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UNSD conducted national and regional training workshops on CensusInfo

As part of its effort to assist countries in the effective dissemination and utilization of census data, UNSD organized national workshops on CensusInfo for the benefit of the staff of national statistical offices of Cameroon, Kenya and Sri Lanka. The workshop for the staff of the Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka was held in Colombo in the period 19-23 September 2011, while that for the National Bureau of Statistics of Kenya took place in Nairobi from 26 to 30 September 2011. The workshop for the Institut National de la Statistique du Cameroun was conducted in Yaoundé from 3 to 7 October 2011.

The main objective of the workshops was to develop the capacity of the staff of the national statistics offices to adapt CensusInfo with a view to using it as a platform for disseminating census data. The workshops provided conceptual and technical knowledge to implement the CensusInfo application for disseminating census results. Participants at the national workshops learned the various processes involved in the adaptation of CensusInfo. The sessions included hands-on training on using the CensusInfo User Interface and Database Administration applications as well as an introduction to the process of web-enabling the CensusInfo database. Topics of the Administrator application covered during the workshop included the following areas: steps for creating a CensusInfo template and



United Nations Regional Workshop on CensusInfo, New Delhi, 28-30 November 2011

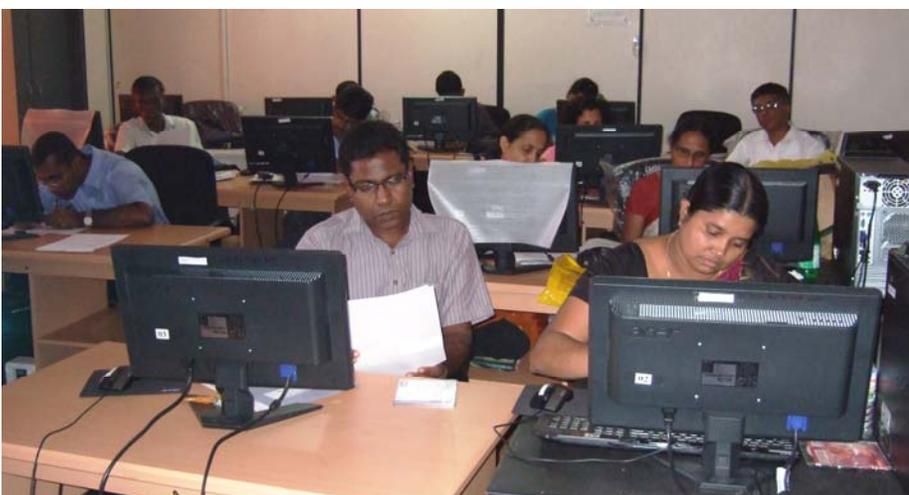
UNSD conducted national and regional training workshops on CensusInfo *(continued from page 1)*

database, integrating maps into the database using shape files, different methods of data entry, entry and management of metadata, import and export tools, the language translation tool, customization of the database for country specific context, and other administrative functions. The workshops involved numerous hands-on activities and an intensive briefing on the web application of CensusInfo for a small group of IT and web specialists.

The United Nations Regional Workshop on CensusInfo was held in New Delhi, India from 28 to 30 November 2011. The workshop was attended

by 35 participants—mostly census managers and senior census practitioners responsible for the dissemination of census data—representing 16 national statistics offices in the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India and was formally opened in the presence of Dr. C. Chandramouli, Registrar-General and Census Commissioner and other senior officials. While less intensive and technical in content than the national workshops, the regional workshop, nonetheless, imparted knowledge to participants on the various processes involved in the adaptation of CensusInfo, including the preparation of CensusInfo template and database, importing data, language translation and customization of the software package and demonstrated the potential of CensusInfo as a platform for disseminating census data at any geographical level. The regional workshop also provided a forum to discuss and exchange country experience and practice in the dissemination of census data including strategies and technologies used for dissemination. The discussions

helped to bring out some of the main issues and challenges in the dissemination and use of census data in the region.



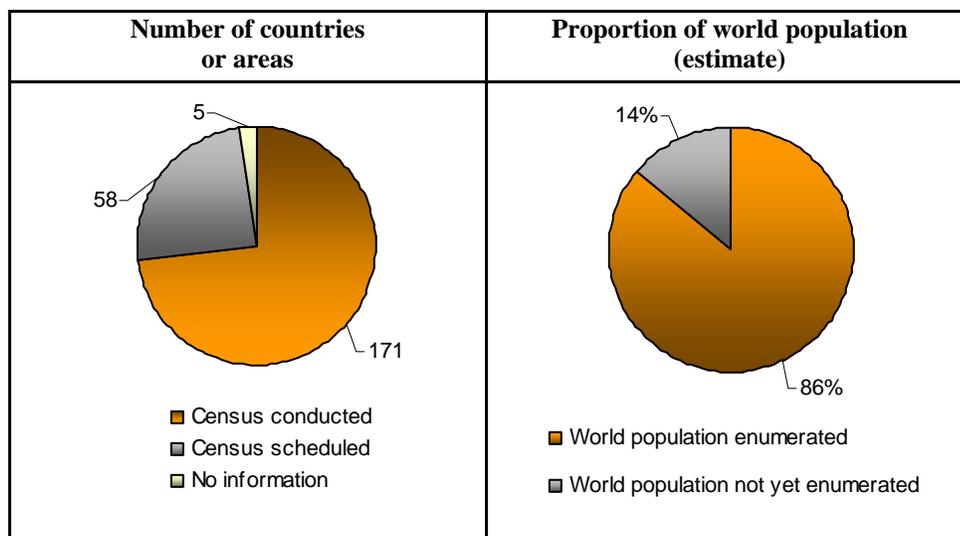
National Workshop on CensusInfo, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 3-7 October 2011

