



United Nations Statistics Division

ESCWA



**Central Agency for Public Mobilization and
Statistics (CAPMAS)**

**Meeting on a Core Set of Census
Topics for ESCWA Countries**

**Cairo
8-12 June 2002**

Report

1. Introduction

The Meeting on a Core Set of Census Topics for ESCWA Countries was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 12 June 2002. Participants attended the meeting from each of the following countries: Egypt (5), Iraq (1), Jordan (1), Oman (4), Palestine (1) Qatar (2), Saudi Arabia (2), South Africa (2) Syria (1) and Yemen (1). All country representatives to the meeting were data producers. The detailed list of participants including the resource persons is given as Annex 1 of the report.

2. Opening Session and objectives of the meeting

Since this meeting was considered one of the two-week meetings on Disability Measurement and a Core Set of Census Topics for ESCWA countries, no formal opening was done. Mr. Jeremiah Banda, Chief, Social and Housing Statistics Section at the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), who briefed the participants on the objectives of the meeting, opened the meeting. The objectives of the meeting can be summarized as follows:

- To agree on a basic core set of census topics to be used by the countries in the ESCWA region;
- To harmonize concepts and definitions of the census topics and to develop a regional manual for field work;
- To establish networks among the ESCWA countries so that common problems related to census taking could be solved within the region and in a better cost-effective way; and
- To encourage the exchange of experiences in census taking among the countries of the ESWCA region.

3. Topics of the meeting

The meeting covered the following topics:

- Objectives of the meeting
- Review of recent census questionnaires and reaching a consensus on a core set of census topics
- Basis of enumeration: reference to special population groups
- Migration (internal and international)
- Basic demographic topics
- Education and literacy
- Economic characteristics
- Fertility and mortality
- Housing characteristics

4. Structure of the meeting

Annex 2 of this report presents the work program of the meeting which was structured into formal presentations by resource persons, and group sessions where participants discussed

an assigned topic to a set format. The working groups reported back during the plenary sessions and comments of the participants were incorporated and a joint report of the group sessions was produced. The last section on conclusions of the meeting includes the highlights of the working group deliberations.

Copies of presentations by resource persons are presented in Annexes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 of this report.

The participants were asked to evaluate the workshop and the results of the evaluation are presented in Annex 3. About 75% of the participants rated the presentations by resource persons as either excellent or very good and about 94% thought that the working group sessions were either very useful or useful. The majority of participants rated the workshop as either very useful or useful in term of its long-term usefulness to their professional work and also in terms of exchange of ideas, views and experiences between the participants.

5. Conclusions of the meeting

The Meeting on a Core Set of Census Topics for ESCWA Countries arrived at the following conclusions:

(a) General conclusions

- (1) The need for comparable data based on common census topics, concepts and definitions was recognized.
- (2) There was agreement on a list of common core census topics for the region.
- (3) Participants expressed a need for networking and exchanging of experiences in census data collection among countries in the region.
- (4) There was general agreement on need to use existing United Nations methodological guidelines for collecting and classifying data from censuses.
- (5) The meeting recognized the use of sample surveys to collect more specialized and detailed information.
- (6) There should be harmonization of concepts and definitions between different data sources – censuses, surveys and vital registration.

