

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), organized and conducted the **Regional Workshop on Census Evaluation and Post Enumeration Surveys** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-18 September 2009. The workshop was attended by 26 participants of whom 22 were from the following countries in the region: Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The workshop was also attended by representatives from the United Nations Statistics Division as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The Workshop presented an overview of the various methods of evaluating censuses with a focus on the post enumeration survey (PES) methodology. The different steps for designing and implementing a PES, as well as the statistical models for the estimation of coverage rates were presented in depth. The Workshop also offered the possibility to the participants to present and discuss the experience of their countries on different aspects of census evaluation. The following are some of the conclusions of the workshop.

1. Although, there is generally limited capacity for census evaluation in the region, participants recognized the importance of objective census evaluation and the need to develop the capacity of the countries to conduct PES and other evaluation methods. Advocacy for the PES was highlighted as necessary in order to have governments allocate the necessary resources for census evaluation. Participants emphasized the need for planning for the census and for the PES to be synchronized while maintaining operational independence between the two.
2. Discussions also highlighted the importance of keeping the PES as simple as possible; the need for the variables included in the questionnaire to be limited to the basic demographic characteristics; and to include only items that are necessary for measurement of coverage and content error.
3. In the region, PES is conducted on average 3 months after the census enumeration, which could be improved by better management and organization. In order to minimize memory lapses and effects of migration, it is recommended to conduct the PES as soon as possible after the census.

For more information, go to

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wsshops/Ethiopia\\_14\\_Sept\\_09/default.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wsshops/Ethiopia_14_Sept_09/default.htm)

