

1) What do we want from the population census (not just for the short-term – i.e. the immediate census, but also in terms of the long term role of the population census within the statistical system)?

Data requirements are the forefront from such census and these are obtained from data users through conduct of workshops for the purpose involving stake holders such as government policy makers, academia, researchers, NGO's etc.

In order to build the NGO's image, credibility and reputation, public awareness programs must be vigorously pursued. Pamphlets describing the need to conduct the census; the scope of the census operation and those to be involved in it and the targeted population should be widely issued.

Use of the media for the same purposes as above – dailies, radio and television should also be pursued.

In a census, there is an opportunity to strengthen statistical capabilities and this is catered for in the planning stage. First and foremost is the identification of a suitable Census Administrator; in Fiji's case it is the Census Commissioner and in most cases the Government Statistician. Secondly the identification of a Director or a Census Adviser. Thirdly the identification of a Manager Administration and Finance of the census. Fourthly the identification of an Information Technology expert to oversee the IT logistics from questionnaire design, identification of hardware and software for data capture, data edit, to data tabulation and analysis.

Provision of additional transport and office equipment; stationeries; printing capabilities; office furnitures is an added strengthening capabilities.

Population and Housing Census is a benchmark for the ongoing economic and social statistics activities.

2) What resources are available for use?

As mentioned above, enhancement of all resources should be looked at in the planning stage. However intangible ones like restructuring the NGO to cater for the ever increasing demand for statistical data should be included. As the economy expands, resources to capture economic and social data should also be increased.

3) How do we achieve the population census goals/objectives with what we have?

There are different skills, tools, strategies and approaches which may be employed. How can we get our staff to adopt an innovative mindset?

How do we work with other parts of government to achieve these goals?

The Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics [FIBOS] has a newly established House Hold Survey Unit. The unit conducts House Hold Surveys. This will be the first instance that they will be overall in charge of the ground operation of the population census of 2007. Also in every population and housing census, government divisional administrators are utilized through regularization by the Census Commissioner.

4) What will be the impact on various parties, including data users, the Statistical Office managing the population census, other government agencies and the general public on achieving the goals/ objectives?

The FIBOS plays a central role in Fiji's National Statistical Systems. Findings from the population and housing census are used for comparability of other government statistical system like Health, Education, Transport etc.

The Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics had its last population and housing census in August 1996 with the census date being the 25th. It has now scheduled the next census in June 24 2007.