(b) Highlights of working-group deliberations

- (1) **Basis of enumeration** – about half the participating countries used a *de facto* approach and another half used a combination of both *de facto* and *de jure*. Only one country used *de jure* approach. All the countries, except two, will use the same approach as in the previous census.
- (2) **Migration** – all countries represented collected data on internal migration based on the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev.1.
 - Question on place of birth should be replaced by one on place of usual residence of mother of the person at the time of birth of person.
 - Additional topic recommended:
 - Reasons for migration
- (3) **Basic demographic and social topics** – there are differences between the countries represented regarding the lowest age for reporting marital status. However, some participants felt that there may be a need for a uniform lower age for reporting age on marital status in the region.
- (4) All the countries represented use the term **Nationality** instead of citizenship.
- (5) **Educational characteristics**
 - All the participating countries collected data on literacy and education based on the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev.1. There are variations between the countries represented regarding lower age limit for reporting on school attendance, educational attainment, and educational qualifications.
- (6) **Economic characteristics**
 - Participants preferred not to ask about both current and usual activity in the census because of additional burden on interviewers. Countries may use both if they so wish.
 - Inclusion of basic questions on employment in the informal sector was considered of high priority.
 - Questions on complex topics such as income, hours worked, working environment, etc. are not suitable for inclusion in census and should be investigated through sample surveys.
- (7) **Fertility and mortality**
 - The participating countries agreed to collect information on fertility through questions on children ever born and surviving.
 - Information will also be collected on age of mother at first marriage or on duration of marriage.
 - The participating countries generally obtain information on mortality from other sources. Data on orphanhood is best investigated through detailed surveys.
- (8) **Housing**
 - Information on housing is important for making comparisons on quality of life among countries.

- Countries may collect information on additional topics of importance to the country such as topics related to the environment.

(c) Common core topics

Details of the common core topics that follow will be presented in operational guidelines being prepared by a consultant.

(1) Demographic and Social Topics

- Age
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Relationship to reference person
- Marital status
- Nationality

(2) Internal and International Migration

- Place of usual residence
- Place of usual residence of mother at time of birth of the person
- Duration of residence
- Place of previous residence

(3) Educational Characteristics

- Literacy
- School attendance
- Educational attainment
- Field of education
- Educational qualifications

(4) Economic Characteristics

- Activity status
- Employment status
- Occupation
- Industry/economic activity
- Institutional sector of employment

(5) Fertility

- Children ever born
- Children living
- Date of birth of last child born alive or births in last 12 months
- Age at first marriage, date or duration of marriage

(6) Disability

- Types
- Causes

(7) Housing

Building

-Type

-Construction material

-Year of construction

Living Quarters

-Type

-Occupancy status

-Ownership

-Number of rooms

Water supply system

Toilet and sewerage

Bathing facilities

Cooking facilities

Type of lighting

Solid waste disposal

Tenure

Availability in household of durable goods

(8) Other Topics

Additional topics may be included depending on national data needs.

Annex1: List of Participants

Country/International Organization	Name	Address	Tel/Fax	e-mail
Egypt	Bouthayna El Deeb, Under Secretary	Demographic Department, Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics (CAPMAS) Salah Salem Street – Cairo	Tel : (202) 4143544 Fax: (202) 5941073	
Egypt	Fatma Mohamed El-Ashry	Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics (CAPMAS) Salah Salem Street – Cairo	Tel : (202) 4143544 Fax: (202) 5941073	
Egypt	Mohamed A. El Desoky	Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics (CAPMAS) Salah Salem Street – Cairo	Tel : (202) 4143544 Fax: (202) 5941073	
Iraq	Louay Rashid, Director of Census	Central Statistical Organization	Fax: (009641) 5372605 Tel: (009641) 5372605 C/O UNDP Baghdad	
Jordan	Kamal Saleh Director of popu. & social statistics	Department Of Statistics	Fax: (962-6) 530-0710 Tel: (962-6) 5300701-9 Mobile : 0795661980	stat@dos.gov.jo KAMALS@ DOS. GOV. JO
Kuwait	Mr. Issa Al-Shikh, Director Census	National Statistical Office	Fax: (9965) 243-0464 Tel:	
Oman	Ali Mahaboob Hassan, Director General of the census	Ministry of National Economy, Department of Social Statistics	Fax: (968) 698-909 Tel: (968) 698825	

