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**2000 and 2010 Rounds of Population and  
Housing censuses: UNFPA's contribution  
and perspectives**

Presentation by  
Kourtoum Nacro  
And  
Jean-Louis Rallu

UNFPA

# Scope and Type of UNFPA Contribution to Population and Housing Censuses

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- For all its existence, UNFPA played leadership role supporting capacity development in data collection, especially census taking in developing countries. This role is still recognized and expected by countries and development partners.
- Many countries were able to conduct censuses because of UNFPA support, which ranges from supporting most censuses' costs to technical assistance for specific elements, such as: cartography, data processing/analysis/dissemination  
UNFPA has also supported cost of long term resident Chief Technical Advisers in specific countries.

# Why does UNFPA support Population and Housing Censuses?

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**Contribution to the implementation of UN ECOSOC Resolution 2005/13 of 22 July 2005 on *2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme* and ECOSOC Resolution 2006/6 of 24 July 2006 on *statistical capacity building*; and because:**

**They provide Critical population data and Indicators for:**

- National and sub-national policies and plans
- Results-based management
- Monitoring progress towards MDGs
- Use in emergency and post-conflict situations

**They form an essential component of national statistical systems, complemented by surveys and administrative records:**

- Statistics from census data often used as benchmarks
- Trends used for goal/target setting
- Provide a sampling frame for surveys

# Why does UNFPA support Population and Housing Censuses?

(Cont'd)

## **Censuses contribute to responding to governance issues:**

- They provide head counts for voter registration and parliamentary districts

## **Census data necessary for small area estimates such as poverty maps:**

- Simultaneously display multiple dimension of poverty
- Provide understanding of poverty determinant, especially when integrated with survey and administrative records (schools, health centers, infrastructure etc.)

- Improve targeting of interventions

# Results of the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (1995—2004), according to UN Statistics Division (UNSD)

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201 out of 230 countries/areas conducted censuses, which covered:

- 91% of the world's population
- 57% of African population
- 80% of Latin American and the Caribbean population
- 97% of Asian population
  
- **PROBLEM: UNDER UTILIZATION of data collected**

# Countries that conducted a census during the 2000 Round, according to UNSD



## How has UNFPA been contributing to the successful implementation of the 2010 Round of censuses?

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### Through UNFPA Country Offices

- As done during previous rounds of censuses, UNFPA advocates, mobilizes resources, and coordinate international efforts in supporting census activities within countries.
- UNFPA incorporate support to population and housing censuses and other data collection exercises in its country programmes, in accordance with governments' requests, national context and priorities.
- UNFPA provides technical support from its nine Country Technical Services Teams, which are located in every region: Africa (Addis Ababa, Dakar and Harare); Arab States and Central Asia (Amman and Bratislava); Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, Kathmandu and Suva); and Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City).
- Dissemination of internationally agreed norms and standards to countries

# How has UNFPA been contributing to the successful implementation of the 2010 Round of censuses?

(Cont'd)

## Through UNFPA HQ Units

**Participation in interagency and expert group meetings to define norms and standards, such as the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*, coordinated by UNSD.**

**Development of a Census Knowledge Asset (KA) to enable UNFPA Country Offices to better assist countries in conducting their 2010 round of population and housing censuses. KA is a basic reference material (ABC) for censuses from planning to dissemination of results**

**Organization of regional capacity development workshops, as recommended by UNFPA/UNSD Advocacy and Resource Mobilization international meeting for 2010 Round of Censuses (New York 24-25 February 2005), which registered more than 60 participants from UN Agencies, Governments of Developed and Developing Countries (including selected Asian and Pacific countries), Academic and non-Academic Institutions, and NGOs)**

## **What has UNFPA HQ been doing as contribution to the successful implementation of the 2010 Round of censuses in Asia and the Pacific?**

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### **UNFPA/Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) Regional Census Planning workshop for the Pacific in Nadi, Fiji, 20-24 March 2006**

- Workshop brought together Census Commissioners and senior Statistical Officers from 15 Pacific Island Countries (PIC) in addition to representatives from various institutions and UN agencies.