CensusInfo is a software package developed by the United Nations Statistics Division in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA to help countries disseminate their census data on CD-ROM and on the web. It was officially launched at the United Nations Statistical Commission on 23 February 2009 and is distributed royalty-free. More information on CensusInfo is available at the website dedicated to its promotion: <http://www.censusinfo.net>

National Workshop on CensusInfo, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 19-23 September 2011

Update on implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses

171 countries or areas have conducted a population census in the 2010 round, according to information available to UNSD as at the beginning of November 2011. These censuses have enumerated an estimated 86 per cent of the world's population. By the end of 2011, another 14 countries or areas are expected to conduct a census, bringing the percentage of the world's population counted to about 88 per cent. In 2012, 29 countries or areas have scheduled to conduct a census. By the end of the census round in 2014, it is estimated that close to 99 per cent of the world's population would have been counted. A census has not been scheduled in 6 countries or areas for the 2010 round.



Under the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, UNSD monitors and publishes information on the progress being made by countries in conducting population and housing censuses in the 2010 round. For more information on progress in implementation of the 2010 round of censuses see: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/census2010.htm>

Seminar on census data archiving held for the African region

The United Nations Regional Seminar on Census Data Archiving for Africa was jointly organized by UNSD and the African Centre for Statistics (ACS). The seminar, which saw the attendance of 38 participants, was convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20 to 23 September 2011. Representatives from 18 national statistical offices in Africa—representing both English- and French-speaking countries that have conducted a census in the 2010 round—as well as from UNSD, ACS, the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) and UNFPA participated in the seminar.

The objective of the regional seminar was to provide a forum for presenting international standards and for exchanging information on national practices and experiences in census data archiving. The agenda of activities included items such as: (i) purpose, objectives and scope of archiving; (ii) requirements for archiving census data: organizational considerations, technological infrastructure, technical capabilities and resources; (iii) data storage, maintenance and security; (iv) documentation; (iv) data confidentiality; (v) data access policy and dissemination of archived data; (vi) country case studies on archiving census data; and, (vii) recommendations for effective archiving of census data.

Opening remarks were made by the Director of the African Centre of Statistics (ACS), Mr. Dmitri Sanga, representing the UNECA and by Ms. Keiko Osaki-Tomita, Chief of Demographic and Social Statistics Branch at UNSD on behalf of the Director of UNSD. The opening remarks emphasized the fact that census data represent significant national investment and constitute valuable and irreplaceable resources of a country whose value can further increase through wide-spread and long-term use. It was reiterated that stakeholders have to ensure that the collected information during the census is processed, analyzed, disseminated and archived effectively.

The seminar aided in identifying the core challenges in census data archiving. It also assisted in identifying the steps to be taken and the considerations that have to be made for formulating and implementing an effective archiving plan suited to the needs and requirements of individual NSOs. The seminar helped in identifying principles and good practices for sustainable, long-term preservation and utilization of census data.

Seminar on census data archiving held for the African region *(continued from page 3)*

Some of the conclusions and recommendations agreed by the participants of the regional seminar include:

