**Third United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the
Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses**
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Organized by UNSD and UNFPA

Conclusions and recommendations

Terminologies
-   GIS interchangeably used to refer to both the enabling technology for geospatial information as well as the geospatial data itself
-   Full field enumeration and field-based PHCs
-   "Pre-field test", "field test", "pretest", "pilot census", "final-pilot census"
-   "data capture system" vs "electronic questionnaires"
-   "12 months before" the census instead of "the year before" the census

References and cross-referencing
-   Cross reference within Rev4 of P&R, to older versions of the P&R, to information resources from all regions (not just ECE region), to other UNSD handbooks (eg. to diagram of the Generic model for transitioning to register-based PHCs)
-   Create an index/glossary for this document to define terminologies and for discovery of information
-   Extensively use hyperlinks in the document

Presentation/illustration of information
-   Difficult to enumerate populations (5.47) and those for which usual residence is difficult to establish (5.41) – present in a summary table: population and issue / action to be taken (i.e. include or not in the usual resident population)
-   Include a graphical representation of a prototype country showing a good practice of organizational setup/management structure
-   Standardize census topics section to present for each: rationale, elements to be captured in questions / answer choices, reference population, reference period

Use of Administrative data
-   Add more cautions on sufficiency of quality and institutional readiness and preparation before countries use administrative sources
-   Say more on the role of admin data for producing more frequent population statistics as well as for estimating the population in unenumerated areas
-   Role for addressing non-response and filling data gaps
-   Guidance on identifying the "source of truth" when data from multiple administrative sources are available (including timestamps)

Census Methodology
-   Add new section on "Factors to consider for choosing a census methodology". Factors to consider include: National context: Political structure: Resources: Data requirements: Data infrastructure: Technical capacity: Public acceptance.

Register-based PHCs
- Add more discussions to maintain balance of content with field-based PHCs
- Cross reference to materials on Register-based PHCs
- Define the "Sign of life" methodology and discuss it's role in improving quality
- Discuss typical coverage problems associated with Register-based PHCs
- Discuss the risks associated with register-based PHCs
- Discuss challenges: in countries with register-based PHCs, visibility of NSO may be
- Provide definition of "Statistical Population Register (SPR)" distinguishing it from the Population Register
- Emphasis on the need to access "individual-level data" from administrative data sources

Combined PHCs
- Recognize the various and different types of combined census approaches
- Discuss the need for statistical modeling and the challenges it presents (such as weighting) when combining register data with survey data

Relationship of PHC with other data sources
- Discuss the integration of PHC data with environment and climate change statistics

Geospatial information
- Emphasis on institutional collaboration between NSOs and national geospatial agencies
- Importance of geospatial information as a "source of truth" and for validating statistical models, thereby enabling robust estimations
- Revise references to "mapping" throughout the publication to conform to the contemporary practice of analyzing geospatial information in geospatial databases first and then creating maps as products
- Recognize the intrinsic value of geospatial information—not just as a means of supporting PHCs
- Holistic approach of building integrated datasets where every statistical unit and every statistical record has a corresponding location data (x,y coordinates or address) associated with it
- Remove references to GNSS (global navigation satellite systems) as we are not asking NSOs to create the geodetic infrastructure/operate own satellite systems, and instead focus on geocoding
- Discuss the potential of "mesh blocks" to standardize definitions for small areas and enumeration areas, as well as to enhance data comparability over time, even in the face of changes to administrative boundaries
- Elaborate more on GeoAI and Geoblockchain so as to anticipate their relevance in the coming decade

Quality
- Define "Quality Assurance", "Evaluation", "Quality Control" and "Certification"
- Say more on how the general national statistical system can support the census program
- Need for assuring the quality of the PHC project document
- Elaborate on quality assurance for the development of the census frame (missing)
- Discuss methods such as the Dwelling Classification Survey (DCS) in assessing undercoverage during field operations, as opposed to the undercoverage measured afterwards through a PES

- In relation to ensuring/measuring the quality of data derived from administrative sources, elaborate on the need for the measurement of record-linkage quality, and, the need to assess the quality of data editing and imputation procedures
- Discuss independent monitoring/peer monitoring as part of quality assurance
- Guidance and best practices on adjusting census results, when to adjust
- Report on the number of administrative sources used, as well and the quality issues on a source-by-source basis
- Reference forthcoming resources on quality: i) maturity model for quality culture (in relation to project management and role of managers); ii) module for quality assurance of administrative and other data sources

Resource mobilization
- Discuss the need for a committee
- Discuss the need to mobilize beyond finances (eg. technology, data infrastructure, cybersecurity, etc)
- Pooling of resources (eg. sharing tablets and GIS experts among countries)
- Resource allocation: discuss the need to ensure adequate allocation for all phases of the PHC (pre-, during-, post-enumeration)

Project management
- Need for certified project management personnel, involvement of the best skilled as well as top-level NSO staff in PHC project.
- The census project manager and other key census personnel should be retained throughout the census and until after the census evaluation is completed.
- Special considerations needed when planning a combined PHC due to its complexity
- External project board comprised of non-PHC non-NSO, including international experts, to provide: outside perspective, oversight, support, assurance mechanism

Emergency and risk management
- Address risks encountered long before enumeration (eg. planning, political support); currently focus is risks at operational level

Communication
- Say more on the role of social media
- The need for partnerships to address misinformation as NSO may lack capacity
- Plans for crisis response
- Inclusive comm strategies to ensure everyone participates in the PHC
- Comm strategies for release of results

Innovation
- Balance content on CAPI with that on CAWI
- Discuss cost-benefit of innovation and the need to evaluate the impact of innovation
- Discuss impact on comparability of the PHC results due to transformative innovation
- Add discussion on the barriers to innovation and enablers for innovation

Technology
- Illustrative examples in P&R gravitate towards GIS topics; highlight other aspects where technology has impacts in PHC operations

- Link factors to consider when adopting technology to specific tests, and further cross-reference to section in P&R on census testing
- Discuss 'stress-testing' of the systems to be used in PHC operation
- Discuss how to mitigate the number of risks associated with technology

Security during/post data collection
- Discuss risk assessment and identifying threats (internal, external) and data infrastructure assets to be protected, along with plans for incident response
- Cross-reference to section on "Emergency preparedness and risk management"

Uses of PHC data
- Say more on uses of PHC for environment concerns and disaster management, not just for socio-economic phenomenon
- Mention population data is the denominator for many SDG indicators

Dissemination
- Digital first approach
- Recognize that developing a dissemination strategy can take time to develop, so the release schedule should remain adaptable, depending on emerging user needs
- Say more on digital formats of data dissemination (infographics, dashboards, APIs, story maps, visualization and storytelling)
- General interest products: social media, video platforms, podcasts,
- Census data utilization: hackathons
- Recognize that the census becomes even richer in value and insight when integrated with other data sources

Census Topics
- Add more mention of forced migration
- Slums are unique but entangled with informal settlements – common language is recommended. Multiplicity of national definitions should be accommodated. Slums have spatial identity and unique characteristics which should be taken into account in relation to enumeration areas that are slum vs. non-slum. Include this population in 5.89.
- Improvised housing units vs. informal housing units