

Strengthening Capacity in Population and Housing Census

- India in cooperation with other Asian countries



The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India worked with counterparts in other countries to raise capacities in the conduct of the census and the analysis of population data.

Issue

Population and housing census is one of the primary sources of data needed for formulating, implementing and monitoring policies and programmes aimed at inclusive socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability. It is a comprehensive and complex process that involves the collection, compilation, analysis, evaluation, publication and dissemination of statistical data.

UNFPA works with Member States to enable them to follow international statistical standards, methods and guidelines in the conduct of the census in order to uphold the integrity, reliability, accuracy and value of the results. Given that new methodologies and technologies are being implemented in the pursuit of reduced costs, improved quality and timely dissemination of census results, countries recognise the importance of and need for sharing knowledge, experiences and expertise on various aspects of census-taking.

Towards a Solution

UNFPA collaborated with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner (ORGI) of India to assist national statistical offices of other countries in the global South in the conduct of their censuses.

ORGI serves as a technical hub on various aspects of census operations and provides cost-effective training to national statistical offices with only logistics expenses borne by recipient

countries. Moreover, with UNFPA support, ORGI prepared manuals on demographic techniques and census operations and analysis of census data needed for various training programmes.

A pool of experts has been set up to provide need-based technical assistance to countries. The specific needs of countries requesting assistance were matched with the appropriate experts in the pool who carried capacity-building census training sessions.

Results

Based on demand, a number of developing countries benefited from training on various census operations. These included Afghanistan on data processing and sample registration system, Bhutan on pre- and post-





census activities, Ethiopia on multi-lingual data processing, Myanmar on data processing and dissemination and Timor-Leste on census methodology, .

Assistance was provided to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka in mapping their specific needs in carrying out census and identifying suitable experts.

With support from UNFPA and other United Nations organisations, ORGI has set up a state-of-the-art resource and training centre of international standard to cater to in-house and international training on census and surveys. It was designed to offer routine or customised training programmes as well as provide specialised consultancy services.

Lessons Learned

The institutional knowledge in India is made available only when a request is received from another country. Although several such requests have come in, a more structured

platform to promote the services across the global South would have benefited more countries. Relatedly, there is missed opportunity by other countries whose needs are similar to the ones who attended the training programme. Multi-country training would have provided economies of scale and also led to cross-pollination of learnings.

Partners

Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India
Bhutan Statistics Bureau
Timor-Leste General Directorate of Statistics
Afghanistan Central Statistics Organisation
Ethiopia Central Statistical Agency
Ministry of Immigration and Population, Myanmar

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