, before it is used, it is unambiguously defined. To many, the word 'family' refers to so many different levels of relationship. It may refer to very close relatives as well as distant ones, and can include non-relatives.

We in the CARICOM region have never used "Family" in our census questionnaire but instead make much use of the term "Household".

Submitted for consideration.

Sincerely

SYLVAN ROBERTS
DEPUTY PROGRAMME MANAGER (STATISTICS)
CARICOM SECRETARIAT
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

Angela Me

thank you very much for raising these issues. These came out also during the discussions we had in preparing the New Census Recommendations for our UNECE region (that broadly covers whole Europe, North America, and Central Asian countries). Let me report how we are trying to handle them in our region

1. Unemployment. The concern expressed about different rates from PHC and LFS came out strongly in our meeting last year. However, there was no agreement on dropping the topic on unemployment (although one of the countries reported that they will stop the collection of unemployment in

their next census). Many of the countries in our region have an established LFS programme, however, they still collect data on unemployment in their PHC (about 75% of the countries asked about a search for job in the 2000 round). The main reason to include it in the census is the need for small area data and data related to detailed occupations and industry that the sample surveys can not provide. In the introduction to the economic activity section, our task force added a text on the role of the census in providing employment/unemployment data and on the need to explain differences between PHC and LFS when the data are released.

2. Illegal immigrants. We fully agree on the sensitivity of questions related to citizenship and we would add that the same sensitivity relates to ethnicity and race. For cultural and historical reasons there are countries where citizenship is highly sensitive and therefore not asked in the PHC (U.S.) while topics such as race are easily included. In other countries it is the opposite. In Europe for example it is a tabu to ask about race while citizenship is acceptable in all countries. There is also an additional concern about illegal immigrants in our region. By the way the population is counted, there is the risk that illegal immigrants are not included a priori in the total population. In the current draft of the new ECE Recommendations we have stressed the need to include the illegal immigrants in the counting of the total population.

3. Family. The concept of family is handled in the ECE Recommendations as a derived topic. I agree that in the census questionnaire the household concept should be used, but at the tabulation stage it may be relevant to present data using the concept of family as well. The family definition currently included in our draft is the following: "a family nucleus is defined in the narrow sense as two or more persons within a private household who are related as husband and wife, as cohabiting partners, or as parent and child. Thus a family comprises a couple without children, or a couple with one or more children, or a lone parent with one or more children". There is still a discussion on whether to consider as families households with children and grand-parents (with or without the presence of other adults who are not the parents of the children -aunts or uncles).

Regards, Angela

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[Sylvester Young](#)
Dear Sylvan,

Thank you for raising the issue on the collection of unemployment data through PHC.

You rightly surmised that the inclusion of the topic of economic characteristics in a PHC is important especially for countries without any, or any regular, labour force surveys (LFS).

Clearly for many developing countries LFS are not yet as common as we would like. So although you are again right about LFS being a better source for the measurement of economic characteristics than PHC, this choice is not available to these countries. Also, as noted by Angela, collecting these statistics through PHC is important for generating small area statistics, which is very much in demand at present.

It is true that even when the same concepts and definitions are used for economic characteristics in an LFS and a PHC, the mechanism of the latter does not lend itself easily to the detailed questioning required to determine a person's economic activity status, and for that matter to the person's occupation and industry. However, even if the level of details required may not be explicit in the census form itself, they should be implicitly included through the field manuals and training of the enumerators. This would assist the enumerators in understanding and explaining the issues and, if necessary, probing for the accurate responses. The recommendations being developed for the 2010 round should contain this advice.

You raised the issue of differing unemployment rates from a PHC and a LFS covering the same reference period. This is of course true for almost all topics in PHC which are also collected through household surveys, e.g. DHS, for reasons well-known to us as statisticians, but not so well-known to many users. The particular problem with the unemployment rate is its political significance, as you pointed out. The solution is therefore to give adequate information to users about the implications of the sources and methods used to measure the same phenomenon, their strengths and limitations, and so on. Countries should be advised in the recommendations being developed to include this reconciliation information when disseminating their census results on economic activities, as proposed for the ECE region.

Your suggestion that only employment data should be collected in PHC might not meet your objective. Conceptually and in measurement terms, employment and unemployment are closely connected. Whatever discrepancies arise with the unemployment rates from PHC and LFS are likely to also show up in the employment statistics.

Thus, questions on economic characteristics should be included in full in PHC with good support for the fieldwork, through inclusion of the proper and complete details on concepts, definitions and classifications, as well as educating users on the use of PHC for the measurement of economic characteristics.

Sylvester

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peterway

Just to clarify a point made by Angela. For Census 2000, the United States DID collect information related to citizenship. There was a question on U.S. Citizenship (YES/NO, and if yes, how obtained), as well as a question on place/country of birth. We DID NOT ask about

citizenship other than U.S.

Peter

Peter O. Way
Chief, International Programs Center
U.S. Census Bureau

Topic: Excerpts from the Symposium report

Srdjan Mrkic

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<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/default.htm>.

Excerpts:

What is the core set of outputs that is essential to social and economic planning? The Symposium deliberated over the importance of output-based planning for censuses and the overall statistical system. A core national dataset was considered as a means to obtain the necessary outputs for planning purposes, improve national and international comparability of data, and facilitate the integration of national statistical systems. The Symposium concluded that output planning is critical and in that context a meaningful core national dataset based on specific outputs would be a useful tool for census planning. The Symposium recommended that the Expert Group on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses provide guidance in the identification of items/topics for a core national dataset while considering the extent to which the current United Nations Demographic Yearbook reflects such a set.

What should a census include, and how should the content be determined? Changing social conditions and issues have led to a number of new and evolving topics being considered for inclusion and/or revision in national censuses for the forthcoming 2010 census round. Some of the key topics under consideration refer to usual residence, families, international migration, aging, maternal mortality, and human functioning, to name a few. At the same time, the Symposium expressed their concern with the overburdening of the census questionnaire with various topics and the under-utilization of collected census data in the current round. The Symposium recommended that the updated Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses include a comprehensive list of elaborated census topics and provide a set of clear and unambiguous criteria that would guide national census authorities in determining topics that would apply to their national circumstances.

Srdjan Mrkic
UN Statistics Division

Topic: Excerpts from the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting

Margaret Mbogoni

What follows are relevant excerpts from the Conclusions and Recommendations of the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses, held in Bangkok, 9-10 December 2004. The full report and papers from the meeting are available at

<http://unescap.org/stat/meet/census2004/index.asp>

Excerpts:

More concise definitions and criteria for determining "usual place of residence" should be provided. Elaboration was needed on when and how to count "de jure" and "de facto" population and how they may be combined to determine total population

The section on internal migration should begin with a paragraph or two about the importance of migration statistics and how they can be derived from the census.

The topic of "floating populations", and how to define and identify them should be included.

Guidelines should be provided on the enumeration of hard-to-reach population subgroups such as nomads, illegal migrants, etc.

Guidelines should be provided on whether migration data can be collected on a sample basis and if so what sampling scheme should be used to provide reliable estimates of migration.

Censuses should be used to collect to the extent possible data on fertility and mortality to improve incomplete estimates from vital registration and other sources. Due to limited space in the census questionnaire, a separate form on fertility is required.

Post-secondary education should be better explained and the inclusion of vocational training should be considered.

The section on disability should be updated according to the WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

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Topic: Internal Migration

valerie nam

I would like to propose the following addition to Section C (e) Para 2.39.

"For purposes of studying internal migration, the foreign country should not be considered as the place of previous residence. Place of previous residence should instead be the last major or smaller civil division in which the individual resided prior to moving to his or her present civil division of usual residence"

Director, Censuses and Demographic Statistics
Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Topic: Education

valerie nam

Section C Para 2.150 School Attendance

What is described is actually School Enrollment and the recommendation is that this should replace School Attendance. For many developing countries, it is necessary to make this distinction.

Director, Censuses and Demographic Statistics
Statistical Institute of Jamaica

sellis

UNESCO has argued in our detailed comments just posted that rather than replace enrolment with attendance guidance should rather be clearer about the definitions. Enrollment = children registered for/at school, and attendance is a measure of REGULAR PRESENCE at school. This distinction is one that has evolved considerably over the last few years and is closely linked to measurement issues.

Enrolment is normally collected through administrative data, whereas attendance is collected through household survey (or census). BUT if countries are seeking to measure attendance the questions used should seek to establish something of frequency of presence at school by asking whether attendance was last week...month...year...ever - on the lines of those used in UNICEF MICS and USAid DHS surveys.

Simon Ellis
Head of Special Projects
UNESCO Institute for Statistics
Head of Special Projects

Topic: Marital Status Union Status and Fertility

valerie nam

Proposal for the inclusion of Union Status in addition to Marital Status

Up to 1931, West Indian censuses followed the European pattern of dealing with categories solely in terms of formal marriage. This used the broad dichotomy –ever married and never married- with the former subdivided into married, widowed, divorced and separated. The disadvantage of this scheme in the West Indian setting was that, in view of the small proportion of the population who entered formal marriage, it merely recorded the majority of the adult population as single or never married, designations which gave no clue as to the familial status of the individual. Beginning in the 1940s, a more realistic approach was adopted with the inclusion in the censuses of the region, of classifications specifically relevant to the diverse family patterns which exist in these societies.

Two systems of family classifications are recognized. The first is the long established marital status system based solely on legal criteria and recognizing the traditional categories: married, widowed, divorced and never married.

The other system recognizes three types of family unions. The classification is made on the basis of two criteria, the presence or absence of legal sanction and whether or not the partners share a common household. On this basis marriage defines unions which are established in accordance with existing legal systems and which therefore have full legal sanction. Also implicit in this definition is the sharing of the same household by the partners

and their children, if any. The second type of union, termed 'common law' is similar to the first except that it has no legal sanction; that is, it is not established in accordance with prevailing marriage laws. The third type 'visiting' indicates that there is a regular sexual relationship between the partners, as well as a wide variety of contacts essential to the maintenance of the functioning family; but the partners do not share the same household, nor has their union been established in accordance with the marriage laws of the country. The first two categories can be readily identified in the context of a census but the third is generally reserved for special survey conditions. The practice for censuses, however, is to determine this type as a residual category based on the question related to "births in the past twelve months". For census purposes the visiting category comprises women to whom a child was born in the year preceding the census, and who at the time of its birth were neither married nor in a common-law union.

The treatment of the family forms also has important implications for fertility as while conventional analyses of reproductive behaviour identify marital status and marriage duration as two of the primary demographic determinants of fertility, for these societies, union status and duration cannot be ignored.

Historically, the treatment of union status in the Caribbean was confined to women and in the context of fertility only. In more recent censuses the topic focuses on both men and women and is considered also for the study of family forms

Specific Proposals

The Principles and Recommendations should recognize as relevant to some countries, the de facto unions as defined above, as separate from the legal marital status.

On this account for these countries:

(i) The category consensual union would not be considered as a marital status category.

(ii) The relevant amendments would be made to the section on Fertility and Mortality :

para 2.119 duration of marriage/union

para 2.120 marital/union experiences

para 2.126the number recorded should include all live born children, whether born in or out of marriage/union

para 2.127 marital/union status at the time of the census

para 2.129the number of sons and daughters whether born of the present or a prior marriage/union. Also, the number of children, male and female.....may reside and regardless of their age and marital/union status.

Director, Censuses and Demographic Statistics
Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Topic: Family and Household Definitions

dsanga

The definition of the family has to be cautiously looked at in the African context. If the Census question is asked without stating clearly what kind of family we are talking about, the answers will be biased. In fact, the questionnaire needs, in this context, to distinguish (or state clearly) the family nucleus (the Western one) and the "extended African one".

Suggestion: Clearly indicates in the questionnaire what type of family we are talking about.

The last sentence of 2.65 stating, "A family cannot comprise more than one household..." might not be true in the African context. Here is a counter example: Let's consider a polygamous family with one husband and three spouses, each of who has two children. Each

of the spouses takes care of her family independently by being involved in various economic activities such as farming, trade or being in the labor market; the man is not the main economic support on none of the three spouses and children. Each of the three spouses and their children separately constitute a household as defined in 2.61 (b). These three households have, nevertheless, the husband in common as the children are related through blood to the unique father and the wives are related to the spouse through marriage. These three households can, therefore, be considered as a family. This is an example of a family with three households. This invalidates the last sentence of 2.65.

