

CENSUS PLANNING and MANAGEMENT in KIRIBATI

Iete Rouatu, Ministry of Finance

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OUTLINE of the PRESENTATION

- Introduction and Background information
- Relevant legislations
- Census management and budget
- Census Preparatory Activities
- Census enumeration date
- Data processing and analysis
- Dissemination of results
- Important issues for consideration
- Concluding remarks

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- This paper describes the general features of the more recent censuses
- Land size= 810 sq km,
- Ocean area = approx 3 million sq km
- Population: 1990= 72,335
2005 = 92,533
Growth rate = 1.8% per year
on S.Tarawa (capital island) =40,311
(43%)
Under 15 years of age = 34,193 (37%)

Contd

- Very large subsistence sector (e.g. 21,582 (40% of total labour force) doing 'village works', and those working for cash = 13,133 (25%)
- GDP per capita = A\$1,000
- GNP per capita = A\$2,000
- Exports = A\$6 mil, Imports = A\$ 80 mil
- Govt expend = A\$ 80mil , rev = A\$60mil

LEGISLATIONS

- At present have two Legislations:
 - 1) Statistics legislation for collecting and compiling of statistics (Republic Statistician is the legal person to oversee and enforce this legislation)
 - 2) And Census legislation for conducting the population census (Census Commissioner has legal power to undertake this)

CENSUS MANAGEMENT and BUDGET

- Republic Statistician nominates Census Commissioner, and Minister of Finance approved and endorsed appointment
- Census Commissioner responsible for all census activities
- Since 1990 Pop Census, the census commissioners are all local I-Kiribati
- Funding mainly from Kiribati Government,
- But last Census AusAID and UNFPA provided funding, SPC assisted in this
- All census staff housed in the National Statistics Office

CENSUS PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

- Appointment of Census Commissioner
- Formulation of Census prodoc
- Funding sought
- Recruitment of deputy census commissioner
- Recruitment and training of census office staff
- Recruitment and training of census supervisors
- Recruitment and training of census enumerators
- Setting up of census users committee

Contd

- Questionnaire design
- Census area demarcation and household listing
- Census field operation

CENSUS ENUMERATION DATE

- 7th November 2005
- Kiribati population census is on *quinquennial* basis
- Some isolated islands may be enumerated on a different date
- Actual enumeration could last several days—intention is to complete within a week
- Special problem arises because of high mobility of people

DATA PROCESSING and ANALYSIS

- Initially Names and Age captured in ACCESS database for quick checking of enumeration coverage
- CSPro package used in entering census information—SPC assisted in this
- Cross-tabulations of islands by age groups; school attendance; work status ; etc., made for the country—these are presented in the Vol I of the Census Report (published Jan 2007)
- Analysis on the demographic and on other topics (e.g. migration, labour force, etc) produced by SPC –to be published soon

DISSEMINATION of CENSUS RESULTS

- Through published reports
- Through Seminars/Workshops
- Through SPC Prism on the internet
- Through e-mails

IMPORTANT CENSUS ISSUES

- Separate legislations, for the Statistics and for the Census, could pose some problem in the future
- Lack of uptodate maps
- Conflict with Island Councils in the census staff selection process
- Employment/Unemployment definition be standardized in all censuses
- Quality of census reports need to be improved

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Significant changes in the census management and data processing have taken place since the 1978 Population Census
- Interview approach is expensive but necessary because many people do not understand some of the questions asked—and even if they do, there is still a risk that they would give false information, so face-to-face interview is the most practical approach at this stage