Country/International Organization	Name	Address	Tel/Fax	e-mail
Oman	Habib Jaffar Al Lawatia, Training Section Head	Ministry of National Economy, Department of Social Statistics p.o Box 881 p.o Box 113 Muscat	Fax: (968) 698-909 Tel: (968)9431919	hallwayta@yahoo.com
Oman	Mansour Abedraheem Al Qasmi, Planning and Technical Design Head	Ministry of National Economy, Department of Social Statistics p.o Box 881 p.o Box 113 Muscat	Fax: (968) 698-909 Tel: (968)9368249	AlQasmi59@hotmail.com
Palestine	Mahmoud Jaradat Director General Census Directorate	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics	Fax: (972-2) 240-6343 Tel: (972-2) 2406340	
Qatar	Sultan Ali aham Al-Kuwari	National Statistical Office	Fax: (974) 444 5573 Tel: (974) 5533353	sqa@planning.gov.qa
Qatar	Mr. Jamal Abdulla Al-Midfa	National Statistical Office	Fax: (9974) 444-5573 Tel:	sqa@planning.gov.qa
Saudi Arabia	Mr. Fahed Al Fhied, Specialist in Statistics On Population and vital Statistics	National Statistical Office	Fax: (966-1) 405-94-93 Tel:	info@cds.gov.sa
Saudi Arabia	Mr. Turkey Hamad Al-Karini	National Statistical Office	Fax: (966-1) 405-94-93 Tel:	info@cds.gov.sa
Saudi Arabia	Mr. Nasser Ibrahim Al- Jarabaa	National Statistical Office	Fax: (966-1) 405-94-93 Tel:	info@cds.gov.sa

Country/International Organization	Name	Address	Tel/Fax	e-mail
South Africa	Ms. Gugulethu Gule Deputy Director General Population Statistics	Statistics South Africa Pretoria		
South Africa	Mr. Nelson Nyagah Consultant Population Statistics	Statistics South Africa Pretoria		
Sudan	Sirageldin Suliman, Consultant	Ssuliman24@aou.com	Fax: +1 (212)963 1940 Tel: +1-(203) 324-1821	ssuliman24@aol.com
Syria	Said Mohamaed Safadi, Deputy Director	Population Census and Demography, Central Bureau of Statistics	Fax: (963-11) 332-2292 Tel: (963-11)2778248	cbs@mail.sy
Yemen	Yahya hussein Al-Kaizel, Deputy chairman	Central Statistics Organization	Fax: (967-1) 250-664 Tel: (967-1) 250602/108	Cso@y.net.ye
ESCWA	Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Team Leader Social Statistics and Indicators United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western	Statistics Division		

Country/International Organization	Name	Address	Tel/Fax	e-mail
	Asia (ESCWA) P.O.Box 11- 8575 Beirut Lebanon UN ESCWA Riad Solh Square Tel. 009611 978408 Fax. 009611 981 510 E-mail. hussein@un.org			
ESCWA	Ms. Zeina Mezher, Regional Coordinator	UN House, Riad El-Solh, Beirut Room 555	Fax: + 961-1-981510 Tel: + 961-1-981301 ext: 1555	mezher@un.org
United Nations Statistics Division	Mr. Jerry Banda, Chief Social Statistics Section	2 United Nations Statistics Division Room DC2-1552 New York NY 10017	Fax: +1 (212) 963-1537 Tel: +1 (212) 963-8338	banda@un.org
United Nations Statistics Division	Ms. Angela Me, Statistician	2 United Nations Statistics Division Room DC2-1676 New York NY 10017	Fax: +1 (212) 963-9851 Tel: +1 (212) 963-4823	me@un.org
United Nations Statistics Division	Ms. Margaret Mbogoni, Statistician	2 United Nations Statistics Division Room DC2-1548 New York NY 10017	Fax: +1 (212) 963-1537 Tel: +1 (212) 963-7845	mbogoni@un.org

Annex 2: Agenda

UNITED NATIONS
Statistics Division

ESCWA

28 April 2005

Meeting on a Core Set of Census Topics *Cairo, 8-12 June 2002*

Work Programme

Saturday, 8 June 2002

- 8:00 - 8:15 a.m. **Objectives of the meeting**
Jerry Banda, UNSD
- 8:15 - 10:00 a.m. **Reaching a consensus on a core set of census topics**
Discussion leaders: Sirageldin Suliman
Angela Me, UNSD
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 10:300 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Working Groups: an analysis of census topics**
Coordinators: Sirageldin Suliman and Angela Me, UNSD
- 12:15 – 12:45 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 12:45 - 2:30 p.m. **Presentation by working groups**