Suggestion: To remove the sentence from the paragraph to avoid confusion in certain contexts

Dimitri Sanga
Senior Statistician
UNECA

Topic: Couples living in consensual unions

dsanga

The last sentence of paragraph 2.78 states "couples living in consensual unions should be considered as married couples." If this is well recognized in certain countries, it might be very different and controversial in some countries where marriage is a very strictly institutionally defined.

Suggestion: "couples living in consensual unions should be considered as married couples where applicable."

Topic: Economic Activity

valerie nam

Economic Activity

Para 2.243

Particular attention should be paid to certain types of activities usually associated with the informal sector. Such activities may be conducted within and outside of the home. In many developing economies which have experienced large scale job redundancies and dislocation of workers, jobs which were previously regarded as secondary to a main job have now become the primary occupations. Additional activities which may be identified are craft-making, hairdressing, baking and food preparation, vending (buying and selling).

Illegal Activities

Notwithstanding the obvious practical difficulties in obtaining data on illegal or underground activities, such activities are recognized by the System of National Accounts for inclusion in the economic boundary. The Principles and Recommendations should therefore acknowledge these activities. The SNA defines as illegal the following:

- (a) The production of goods or services whose sale, distribution or possession is forbidden by law;
- (b) Production activities which are usually legal but which become illegal when carried out by unauthorized producers; e.g., unlicensed medical practitioners.

Director, Censuses and Demographic Statistics
Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Topic: Environmental Statistics

valerie nam

Environmental Statistics

While sound policy decisions related to issues of sustainable development must be based on reliable information, environmental statistics are relatively new in many countries and many data gaps exist. Much of the available data are obtained from administrative records of agencies involved in monitoring the environment and developing environmental policy. Population censuses and household surveys are recognized as very important sources of data, specifically as it relates to the interaction between the population and the environment and can provide much of the data required to fill the existing gaps.

Questions related to sanitation have long been a part of the Housing Censuses but additional questions may relate to the extent to which households are utilizing products and facilities and adopting behaviours which are, or are perceived to be impacting on the environment. Additionally, the extent to which the population is concerned about the environment and participation in environmentally "friendly" activities may also be examined.

The Principles and Recommendations should therefore identify a core set of topics/questions with this type of focus, for inclusion in the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses.

Suggested Household Topics may include:

1. Energy Use and Conservation
2. Use of Forestry Products
3. Water Use and Conservation
4. Recycling and Waste Practices
5. Use of (Household) Toxic Chemicals
6. Experience of Natural Disasters

Suggested Topics for the Individual may include:

1. Awareness of and Visits to Natural Parks and Protected Areas
2. Environmental Concerns
3. Awareness of and Participation in Environmentally-friendly Activities
4. Effect of Environment on Personal Health

Director, Censuses and Demographic Statistics
Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Topic: Minimum List

martin butterfield

The list of topics in Principles and Recommendations is currently classified into basic and other (or additional) topics. It has been suggested by two member States that there should be a minimum list of topics included in Principles and Recommendations.

Since users of countries' data have different needs developing such a list is seen as a very difficult task - especially if it is expected that countries would fully enumerate topics on the minimum list. However it would be helpful to discuss the issue and agree on the feasibility or otherwise of attempting to create the list.

There does not seem to be any benefit in ending up with a minimum list of only one or two topics.

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

Technical Sub-group 1-1

Topic: PROCEDURES OF ENUMERATING “HARD- TO- ENUMERATE” PO

onsembe

Among the hard to enumerate population are: nomads; homeless, refugees, internally displaced persons, military, naval and diplomatic and families located outside the country; merchants, seamen, and fishermen, who may not be on land at census time; foreign diplomats country; transits on ships, harbor, airports etc.

Nomads remain one of the “hard-to-enumerate” populations during censuses. Sections 1.168 and 1.169 of the Principles and Recommendation of population and housing census provide comprehensive procedures/methods of enumerating nomadic population, which include: group-assembly approach; tribal or hierarchical approach; enumeration-area approach; water-point approach; and, camp approach. The sections clearly explain what is involved in each of methods

The procedures have been applied, with some varying degree of success, to a number of countries. Experience indicates, however, that most of the methods are difficult to apply especially in situations where the target population is highly mobile, resulting into, sometimes, serious under-enumeration. It should be mentioned that enumerating the nomads is aggravated in situations where the population is forced to move over large expanse of land area, mainly in search of water and grazing points.

It may be important to revise sections 1.168 & 1.169 of the Principles and Recommendations on population and housing census to exploit improvements in census mapping. For that matter, it is proposed that satellite imagery and GIS, supplemented with the traditional ground-truthing (or quick-count), be considered in view of the recent the recent developments. The methods are more likely to give more accurate population counts.

Jason O. Onsembe
Regional Advisor
UNFPA/CST Addis Ababa

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Srdjan Mrkic
UN Statistics Division

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Guidelines should be provided on the enumeration of hard-to-reach population subgroups such as nomads, illegal migrants, etc.

Guidelines should be provided on whether migration data can be collected on a sample basis and if so what sampling scheme should be used to provide reliable estimates of migration.

Margaret Mbogoni
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Topic: Sampling for specified characteristics

martin butterfield

From para 1.6 of the current Principles and Recommendations, on Individual Enumeration:

"Individual enumeration does not preclude the use of sampling techniques for obtaining data on specified characteristics, provided that the sample design is consistent with the size of the areas for which the data are to be tabulated and the degree of detail in the cross-tabulations to be made."

Whether a sample or full enumeration approach is used does not depend upon whether

individuals or groups are enumerated. I suggest that this point is more suitable for consideration under "Universality" rather than "Individual Enumeration".

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

Topic: Trains, boats and planes

[martin butterfield](#)

The current draft of Principles and Recommendations does not offer guidance on how to "deal with" persons on long distance transport at the Census instant. Obviously this is only relevant to a de-facto basis Census since no-one will have their usual residence on a form of transport.

One technique is to create specific enumeration areas in the appropriate geographic areas and include people in those areas.

Since the areas may contain hundreds or thousands of people (and often show an unusual demographic profile) they tend to stand out. Thus these areas need to be carefully labelled and the type of population they contain to be clearly explained to users.

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

[peterway](#)

"no-one will have their usual residence on a form of transport" ?

I suspect you won't find universal agreement. Census folks in Hong Kong, Seattle, and many other places around the world work hard to enumerate households living on boats.

Peter O. Way
Chief, International Programs Center
U.S. Census Bureau

[martin butterfield](#)

Thanks for making this good point, in that my wording was not precise enough. In terms of aquatic transport I was thinking more of cruise ships. The boats in Hong Kong harbour (or the marinas in Sydney and many other cities) come more under the heading of mobile housing units which are covered by Principles and Recommendations (P&R) paras 2.345-6.

Reference is made to merchant shipping and transients on ships in P&R para 2.45 but I could find no guidance on how to treat them in terms of type of "housing" or "place where present".

Another example of the issue on which I have not been able to find a recommended treatment in P&R are overnight trains. In a de-facto census people on the train are counted there. There can be thousands of people on these trains causing a large rise in the census count for the area where the train was on Census night. Hopefully they are also asked to provide details of their usual residence.

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

Topic: Distinction between Urban and Rural Areas

dsanga

The last sentence of 2.52 states that "Where there are no regional recommendations on the matter, countries must establish their own definitions in accordance with their own needs."

It has been previously argued that comparability is an important factor in determining the census content (see 2). How can we ensure comparability if countries establish their own definitions in accordance to their own needs? There is a need to find a way of distinguishing rural from urban areas that will be applicable at least at an aggregate level (subregional, regional...) so that the data be comparable.

In addition, this distinction appears to be an important variable to be considered in policy implementation. (e.g. rural vs urban unemployment)

Dimitri Sanga
Senior Statistician
UNECA

Topic: ILO Comments on paras. 2.18-2.59 and 2.248-2.257

jason schachter

Not sure how this forum exchange will work.

Below are my comments after reading the current recommendations. While most of my comments add more complexity than they are probably worth, the issue of defining "year of entry" and collecting actual country of citizenship for people with more than one citizenship are important and would be relatively easy to implement.

Comments on Technical Subgroup of the United Nations Expert Group on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses

Technical Subgroup 1-1, Internal and International Migration

Place of Usual Residence

Paragraph 2.22: ("must be set, in accordance with prevailing circumstances in country, to determine whether or not person is usually resident there")

Should there be more detail on how to define usual residence? Should a time limit be established in recommendations (e.g. one year, 6 months, 3 months? --ECE uses one year--)

Place of Birth

2.33 General comment on use of term "migration". No distinction in recommendations between internal migration and residential mobility. Migration is used to describe both local moves (e.g. within major civil divisions) and longer distance moves (across major civil divisions). Local moves are not "migration" per definition, but a form of residential mobility.

2.33 "Even in statistically advanced countries, confusion is bound to arise from changes in the boundaries of minor civil divisions and from the possible tendency of persons born near a large city to name that city as their birthplace"

This is also relevant when collecting data on previous residence. An example of this problem from the most recent U.S. Census was poor net migration data at the "place level" (below the county), which lead to biased central city-suburb migration figures. The reason for this is that current residence is measured precisely (where enumeration took place), while previous residence is not (answer given by the respondent), leading to an over-count of outmigrants from central cities. This was especially problematic in newer "growing" geographic areas. Recommendation: if place level data collected, if possible, try to collect postal code of previous residence.

Duration of Residence

2.37 Why not also interested in length of residence in housing unit?

Place of previous residence, and at specified date in past (2.38 to 2.41)

2.38 Include more description about the level of geographic detail that should be collected. Current statement, "Major or smaller civil division," seems vague. Ties into comments for paragraph 2.33

INTERNATION MIGRATION

Country of Birth (2.252 and 2.253, and earlier)

In addition to country, recommend collecting more detailed geography (major civil division?) from previous country of birth. Additional information about where people were born, combined with age, would allow for the reconstruction of original political boundaries (current recommendation is to use "current" political boundaries at time of Census). However, since this would increase the coding burden for countries processing the data, I suspect there would be resistance in supporting this recommendation.

Citizenship (2.254 and 2.105, earlier)

For people with dual- or multiple-citizenship recommend that Census should collect detailed information on other countries of citizenship.

Paragraph 2.106 only says that there is a need to discuss how such groups were treated, not that they should collect this information.

Year or Period of Arrival

Nothing in recommendations about whether "year of arrival" should be the "most recent arrival" or the "first arrival," which is an issue for multiple or repeat international movers.

2.256 Should there be any recommendations to measure "return" migrants, those who lived abroad for a period of time previously (in which case, this would also be asked of natives who had previously lived abroad for a specific time period).

Should there be any mention of using "country of previous residence" to measure International Migration? A method to measure "intermediary" moves for people that have moved to more than one country (when combined with country of birth). Also, recommend collecting more geographic detail to country of previous residence. On the negative side, this increases the coding burden for the country processing the data.

Jason Schachter
Bureau of Statistics
ILO

Topic: migration

Pali

Document 2/06/05

Technical Sub-Group on Internal and International Migration Statistics

Updating the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses:
Implications for Revising Guidelines on Internal and International Migration.

Pali Lehohla
Chairperson
Technical Subgroup on Internal and International Migration Statistics
Statistics South Africa
Pretoria, South Africa
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Why is there a need to update Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses on Internal and International Migration?

The growing importance of international migration in the agenda of policy makers has raised the awareness on the need for more complete, timely and comparable international data on the movement of people across countries. Yet, with the increasing globalization of travel and the progressive elimination of borders across countries, it is progressively more difficult to collect information on migrants. The number of users is increasing as is the variety of the information required: international migration data is not only required for demographic purposes but also for other fields such as international trade in services, tourism, and national security.

An important contribution of the United Nations Recommendations is the taxonomy, framework and cells that could be used at national level to assess statistics on travel and cross-border movements that are being compiled, and to combine data from different sources.