### **Organization of a regional workshop for Asia, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 25-28 July 2006**

- 10 Asian countries (censuses in 2005-2009) represented in the workshop, which registered more than 70 participants, including policy makers and experts from national statistical offices and/or census bureaus

## What has UNFPA HQ been doing as contribution to the successful implementation of the 2010 Round of censuses in Asia and the Pacific? (Cont'd)

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- Phnom Penh workshop focused on problems pertaining to censuses in Asia and in participating countries: reasons for underutilization and poor dissemination of census results at national and sub-national levels and strategies for improvement
- Thematic presentations were made to emphasize the importance of censuses by showing the usefulness of its data for: measuring migration and maternal mortality; poverty mapping; and monitoring the MDGs.
- Countries were also introduced to approaches for advocacy and resource mobilization for population and housing censuses and for archiving of data.
- Workshop gave an opportunity for South-South cooperation.

## Potential role of censuses in monitoring Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- **Census data are the pillar of MDGs monitoring. Census data can be used, directly /indirectly, through household surveys**
  - I. **Direct monitoring of MDGs**
    - Goal 2- universal education***
    - Goal 3- gender equity***
    - Goal 4—Reduce child mortality;***
    - Goal 5—Improve maternal health; and***
    - Goal 7—Ensure environmental sustainability.***
  - II. **Indirect monitoring through surveys based on sampling frames issued from censuses**
    - Goal 1—Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; and***
    - Goal 6—Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.***

# Potential role of censuses in monitoring Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

(Cont'd)

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## Disaggregated MDG indicators

- **Given full coverage of population, censuses can provide reliable MDG indicators disaggregated by variables such as:**

**sex, age, urban/rural, geographic areas, educational level, income (separately or combined).**

- **In PICs, as well as selected other countries, census data are often the only information available in many data databases, including MDGs**

# Current Issues pertaining to census taking and utilization of census data

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- **Tension between politics and data collection and utilization**
- **Traditional/classical data entry vs. use of scanners**
- **Traditional/classical censuses vs. rolling censuses**
- **Measuring Maternal Mortality through censuses (UNFPA has taken the lead to advocate this using questions recommended by the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*, in Para 2.196**
- **Engendering censuses to ensure collection of reliable information on gender differentials.**
- **Post conflict situations and census taking**
- **Advocacy and resource mobilization: Which agency/institution can contribute?**
- **Institutionalization of census operations in Governments' plans and budgets**

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major recurrent issues  
pertaining to censuses in  
Pacific Island Countries

What solutions?

# Data Analysis and Use

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- **Censuses are not sufficiently analyzed and used as evidence for policy making, thus hindering efforts to alleviate poverty and address other population related issues.**
- **Census results are not timely available and are not easily accessible.**
- **Many countries' census reports are prepared by consultants or regional organizations but many country reports produced by NSOs are actually more extensive (Kiribati against Palau 2005 census report)**
- **Pacific Rim universities should be involved in census data analysis to improve standards.**

# Data Analysis and Use

(Cont'd)

- Low expectation for improvement for the 2010 round, despite advocacy in the regional census planning workshop (Nadi, 2006):
- All tables recommended by UNSD are not available.
- Census reports may remain of limited coverage. For instance the Kiribati census report
  - does not include analysis of labour force trends
  - does not use ILO unemployment definition, although the census questionnaire included a question on seeking paid employment.
  - lacks of full coverage of migration, urbanization and household composition (not disaggregated by sex, age and urban/rural combined where relevant).

# Data Analysis and Use

(Cont'd)

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## Urgent need for in-depth analysis

- As basis of understanding current situation and future trends as well as planning to address problems (such as, poverty, education, qualification of Labour Force, youth unemployment, women's LF participation, environment)
- To address new issues, such as: mainstreaming gender and youth in education, labour force, migration, urbanization; migrants, return migrants and living arrangements of youth and elderly.
- To respond to increased interest of public and private sectors as well as civil society in using census data.

