



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Distr.: General

E/ECA/STATCOM/3/9

June 2011

Original: English

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom Africa - III)

18-23 January 2012
Cape Town, South Africa

The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa

1. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Statistical Commission and UN Regional Statistical Committees have over the last six decades supported census taking in Africa. During the last four decades, population and housing censuses have been the most important source of data for policy formulation, monitoring, evaluation and decision making for sectoral, national and regional development programmes in Africa. The 2010 round of Population and Housing Census (PHC) activities are supported by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as a follow-up of the programme established by the UN Statistical Commission in the 1950 and the 1960 World Population Census Programme. Following the lessons learnt from the past censuses the 1970, 1980 and 1990 programmes were successfully organized. These initiatives undertaken by the Statistical Commission were then followed by the initiatives of the 1994, 2000 and 2010 World Programmes on PHCs in support of census-taking worldwide. The most recent action taken by the Commission resulted in the adopted United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2005/13 to support the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

The resolution urged Member States to carry out a PHC and to disseminate census results as an essential source of information for small areas, national, regional and international planning efforts for sustain development. It also asked the Secretary General of the United Nations to implement the 2010 World Programme. The 2010 round of PHCs is built on Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, more specifically, on the recommendations for Action 2. These recommendations emphasized the substantive work that needs to be undertaken in order to ensure the successful conduct of the 2010 Round of PHCs. It also outlines the need for developing an overall strategy for funding and conducting censuses in low-income countries. The Marrakech Action Plan emphasizes the role of the United Nations Statistical Commission as an official governing body to address technical and coordination issues.

Therefore the UNECA in preparation the continent for the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses focused on the six action areas identified as priority for improving development statistics by the Marrakech roundtable meeting and the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS). These focus areas include:

- a. Advocacy for increased participation of African countries in the 2010 round;
- b. Organizing workshops on census planning, enumeration, analysis, census data dissemination, etc;
- c. Advisory services covering such subjects as post-enumeration surveys, analysis of census data, and on-the-job training in various areas related with census taking;

- d. Preparation of census materials and software; and
- e. Dissemination of the materials.

This report describes the progress on conduct of PHCs in the countries and the activities undertaken by the pan-African institutions to support member states, especially in improving collection, compilation and dissemination of census data. The progress reported in this document is against the focus areas identified under the MAPs as stated above.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

Advocacy for increased participation of African countries in the 2010 Round of PHCs

The support to the 2010 round of PHC achieved one of its its objectives by way of advocating with countries for participating in the 2010 round of PHC. The UNECA, in partnership with three regional institutions namely the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Union Commission (AUC) and also some leading countries such as South Africa, vigorously advocated for an enhanced participation of African countries during the current round, particularly through the last five Africa Symposia on Statistical Development (ASSD), the last one being in Cairo in 2010. As can be seen from Table 1 below due to these persistent advocacy efforts 29 countries have already conducted their PHCs and 23 have planned to undertake them before 2014. It is therefore, expected that by the end of this round 52 African would have conducted a census.

Table 1: Number of countries conducting census in different rounds

Round of Censuses	Number of Countries		
	Census not Conducted/Planned	Conducted Census	Planned Census until 2014
1990 round /1985-1994	10	43	
2000 round /1995-2004	15	38	
2010 round /2005-2014	1	29	23
Total	26	110	

Table 2 shows the status of PHCs in all the 53 countries in Africa for the 1990, 2000 and 2010 rounds