As conceptualized, the Recommendations primarily fulfill the purpose of demographic analysis. There is need to broaden its scope to cover diverse descriptive and analytical needs required for different policy purposes, including various types of descriptive analysis such as trade in services, employment and human resources.

Issues of Emerging Relevance for Consideration in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses

A perusal of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses reveals a number of issues for consideration in the revision thereof. Three major issues for consideration need to focus broadly around Comparability, Compatibility and Methods.

1. Comparability

1.1. Definitions:

There is need to review and clarify several concepts used in international migration statistics, such as: citizenship, non-migrant, inflows that are not migration, usual residence (in light of frequent movements across borders), and resident population. Moreover, the use of the term "foreigner" is confusing, as there are different ways of interpreting the term. The general term "foreign population" should be used to represent foreign-born and foreign-citizenship. There are also differences in the use of these

For example, the concept of place of usual residence is linked to the measurement of both internal and international migration. The place of usual residence is the geographic place where the enumerated person usually resides.

Making the definition of usual residence operational in a census create potential problem for number of reasons. Persons who maintain two or more residences, students living at school, members of the armed forces living at a military installation but still maintaining private living quarters away from the installation, and persons who sleep away from their homes during the working week but return home for several days at the end of each week. Currently, the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision I do not provide guidelines on how to deal with these situation, but instead request that" the treatment of all such cases should be clearly set forth in the census instructions" Without specific guidelines, it is conceivable that countries do not treat these groups the same, hence affecting the international comparability of data.

1.2. Time Period:

Based on a review of country experience for the 2000 round of census and also on the views of experts, the updated Principle and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses could recommend time periods to be used for defining a "usual" resident of a place. Also more guidance is needed to help countries determine the treatment of persons who appear to have more than one residence to allow comparability between countries in the data collected.

2. Compatibility

What is missing from the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census are definitions of the concepts used in the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migrations, Revision 1. For example, although the census recommendations make reference to the relevant paragraph that contains the definition of an international migration in the international migration recommendations, this definition to be contained in the census recommendations. In addition, the census recommendations should include the definitions of the concepts of foreigners and foreign-born population, which are derived from the items on citizenship, and country of birth respectively. This again only emphasizes the need to revisit the issue of definitions on the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census

The updated census recommendations should also provide guidelines on how to deal with the issue of multiple citizenships when collecting information on citizenship as this information is crucial in distinguishing between foreigners and citizens.

Experts may wish to consider whether census guidelines on international migration should also include recommendations on collecting data on emigrants.

3. Methods

There is the need to estimate irregular migration, as this, in several countries, is the main component of migratory movements. Duration of stay should be estimated when not available especially when the country of birth identifies stock of migrants, in order to highlight special cases. In the era of ease of travel, there is a need not only to know the year of first entry but also year of last entry. There is need to examine the implications of regional agreements to the possibility of distinguishing between citizens and foreigners with traditional data sources. There is also a need to review the duration component of the definition of migrant to ensure that it can be applied for the different sources, and the concept of usual residence may need to be examined in light of more frequent movements across international borders. As international migration is one of the most important components of population change, appropriate methodologies need to be developed to take this into consideration.

Pali Lehohla
Statistician-General
Statistics South Africa

[sellis](#)

One of the main motivations in migration, internal or international, is study.

The EU has recently introduced the idea of surveys asking whether young people completed different levels of education in a foreign country.

The joint UOE (UNESCO/Eurostat/OECD) education survey of OECD and 19 other middle income countries has recently adopted this criterion alongside citizenship and residence for studying international migration. Countries might like to consider using this distinction in national censuses. It could clearly be adapted to capture sub-national/internal migration for study purposes.

Simon Ellis
UNESCO Institute for Statistics
Head of Special Projects

Technical Sub-group 1-2

Topic: Excerpt from the Symposium report

[Srdjan Mrkic](#)

What follows is the relevant excerpt of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the United Nations Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses, held in New York, 13-14 September 2004. The full text and papers of both the Symposium and the United Nations Expert Group Meeting that followed it are available on the "Background documents" page of the 2010 World Programme website at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/default.htm>.

What should a census include, and how should the content be determined? Changing social conditions and issues have led to a number of new and evolving topics being considered for inclusion and/or revision in national censuses for the forthcoming 2010 census round. Some of the key topics under consideration refer to usual residence, families, international migration, aging, maternal mortality, and human functioning, to name a few. At the same time, the Symposium expressed their concern with the overburdening of the census questionnaire with various topics and the under-utilization of collected census data in the current round. The Symposium recommended that the updated Principles and Recommendations for Population

and Housing Censuses include a comprehensive list of elaborated census topics and provide a set of clear and unambiguous criteria that would guide national census authorities in determining topics that would apply to their national circumstances.

Srdjan Mrkic
UN Statistics Division

Topic: Excerpts from the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting

Margaret Mbogoni

What follows is an excerpt from the Conclusions and Recommendations of the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses, held in Bangkok, 9-10 December 2004. The full report and papers from the meeting are available at <http://unescap.org/stat/meet/census2004/index.asp>

Excerpt:

The section on disability should be updated according to the WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

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Technical Sub-group 1-3

Topic: How to organise the work of technical subgroup 1-3

aidan.punch

Some thought will have to be given as to how to progress the work of technical subgroup 1.3. With a view to hopefully throwing some light on the situation the following are some preliminary ideas. First, excerpts from a number of existing postings provide guidance as to how we should proceed. These are:

(1) Excerpt from UN document dated Friday, 22 April 2005

"One of the objectives of the subgroup is to identify an essential core set of outputs of demographic and social information, from population and housing censuses, surveys, and administrative record systems that reflect essential data needs of countries and permit international comparability of data. The results of the work of this technical subgroup may lead to a development of a new section on a core set of outputs for international use, based on an integrated data collection and dissemination system. In addition, the technical subgroup will also review and propose updates to annexes I and II on the list of tabulations for population censuses and for housing censuses, respectively, in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev.1 (pages 139 – 249).

This technical subgroup will also review tabulations requested by major international organizations from Member States and propose a core set that would meet the needs of all organizations. This core set would be shared among the participating organizations, with the goal of eliminating the need for repeated requests for data from Member States by individual organizations."

(2) Posting by Srdjan Mrkic of UNSD dated 29 April 2005 summarising UN Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses held in New York in September 2004

"What is the core set of outputs that is essential to social and economic planning? The Symposium deliberated over the importance of output-based planning for censuses and the overall statistical system. A core national dataset was considered as a means to obtain the necessary outputs for planning purposes, improve national and international comparability of data, and facilitate the integration of national statistical systems. The Symposium concluded that output planning is critical and in that context a meaningful core national dataset based on specific outputs would be a useful tool for census planning. The Symposium recommended that the Expert Group on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses provide guidance in the identification of items/topics for a core national dataset while considering the extent to which the current United Nations Demographic Yearbook reflects such a set."

(3) Posting by Martin Butterfield dated 20 June 2005

"Problem #1

The current draft of Principles and Recommendations includes Annexes describing a set of recommended tabulations. 89 tables are listed for population topics and 27 for housing topics. Many of the tables comprise 5 or more variables and in countries with a large number of civil divisions could comprise a great number of cells.

Solution to Problem #1

Develop a set of VERY basic tables to be prepared as initial output from all censuses for all levels of geography defined by the country. As design objectives: the tables should not have more than two variables in either the column headings or the row headings and geographic detail should be at the (virtual) page level; all variables in these tables should be in the set of basic variables specified in P&R; and there should be no more than 40 tables, covering both population and housing characteristics in this basic set.

Have a second set of tables providing more detail where needed for specialist users in the country or internationally.

As design parameters the following suggestions are offered:

Every variable recommended for inclusion in the census system should be covered in at least one table;

No more than 6 variables (excluding geographic variables such as Civil Division; rural/urban) should be included in any one table design, preferably with no more than two in the column headings;

Each table should represent the addition of one or more variables to a table in the basic set;

The tables should be restricted to the 3 highest elements (for example Nation; State; Municipality) in the hierarchy of Civil divisions;

There should be no more than 60 (additional to those provided in the basic set) tables in this set. (Note that this gives 100 tables in total, compared to the 116 listed in the current set).[/]*

Where more detailed requirements for information exist they should be regarded as specialised or ad-hoc needs and resolved bilaterally between the potential user (whether

national or international) and the NSO."

Bearing in mind the above points and with a view to being able to progress the work in a meaningful way we should adopt a staged approach. The stages to be followed with a rough indication of priority could be as follows:

1. Examine the existing tables in Annexes I and II of the PR 2000 and determine which subset might constitute a core.
2. Assess to what extent the current UN Demographic Yearbook might fulfil this role.
3. Assess remaining tables in Annexes I and II in terms of detail and content.
4. Monitor ongoing proposals for new topics for inclusion in 2010 census round and determine appropriate new tables for inclusion.
5. See to what extent requests by international organisations for census type information can be streamlined. This has already been done in a European context by Eurostat, UNECE and Council of Europe (and to a lesser extent by OECD).
6. Expand the work into broader areas if time allows.

Clearly, the subgroup will need the assistance of UNSD in some of this work. It may even be prudent to divide up some of the tasks among the many participants in the sub-group if quick progress is to be made. Hopefully, those of us in attendance in New York next week will get the opportunity to discuss matters further.

I have consulted Susan Lineacre chair of group 1 re the above and she is in agreement.

Aidan Punch
Head of Census
Central Statistics Office of Ireland

Topic: EDUCATION OUTPUTS

sellis

a specific response to the two proposals from Mauritius. My comments in capitals.

- Population aged 2 years and above by age, sex, school attendance and geographical division. UNESCO WOULD SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO UPPER AGE LIMIT AS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ASPECTS OF LIFELONG LEARNING BE CAPTURED

It is proposed that school attendance be categorised into 'past', 'now', 'never' and 'not stated' instead of 'attending school', 'not attending school' and 'not stated'.

Such a definition was used in the 2000 population census of Mauritius. Thus we were able to locate those who had never been to school. This information proved useful for policymaking. I DO NOT THINK THESE CATEGORIES ARE SUFFICIENT THE CONCEPT OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MUST MEAN 'REGULAR' ATTENDANCE. THUS IT IS BETTER TO ASK HAVE YOU ATTENDED SCHOOL REGULARLY LAST WEEK...MONTH...YEAR...EVER

- Population aged 12 years and above with vocational and technical qualification by field of technical/vocational qualification by age, sex and geographical division THIS IS UNLIKELY TO BE ADOPTED AS A CORE TOPIC. THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN GENERAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IS INCREASINGLY HARD TO MAKE – MANY COURSES WITH HIGH VOCATIONAL CONTENT ARE LABELLED GENERAL TO AVOID AN IMAGE OF BEING SECOND BEST. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THE INCREASING DIVERSITY OF TERTIARY

(UNIVERSITY) COURSES WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE SEEN AS VOCATIONAL.

Ideally if the topic of vocational training is to be included in a Census I would suggest it should relate to lifelong learning. Questions of this type usually involve beginning with questions such as "have you been involved in any formal learning in the last.... 3 months....1 year?" and then go on to ask about field of study. This has greater benefit than the proposal as it provides a table showing all types of post-compulsory educational participation levels.

we would support the other proposed tables regarding literacy and attainment. Details comments from UNESCO have recently been circulated.

Simon Ellis
UNESCO Institute for Statistics
Head of Special Projects

Topic: Excerpt from the Symposium report

Srdjan Mrkic

What follows is the relevant excerpt of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the United Nations Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses, held in New York, 13-14 September 2004. The full text and papers of both the Symposium and the United Nations Expert Group Meeting that followed it are available on the "Background documents" page of the 2010 World Programme website at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/default.htm>.

What is the core set of outputs that is essential to social and economic planning? The Symposium deliberated over the importance of output-based planning for censuses and the overall statistical system. A core national dataset was considered as a means to obtain the necessary outputs for planning purposes, improve national and international comparability of data, and facilitate the integration of national statistical systems. The Symposium concluded that output planning is critical and in that context a meaningful core national dataset based on specific outputs would be a useful tool for census planning. The Symposium recommended that the Expert Group on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses provide guidance in the identification of items/topics for a core national dataset while considering the extent to which the current United Nations Demographic Yearbook reflects such a set.

