



OUR **CHALLENGE** IS YOUR **OPPORTUNITY**

*Data-Users' roles and opportunities in the 2009
Population and Housing Census of Vietnam*



STATISTICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

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Population and Housing Census of Vietnam*

HA NOI, NOVEMBER - 2007



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GENERAL STATISTICS OFFICE

This publication was compiled and published with technical and financial support from UNFPA in Vietnam.



FOREWORD

The reason you receive this booklet is that Vietnam's population data and information is part of the inputs to your job. This input is obvious if your responsibilities include assisting or directly formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development strategies and programmes at national, regional, provincial, municipal, district, and commune levels in Vietnam. This necessary input is also obvious and even more immediate if you want to set up and develop businesses or non-profit organizations of any size in Vietnam. More than anyone else, you are clearly aware that the success of your business depends remarkably on the reliability and comprehensiveness of Vietnam's population data and information made available to you.

For decades we have been trying to meet this special demand of yours in many ways, including a population census once in every ten years. On April 1, 2009 we will carry out the forth census since Vietnam became a unified nation in 1975. We have started the preparatory works with the only objective of having a high quality census so that we can better serve you in the context of Vietnam becoming an active member of the international community with larger population and fast socio-economic changes.

That objective can only be achieved with your cooperation and assistance.

This booklet attempts to present what you should know about our 2009 Population and Housing Census, explain your important role - as population data-users - in every process of the Census, and shows possible things you can do to help us serve you better.

Our hope is that your support to this Census will be a new beginning of a long-lasting effective cooperation for our common prosperity.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL
GENERAL STATISTICS OFFICE**



THE PRIME MINISTER

No: 19/2007/CT-Tg

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Independence - Freedom - Happiness

Ha Noi, August 3, 2007

INSTRUCTION

On preparation of the Population and Housing Census at 0 am April 1st, 2009

The Statistical Law stipulates that the Population and Housing Census is conducted every 10 years. Results of the Population and Housing Census conducted at 0 am April 1st, 1999 provided an amount of basic and detailed information which was foundation for planning, socio-economic development policy making and for management of sectors at different levels in the period 2000-2010. In order to have a foundation for evaluating implementation results of State's and Party's guidelines and policies in the period 2000-2010 and make the socio-economic development plan for the period 2011-2020, the Prime Minister requests line ministries, People's committees at different levels to fulfill the following specific tasks for preparation of the Population and Housing Census at 0 am April 1, 2009:

1. The Ministry of Planning and Investment (The General Statistics Office) in collaboration with related line ministries takes the chair to promptly prepare for the Population and Housing Census in the whole country at 0 am April 1st, 2009. The preparation related to

designing the census instruction and plan including pilot survey must be finished in the second quarter of 2008.

2. The Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperate with the Ministry of Planning and Investment (the General Statistics Office) to prepare, design the census instruction and plan on demography in the scope of their management.

3. The Ministry of Finance has a plan to prepare budget for the Census implementation and in collaboration with the General Statistics Office to make a detailed budget plan for the Census.

4. The Provincial/City People's Committees in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment (the General Statistics Office) conduct pilot survey, identify and hand over the exact management territories between administrative units, making good preparation for the Population and Housing Census at 0 am April 1st, 2009.

5. During the preparation for the Population and Housing Census in 2009, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (the General Statistics Office) may make use of the technical and financial assistance of international organizations and foreign countries. These assistances must be balanced in the total budget for the Census.

After the preparation, pilot survey and the Population and Housing Census plan, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (the General Statistics Office) makes report to the Prime Minister for



consideration and approval on decision of the implementation of the Census.

The Ministry of Planning and Investment, related line ministries, provincial/city people's committees have responsibility for implementing this Instruction./

THE PRIME MINISTER
(Signed)

Nguyen Tan Dung

To:

- The Central Party's Secretary Board;
- The Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Ministers;
- Ministries, Ministerial equivalents, Government-affiliated agencies;
- The Central Direction Agency on corruption prevention;
- Provincial/City People's Councils, Provincial/City People's Committees;
- The Party's Central Agencies and Boards;
- The State President Office;
- The Minority Ethnic Council and the National Assembly's Boards;
- The National Assembly Office;
- The People's Supreme Court;
- The People's Supreme Procuracy;
- The State Audit;
- The Vietnam Fatherland Front;
- The Central Agencies of Associations;
- The Government's Office: Chairman, Deputy Chairmen, Government's website, the H2 Steering Board, the Prime Minister's Spokesman, Departments, Agencies, Public Mass Media;
- Paper archives, KTTH (5b), A, 305.