- Census data represent significant investment and constitute valuable and irreplaceable resources of a country. The long-term value of census data is greatly enhanced through proper preservation of data and accompanying documentations. It was recommended that NSOs include in their national census budgets resources for dissemination and archiving of micro-data. This would provide NSOs with the opportunity to explore the possibility of providing micro-data free of charge.
- Participants pointed out the difficulties faced by their countries in keeping up with changes in technologies, given the rapid advancement of information technologies. Limited skilled manpower and resources allocated for data archiving are among the common challenges to countries in Africa. Participants recommended that NSOs monitor changes in technology and when necessary update software and hardware for storing census data, as some countries have not been able to access and archive datasets that were stored using old technology.
- Adequate documentation and metadata are necessary for data interpretation and utilization. Census archiving should include long-term storage of both electronic data and its affiliated documentation. Documentation covers the entire lifecycle of the census operation. It is therefore important to include it in the overall plan of the census and to undertake documentation at each stage of the census operation and not to wait until the end. It was suggested that countries use international data documentation standards for archiving thereby bringing together statistical data and accompanying documentation for better utilization and interpretation of the data. In this connection, the experience of a number of countries in the region that are using the IHSN toolkit as well as the Redatam-based IMIS for archiving of data is important.
- Although many countries in the region have statistical laws, they are out-dated in many ways. Out-dated laws need to be revised to better reflect current methods of census taking and use of modern technologies. The revised laws should address: dissemination and archiving of micro-data with proper documentation; retention of completed paper census questionnaires for a limited period of time depending on the situation in the country; the archiving of a copy of materials used during census.
- For long-term archiving of census data and documentation, countries are advised to put in place strategies for adequate storage and also for ensuring the physical and technological security of the data. Data security strategies should also cover plans for back-up, migration of data and meta-data files to new formats and media, use of off-site back-ups and also for disaster recovery. In order to ensure long-term accessibility and readability of census micro-data, it was suggested that a copy of the raw and edited versions of the census micro-data be stored in ASCII format, which is easily read by all statistical packages available in the market.

The full report of the regional seminar is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/docs.htm>

National seminar on census data analysis organized for Burkina Faso

The purpose of the National Seminar on Census Data Analysis was to support the Institut National de la Statistique et de la Demographie (INSD) of Burkina Faso in conducting in-depth analyses of its 2006 population and housing census. The seminar—which took place in Ouagadougou from 14 to 16 November 2011—was organized by UNSD in collaboration with INSD. The national seminar was part of the activities of the regional project to “Strengthening National Capacity to Analyze, Present and Disseminate Census Data for Evidence-based Policy Making” funded by the Government of Italy.

The seminar provided training to the staff of INSD prior to commencing their in-depth analyses of census data on how to analyze, present and disseminate census data. The participants enhanced their knowledge and acquired advanced techniques necessary for conducting the in-depth data analysis. Following the training INSD staff are expected to prepare analytical reports on three topics that were identified as areas for further analysis of the data from the 2006 census: population projections at municipal level; analysis of data on migration; and, analysis of data on educational characteristics.

Workshop on census data evaluation conducted for the South-East Asia subregion

The United Nations Sub-regional Workshop on Evaluation of Census Data took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 14 to 17 November 2011. The Workshop was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with the Cambodia National Institute of Statistics. It was attended by 19 representatives from the national statistical offices (NSOs) of 6 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam) in South East Asia and two experts from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The purpose of the Workshop was to strengthen the technical capacity of the participating countries to evaluate the quality of census data based on application of demographic techniques and in comparison with other data sources such as an earlier census, sample surveys or available administrative registers. This workshop also provided a forum to discuss possible types of errors in census data according to experience and lessons learned among the participating countries.

The workshop opened with a statement by H.E Mr. San Sy Than, Director of the Cambodia National Institute of Statistics. The statement emphasized the importance of regional workshops and seminars for exchange of information among countries, for making medium and long-term national statistical planning and for better integration of national statistical systems in the region. He noted that on census data evaluation is crucial to strengthening census data quality and to providing reliable data to national planning. Ms. Meryem Demirci from UNSD made an opening



Sub-regional Workshop on Evaluation of Census Data, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 14-17 November 2011

Workshop on census data evaluation conducted for the South-East Asia subregion *(continued from page 5)*

statement on behalf of Mr. Paul Cheung, the Director of UNSD. She provided some background information on the United Nations 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and highlighted areas that UNSD's regional and national technical assistance has been focusing on. She stressed on the importance of census data evaluation to: provide users with some measures of the quality of census data to help them interpret the results; identify the types and sources of error in order to assist the future planning of censuses; and serve as a basis to construct a best estimate of census aggregates and for adjusting census results. Opening remarks were also made by H.E. Ouk Chay, the Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning of Cambodia, who highlighted the importance of census taking and generating reliable census figures and indicators for Cambodia. He noted that the workshop provided an excellent opportunity for strengthening knowledge and capacity of participating national statistical offices.

The participants of the workshop agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Participants recognized the importance of comprehensive and systematic census data evaluation in order to provide users with some measures of quality of the data, to identify types of error to assist the planning of future censuses and to provide a basis for constructing best estimates.
- Participants appreciated UNSD's effort in organizing the workshop that explained in detail various demographic techniques and tools such as MortPak and PASEX for evaluating census coverage and the content of census data such as age-sex distribution, fertility, mortality, migration and other socioeconomic characteristics.
- Participants expressed that there was a need to build the capacity of national statistical offices to undertake activities related to evaluation of census data based on demographic techniques and in comparison with other data sources.
- Participants highlighted the need for a technical report/guideline that provides an overview of possible demographic techniques for census data evaluation. Participants also emphasized the need for technical assistance for application of these techniques.

The full report of the subregional workshop is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/docs.htm>