Srdjan Mrkic
UN Statistics Division

Topic: A different approach to tabulations

martin butterfield

NB Also copied to WG 3

Problems to be solved

Problem #1

The current draft of Principles and Recommendations includes Annexes describing a set of recommended tabulations. 89 tables are listed for population topics and 27 for housing topics. Many of the tables comprise 5 or more variables and in countries with a large number of civil divisions could comprise a great number of cells.

Problem #2

Further the tables as presented are often in a form which makes it difficult to interpret which variables are to be included (and in some cases the information given is inaccurate – for

example Geographic division often includes two variables "Civil division" and "rural/urban").

Solutions?

Solution to Problem #1

Develop a set of VERY basic tables to be prepared as initial output from all censuses for all levels of geography defined by the country. As design objectives:

- the tables should not have more than two variables in either the column headings or the row headings and geographic detail should be at the (virtual) page level;
- all variables in these tables should be in the set of basic variables specified in P&R; and
- there should be no more than 40 tables, covering both population and housing characteristics in this basic set.

Have a second set of tables providing more detail where needed for specialist users in the country or internationally.

As design parameters the following suggestions are offered:

- Every variable recommended for inclusion in the census system should be covered in at least one table;
- No more than 6 variables (excluding geographic variables such as Civil Division; rural/urban) should be included in any one table design, preferably with no more than two in the column headings;
- Each table should represent the addition of one or more variables to a table in the basic set;
- The tables should be restricted to the 3 highest elements (for example Nation; State; Municipality) in the hierarchy of Civil divisions;
- There should be no more than 60 (additional to those provided in the basic set) tables in this set. (Note that this gives 100 tables in total, compared to the 116 listed in the current set).[/*]

Where more detailed requirements for information exist they should be regarded as specialised or ad-hoc needs and resolved bilaterally between the potential user (whether national or international) and the NSO.

Solution to Problem #2

The key point to this solution is a desire to show clearly which variables are to be included in the table. Demonstration of the presentation of the table is not seen at this stage as a matter of great importance.

The key element of presentation is shown by the following table, which represents the content of Table P2.2 in the current edition of P&R.

	Sex		
		Age Gp1	Age Gp2
Civil Division			
.. Rural/Urban			
... Type of Household			
.... Relationship to Head			

Other related issues

Approach to tabulations

As previously indicated I see one of the key issues for presentation of Census data to be the

choice between a thematic approach and a geographic profile approach. My experience has been that national users were intensely interested in a geographical profile approach for “general” issues. I thus suggest that clear guidance be given in P&R that production of tables in a profile format is supported by UNSD. This is hinted at above where I propose the supply of data sets for the country and civil divisions.

Formatting of tables

I noted above that one of the problems in the current presentation of recommended tables in P&R is that they attempt, but fail, to present draft table formats to country and the availability of resources in their user community. I suggest that TSG 1.3 be requested to develop some principles in table design for inclusion in P&R but that no specific attempts be made to present recommended or illustrative formats in the Annex to P&R.

A somewhat longer and more detailed paper outlining these points is available on request (preferably by email).

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

Topic: List of core topics

Harish Bundhoo

1. List of core topics for population census

Below is a list of core topics for population census. This list has been prepared on the basis of population census topics printed on pages 59-60 of the manual ‘Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census’ published by the United Nations Statistics Division.

A total of 25 core topics have been short – listed and are given below

1. Geographical and Internal migration (3 topics)

- Place of usual residence
- Place where present at time of census
- Place of residence at a specified date in the past

The variables ‘place of residence at a specified date in the past’ together with ‘place of usual residence’ are used to give information about internal migration patterns.

2. Household and family characteristics (1 topic)

- Relationship to head or other reference member of household

3. Demographic and social characteristics (6 topics)

- Sex
- Age
- Marital Status

- Citizenship
- Religion
- Language

4. Fertility and mortality (2 topics)

- Children ever born
- Age, date or duration of first marriage

5. Educational Characteristics (4 topics)

- Literacy
- School attendance
- Educational attainment
- Field of education and educational qualification

6. Economic characteristics (6 topics)

- Activity status
- Number of hours worked during a reference week
- Occupation
- Industry
- Status of employment
- Place of work

7. International migration (2 topics)

- Country of birth
- Citizenship (covered in section 3)

8. Disability characteristics (2 topics)

- Disability
- Causes of disability

2. List of core topics for housing census

This list of core topics has been prepared on the basis of housing population census topics printed on pages 97-98 of the manual 'Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census' published by the United Nations Statistics Division.

A total of 17 core topics have been short – listed and are given below

1. Unit of enumeration: Building (3 topics)

- Building – type of
- Construction material of outer walls and roof
- Year or period of construction

2. Unit of enumeration: Living quarters (12 topics)

- Location of living quarters
- Living quarters – type of
- Occupancy status
- Rooms – number of
- Water supply system
- Toilet and sewerage facilities
- Bathing facilities
- Cooking facilities
- Lighting – type of and/or electricity
- Solid waste disposal – type of
- Occupancy by one or more households
- Occupants – number of

3. Unit of enumeration: Households/occupants (2 topics)

- Tenure
- Rental cost

Harish Bundhoo, Mr.
Central Statistics Office
Mauritius

Topic: Updates to list of tabulations

Harish Bundhoo

Proposed updates to annexes I and II on the list of tabulations for population and housing censuses in the manual 'Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census' (pages 139 – 249) published by the United Nations Statistics Division.

1. Population Census

The following 26 additional tables are proposed:

Household characteristics

- Heads of household by age, sex, marital status and by geographical division
- Households by size, number of economically active members per household by geographic division
- Households by size, number of employed members in the household by geographic division
- Household by size, number of unemployed members in the household by geographic division

Fertility and mortality

- Female population 15 years of age and over, by age, number of children ever born and educational attainment
- Female population 15 years of age and over, by age, number of children ever born and economic activity

- Working female population 15 years of age and over, by age, number of children ever born and occupation

Educational characteristics

- Population aged 2 years and above by age, sex, school attendance and geographical division.

It is proposed that school attendance be categorised into 'past', 'now', 'never' and 'not stated' instead of 'attending school', 'not attending school' and 'not stated'.

Such a definition was used in the 2000 population census of Mauritius. Thus we were able to locate those who had never been to school. This information proved useful for policymaking.

- Population aged 12 years and above with vocational and technical qualification by field of technical/vocational qualification by age, sex and geographical division

This would yield important information for the planning of employment.

Economic characteristics

- Currently employed population by occupational group, sex and number of hours worked during last week
- Currently employed population by industry group, sex and number of hours worked during last week
- Currently employed by sex, place of usual residence and place of work
- Currently employed population aged 12 years and over by sex, length of service with present employer and sector of employment
- Currently unemployed population aged 12 years and over by geographical division, age and sex
- Currently unemployed population aged 12 years and over by educational attainment, age, sex and whether first job seekers or not
- Currently unemployed population aged 12 years and over by sex, broad field of study of highest vocational or technical qualification and educational attainment
- Currently unemployed (excluding first job seekers) aged 12 years and over by age, sex and employment status in last job
- Currently unemployed (excluding first job seekers) aged 12 years and over by sex, educational attainment and industry of last job
- Currently unemployed (excluding first job seekers) aged 12 years and over by sex, educational attainment and major occupational group of last job
- Currently unemployed (excluding first job seekers) aged 12 years and over by duration of unemployment, educational attainment and sex
- Currently unemployed (excluding first job seekers) aged 12 years and over by duration of unemployment, industry of last job and sex
- Currently unemployed (excluding first job seekers) aged 12 years and over by duration of unemployment, occupation (major group of last job) and sex
- Currently unemployed (excluding first job seekers) aged 12 years and over by length of service with last employer, age and sex

Disability

- Currently employed population with disability aged 15 years and over by age, sex, occupation and type of disability
- Currently employed population with disability aged 15 years and over by age, sex, industry

and type of disability

2. Housing Census

The following additional table is proposed:

- Buildings by geographical division and type

The type of building could be categorised as `residential buildings, semi-residential buildings, commercial buildings, industrial buildings, public buildings, hotel etc. Such tabulation is only possible if all buildings whether residential or non-residential, are enumerated.

The enumeration of all buildings helps to ensure that no households are missed, particularly those living in regions dominated by non-residential buildings.

The proposed tabulation would give information on the level of physical/economic development of any region.

Harish Bundhoo, Mr.
Central Statistics Office
Mauritius

Topic: Core set of tabulations for International Organisa

Harish Bundhoo

A core set of tabulations for dissemination to international organisations

Vital Statistics

1. Live births by sex and urban/rural residence
2. Deaths by sex and urban/rural residence
3. Infant deaths by sex and urban/rural residence
4. Still births by sex and urban/rural residence
5. Marriages by urban/rural residence
6. Total divorces
7. Live births by month of birth
8. Live births by legitimacy status and sex
9. Live births by live birth order
10. Live births by duration of marriage
11. Live births by age of mother and sex of child
12. Live births by age of father
13. Live births by age of mother and live birth order
14. Live births by type of birth
15. Total fertility rate and gross and net reproduction rate
16. Abridged life table by sex
17. Deaths by month of death
18. Deaths by age and sex
19. Deaths by age, sex and marital status
20. Deaths by cause and sex
21. Infant deaths by month of death
22. Infant deaths by age and sex
23. Still births by age of mother
24. Still births by age of mother and total birth order

25. Marriages by month of marriage
26. Marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom
27. Marriages by age of bride and groom
28. First marriage by age of bride and groom
29. Marriages by age and previous marital status of bride and groom
30. Divorces by duration of marriage
31. Divorces by number of dependent children

Population

1. Estimated population by urban/rural residence
2. Estimated population by age and sex
3. Estimated population of the capital city and cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more
4. Total area and population enumerated by urban/rural residence
5. Population enumerated by major civil divisions by urban/rural residence
6. Population in localities by size/class of locality and sex
7. Population of national capital city and cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants
8. Households, population in private households and number of family nuclei by size of household and number of persons not living in households
9. Population by single year of age and five year age groups, sex and urban/rural residence
10. Population by marital status, age, sex and urban/rural residence
11. Native and foreign born population by age, sex and urban/rural residence
12. Ever married resident female population 15 years and over by age, number of children ever born and urban/rural residence
13. Population by nationality and sex
14. Population by religion and sex
15. Population by language usually spoken at home and sex

Education

Source:census

1. Population 12 years of age and over by literacy, age and sex
2. Population 15 years of age and over by educational attainment, age, sex and urban/rural residence
3. Population 5 to 24 years of age by school attendance, single year of age, sex and urban/rural residence

Source:survey

1. Pupils, teachers and institutions by level of education and public/private institution
2. Pre-primary education and early childhood development programmes – Enrolment by age - public and private
3. New entrants in grade one at primary level by age - public and private
4. Enrolment by age and grade at primary level – public and private
5. Enrolment by age and grade at secondary level – public and private
6. Enrolment by age and grade for vocational and technical education – public and private
7. Teaching staff by type of programme at tertiary level (public and private)
8. Students enrolled at tertiary level by type of programme (public and private)
9. Enrolment by age at tertiary level (full/part time) (public and private)
10. Enrolment at tertiary level by field of education and national degree structure (public and private)
11. Graduates by field of education, cumulative duration and national degree structure (public

and private)

12. Foreign students by country of origin (public and private)

Household characteristics

1. Population by age, sex and type of household
2. Households by age and sex of household head, household size and urban/rural residence
3. Households by age and sex, marital status of household head and urban/rural residence
4. Population by relationship to head, age and sex and urban/rural residence
5. Households by type of household, number of household members and presence of spouse by age and sex of head and urban/rural residence
6. Households and population in household by sex, size of household and presence of persons 60 years and over

Economic characteristics

Source: census

1. Population aged 12 years and over by activity status, sex and urban/rural residence
2. Population aged 12 years and over not economically active by functional category, sex and urban/rural residence
3. Economically active population aged 12 years and over by industry, age, sex and urban/rural residence
4. Economically active population aged 12 years and over by occupation, age, sex and urban/rural residence
5. Economically active foreign population aged 12 years and over by occupation, age, sex and urban/rural residence
6. Economically active population aged 12 years and over by status of employment, age, sex and urban/rural residence
7. Employed population by status of employment, industry, sex and urban/rural residence
8. Employed population by status of employment, occupation, sex and urban/rural residence
9. Population aged 12 years and over by type of activity, age, sex and marital status

Source: survey

1. Employed and unemployed by sex and age group by level of education
2. Employed by industry, employment status and sex
3. Employed by occupation, employment status and sex
4. Employed by industry, occupation and sex
5. Employed in manufacturing establishments by industry and sex
6. Number of unemployed and rate by sex
7. Unemployed by work experience and sex
8. Unemployed by age group and sex
9. Unemployed by level of education and sex
10. Unemployed with work experience by previous industry group and sex
11. Average hours of work per week by industry group and sex
12. Average earnings per month by industry group
13. Average earnings per month in manufacturing establishments by division of industry group
14. Wage rate and normal hours of work (average hours paid for, excluding overtime) for selected occupations
15. Earnings and hours paid for (average hours including overtime hours) for selected occupations.