Table 2: POPULATION AND HOUSING ROUND OF CENSUSES 1990 TO 2014

Countries	1990 Round /1985-1994	2000 Round /1995-2004	2010 Round /2005-2014
Algeria	1987	1998	2008
Angola	...	...	(2013)
Benin	1992	2002	(2012)
Botswana	1991	2001	2011
Burkina Faso	1985	1996	2006
Burundi	1990	...	2008
Cameroon	1987	...	2005
Cape Verde	1990	2000	2010
Central African Republic	1988	2003	(2013)
Chad	1993	...	2009
Comoros	1991	2003	(2013)
Congo	1994	1996	2007
Côte d'Ivoire	1988	1998	(2011)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	...	...	(2012)
Djibouti	...	...	2009
Egypt	1986	1996	2006
Equatorial Guinea	1994	2002	(2013)
Eritrea	...	...	(2011)
Ethiopia	1994	...	2007
Gabon	1993	2003	(2013)
Gambia	1993	2003	(2013)
Ghana	...	2000	2010
Guinea	...	1996	(2012)
Guinea Bissau	1991	...	2009
Kenya	1989	1999	2009
Lesotho	1986	1996	2006
Liberia	...	...	2008
Libya Arab Jamahiriya	...	1995	2006
Madagascar	1993	...	(2011)
Malawi	1987	1998	2008
Mali	1987	1998	2009

Mauritania	1988	2000	(2012)
Mauritius	1990	2000	2011
Morocco	1994	2004	(2014)
Mozambique	...	1997	2007
Namibia	1991	2001	2011
Niger	1988	2001	(2012)
Nigeria	1991	...	2006
Rwanda	1991	2002	(2012)
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	1991	2001	(2012)
Senegal	1988	2002	(2012)
Seychelles	1994	2002	2010
Sierra Leone	1985	2004	(2014)
Somalia	1987	...	...
South Africa	1991	2001	2011
South Sudan*	1993		2008
Sudan*	1993	...	2008
Swaziland	1986	1997	2007
Togo	...	...	2010
Tunisia	1994	2004	(2014)
Uganda	1991	2002	(2012)
United Republic of Tanzania	1988	2002	(2012)
Zambia	1990	2000	2010
Zimbabwe	1992	2002	(2012)
Total Number	43	38	29

N.B Source: This data has been obtained from UNSD as on the date when this report was being written.

* The Census of erstwhile Sudan covered South Sudan.

It will be seen from the table above that as many as 16 countries have already conducted PHCs in all the three rounds starting the 1990 round and 18 more will achieve this feat if they conduct their censuses as planned. Djibouti, Liberia and Togo are three countries that had not undertaken PHCs in the 1990 and 2000 round have completed one in the latest round.

The 2010 round of PHC in Africa countries saw a quantum leap in terms of use of technology in the area of mapping, data capture and data dissemination. A number of countries have used the scanning technology in capturing of data with fair degree of success. A number of them have used satellite imageries for mapping of enumeration areas which is expected to improve the

coverage and quality of census taking. The UNSD has recently introduced the use of CensusInfo, a tool adapted from the DevInfo technology for dissemination of housing and population data and many countries are expected to use them in near future.

Organizing workshops on Census Planning, Enumeration, Analysis, Census Data Dissemination and Archiving

The 6th ASSD was held in Cairo, Egypt from 31 October to 2 November 2011 around the theme “*Data Analysis and Use in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census*”, The member states re-affirmed their commitment to the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and to have a complete count of Africa’s population under the leadership of UNECA. The ASSD also made the following important recommendations.

- Research institutions and Statistical Training Centers should be at the forefront of the building of capacities of countries in census data analysis;
- Regional organizations and partners are called upon to reinforce the capacity of countries in census post evaluation through workshops, training and provisions of guidelines;
- AfDB, ECA, AUC and partners to work out modalities that will ensure the harmonization of population projections inter-censal periods;

A regional seminar was organized jointly by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) of the UNECA. Representatives from 18 National Statistics Offices (NSOs) in Africa representing both English and French speaking countries that have conducted a census in the 2010 round participated in the seminar. The seminar provided a forum for identifying and discussing the major issues and challenges in archiving census data as well as for exchanging information on national practices and experiences on the subject. It also assisted in identifying the steps to be taken for planning and implementing an effective archiving plan suited to the needs and requirements of individual NSOs. The seminar further helped in identifying principles and good practices for sustainable, long-term preservation and utilization of census data. The ideas generated from the discussion and the recommendations made by participants will contribute towards the drafting of a technical report on archiving census data.