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- Precious contribution of *Data-Users* in the 1999 Population and Housing Census
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- Information products of the 1999 Population and Housing Census
 - * Main publications and electronic products
 - * Detailed collective table system
- Population data and information from other sources



1 THE 2009 - CENSUS THINGS DATA-USERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

A. OBJECTIVES:

The 2009 Census will provide data and information of size, structure, distribution, characteristics as well as index of population quality and housing at regional, territorial and administrative levels for:

- Evaluation of the implementation of various policies and programs relating to population and development in the period of 2000 - 2010;
- Formulating the socio-economic development plan for the period of 2011 - 2020;
- Monitoring the on-going implementation of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to which Viet Nam has committed itself. (It is expected that with national planning efforts and international assistance, Viet Nam will achieve MDGs in 2015);
- Establishment of comprehensive population and housing databases to promote the use and dissemination of census data to serve *Data-Users* in every field, especially the national businesses striving towards international integration and intense competition in the



World Trade Organization (WTO) context, as well as foreign businesses entering Vietnamese market;

- Updating population projections for Viet Nam based on the latest census.

Particularly, the 2009 Population and Housing Census will focus on improving the quality of every phase in preparing, implementing, data processing and result disseminating processes based on the lessons learned from the two previous censuses and new demands of *Data-Users*.



WHO ARE OUR *DATA-USERS*?

During the past 12 months, if you have studied or used the below data and information, you are our users:

- Statistical yearbook
- Birth Rate, Death Rate, Natural Growth Rate
- Under-1 Mortality Rate
- Under-5 Mortality Rate
- Total population and population structure by age, sex, urban, rural, geographic regions
- Expectation of life at birth
- Literacy Rate of 15-24 years olds
- Married/Divorced/Widowed Rate
- Total Fertility Rate
- Internal Migration
- Number of households by having-house status, type of house and province
- Number of households with house by year of construction, type of the house, ownership, living area and utility
- (See Annex 1)

B. CONTENTS:

It is proposed that the 2009 census will have three main components:

- The core population census will cover the following broad areas: household and family; size and distribution of the population, ethnicity of the population, migration, education levels; technical and professional qualifications, literacy, marital status of the population and economic characteristics of the population.
- The sample survey will cover birth, death, population growth rates and some other social-economic characteristics of population.
- The housing census will include housing real situation and household facilities and appliances.

CENSUS IS NOT THE ONLY SOURCE OF POPULATION DATA AND INFORMATION

Nowadays in Viet Nam, population data and information are systematically collected from the following sources:

- Regular vital, household and population registration system.
- Annual population change surveys.
- Population and housing census (every ten years).
- Annual labour force and employment sample survey.

Vital and household registration system in Vietnam is not comprehensive yet, as a result, it is unable to collect sufficient data of fertility, mortality and migration. The size of samples in annual population change surveys is usually small, only enough for calculating indices of national, provincial and municipal population. Indices of housing status of the population are not frequently collected. Therefore, periodic population and housing census is



made compulsory in order to improve the quality as well as the variety of data, meeting the growing demand of information on population and housing status from *Data-Users*.