Internal migration

1. Population in localities by size class of locality and by sex (see table 6 - population)
2. Population present on census night by civil division and civil division of usual residence, age and sex
3. Population 5 years of age and over by civil division of usual residence and civil division of residence 5 years ago, age and sex

Disability

1. Population by geographical location, sex and type of disability, if any
2. Population by geographical district, type of disability if any, age and sex
3. Disabled population by sex, age, marital status and type of disability
4. Disabled population aged 2 years of age and over by age, sex and school attendance
5. Disabled population 5 years of age and over by educational attainment, age and sex
6. Disabled population aged 12 years and over by age, sex and activity status
7. Employed disabled population aged 12 years and over by age, sex and major occupational group
8. Employed disabled population aged 12 years and over by age, sex and industry

Housing

1. Residential and partly residential buildings by geographical location, type of roof and wall and year of completion
2. Residential and partly residential buildings by geographical location and number of housing units in building
3. Housing units by geographical location and type of ownership
4. Total housing units, housing units occupied by private households, households and population by geographical location and type of water supply
5. Total housing units, housing units occupied by private households, households and population by geographical location and availability of electricity
6. Total housing units, housing units occupied by private households, households and population by geographical location and type of toilet facilities
7. Total housing units, housing units occupied by private households, households and population by geographical location and availability of bathing facilities
8. Total housing units, housing units occupied by private households, households and population by geographical location and availability of kitchen
9. Total housing units, housing units occupied by private households, households and population by geographical location and method of refuse disposal
10. Housing units occupied by private households, households and population by geographical location and number of rooms used for living purposes per housing unit
11. Housing units occupied by private households, households and population by geographical location and number of households per housing unit
12. Private households by geographical location and tenure
13. Private households by geographical location, tenure and number of persons per room used for living purposes
14. Rented households by geographical location and monthly rent

Harish Bundhoo, Mr.
Central Statistics Office
Mauritius

Technical Subgroup 1-4

Topic: Comments

Hussein Shakhatreh

Comments on the Principles and recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses/
Census Topics

- 2.291 Characteristics of the head or reference persons can be obtained from the part designated for characteristics of members of the household and not in the part designated for the building characteristics (page 143)
- 2.291 Housing costs question is not recommended because the unaccurate responses for this questions from the experiences of many countries (page 143)
- 2.296 Unit of enumeration: building: we have to add more questions
- 2.378 Unit of enumeration: living quarters: floor space is not recommended here. Highly unaccurate responses are expected.
- 2.67 Economic characteristics of the head of household should be collected in the part designated for the household members and not here.
- 2.413 Rental cost is not recommended. Highly unaccurate responses are expected.
- 2.295 Definition of building: and resided on land or water should be added
- 2.37 1. Ownership type must be comparable with Tenure in page 1612. No need to collect the type of tenure twice (see pages 155 & 161)
- 2.413 Rental costs: We have to add " or in kind"
- 3.91 Alternatives 2, 3 and 4: should not be collected in the census but in a special demographic survey because they need more probing questions.
- Table p4.3Page 225 The header should be corrected to be: Children Ever-born Alive by age of females.
- Table p4.4Page 226 The header should be corrected to be: Mothers by age at first birth.
- Table p4.5Page 227 The header should be corrected to be: Median age of Mothers by Age at first birth.
- Tables p4.6, p4.7, p4.8Pages: 228, 229 & 230 The headers should be corrected
- Table p4.10Page 233 The header should be corrected to be: Population by Survivorship Status of Mothers. The ward Living in the subheading should be "Still alive"
- Table p6.1Page 241 Many variables in the table (the table should be simple)
- Table p6.18Page 261 The table contains "Annual Income", Income should not be collected in the census.
- Tables p6.22 & p6.23 Many Variables in these tables. The table must be simple for the users.
- Table P7.1Page 270 Substitute "country of birth" by " Nationality"
- Table p7.2Page 271 Substitute "country of birth" by " Nationality"
- Table p7.3Page 272 Substitute "country of birth" by " Nationality"

Hussein Shakhatreh
Director General,
Department of Statistics

Topic: environmentally-related questions in Census

ECOWAS

Dear All,

Within the framework of the project on Strengthening Statistical Capacity-Building in Support of the MDGs in the ECOWAS region being executed by UNSD in cooperation with ECOWAS Secretariat, a workshop on environment statistics was co-organized in Dakar from 28

February to 4 March 2005 by UNSD, UNEP, UN-ECA and the ECOWAS Secretariat. The participants expressed concern about environmental degradation in the ECOWAS region, especially in the areas of land, forest, biodiversity, water availability and quality, coastal and marine environment, waste management and air quality.

One of the issues discussed at the workshop was the use of household surveys and censuses as data collection instruments for environment statistics. In that respect, participants discussed the institutional arrangements in place at national level, modules to be added to the traditional frameworks of household and industrial surveys, and to censuses in order to include questions on or related to the environment. Based on the discussion at the Workshop it appears that besides the questions on water supply system, toilet and sewerage facilities, type of solid waste disposal and fuel used for cooking, which seem to be quite standard in the housing section of the census, very few countries, had included "environmental awareness" questions in their censuses.

Consequently, we would like to use the opportunity of the discussions going on within the framework of the Global Population Census to raise the issue about the inclusion of additional "environmentally-related" or "environmental awareness" questions in the census or other data sources (surveys etc.) and invite members of the Expert Group on Population and Housing Censuses for the 2010 census round to discuss how this could be addressed in the revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

Akou Adjogou

martin butterfield

The presentation of information from the Census about population and population growth - especially for small areas such as Enumeration Areas - provides a very useful environmental indicator. In addition information about the industry in which people are employed can also contribute to this analysis. There are probably other ways in which Census data can contribute to consideration of environmental issues.

When the issue of measuring overall "environmental awareness" is raised, some very complex issues need to be considered. First, the range of possible topics is very wide (and will vary considerably from country to country). Second, this is close to attempting to measure people's attitude, which would be extremely difficult to do within a Census framework.

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

onsembe

There is certainly no doubt that collecting information on environmental issues is important. I am, however, worried that including environment questions on the census questionnaire will increase census costs. In the 2000 Round of censuses, many countries, especially in the African region, were unable to conduct their census as planned. One of the reasons given was high cost of censuses. It is therefore important we keep census costs low. For that matter, the first strategy is to control the size of the questionnaire. I am therefore proposing that environmental issues be handled through surveys, and the census provide us with a good sampling frame.

Jason O. Onsembe
Regional Advisor
UNFPA/CST Addis Ababa

Topic: Environmental Statistics

valerie nam

Environmental Statistics

While sound policy decisions related to issues of sustainable development must be based on reliable information, environmental statistics are relatively new in many countries and many data gaps exist. Much of the available data are obtained from administrative records of agencies involved in monitoring the environment and developing environmental policy. Population censuses and household surveys are recognized as very important sources of data, specifically as it relates to the interaction between the population and the environment and can provide much of the data required to fill the existing gaps.

Questions related to sanitation have long been a part of the Housing Censuses but additional questions may relate to the extent to which households are utilizing products and facilities and adopting behaviours which are, or are perceived to be impacting on the environment. Additionally, the extent to which the population is concerned about the environment and participation in environmentally "friendly" activities may also be examined.

The Principles and Recommendations should therefore identify a core set of topics/questions with this type of focus, for inclusion in the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses. Suggested Household Topics may include:

1. Energy Use and Conservation
2. Use of Forestry Products
3. Water Use and Conservation
4. Recycling and Waste Practices
5. Use of (Household) Toxic Chemicals
6. Experience of Natural Disasters

Suggested Topics for the Individual may include:

1. Awareness of and Visits to Natural Parks and Protected Areas
2. Environmental Concerns
3. Awareness of and Participation in Environmentally-friendly Activities
4. Effect of Environment on Personal Health

Director, Censuses and Demographic Statistics
Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Topic: Housing censuses and household investment

Andriantseheno Andry

Q1: Regarding paragraph 2.291, the suggestion was that: "Housing costs question is not recommended because the inaccurate responses for this questions from the experiences of many countries (page 143).

Q2: Concerning paragraph 2.413, the suggestion was that: "Rental cost is not recommended. Highly inaccurate responses are expected"

During National Accounts compilation, African countries have limited data sources regarding household gross fixed capital formation, mainly housing.

Very limited number of houses are build with a construction permits, mostly those in the formal sector, thus most of houses are built without construction permit and with various raw material.

The censuses operation is the unique opportunity to estimate these household investments on housing in the informal sector and estimate the cost of non-manufactured raw materials.

Probably, in some advanced economies countries where alternative data sources are available, we may remove question on housing and rental cost.

However, we also have the possibility to improve the question to ensure that more accurate

response may come out or may derived from the housing questionnaire. Another possibility is to take a sample from the housing censuses and conduct a survey on housing and rental cost. The country, which has the knowledge of its data sources availability, has the ultimate decision to maintain question on housing cost, with the necessary improvement in the questionnaire.

Andry Andriantseheno
Statistician
UNECA
Tel 251-1-44 36 03

Working Group 2

Topic: Excerpts from the Symposium report

Srdjan Mrkic

What follows are relevant excerpts of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the United Nations Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses, held in New York, 13-14 September 2004. The full text and papers of both the Symposium and the United Nations Expert Group Meeting that followed it are available on the "Background documents" page of the 2010 World Programme website at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/default.htm>.

How feasible are alternative approaches to censuses? Recognizing that we might be at the beginning of a "census revolution", the Symposium noted that alternative census designs and approaches including a combination of administrative sources, household surveys, satellite imagery, and use of the Internet, are still largely uncharted territories and realized the need to outline advantages and disadvantages of such approaches. The Symposium deliberated at length on the potential drawbacks and benefits of alternative approaches. It noted that approaches based on population registers are not always feasible, given, among other issues, the cost of developing and maintaining these registers. Under many circumstances the traditional method of census enumeration is still an indispensable, reliable option. Therefore, the Symposium recommended that the Expert Group on 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses outline preconditions and prerequisites for adopting an alternative census design, taking into account the experiences of countries that are implementing such designs in regard to quality and coverage of statistics obtained, costs, and timeliness of census results.

How can censuses best be integrated into the national statistical system? The Symposium noted that a lack of integration among various statistical operations may occur at the national level. The Symposium recommended a review of the integration of statistical systems through common frames for population, housing, agricultural and establishment censuses, where relevant, as well as household and other surveys and administrative sources; and to elaborate the role of censuses as part of a fully integrated national statistical system.

How can new technologies best support census operations? The Symposium considered the broad range of new technologies that are being employed in census operations including Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, and handheld devices for enumeration; scanning of census forms, and GIS and thematic maps for dissemination, to name a few. It was pointed out that new technologies are not always more efficient than traditional methods. Sharing of experiences, skills and hardware between national statistical/census authorities has proven to be effective for some countries. The Symposium concluded that it would be useful to examine the conditions under which certain technologies can effectively be adopted and to what extent the updated Principles and Recommendations should address new technologies. The Symposium recommended that the use of new technologies be addressed as a priority in the programme of

work of the Expert Group on 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses.