The PARIS21 Secretariat and the UNECA jointly organized a training workshop on the use of the « IHSN Microdata Management Toolkit ». This workshop was conducted in the context of the joint OECD/PARIS21 – World Bank Accelerated Data Program. This training took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12th to 16th December 2011. The IHSN Microdata Management Toolkit was developed by the International Household Survey Network to assist in the

documentation, preservation and dissemination of survey, census and other micro-data in accordance with international standards and best practices. About 50 participants from 20 English speaking countries participated in this workshop which provided hands-on training to the participants in use of the kit.

Advisory Services in Census Cartography and Data Processing

Advisory services in as many as six countries were undertaken by ACS in support of the 2010 Round of PHCs. Field training visits to the regional offices participating in Census cartography and census data processing in preparation for the Namibia PHC was undertaken in 2010. This was followed by advisory services for Census Cartography and Census Data Processing in Botswana, with the objective of providing technical assistance to the Central Statistics Office of Botswana in census cartography and data processing in preparation for the 2011 PHC.. The Census Cartography Advisory Mission to Senegal was undertaken 2011 with the goal of enhancing the capacity of the Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de Demographie (ANSD) of Senegal, in the use of digital techniques for census cartography in preparation of the 2011 Population, Housing and Animal Husbandry Census.

In 2011 the ACS also provided technical assistance to the Republic of Cameroon for census results dissemination through the development of an interactive digital atlas. This was followed by technical assistance services in Republic of Djibouti to develop and maintain a spatial data base allowing for a continuous updating and edition of cartographic products meeting the needs of planners and decision makers. Finally, in November 2011, ACS supported Census Cartography in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Under the overall supervision of the Head of Mission in charge of the National Institute of Statistics of DRC, the mission was aimed at supporting the finalization of the census cartographic methodology, with particular emphasis on incorporation new technologies in the census mapping process.

Preparation of Census Materials, Software and Dissemination

To foster the census processes in countries, the ACS developed a handbook on census planning and enumeration based on African experiences in this domain with a view to gathering pertinent African experiences whether good or bad so that countries will benefit from these lessons.

The ACS has also developed a set of three technical manuals namely: (i) The Africa Census Data Capture Handbook, (ii) Africa Census Editing Handbook and (iii) the Africa Census Tabulation Handbook. The handbooks on data editing and tabulations have been finalized and are under print and the one on data capture will be finalized soon. These volumes cover all almost all aspects of census in great details and are expected to serve as useful reference

documents for African countries conducting censuses. Every effort has been made to include real examples from censuses in African countries.

ACS in collaboration with the University of Minnesota, USA, launched Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)-Africa and African Integrated Census Microdata (AICMD) programme with the micro-data presently topping 51 million person records mark. ACS in support of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census launched the African Integrated Census MicroData web site, in which microdata is freely available to researchers and policy makers at no cost, by simply registering and agreeing to the conditions of user license (e.g., protect statistical confidentiality, share research results, etc.).

A has published a Handbook on Data Sources and Estimation of Development Indicators in African Countries. This handbook has been prepared by the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) with the objective of assisting African countries in identifying data sources and deriving development indicators from population and housing censuses and household surveys in line with the African perspectives and realities. This Handbook is expected to provide guidelines on how to use data from population and housing censuses and surveys.

ACS has developing a Handbook on Engendering of Statistical Processes, which includes details as to how the gender can be mainstreamed into every stage of census processes, ranging from data collection to dissemination.

3. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The following activities are proposed to be undertaken in the next two years

- Assess the 2010 round of PHCs in Africa in terms of the questions covered and the outputs generated. It will also cover the process followed including the use of technology in data collection, processing and dissemination of data.
- Assess the cartographic phase of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census permitting the development of a Regional Strategy in support of Census Cartography.
- Develop a work plan between the national and international mapping agencies to reinforce the development of a Spatial Data Infrastructure in Africa, thereby facilitating data sharing and reducing the high cost involved in census mapping.
- Organize advisory services in support of the census undertakings in Africa.
- Disseminate manuals and handbooks on PHCs and integrate them in the curricula of the Statistical Training Centres for greater out-reach
- Organize workshops and training seminars in support of census undertakings in Africa in partnership with other international agencies

