

Census 2010 Mapping

1.0 Introduction

The Central Statistical Office is currently undertaking a mapping exercise covering the whole country in readiness for the 2010 Census of Population and Housing. This exercise started in November 2007 and is expected to end in December 2009. Before each census is undertaken, it is a United Nations (UN) requirement that a complete mapping exercise is undertaken to ensure complete coverage of the entire population.

Mapping involves updating the current national administrative boundaries to create unique statistical areas for data collection during censuses and surveys. Updating the national administrative boundaries entails a physical demarcation of the entire land area of the country into unique areas called standard enumeration areas (SEA) of equal population size, each of which will be assigned to at least one enumerator to enumerate its total population. The SEA forms the lowest geography from which aggregates of indicators are compiled for ward, constituency, district, province and national level. The enumeration areas created also enable a fairer rationalisation of field logistics. Enumeration areas with disproportionate sizes bias survey results because they cause certain social economic groups of the population to be underrepresented in a survey population. The updated frame will form the basis for all national household surveys, including the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS), social-economic household surveys and other inter-censal population surveys after 2010.

The revision of the sampling frame will further facilitate better governance of the country by providing a framework for geographic information systems for administrative areas such as wards and constituencies. In an era of multiparty democracy the census has become highly charged with serious implications for politics (constituencies) and wealth distribution. The results will play a part in preparation for the General Elections in 2011 and any referendums, all important components for a sustainable electoral process, democracy and governance.

The launch of Vision 2030 by Government demands for a strong monitoring system that will enable the tracking of achievements under the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) 2006-2010. Since Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) largely define the vision, by having an accurate frame from which samples are drawn, the CSO will contribute towards monitoring of the FNDP implementation as well as the MDGs. The geography created will enable localized monitoring of MDGs with some degree of accuracy and will also provide a basis for sub-national geographic and administrative comparisons, which provide potential to highlight more deprived areas that need quick intervention.

2.0 Objectives

The main objective of the mapping program is to update the entire geography of the country so as to come up with an accurate frame reflecting the current population settlement patterns and distribution. Other objectives include:

- Creating a national geo referenced villages and community infrastructure database
- Creating a digital SEA data base that will be easy to update in future
- Increase the capacity of the Central Statistical Office in using Geographic Information System (GIS) to analyse statistical data
- Provide an effective platform for planning for service provisioning at local administration level

Members of the public are urged to accord the census mappers all the necessary support in order for this exercise to be carried out successfully.