What considerations should be taken when outsourcing all or part of a census operation? The Symposium identified an increasing trend for countries to outsource part of their census operations. This activity poses a challenge for statistical offices for a number of reasons; for example, the interests of suppliers providing services are not always in line with the interests of the statistical office or the government; the need to ensure privacy, confidentiality, data accuracy and maintaining public trust while outsourcing census activities; problems related to preparation of contracts and legal arrangements. The Symposium recommended that the Expert Group on 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses make the review of issues related to outsourcing census operations a priority in their work. It also recommended that the Expert Group explore the possibility of providing opportunities to countries for exchange of experience in preparing legal frameworks and terms of reference for contracts to outsource census activities.

Srdjan Mrkic
UN Statistics Division

Topic: Excerpts from the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting

Margaret Mbogoni

What follows are relevant excerpts from the Conclusions and Recommendations of the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses, held in Bangkok, 9-10 December 2004. The full report and papers from the meeting are available at <http://unescap.org/stat/meet/census2004/index.asp>

Excerpts:

The Expert Group recommended that the interrelations between the early phases of census planning and the subsequent development of census products and future data utilization should be clarified in the chapters of the Principles and Recommendations dedicated to census planning.

Similarly, with regard to census products, how to identify users' needs in the early phases of census planning should be explained. Countries should be guided to design census products according to different groups of users, e.g. the central government, the general public, academia, media, particular subgroups like children, and the private sector, according to their current and foreseeable future country circumstances.

The Expert Group recommended that the Principles and Recommendations highlight the analytical advantage of conducting population and housing censuses simultaneously as this would permit an integrated analysis of demographic and social data along with data on human settlements.

The Expert Group noted that population and housing censuses could be used for providing sampling frames for agricultural and establishment censuses and surveys if a few questions on agricultural and economic activities were included in the census questionnaires.

Margaret Mbogoni
Statistician
Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
United Nations Statistics Division

Topic: Traditional approach and alternative approach

TAKAMI

Relationship between the traditional approach and the alternative approach

Paragraph 1.1 - 1.10:

We consider that definition and basic four features of the population and housing censuses are still essential. There are still many countries conducting censuses by the traditional method which conform best to these features, and these are still reliable and effective. Thus, we propose that traditional method should continue to be the principles of the censuses in 2010 round.

Regarding the alternative approaches emerging recent years, there are still many critical issues to be discussed on advantages and disadvantages. So, we propose that it is not appropriate to change the definition and basic features of the population and housing censuses dramatically.

Proposal for a new section to be added:

On the other hand, it is the case that some countries adapt an alternative approach under their circumstances. So, we propose to include the following statement properly: When a country inevitably takes an alternative approach, it should be fully considered that the necessity conditions which are prerequisite for adapting an alternative approach, effects on the accuracy of the results and compatibility with data needs. Appropriate place for this section is, for example, after part C of the □g#V Use of sampling in population and housing censuses□h.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Topic: Data Processing

TAKAMI

Paragraph 1.188-1.192:

OMR and OCR equipment have developed and spread recently. On the other hand, the use of OCR or OMR equipment should be determined based on the basic factors such as the size of the population and costs. We propose a proper review on the description in the P&R. So, we propose to include the following statement in the last sentence of 1.192 (between □gcarefully tested□h and □gbefore final adaptation.□h):

and should be determined based on the basic factors such as the size of the population and costs.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Topic: Dissemination

TAKAMI

Paragraph 1.241:

On making the manuscript for publication, the P&R refers to the use of word-processing software. We propose to change it to the use of spreadsheet.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Topic: New section for IT

TAKAMI

Proposal for a new section to be added:

The use of IT in each process of the population and housing censuses brings merits in various aspects. We propose that various uses of IT should be incorporated into each process of the censuses (Part One, #U, A to I) in the P&R. At the same time, advantages and disadvantages on the use of IT should also be included to help decisions of countries making use of IT. Examples of tools making use of IT to be examined here are: GIS software for making maps of the enumeration districts, hand-held devices on the data collection, internet, scanning devices on data capture, user-friendly database on the internet about the data supply and GIS software for the analysis of results.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Topic: Out-sourcing

TAKAMI

As for the contracting out of the works on the population and housing censuses, it is not appropriate to contract out core works (e.g., planning, collection of questionnaires, data input including individual name) from the viewpoint of keeping the precision of data and securing the confidentiality. We propose that the treatment of the contracting out in the P&R should be careful enough.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Topic: Enumeration methodology

TAKAMI

Paragraph 1.122-1.124:

In addition to the traditional face-to-face approach, several different approaches, such as mailing, telephone and internet, have been adapted recently. That is, survey method is diversified. Thus, we propose that effective survey method making use of other approaches and notes in applying them should be incorporated into the P&R. Especially we suggest that when a country adapts mixed survey method including the face-to-face approach, measures to conduct a field work smoothly (e.g., timely feedback to enumerators on information about the situation of the questionnaire collection) should be incorporated into the P&R.

Paragraph 1.165-1.167:

Considering the increasing consciousness of people on the privacy and confidentiality protection, we propose that the necessity for consideration on them should be incorporated into the P&R.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Mary Chamie

Should we include an introduction to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the discussion of confidentiality?

Topic: ECE Proposals - Census definition

Mary Chamie

In the European region, they are proposing that the definition of a population and housing census be based on the product or output produced, rather than on the methodology used. Thus, for example, "the population census is defined as the operation that produces at regular intervals the official counting (or benchmark) of the population in the territory of a country ...". This would suggest that any operation that results in this product could be called a census.

To what extent can this be adopted at the global level? Is this a useful definition for other regions?

Topic: Adding new paragraphs on necessity of the census

TAKAMI

I would like to propose that we include at the beginning of P&R some new paragraphs describing and emphasizing the necessity and importance of the census for a country as well as the national statistical system. Importance of the census was already discussed and agreed in many past occasions such as the UN Symposium on the Population and Housing Census (Sept. 2004, New York).

This point may be self-evident for statisticians, but it may not necessarily be well understood by the general public. In fact, many developing countries are facing with difficulties in gaining necessary supports within the government or from the general public. To alleviate such difficulties, it would be helpful if there are some clear and authoritative statements in P&R that can be quoted by the national statistical offices, whenever necessary, to describe the reasons why the census is necessary and important for a country and the national statistical system.

I think it will help improve public perception about the census in many countries to some extent, although it may not fully solve the problem.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Topic: ECE Proposals - "Specific Reference Period"

Mary Chamie

With regard to "Specific reference period" as an essential feature of a population and housing census, the ECE draft recommendations state that "Information obtained on individuals and living quarters in a census should refer to a well-defined reference period. This does not mean that the data on all individuals and living quarters are collected simultaneously. If data are not collected simultaneously, adjustment should be made so that the final data have the same reference period."

Given the diversity of country practices in data collection that might result, is this something that should be considered for the UN recommendations? What would be the implications of this for international comparability of data?

TAKAMI

This topic constitutes an important element of the "Definition" and "Essential Features" of the census (para. 1-1 to 1-10 in P&R), together with "ECE Proposal - Simultaneity" also raised in WG2 by Ms. Mary Chamie. I think we should discuss this topic

in a wider context of "Definition and Essential Features" rather than treat it as an independent topic.

I would, therefore, like to propose that we merge the discussion on this topic to another topic opened in TSG 2-2 which is closely related to this topic: "Essential Features" and Alternative Design. So, to those of you who wish to submit your comments on this topic, I would like to suggest you would post them under the above-mentioned topic in TSG 2-2.

For your information, I will submit my comments that are closely related to this point to TSG 2-2 "Essential Features" and Alternative Design. So, please post the further comments to the following URL.

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/globalcensusforum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=26

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Topic: ECE Proposals - Simultaneity

Mary Chamie

The ECE draft recommendations state that "should simultaneity become an overriding principle, countries may wish to consider data collection involving both a short form and two or more longer forms (with more questions for one or more specific topics) and with each long form being completed for a separate sample of households or people?."

Should this be considered by the global UN recommendations?

Is there already national experience in doing one short form and several long forms on a census?

What issues should be taken into account in terms of its implications for the census exercise (respondent burden, quantity of information to be collected and processed, interviewer training, etc)?

abdnajjara

In census, simultaneity should be an overriding principle. For countries may wish to consider data collection involving both a short form(**all of census features should be prevailed here**) and two or more longer forms (with more questions for one or more specific topics) and with each long form being completed for a separate sample of households or people? ."

The global UN recommendations Should consider these long forms and many issues should be taken into account in terms of its implications for the census exercise, such as:

These long forms not considered as a census
Respondent burden effects should be at minimum levels,
No sensitive questions, which may affect negatively the data quality or coverage
Quantity of information to be collected depends on the national needs, priorities, and funds available(not more than two long form)
Other issues should be tested (data processing, interviewer training, dissemination ... etc)

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TAKAMI

This topic constitutes an important element of the □gDefinition□h and □gEssential Features□h of the census (para. 1-1 to 1-10 in P&R), together with □gECE Proposal - Specific Reference Period□h also raised in WG2 by Ms. Mary Chamie. I think we should discuss this topic in a wider context of □gDefinition and Essential Features□h rather than treat it as an independent topic.

I would, therefore, like to propose that we merge the discussion on this topic to another topic opened in TSG 2-2 which is closely related to this topic: □gEssential Features□h and Alternative Design. So, to those of you who wish to submit your comments on this topic, I would like to suggest you would post them under the above-mentioned topic in TSG 2-2.

I will post my comments on this point to TSG 2-2 □g□fEssential Features□f and Alternative Design□h. So, please post the further comments to the following URL.

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/globalcensusforum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=26

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

martin butterfield

Might it be better to restrict use of the words "simultaneity" or "simultaneous" to the context of within-census activities? Thus a census should be simultaneous and contact everyone as nearly as possible at the same instant.

For the situation in which the operation of two censuses at the same time is being considered might it not be better to use "concurrent" or "concurrently" as in "The population census and housing census could/should be undertaken as concurrent collections."

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

Topic: Simultaneous operation of censuses

TAKAMI

Paragraph 1.28-1.31:

As for the simultaneous operation of population and housing censuses, there may be some disadvantages. For example, by the simultaneous operation, the number of questions in a questionnaire is large and respondent□fs burden increases. As a result, it may affect the accuracy and precision of the results of the population census, which are most important. Considering this negative aspect, we suggest that it should be incorporated into the P&R that countries have a choice to conduct population and housing censuses separately, depending on their situation.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

TAKAMI

I would like to add some comments to my previous message.

In principle, the simultaneous operation should be pursued as far as possible in order to assure the comparability and consistency of the results. But in case where too large a number of questions are to be asked in the census, the response burden would become too large, and it would be difficult to obtain accurate responses from all the respondents. In such a case, it would be necessary either to reduce the number of questions according to the priorities or to conduct a separate survey (perhaps a sample survey) for the remaining questions at a different time point. The main census should not be overburdened with too many questions.

For example, in the Japanese census, questions on housing are limited to the basic items, and a separate sample survey on housing is conducted three years after the census to cover more detailed questions on housing. While it is preferable to collect all the information including housing in one census, it is also important from a practical viewpoint to limit the response burden by separating the detailed questions to a different survey. Such a survey is not called a census, but a survey associated with a census.

So, in principle, I am in favor of maintaining the simultaneity of the census operation, but I think it is necessary to allow some deviations in certain cases.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

martin butterfield

Might it be better to restrict use of the words "simultaneity" or "simultaneous" to the context of within-census activities? Thus a census should be simultaneous and contact everyone as nearly as possible at the same instant.

For the situation in which the operation of two censuses at the same time is being considered might it not be better to use "concurrent" or "concurrently" as in "The population census and housing census could/should be undertaken as concurrent collections."

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

Topic: Data editing

TAKAMI

Paragraph 1.205-1.207:

It is dangerous to rely too much on the software packages, and it is still very important to check statistical tables manually to prevent errors. Thus, we propose that descriptions on the importance of the manual checking of the statistical tables should be emphasized.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Mary Chamie

Would it be useful to consider the logic of the review of the statistical tables, regardless of whether it is manually or using a software package? We might also wish to look at the Census Handbook on editing procedures in considering this issue.