# Suggested topics for in-depth census data analysis

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## Internal migration/urbanization

Censuses provide reliable information at local level, to measure

- ❖ - urban development:
  - extension of urban and peri-urban areas (reclassification of rural as urban areas)
  - Socio-economic characteristics of the population at fine local level, such as: city center, suburbs and urban attraction zone.
  - Migration
  - In-, out-, and net internal migration by origin/destination
  - External migration and return migration
- ❖ Data for GIS

# Suggested topics for in-depth census data analysis

(Cont'd)

## Education

### ■ Data processing

- Cross-tabs by sex, single age and single class/form

### ■ Analysis

- Net enrolment of children of 1ary/2ary... age.
- Proportions of children on schedule/late (a major issue in PICs with important difference between urban and rural).
- Sex, age and class/form where drop outs occur (children not attending\* age \* last class/form attended)

# Suggested topics for in-depth census data analysis (Cont'd)

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Labour force, cash/formal/subsistence

Employment in

■ cash sector

- formal sector (wage/salary earners, employers, self employed in registered business)
- informal sector (petty jobs)

■ Subsistence sector

- Not selling
- Partly selling (informal cash sector)

***Census reports need to address share and trends in formal sector or results will be delayed to a further publication***

# Suggested topics for in-depth census data analysis (Cont'd)

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## Labour Force/unemployment

### ■ Unemployment

- by sex, age, qualification and urban/rural (role of a formal labour market to be looking for work), as well as migrant status
- based on a clear definition of seeking paid work
- and reasons for not seeking work to understand the 'not in labour force' component

*Census reports need to address trends in unemployment, with special attention to youth unemployment in urban areas*

# Suggested topics for in-depth census data analysis (Cont'd)

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## Living arrangements

Household size/composition, household structure at the family level, relation to head of household/family enable to scrutinize living arrangements of people.

- This is a major issue for youth, mostly young migrants to urban areas, and elderly

Young migrants often live without their parents (with brothers/sisters, distant relatives or with non relatives), with implications regarding abuse, risky behaviour and eventually illegal activities.

# Suggested topics for in-depth census data analysis (Cont'd)

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## Poverty and the life cycle

- For countries that collect income data in the census (*note that censuses collect income at the individual level while many HIES do so at the household level only*):
  - Proportion of household/population below poverty line according to
    - fine local areas (spot areas of poverty)
    - age, sex, urban/rural, educational level, LF status,...
    - characteristics of household heads/living arrangements of people
    - demographic and economic dependency at the household level.

# Suggested topics for in-depth census data analysis (Cont'd)

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- Children, women, youth, elderly in poverty according to marital status, presence of spouses and other household characteristics are part of analysis of interactions between poverty and the life cycle.
- They are useful for programming to alleviate or prevent poverty

# Emerging issues to address in PICs Censuses

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## ■ **Commuters**

- Time spent to go to work (transportation planning, living condition, loss of productivity/time for leisure),
- Means of transportation to work (urban/transportation planning)

## ■ **Language**

- Use of local languages (cultural issues/rights)
- Use of English (access to global economy/labour force),

## ■ **Citizenship/ethnic origin**

- Dual citizens (international migration related issues).
- Need to include a metis group or allow multiple choices (such as in NZ)

## ■ **Health/life style**

- alcohol consumption
- smoking
- healthy life style (exercise/sport activities)

## Some suggested solutions for improvement

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- Census committees should be set up before start of census operations and include all relevant stakeholders: line ministries, private sector, civil society organization, NGOs, influence groups
- Data collection should address needs of various stakeholders as much as possible
- Data tabulation plans should be designed by census committee before the census and revised/extended later, as needed.

# Conclusions

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- UNFPA is actively supporting the successful implementation of population and housing censuses in developing countries.
- UNFPA reiterate that countries with incomplete civil registration systems should measure maternal mortality through their censuses.
- Priority should be given to advocating for the need to analyze, use and disseminate census data to ensure evidence-based policy making.

THANK YOU

For your attention

