Briefing on ESCAP Census-related initiatives

Second UN Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses

13-15 December 2023

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Collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community endorsed by the Committee on Statistics at its fifth session in 2016 under Action areas C (Integrated statistics for integrated analysis) and D (Modernizing statistical business processes), advocates the integration of different data sources to improve the availability of disaggregated data and official statistics. 

Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics at its third meeting in 2021, recognised the significance of modernising census-taking and expressed the need for regional capacity-building activities on register-based censuses.
Knowledge products

- Emerging trends in census approaches in Asia and the Pacific (with country examples)

- Stats Brief, April 2022 (Issue no. 31): Tapping into administrative data in census-taking: an emerging trend in Asia and the Pacific


- Stats Brief: Are population censuses in Asia and the Pacific evolving?
Regional Training Workshop on Transition to Register-based Approaches for Population and Housing Censuses, Ankara, Türkiye, 12-15 June 2023, co-organized by ECE, SIAP, UNFPA, UNSD plus ECO, SESRIC and TurkStat

Virtual training on Moving Towards Register-based Population and Housing Censuses (PHC), October 2022, co-organized by the SIAP and ECO, with contributions from ESCAP, ECE and UNSD.

Stats Café and DI-CoP sessions on the census
Self-assessment questionnaire on the readiness to use administrative data for census purposes

- Consists of two parts for the NSO office and Admin data holders.
- Includes a set of questions on different topics related to the current statistical capacity of countries for the use of administrative data for census purposes.
- Multiple choice (“yes”, “no”, “partially”, “don’t know”) with the option to include comments or explanations.

**NSOs (50 questions)**
- Political support and legal framework
- Collaboration with administrative data holders
- Availability of administrative data sources
- Unified identification system
- Human and IT Resources
- Methodological matters

**Admin Data holders (28 questions)**
- Institutional arrangements
- Data sharing
- Unique identifier
- Data quality
- Coverage
- Consistency and comparability
Way forward

- Build on previous efforts and successful experiences; call for joining the force by partners; seeking resources

- Adapt Ankara workshop and study tour and conduct for other regions/sub-regions

- Offer in-country capacity-building activities and technical assistance to enhance the capacity of target countries to develop and implement a roadmap for increased use of administrative data for census purposes, tailored to their country context

- Further develop and introduce the self-assessment tool

- Contribute to UNFPA’s support of census-taking in countries as required (e.g., 2025 census in Lao PDR, involvement in the shift towards a register-based census in Iran in 2026).
Thank you 😊
• Training workshop on the transition to register-based approaches for population and housing censuses:
  • Lectures
  • Study tour to TurkStat
  • Country success stories (Estonia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, UK)
  • Presentations and group discussions by participating countries
  • A self-assessment tool on readiness to use administrative data for census purposes
  • Propose a scenario for their country’s transition to increased use of registers for censuses
Further information on census-related knowledge products

- **Knowledge products**
  - Stats Brief: Are population censuses in Asia and the Pacific evolving?

- **Sharing of knowledge and experience**
  - Stats Café: Accessing and using subnational population estimates in Asia and the Pacific
  - Stats Café: Conducting a census during the COVID-19 pandemic: challenges and approaches
  - Stats Café: Producing Population Statistics from Population Registers
  - MCCRVS Side event on Register-based Censuses
  - 63rd ISI World Statistics Congress, presentation on population censuses in Asia and the Pacific
  - DI-CoP meetings and page