Apart from main contents of the Population and Housing Census 1999, it is **proposed** to collect some more information of:

- **Size, structure and distribution of family:** to be used for in-depth research of family characteristics in Vietnam;
- **Economic activity of the population in the last 7 days:** To ensure the international comparableness as recommended by UN Statistics Agency, International Labour Organization (ILO).
- **Disability:** This is an issue of great concern in Vietnam as a result of wars, working conditions, environment, etc. However, up to now, there have never been comprehensive statistic data of disabled people;
- **Reasons of death for estimation of maternal mortality rate (MMR):** This is a very important index used by nations to evaluate the status of caring for women's reproductive health during pregnancy, labouring and after birth. Based on the changes of this index from time to time, we can evaluate the improvement of the quality of life for women in particular and for the whole population in general;

Information on floor area, number of rooms, telephone and computer usage and fuel used for cooking. Nowadays, as the living standard of people is improving and living conditions are ameliorating, the index of "living area" is no longer appropriate to evaluate people's housing status. "floor area", "number of rooms" index is added. "Using telephone", "computer" and "fuel used for cooking" are also important indices for evaluation of the improvement in people's living standard

C. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

Preparatory phase (shall be completed before August 20, 2008):

- Establishment of population and housing census steering committee at central and other levels (province, district, commune),
- Generally verifying and transferring management of territory border line among administration units;
- Dividing communes/wards into enumeration areas, mapping enumeration areas and listing the number of houses, households and persons;
- Census publicity: Strengthened information and communication activities and census publicity campaign are needed to create awareness among the public and obtain public cooperation in conducting the census,
- Other preparatory activities: conducting meetings with *Data-Users*, designing census questionnaires and other census forms, conducting pre-tests, printing and releasing questionnaires and



others forms, testing the Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) technology, choosing the samples for the census and post enumeration survey;

- The outstanding characteristic of the census is that it must be done in a short interval of time. As the population changes constantly, its counting must be done at a moment in every habitation to avoid repetition and missing in the count. Therefore, the preparatory work must be carried out early and carefully ensure the success of the census

Field work phase

- Recruitment of enumerators and supervisors
- Training trainers in three stages: training the central level trainers; training the provincial level trainers; training district level trainers; and training the enumerators and supervisors;
- Census enumeration: will be done for 10 days in the census areas (where the short form would be filled-in) and for 15 days in the sample areas (where the long form would be used), beginning on the midnight of April 1, 2009;
- Checking and taking over questionnaires (supervisors, commune census steering committee, district census steering committee, province census steering committee, Central census steering committee);
- Post enumeration survey;
- Editing and coding filled-in questionnaires;
- Handing questionnaires to regional computer centers.



Release the results of the census phase

- Release the preliminary by the middle of 2009;
- Release the results of the sample survey by March, 2010,
- Dissemination the results of the completed census (full count) by the end of 2010;
- Release in-depth analytical reports by the middle of 2011.

Census Organization and Management

Establishing a system of Census Steering Committee (CSC) from the central to provincial, district and communal level. Each CSC consists of a Director (being the Permanent Deputy Prime Minister at central level and the President of the People's Committee at provincial, district, commune levels) and members representing planning, finance, population, culture and information sectors to directly instruct the processes of mobilizing and using finance, human resources, equipments as well as communication campaigns.

Each CSC (except for communal level) has its own office staffed with a Secretary, an Under Secretary, and a number of experts to assist in organizing and guiding the implementation of all census processes at its own jurisdiction

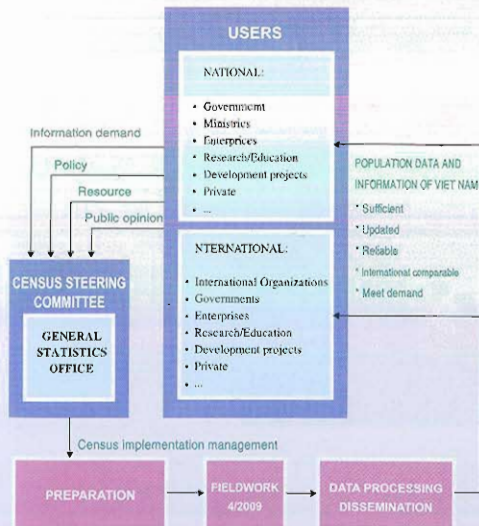
To make it convenient for *Data-Users* to keep track of and contribute inputs to the contents, implementation modalities and dissemination of

the result of the census, in the 3rd or 4th Quarter of 2007, General Statistics Office will open a folder of "Population and Housing Census 2009" on its website. This folder will contain the contents of the census, design of questionnaires, other relating documents, time schedule of the census from the beginning of preparatory phase to the announcement of the census result. Focal point will be provided for *Data-Users* to contact us.