Sunday, 9 June 2002

Moderator: *Jordan*

- 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. **Basis of enumeration: reference to special population groups**
Discussion leader: Sirageldin Suliman
- 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. **Migration**
Discussion leader: Sirageldin Suliman

- 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Working Groups to identify differences and similarities:
Basis of enumeration
Migration**
Coordinator: Siregeldin Suliman
- 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 12:45 – 2:30 p.m. **Presentation by working groups**

Monday, 10 June 2002

Moderator: *Saudi Arabia*

- 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. **Basic demographic topics**
Discussion leader: Margaret Mbogoni, UNSD
- 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. **Education and Literacy**
Discussion leader: Ahmed Hussein, ESCWA
- 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Working Groups to identify differences and similarities:
Basic demographic topics
Education and Literacy**
*Coordinators: Margaret Mbogoni, UNSD
Ahmed Hussein, ESCWA*
- 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 12:45 – 2:30 p.m. **Presentation by working groups**

Tuesday, 11 June 2002

Moderator: *Palestine*

- 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Economic Characteristics**
Discussion leader: Jerry Banda, UNSD
- 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Coffee Break**

- 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Working Groups to identify differences and similarities:
Economic Characteristics**
Coordinator: Jerry Banda, UNSD
- 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 12:45 – 2:30 p.m. **Presentation by working groups**

Wednesday, 12 June 2002

Moderator: *Yemen*

- 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. **Fertility and Mortality**
Discussion leader: Ahmed Hussein, ESCWA
- 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. **Housing**
Discussion leader: Jerry Banda, UNSD
- 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Working Groups to identify differences and similarities:
Fertility and Mortality
Housing**
*Coordinators: Jerry Banda, UNSD
Ahmed Hussein, ESCWA*
- 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 12:45 – 1:30 p.m. **Presentation by working groups**
- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **Recommendations**
*UNSD
ESCWA*
- Closing**

Annex 3: Evaluation Survey

Annex 3

EVALUATION FORM

IN GENERAL, HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE ...

A	Duration of the workshop	Too long	Adequate	Too short
		12%	82%	6%

B	Organizational arrangements	Excellent	Very good	Adequate	Poor	Very poor
		20%	40%	33%	7%	
C	Translation English-Arabic	53%	33%	13%		
D	Usefulness of documents and other materials distributed to participants	33%	56%	11%		
		1. Up-to-date	54%	31%	15%	
	2. Clarity	46%	38%	15%		
E	Presentations	44%	31%	25%		

F	Working Groups	Very useful	Useful	Indifferent	Not helpful
		71%	23%	6%	

PLEASE RATE THE WORKSHOP IN TERMS OF ...

G	Clarification of problems related to the content of the census	Very useful	Useful	Some extent	Inadequate
		53%	47%		
H	Introduction of new approaches	47%	35%	18%	
I	Long-term usefulness to your professional work	69%	31%		
J	Exchange of ideas, experiences and views between the participants	65%	35%		

IS THERE ANY OTHER TOPIC THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED, WHERE?

DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS?

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS?

	The presentation was:			The topic of this session was:				Will you use the information for future work?		
	Very clear	Clear	Not clear	Very useful	Useful	Fairly useful	Not useful	Yes	Perhaps	No
Reaching a consensus on a core set of census topics (Sirageldin Suliman)	65%	35%		71%	29%			82%	18%	
Basis of enumeration: reference to special population groups (Sirageldin Suliman)	65%	35%		59%	41%			76%	24%	
Migration (Sirageldin Suliman)	53%	47%		47%	53%			76%	24%	
Basic Demographic Topics (Margaret Mbogoni)	53%	47%		53%	47%			82%	18%	
Education and Literacy (Ahmed Hussein)	82%	18%		76%	24%			82%	18%	
Economic Characteristics (Jerry Banda)	65%	35%		59%	41%			71%	29%	
Fertility and Mortality (Ahmed Hussein)	65%	35%		71%	29%			76%	24%	
Housing (Jerry Banda)	47%	53%		53%	47%			65%	35%	