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# CENSUS PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT IN SAMOA

Presentation by

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# History of Census taking in Samoa

- Dated back to the early part of last century
- Since 1951, an unbroken tradition of 5 yearly censuses.
- 1991-2001, first 10 years census taken.

# Census Administration

- Statistics Act 1971, mandated Government Statistician and Statistics Department to take Census every five years.
- Complete head-count of population either on de facto or de jure basis or both.
- 2006 census reference date: 6 November 2006, Census Moment, 12 midnight

# Administration cont.

- “Household refers to an individual or group of people that make common provision for food”.
- About 25,000 households covered in last census.
- About ST\$900,000.00
- Preliminary results in a Village Directory publication has been released 16 March 2007
- Coding started 26 March 2007
- Other Reports should be out on time.

# Tools and Processes used.

Although census planning is the core process in linking different phases of the census cycle and thus always require the use of a formal framework through out, the Samoa 2006 census employed a formal framework and a not so formal approach.

Formal framework normally follows activities as mapped on a Gantt chart.

- Appoint census steering committee.
- Organize users workshop.
- Develop a plan of activities and time table using a Gantt chart.
- Liaise with other government ministries like Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture and others.
- Organise questionnaire pretest...etc, etc,

Informal approach in census planning.

Special features of census taking in a small country like Samoa which may probably not relevant in countries like PNG, NZ and Australia .

- Use of informal channel of communication and processes.
- Institutional memory still intact.
- Monitoring is faster and simpler.

# Planning cont,,.

- Some specific strategic decision were made at the planning stage. Introduction of some changes in the fieldwork approach:
  - reduce to maximum of 20 households per enumerator.
  - assign teachers to work in their own village.
  - limit the number of training team to two.
  - provide vehicles for each supervisor during fieldwork.

# Strengths:

- Smallness of population size.
- Repeating census every five years.
- Well structured training program.
- Commitment of the government.
- Strong and powerful legislation.

# Weaknesses

- Relying too much on external funding.
- Introduces a lot of uncertainty.
- High demand from users for inclusion of some of their questions in census questionnaire.
- Community support lacking.

# Opportunity:

- Use of Statistics Department Household Capability Survey Program.
- Use of church ministers as an instrument in census publicity program.
- Use of teachers to enumerate population of their own village.
- Easy availability of technical assistance from regional organisations.
- Existing close collaboration between Regional Implementing Organization and us.

# Reccommendations:

- Strengthen other alternative data sources.
- Encourage government to fully provide census budget.
- Invest on census staff capacity building through training.
- Encourage the use of standard census questionnaire.