2 THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF DATA-USERS

The following diagram shows that *Data-Users* are both the starting point and the destination of a census.



AS THE STARTING POINT:

- All *Data-Users* can affect the census's contents with their own information demands;
- Government *Data-Users* (including authorities of various levels, ministries and sectors) ensure the Census's success through policies and timely legal decisions including allocation of resources (finance, human resources, equipments) and mobilization of public support in opinion and cooperation with the census;
- Other *Data-Users* play an active role in contributing resources (financial, know-how and technological) as well as supporting opinions to help ensure the quality of every process of the census.



The more active you are in this starting-point role, the more you benefit from the census's outputs. During the past years, information products of the Population and Housing Census 1999 have been highly appreciated by both national and

international *Data-Users*. Such a success was possible thanks to considerable technical and financial support from many international *Data-Users*: UNFPA, UNDP; Danish and Dutch governments.



VALUABLE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM USERS IN TASKS FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT OF THE 1999 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS:

1. United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) - sponsors one million dollars for the following main tasks:

- Conducting pre-tests and pilot survey
- Assisting propaganda task,
- Training for trainers of provincial level;
- Technical aid,
- Means of transport for controlling and monitoring
- Analyzing and releasing information.

2. United Nation Development Program (UNDP) - sponsors eight hundred thousand dollars for:

- Additional training for around 250,000 team leaders and enumerators in two days;
- Assistance in in-deep analysis on migration.

3. The Danish government - sponsors four hundred thousand dollars for:

- Assisting purchase data processing equipments;
- Support in training staff of district level

4. The Dutch government - sponsors two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to assist purchase data processing equipments.

3 OUR CHALLENGE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY

Our biggest challenge is to ensure the highest possible quality of this Census. Experience has shown that Government budget, though always a priority for Censuses, never satisfy the professional demand in quality of particular census jobs. We are facing the challenge to satisfy this demand in the following major jobs:

- **The direct data collection jobs of enumerators and their supervisors:** The reality is that for all those professional training, enumerators and their supervisors would only do their best in the field when their compensations are logically appropriate. The current official compensation rates for this job do not serve their purpose in reality, and additional funding from donors is very important;
- **The mapping of enumeration areas:** If having additional funding, we would be able to ensure high quality of this job by giving it more time in the field. (Lesson learned from 1999 Census is that the standard duration of 3 days for mapping one enumeration area is not enough);
- **The use of imaging techniques together with ICR software for data capture:** For approach to advanced scientific technology, reducing the amount of time spent on information importing as well as to increase the accuracy of data during data processing



stage, with additional funding, we would be able to select and procure the best equipments and software (including the appropriate paper for printing questionnaires and the compatible printing technology required for ICR), as well as to provide the best to staff training and trial runs of everything:

▪ **The application of digital maps in mapping enumeration areas:**

With additional funding, this digital mapping will be feasible and we'll have a digital database of enumeration area maps for Vietnam. This will form a



comprehensive sampling frame for not only the sample part of the 2009 Census but for every sample survey in the future. This digital map system will make it possible for us to heighten the quality and diversify our population information products to serve you better;

Help us in financing the above-mentioned jobs is your opportunity to contribute actively and effectively to the quality of the products of the 2009 Population and Housing Census, for your own benefits, and for our common prosperity.

- The job of motivating the people to honestly cooperated with the Census: Experience has shown that the quality of a census eventually depends on the honesty of people and the support from public opinion. Therefore, in the 2009 Census, we will launch a *Social Marketing Campaign (SMC)*, coordinated with a *Grassroots Communication Drive (GCD)*, designed with the ultimate goal of getting the people's honest cooperation. Our biggest challenge in this job is how to get enough funding for it.



Financing these two publicity activities is your opportunity to advertise through the most powerful channels your enterprise, trade mark, products and services in Viet Nam.