[martin butterfield](#)

Manual checking of some tables at least in the final stages of data processing is very important to ensure that the output system is functioning correctly. Perhaps data for some of the first EAs could be examined in detail to ensure that the result is what is expected? There is also a need to undertake some manual checks to ensure that totals equal the sum of components and that marginal totals are consistent (eg where 2 tables refer to the same population they have same number of people in them).

However in many cases it will not be possible to manually check all tables. By way of example the set of Basic Community Profiles for Australia comprise 33 tables (perhaps 200 cells per table on average) for 35,000 EAs (plus higher spatial units). It isn't possible to check all 1,000,000 plus tables (or 200+ million cells) manually but it is possible to write a computer program to do a lot of routine checking - once earlier QA work has given confidence that the tabulation package is working as expected.

When producing ad-hoc tables for specific clients specific QA routines need to be employed to check that the table is working correctly. Manually comparing the results of these tabulation processes with earlier tables (eg for consistency of marginal totals) is very important.

The editing handbook focuses almost completely on input processing (micro-editing) rather than output processing (macro-editing). This balance could be changed if consideration is given to updating the Handbook.

I'd suggest there is scope for additional information on editing in Principles and Recommendations. Also there could be merit in preparing a special Handbook on Quality Measurement and Assurance.

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

[martin butterfield](#)

quote:

Originally posted by martin butterfield

The editing handbook focuses almost completely on input processing (micro-editing) rather than output processing (macro-editing). This balance could be changed if consideration is given to updating the Handbook.

I'd suggest there is scope for additional information on editing in Principles and Recommendations. Also there could be merit in preparing a special Handbook on Quality Measurement and Assurance.

I have now drafted an expanded entry on editing for P&R. It is too lengthy to fit in to this Forum but a copy will be made available if requested by email to butterfield@un.org.

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

Technical Subgroup 2-1

Topic: Excerpt from the Symposium report

Srdjan Mrkic

What follows is the relevant excerpt of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the United Nations Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses, held in New York, 13-14 September 2004. The full text and papers of both the Symposium and the United Nations Expert Group Meeting that followed it are available on the "Background documents" page of the 2010 World Programme website at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/default.htm>.

How can censuses best be integrated into the national statistical system? The Symposium noted that a lack of integration among various statistical operations may occur at the national level. The Symposium recommended a review of the integration of statistical systems through common frames for population, housing, agricultural and establishment censuses, where relevant, as well as household and other surveys and administrative sources; and to elaborate the role of censuses as part of a fully integrated national statistical system.

Srdjan Mrkic
UN Statistics Division

Topic: Excerpts from the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting

Margaret Mbogoni

What follows are relevant excerpts from the Conclusions and Recommendations of the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses, held in Bangkok, 9-10 December 2004. The full report and papers from the meeting are available at

<http://unescap.org/stat/meet/census2004/index.asp>

Excerpts:

The Expert Group recommended that the Principles and Recommendations highlight the analytical advantage of conducting population and housing censuses simultaneously as this would permit an integrated analysis of demographic and social data along with data on human settlements.

The Expert Group noted that population and housing censuses could be used for providing sampling frames for agricultural and establishment censuses and surveys if a few questions on agricultural and economic activities were included in the census questionnaires.

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abdnajjara

First, We are highly appreciate the Recommendation of The Expert Group that the Principles and Recommendations highlight the analytical advantage of conducting population and housing censuses simultaneously as this would permit an integrated analysis of demographic and social data along with data on human settlements.

In addition, we recommend for a full utilization of these data review the relationship between the definition of household & the definition of occupants housing unit to become one to one(it needs more details in how & why)

Second, in Palestine we actually used the population and housing census-1997 for providing sampling frame for agricultural surveys(holders), but it should be used as soon as possible& it should be noted also that the sampling unit should be defined; holdings or holders/ or both. Its difficult to count holding units unless by using a separate attached table

Also we conduct a full scale establishment census within the census activities, but in a different time for data collection

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Topic: Proposal for Section 5(a) Paras 1.34-1.41

David Marshall

Draft text to replace paras 1.34-1.41 of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Rev 1) UN 1998

1. While the population and housing censuses have a close relationship, their relationship with the agricultural census is less well defined. However, as the result of increasing integration within programmes of data collection, the relationship between the population and housing census and the agricultural census is now far closer than in the past and countries are increasingly looking at new ways to strengthen this relationship.
2. One issue in relating the two censuses is that they use different units of enumeration. The unit of enumeration in the agricultural census is the agricultural holding, which is the techno-economic unit of agricultural production, while the unit of enumeration in the population census is the household and the individual within the household. However, in many developing countries, most agricultural production activities are in the household sector and households and agricultural holdings are very closely related, often in a one-to-one relationship.
3. The agricultural census collects various household/individual data for members of the agricultural holder's household. The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 , recommends the collection of data on household size and limited data on demographic characteristics and economic activity of members of the holder's household, as well as some limited information on persons working as employees on the holding. To get a complete

picture, agricultural data users will need both agricultural census data and data from the population census to meet their needs. Users may find some agricultural activity data from the agricultural census more comprehensive than from the population census because the latter normally investigates only the principal economic activity of each person during a short time-reference period and this may not identify persons connected with agricultural activity on a seasonal or part-time basis. On the other hand, the population census provides data on agricultural employment and agricultural population, which is not available from the agricultural census because it only covers households associated with agricultural holders.

4. In planning the population and housing census, every opportunity for developing the relationship between this census and the agricultural census should be explored. This can take several forms. Definitions used in the population and housing censuses should be compatible with those used in the agricultural census so that meaningful comparisons can be made between the two data sets. The population and housing census can also be of use in the preparation of the agricultural census, such as in the demarcation of enumeration areas, the preparation of the frame for the agricultural census or, if applicable, the sample design.

5. In planning the National Census Programme, consideration should also be given to the possibility of collecting additional agricultural information in the population and housing census that would facilitate the preparation of a subsequent agricultural census. For this purpose, an additional item at the household level on whether any member of the household is engaged in own-account agricultural production activities should be included in the population census to serve as a convenient means of identifying agricultural holdings for a subsequent agricultural census. Alternatively, additional data at the individual person level to identify persons involved in agricultural activities during a longer period, such as a year, could be collected in the population census to help in providing a frame for an agricultural census. These items are included in these principles and recommendations as non-core items.

6. The opportunity of linking population and agricultural census data should also be explored. This could add considerable analytical value to data sets from both censuses and save on data collection costs. Much of the demographic and activity status data collected in the population census are also collected in the agricultural census. If data from the two censuses could be linked, it would no longer be necessary to collect these data again in the agricultural census.

7. Some countries conduct the data collection for the population and agricultural censuses as a joint field operation. Normally, each census retains its separate identity and uses its own questionnaire, but field operations are synchronized so that the two data collections can be done at the same time by the same enumerators. Occasionally, the two censuses are merged into one. This may have a number of advantages, but its effect on field operations and data quality needs to be carefully considered.

David Marshall
Senior Statistician
Statistics Division
FAO

[martin butterfield](#)

The following are points that might be thought about by others, rather than specific suggestions. The paragraph references are to the points in David Marshall's proposal which generated the idea with me and not necessarily where changes might be contemplated.

Units of collection (para 2): What are the units of collection in the agricultural census for

nomadic pastoralists? For the population Census households comprising these people can be located at 'traditional' camps on Census night, but by definition they will soon move on. This could impose considerable difficulty if the agricultural production data is to be enumerated separately and linked to the population data. Abdullah Najjar has commented elsewhere on this discussion group that the agricultural collection must be undertaken as soon as possible.

Importance of household sector to the agricultural industry (mainly paras 3 and 5). In many countries a high proportion of agricultural units will be in a one-to-one relationship with households. However these household based units might contribute a relatively small proportion of output in some sections of the agricultural industry where corporate entities are active. I have in mind sugar estates; poultry farming, feedlot beef.

This could become important when attempting to identify households dependent on agriculture where a fairly wide range of people need to be considered, including not only the 'holders' but workers on the corporate/commercial holdings (whose occupation may be 'heavy machinery operator' or 'labourer') and agricultural holding managers. Given the range of occupation descriptions possible, such investigations possibly benefit more from an "industry" question rather than (or if possible as well as) an occupation question.

Linking collections (para 6) There is a large range of benefits from such a linkage: only limited by the number of variables collected and an analyst's mandate/imagination. To balance this it might be useful to note that such linkages can have privacy or confidentiality implications and cross refer to the relevant section of the book.

Timing of collections (para 7) An issue to be born in mind when planning coordinated/combined activities is the timing of the collections. For an agricultural census collecting area of productive crops and crop yields, both should refer to the same production period. The break between seasons which facilitates this relativity may not be the most suitable time for undertaking a population census.

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
UNSD

Technical Subgroup 2-2

Topic: Excerpt from the Symposium

Srdjan Mrkic

What follows is the relevant excerpt of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the United Nations Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses, held in New York, 13-14 September 2004. The full text and papers of both the Symposium and the United Nations Expert Group Meeting that followed it are available on the "Background documents" page of the 2010 World Programme website at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/default.htm>.

How feasible are alternative approaches to censuses? Recognizing that we might be at the beginning of a "census revolution", the Symposium noted that alternative census designs and approaches including a combination of administrative sources, household surveys, satellite imagery, and use of the Internet, are still largely uncharted territories and realized the need to outline advantages and disadvantages of such approaches. The Symposium deliberated at length on the potential drawbacks and benefits of alternative approaches. It noted that approaches based on population registers are not always feasible, given, among other issues, the cost of developing and maintaining these registers. Under many circumstances the

traditional method of census enumeration is still an indispensable, reliable option. Therefore, the Symposium recommended that the Expert Group on 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses outline preconditions and prerequisites for adopting an alternative census design, taking into account the experiences of countries that are implementing such designs in regard to quality and coverage of statistics obtained, costs, and timeliness of census results.

Srdjan Mrkic
UN Statistics Division

Topic: Periodicity of Census Taking

martin butterfield

The current version of P & R has 3 paras relevant to periodicity of a Census.

P1.9 says "It is **recommended** that a national Census be taken at least every 10 years" (emphasis added). P1.77 reflects this in starting with "Most countries conduct population and housing censuses once in 10 years".

Para 1.10 is a bit weaker in saying "..countries **may wish** to undertake a census in years ending in "0" or at a time as near to those years as possible." (emphasis added).

Since this is one of the essential features of a Census we could strengthen the concept from para 1.10 and make para 1.9 in particular supportive of this. Perhaps one way of making this clear would be to revise the sentence in 1:9 to read

"It is recommended that a national Census be taken at least every 10 years, with the reference date in, or as close as possible to, the year ending in '0'."

The second sentence in 1:10 would then be redundant and could be deleted without changing the point made in that paragraph.

Martin Butterfield
Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
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abdnajjara

ok

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Joseph M. Costanzo

Thank you for your comments Martin.

I will include these points for consideration along with the TSG 2-2 comments that we submit.

Joe Costanzo

Topic: "Essential features" and alternative designs

Charles

While perhaps not specifically included in the charge to the working group considering alternative census designs, we should recognize that its recommendations may affect how we should view the four "essential features" of a census, as described in the Principles and Recommendations (Part One, Section 1.5 ff.): individual enumeration; universality within a defined territory; simultaneity; and defined periodicity. Therefore, I discuss in what follows some of the implications.

The "traditional" census design involves the enumeration of each person in the census population by means of enumerators who reach each set of living quarters and obtain information about the persons residing in it. Concerns about rising costs of censuses and the willingness of governments to fund them, on the one hand, and intimations of reduced cooperation on the part of the public, on the other, have led a number of countries to develop "non-traditional" approaches to conducting a census. These include the use of administrative registers to supplement or replace face-to-face enumeration; field work spread out over part or all of the intercensal period; new sampling designs; and combinations of these and other methodological innovations. Assuming that these alternative approaches are also "censuses," we may wish to supplement the explanations accompanying the list of "essential features" of a census. The supplementary wording I suggest is meant primarily to raise questions about whether such supplementary wording is desirable; what the exact wording should be is less important at this stage.

