



Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses: the 2020 Round

Srdjan Mrkić
United Nations Statistics Division

United Nations Workshop on Revision 3 of Principles and recommendations for
Population and Housing Censuses and Census Evaluation
Amman, Jordan, 19 – 23 October 2014



Preparatory process

- First expert group meeting – November 2013
 - Around 50 census managers from all over the world
 - Outline of the revised principles and recommendations
 - Summarizing experiences from the 2010 round
 - National practices
 - Major issues
 - Formation of the working groups and subgroups



Working groups and subgroups

- Working group on census planning and methodology
 - Subgroup on census operations
 - Subgroup on census technologies
 - Subgroup on alternative censuses

- Working group on census topics
 - Subgroup on population census topics
 - Subgroup on housing census topics

- Working group on census products and data dissemination



Working arrangements and deadlines

- ❑ Basis – the existing version of principles and recommendations
- ❑ Essential approach – updates and changes only when really necessary
- ❑ Harmonization with regional initiatives
- ❑ Incorporating contemporary approaches
- ❑ Deadlines
 - From sub-groups to group chairs – 31 January 2014
 - From group chairs to UNSD – 28 February 2014
 - Consolidation by UNSD – 31 March 2014
 - The second expert group meeting - end of April 2014



Working draft and the second expert group meeting

- UNSD disseminated the zero working draft on 4 April 2014
- The second meeting: 29 April – 2 May 2014
 - Mostly same participants
 - Scrutinizing the working draft para by para
 - Taking notes and comments
 - Soliciting additional written inputs from individual experts in line with the discussion
 - Requesting UNSD to consolidate the first working draft and to re-structure the text in line with the comments and suggestions
 - Lining it up with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, version 5.0
 - Deadline for the first working draft – beginning of August



Current stage

- ❑ First working draft sent to chairs for comments and suggestion – first week of August
- ❑ All inputs consolidated by UNSD
- ❑ The second draft sent to all expert group members
- ❑ Deadline for comments – end of September
- ❑ Limited number of comments received



Final stages

- All inputs consolidated by end of October
- Cross-referencing, glossary, index, recommended tabulations on the website – end of November
- Editing, copy preparation
- Printing
- Submitted for formal adoption by the United Nations Statistical Commission at the next session, in March 2015



Structure and content

- ❑ Four parts
- ❑ Part One: Essential features and census methodology
- ❑ Part Two: Planning, organization and management
- ❑ Part Three: Census Operations
- ❑ Part Four: Population and housing census topics
- ❑ Recommended tabulations – in electronic form only



Part One

- Essential roles of the census
- Definition and essential features
- Uses of population and housing censuses
- Census methodology
- Operational aspects for register-based census or combined methodology
- Use of sampling in population and housing census



Part One

□ Essential features

- Individual enumeration
- Universality within a defined territory
- Simultaneity
- Defined periodicity
- Capacity to produce small-area statistics



Part One

Type of data collection	Use of registers as census data sources		
	No registers (Fully field enumeration-based and/or sample surveys)	Base registers (Individuals/Households/ Dwellings)	Integrated administrative sources
Full field enumeration	Full field enumeration only (Traditional census)	Base registers and full field enumeration	Integrated administrative sources and full field enumeration
Rolling surveys (continuous surveys)	Full field enumeration and rolling surveys	n.a.	n.a.
	Rolling census		
Ad-hoc sample surveys	n.a.	Base registers and ad-hoc sample surveys	Integrated administrative sources and ad-hoc sample surveys
Existing sample surveys	n.a.	Base registers and existing sample surveys	Integrated administrative sources and existing sample surveys
No field enumeration (Fully register-based)	n.a.	n.a.	Fully register-based



Part Two

- Part Two: Planning, Organization and Management
 - Introduction
 - Overall census planning
 - Strategic objective and management
 - Units, place and time of enumeration
 - Legal basis
 - Financial management
 - Administrative organization



Part Three

- Part Three: Census Operation Activities
 - Introduction
 - Census questionnaires: content and design
 - Building census infrastructure
 - Mapping
 - Census tests
 - Living quarters and household listing
 - Field enumeration
 - Method of enumeration
 - Timing and length of enumeration period
 - Management and supervision
 - Use of technology



Part Three

- Part Three: Census Operation Activities (cont.)
 - Data processing
 - Evaluation of results
 - Census products, data dissemination and utilization
 - Documentation and census experience
 - Archiving individual records
 - Purpose of archiving individual records
 - Procedures for archiving
 - Archiving individual records and microdata
 - Overall evaluation of the census



Part Four

- Part Four: Population and Housing Census Topics
- Population census topics
 - Factors determining the selection of topics
 - List of topics
 - Population count
 - Definition and specification of topics
 - Geographical and internal migration characteristics
 - International migration characteristics
 - Household and family characteristics
 - Demographic and social characteristics
 - Fertility and mortality
 - Educational characteristics
 - Economic characteristics
 - Agriculture



Part Four

- Part Four: Population and Housing Census Topics (cont.)
- Housing census topics
 - Factors determining the selection of topics
 - List of topics
 - Definition and specification of topics
 - Living quarters – type of
 - Location of living quarters
 - Occupancy status
 - Ownership – type of
 - Rooms – number of
 - Bedrooms – number of
 - Useful floor space
 - Water supply system



Part Four

- Part Four: Population and Housing Census Topics (cont.)
- Housing census topics
 - Definition and specification of topics (cont.)
 - Drinking water
 - Toilet – type of
 - Sewage disposal
 - Solid waste disposal
 - Bathing facilities
 - Kitchen – availability of
 - Fuel used for cooking
 - Lighting and/or electricity
 - Heating – type and energy used
 - Hot water – availability of
 - Piped gas – availability of



Part Four

- Part Four: Population and Housing Census Topics (cont.)
- Housing census topics
 - Definition and specification of topics (cont.)
 - Use of housing unit
 - Occupancy by one or more households
 - Building – type of
 - Year or period of construction
 - Dwellings in the building – number of
 - Position of the dwelling in the building
 - Accessibility to dwelling
 - Construction material of outer walls
 - Construction material of floor and roof
 - Elevator – availability of



Part Four

- Part Four: Population and Housing Census Topics (cont.)
- Housing census topics
 - Definition and specification of topics (cont.)
 - Farm building
 - State of repair
 - Age and sex of reference person of household
 - Tenure
 - Rental and housing costs
 - Furnished/unfurnished
 - Information and communication devices – availability of
 - Cars – number of
 - Durable household appliances – availability of
 - Outdoor space – access to



Accompanying materials – a sample

- Handbook on the use of GIS for Censuses
- Handbook on Census Legislation
- Guidelines for Census Costing
- Guidelines for Internet-based census data collection
- Guidelines on quality assurance
- Guidelines on Census Documentation
- UNSD census topics database
- Maintaining UNSD Census Knowledge base
 - National experiences
 - Papers
 - Documents
 - Census instructions
 - Census questionnaires