Based on our experiences with previous censuses and projected value of the money in 2009, we have estimated the minimum additional budget that needs to be mobilized as follows:

Details of expenditure	Cost (in US \$)
1. Cost of pre-testing and equipment for scanning and ICR application	788,000
2. Printing Census forms and manuals	1,283,160
3. Mapping and Listing	1,333,794
4. Census data dissemination (including cost of dissemination products)	115,505
5. Technical assistance/Consultancies	80,000
Total	3,500,459

We call on foreign governments, international organizations, domestic and foreign enterprises, etc. to contribute and help us mobilize this additional budget.

We are very happy to say that up to now, the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) has generously committed to contribute some USD 1 million to 2009 Census related activities of GSO.

We welcome all kinds of contribution - technological, equipment, hardware and software, financial - to improve the quality of any task of the Census.

The total Government budget for the 2009 Census is 406 billion Vietnam dong, equivalent to about USD 25.3 million. This means per capita cost of this census is about USD 0.28. Meanwhile, this figure is USD 0.50 in Cambodia, USD 3 to 5 in Pacific Islands countries, and USD 16 in the United States of America.

CITIZENSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES OF VIETNAMESE DATA-USERS

As a citizen of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, you have responsibilities as well as benefits from the Census:

- You are entitled to exploit and use information results in the field of your interest from the Census. Depending on who you are and the information you request, you may not pay or just pay a very small amount for the Census Agency,

- Your responsibilities include:

1) Actively supporting and provide true information of yourself and other members of your household to the enumerators. Personal information of yours and your family will be kept confidential and only be used for summarizing local and national general information;

2) Talking with people around you and get them to honestly provide information requested by the census agency;

3) Giving comments on contents, organization and implementation of the Census to the Census Steering Committee at your place;

4) Supporting and getting your unit to support the census, financially or otherwise, for the success of the first census of the 21st Century in Viet Nam.



4 THINGS TO BE DONE IMMEDIATELY:

To make the best of the coming 2009 Census, YOU, as Data-Users, YOU should:

- Discuss and decide on the needs for population data and information of your office in the next 10 years;
- Discuss and decide on your most appropriate option and plan of contribution to the 2009 Census (based on your unit's resources and the Census schedule),
- Strike a deal with General Statistics Office (the VNM7PG0008 Project Managing Board) on your data demand, contribution option/plan, and your benefits from such contributions;
- Formulate a specific plan to carry out this deal;
- And any other thing that you want to add-on.



Help us serve you better!

Contact us immediately:

Project Management Board "Strengthen capacity of the General Statistics Office in providing and utilizing information, data on population and reproductive health for the period of 2006 - 2010" funded by the United Nations Population Fund

Project ID: VNM7PG0008,

At the address:

**Department of Population and Labor Statistics,
General Statistics Office,
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Email: unfpa-fo@unfpa.org.vn

Annex 1: Information products of the 1999 Population and Housing Census

Publications and electronic products for disseminating the results of the Viet Nam population and housing census 1999

1. Viet Nam Population and Housing Census 1999: Preliminary Results (9-1999)
2. Viet Nam Population and Housing Census 1999: Sample Results: (8-2000)
3. Micro database together with software package used for producing tabulations from the 3 percent sample results (7-2000)
4. Monograph on marriage, fertility and mortality (7-2001)
5. Monograph on migration and urbanization (7-2001)
6. Monograph on labor and employment (8-2001)
7. The system of computer printout tables on completed results (4-2001) (Annex 2)
8. Macro database on tables of completed results on CD-ROM and GSO net (7-2001)
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The system of computer printout tables on completed results

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**Annex 2: Population Data and Information
from other sources**

01	Population change and family planning surveys (in years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006)
02	Viet Nam Demographic and Health Survey, 2002
03	The 2004 Viet Nam Migration Survey: Major Findings
04	The 2004 Viet Nam Migration Survey: "Migration and Health"
05	The 2004 Viet Nam Migration Survey: "The quality of Life of Migrants in Viet Nam"
06	The 2004 Viet Nam Migration Survey: "Internal Migration and Related Life course Events"
07	Viet Nam Population and AIDS survey, 2005

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Population and Housing Census of Vietnam

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