Individual enumeration: According to the Principles, "the term 'census' implies that each individual and each set of living quarters is enumerated separately...Individual enumeration does not preclude the use of sampling techniques for obtaining data on specified characteristics..." The implication here is that population counts are to be obtained by total enumeration, while counts of characteristics can be based on appropriate samples. Counts based on administrative records, however, are not "enumerations." Therefore, the explanation of this essential feature could be supplemented as follows:

"The requirement of individual enumeration can be met by the collection of information in the field, by the use of information contained in an appropriate administrative register or set of registers, or by a combination of these methods."

Universality within a defined territory: Alternative census designs, even if they cover a territory identical to that covered by a traditional census, may not be able to "include every person present and/or residing within its scope" if they do not involve the actual enumeration of each person in the field. The explanation of this essential feature could be supplemented as follows:

"Even if the census design does not require universal enumeration, the published results should refer to the entire census population."

Simultaneity: So-called "rolling" census designs, in which the enumeration is spread out over a number of years, cannot by definition meet the requirement of simultaneity. Similarly, censuses using administrative registers can specify the date to which a particular register is updated, but they cannot guarantee (nor, usually, can the administrators of the register) that each record in the register is current to that date. Therefore, the explanation of this essential feature could be supplemented as follows:

"Designs which generate counts or estimates which are not intended to be anchored to a specific time-reference date should specify the period of reference to which they apply."

Defined periodicity: This, while undoubtedly desirable for the reasons stated in the explanation, as well as for additional reasons, is not an "essential feature" of a census in the same sense as the first three, for it does not directly affect the counts or estimates. Often the periodicity of the census is not under the control of the national statistical office, especially where no law requires the regular conduct of censuses. Innovative census designs may make it easier to adhere to periodicity if they simplify census procedures and reduce costs. They may even make periodicity irrelevant, as in the case of rolling censuses which are, essentially, a never-ending census. Consequently, I do not suggest supplementing the explanation of this essential feature.

Dr. Charles S. Kamen
Director, 2008 Census of Population and Housing
Israel Central Bureau of Statistics

TAKAMI

In connection with Dr. Kamen's comments that discuss the points in paras. 1.1 to 1.10 in P&R, some closely related comments have been submitted in WG2 as follows:

- ECE Proposals □c Census Definition
- ECE Proposals □c Specific Reference Period
- ECE Proposals □c Simultaneity

I think all of these topics are closely related to the present topic, and the most appropriate place to discuss all of them together is probably the present topic in TSG 2-2. To avoid redundant discussions in various different places, I have already proposed in WG2 that we should merge the discussions under the present topic. I expect other members will submit their comments here in TSG 2-2 rather than WG2 from now on.

In the following, I would like to give my comments on the points raised so far on the definition and essential features.

I think that □gsimultaneity□h should be still retained as an essential feature of the census from the viewpoint of consistency of data in terms of the reference period. The requirement of □gsimultaneity□h is ideally achieved by simultaneous data collection in regard to a specific reference period (or time point), and the most preferable and reliable although costly and operationally not easy, methodology from this viewpoint is the traditional census, i.e. simultaneous complete enumeration in a specific short period.

Retaining this feature poses the problem of how to treat the new alternative approaches such as the □grolling sample census□h or the □gvirtual census□h linking various registers and survey data, which are not based on simultaneously collected data. I think that, from practical viewpoints, these alternative approaches do not have to be excluded from the concept of the census only if the data are properly estimated and processed so that they refer to a specific reference period (or time point). But to avoid possible misunderstanding, the data of such alternative censuses should better be given appropriate names such as □grolling census□h or □gregister-based census□h, which means that they are □gcensus-equivalent□h, but not the census in the traditional sense.

I think describing the alternative methodology in P&R requires a lot of caution. There are many countries in the world that conducted the traditional census in the 2000 round, and there will be many again doing the same in the 2010 round, although the countries adopting the new approaches will be increasing. The reason why so many countries still rely on the traditional methodology is that alternative approaches are not yet feasible in such countries. In Japan, for example, where there is a well developed register system for the citizens, there are so many obstacles, such as technical, administrative, social, and so on, to overcome if it were to shift to a register-based census. If the revised P&R would describe that alternative approaches as one of the □grecommended□h approaches without qualification, it would put

the countries relying on the traditional census in a very difficult position. Such countries would have difficulties in securing the necessary budget or winning the public support for the traditional census.

I would, therefore, like to propose that

- i) the previous definition of the census should be retained,
- ii) the new approaches such as the rolling census and the register-based census should be included in P&R as [alternatives](#),
- iii) in describing the new approaches, it should be clearly stated that they are not feasible in all countries but only in those countries which can meet the various requirements, such as (in the case of the register-based census) availability of high quality registers, compatibility of concepts and definitions between the registers and the census, availability of reliable estimation and linking methods, and so on. Such requirements should be clearly stated.

Finally, I would like to solicit comments and contributions from other members about the treatment of the alternative approaches in Chapter II [Planning , organization and administration of population and housing censuses](#) (Para. 1.50 --- 1.284). I think it is rather difficult to describe the alternative approaches in the existing Chapter II, because the work required for the alternative approaches are quite different from those of the conventional census and also vary depending on the conditions of the countries. So, it seems preferable to create a new section (or chapter, if necessary) briefly describing the essence of the alternative approaches, rather than describe it by revising the existing paragraphs. On this point, I would be grateful if you could submit your comments. I would also be grateful if you can suggest the right persons who might be able to draft such a new section(s). This new section is most likely to be better written by the persons who have experiences in the rolling census, the register-based census or other new approaches.

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

Topic: Comments on Paragraph 1.1 - 1.10

johan tonder

Proposal for a new section to be added:

I agree with the proposal of a statement, but want to add:

"Some countries are using population registers as the source for data traditionally derived from population censuses. The condition for such use is that the country has a population register of good quality. This means that the register should have good coverage based on continuous updating. This is best achieved by establishing a central population register. In the case of local registers, the communication between the register systems must be good. Quality assessment should be conducted. Some countries have also registers with information on persons education, employment, income etc. that may be used in the census. The remarks given for population registers are also relevant for other registers.

Statistics Norway

TAKAMI

This suggestion is closely related to this topic: [Essential Features](#) and Alternative Design. So, I would like to propose that we merge the discussion on these topics.

I will submit my comments regarding this point to [Essential Features](#) and Alternative Design. So, please refer to my comments there, and submit your further comments to the following URL.

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/globalcensusforum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=26

TAKAMI, Akira (Mr)
Statistics Bureau of Japan

johan tonder

I do agree that it is preferable to create a new section (or chapter) to describe alternative approaches. The "UNECE Task force on census methodology" has written a draft report "Recommendations for the 2010 censuses of population and housing in the ECE region". The report is dealing with alternative approaches in general as well as several non-traditional approaches more specifically. The members of this task force are representing most countries in the ECE region with experiences in using alternative approaches. My suggestion is therefore to contact the leader of this task force. Mr. Jay Keller, USA who is also a member of TSG 2-2.

Johan-Kristian Tonder
Statistics Norway

Working Group 3

Topic: Excerpts from the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting

Margaret Mbogoni

What follows are relevant excerpts from the Conclusions and Recommendations of the UN ESCAP Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses, held in Bangkok, 9-10 December 2004. The full report and papers from the meeting are available at <http://unescap.org/stat/meet/census2004/index.asp>

Excerpts:

The Principles and Recommendations should be expanded in those chapters which guide the production of custom tabulations for meeting more focused thematic as well as geographical data needs.

The Expert Group recommended that the Principles and Recommendations should provide more guidance related to the provision of samples of microdata for academic research.

The Expert Group recommended that the interrelations between the early phases of census planning and the subsequent development of census products and future data utilization should be clarified in the chapters of the Principles and Recommendations dedicated to census planning.

Similarly, with regard to census products, how to identify users' needs in the early phases of census planning should be explained. Countries should be guided to design census products according to different groups of users, e.g. the central government, the general public, academia, media, particular subgroups like children, and the private sector, according to their current and foreseeable future country circumstances.

Margaret Mbogoni
Statistician
Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
United Nations Statistics Division

Topic: Excerpt from the Symposium report

Srdjan Mrkic

What follows is the relevant excerpt of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the United Nations Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses, held in New York, 13-14 September 2004. The full text and papers of both the Symposium and the United Nations Expert Group Meeting that followed it are available on the "Background documents" page of the 2010 World Programme website at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/default.htm>.

How can utilization of census data be improved? The Symposium identified several challenges in the area of data utilization. First, there is the challenge of education of users, the public and key stakeholders. Second, there is the challenge of enabling increased access to data such as by making those available free of charge, including on the Internet. Third, there is the significant challenge of improving dissemination by customizing products to fit different needs, including using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology for data dissemination and in planning census outputs in consultation with stakeholders and users. Along these lines the Symposium recommended that the Expert Group prepare guidelines on dissemination and public relations and possibly the development of brochures encouraging a public dialogue and educating users with regard to what data are available and how they might benefit from its use.

Srdjan Mrkic
UN Statistics Division

Topic: Alternative view of Tabulations

martin butterfield

NB Also shown under TSG 1.3

Problems to be solved

Problem #1

The current draft of Principles and Recommendations includes Annexes describing a set of recommended tabulations. 89 tables are listed for population topics and 27 for housing topics. Many of the tables comprise 5 or more variables and in countries with a large number of civil divisions could comprise a great number of cells.

Problem #2

Further the tables as presented are often in a form which makes it difficult to interpret which variables are to be included (and in some cases the information given is inaccurate – for example Geographic division often includes two variables “Civil division” and “rural/urban”).

Solutions?

Solution to Problem #1

Develop a set of VERY basic tables to be prepared as initial output from all censuses for all levels of geography defined by the country. As design objectives:

- the tables should not have more than two variables in either the column headings or the row headings and geographic detail should be at the (virtual) page level;
- all variables in these tables should be in the set of basic variables specified in P&R; and
- there should be no more than 40 tables, covering both population and housing characteristics in this basic set.

Have a second set of tables providing more detail where needed for specialist users in the country or internationally.

As design parameters the following suggestions are offered:

- Every variable recommended for inclusion in the census system should be covered in at least one table;
- No more than 6 variables (excluding geographic variables such as Civil Division; rural/urban) should be included in any one table design, preferably with no more than two in the column headings;
- Each table should represent the addition of one or more variables to a table in the basic set;
- The tables should be restricted to the 3 highest elements (for example Nation; State; Municipality) in the hierarchy of Civil divisions;
- There should be no more than 60 (additional to those provided in the basic set) tables in this set. (Note that this gives 100 tables in total, compared to the 116 listed in the current set).[/*]

Where more detailed requirements for information exist they should be regarded as specialised or ad-hoc needs and resolved bilaterally between the potential user (whether national or international) and the NSO.

Solution to Problem #2

The key point to this solution is a desire to show clearly which variables are to be included in the table. Demonstration of the presentation of the table is not seen at this stage as a matter of great importance.

The key element of presentation is shown by the following table, which represents the content of Table P2.2 in the current edition of P&R.

	Sex	
	Age Gp1	Age Gp2
Civil Division		
.. Rural/Urban		
... Type of Household		
..... Relationship to Head		

Other related issues

Approach to tabulations

As previously indicated I see one of the key issues for presentation of Census data to be the choice between a thematic approach and a geographic profile approach. My experience has been that national users were intensely interested in a geographical profile approach for "general" issues. I thus suggest that clear guidance be given in P&R that production of tables in a profile format is supported by UNSD. This is hinted at above where I propose the supply of data sets for the country and civil divisions.

Formatting of tables

I noted above that one of the problems in the current presentation of recommended tables in P&R is that they attempt, but fail, to present draft table formats to country and the availability of resources in their user community. I suggest that TSG 1.3 be requested to develop some principles in table design for inclusion in P&R but that no specific attempts be made to present recommended or illustrative formats in the Annex to P&R.

A somewhat longer and more detailed paper outlining these points is available on request (preferably by email).

Martin Butterfield
 Inter Regional Adviser on Censuses
 UNSD