



DISTR.
LIMITED
E/CN.14/CAD.2/12
3 April 1974
Original : ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Second Session of the Conference
of the African Demographers
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-10 May 1974

REPORT ON THE AFRICAN CENSUS PROGRAMME

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 Items Recommended for Inclusion in the African Genus Programme

REPORT ON THE AFRICAN CENSUS PROGRAMME

Origin and Objectives

1. The African Census Programme was undertaken in accordance with recommendations made at the Second Meeting of the ECA Technical Committee of Experts and approved by the First Conference of Ministers in February 1971. Subsequently the Programme was endorsed by ECA standing bodies on statistics and population - the Conference of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Demographers - which met in Accra in October 1971 and December 1971, respectively. It was also discussed at the Sixteenth Session of the Population Commission held in Geneva in November 1971, at the Seventeenth Session of the Statistical Commission held in November 1972 in Geneva, and at the Second Special Session of the Population Commission held in New York in March 1973.

2. The primary objective of the programme is to assist those countries which have not had a recent census of population and which would not be able to participate in the current round of censuses without external assistance. It is designed to provide information not only on the present structure of the population - age, sex, urban/rural residence, etc. - but also on the elements of population change, on fertility, mortality, and migration.

3. A secondary objective of the African Census Programme is to provide a cadre of experienced technicians in each country who will be able to plan and conduct future censuses and surveys and compile the basic statistical data required for national and regional development programmes.

Scope of the Programme

4. Twenty-two countries are presently participating in the African Census Programme, including 15 countries which have never had a complete census of their population before. (See Annex I.) The combined population of the 22 countries is estimated at 167 million inhabitants, or approximately 45 per cent of the total population of Africa.

5. The total cost of these censuses is estimated at US\$41 million, or approximately US\$0.25 per person. The UNFPA contribution is estimated at US\$16 million, or about 39% of the total.

General Plan

6. The broad outlines of this programme were drawn up at the first meeting of the Consultative Group on the African Census Programme in January 1971. A basic programme for the collection, tabulation and analysis of population data was proposed, and a list of minimum and additional recommended items for inclusion in national censuses of population was adopted. (See Annex II.) It was the consensus of the Group that a complete enumeration would be necessary to obtain reliable data on the total population by sex and geographic divisions, and that other items of information could be obtained by sampling.

7. The general plan adopted by most countries participating in the African Census Programme includes a complete count of the population, household-by household, with minimal subject coverage, plus a sample survey for the collection of detailed population characteristics. In some countries the sample survey will be conducted simultaneously with the complete count operation simply by using an expanded questionnaire for selected enumeration areas, while in other countries the sample survey will be carried out at a later stage by re-enumerating selected areas. (Enumeration areas generally will contain about 500 persons and represent the work of one enumerator.) Different sampling fractions will be used in most countries for the urban, rural sedentary, and nomadic populations.

8. In the complete census count, most of the countries plan to include questions on name, sex, age, and place of birth. Questions on fertility and mortality will be asked on a complete count basis in some of the countries, and on a sample basis in others. Detailed characteristics of the population including data on literacy, education, marital status, relationship to head of household, ethnic group or citizenship, migration, and economic activity will be obtained in most countries from the sample survey.

Present Status

9. Of the 41 ECA member States, 24 have taken censuses of their population since 1966 and most of the remaining 17 countries plan to take censuses during the next 12-18 months. Under the African Census Programme, 22 countries are receiving technical and/or financial assistance in the planning and conduct of national census programmes.

10. Seven of these countries have already enumerated their population and are now engaged in the tabulation and publication of results. These include Mauritius (June 1972), Gambia (April 1973), Sudan (April 1973), Libya (July 1973), Nigeria (November 1973), Congo (February 1974), and Liberia (February 1974). Thirteen countries had planned to enumerate their population in 1974 but, for various reasons, many of these censuses have been postponed until 1975.

11. Final data have been released for Mauritius and preliminary data are now available for a number of other countries, including Gambia, Libya and Sudan. By the end of 1974, data should be available for Nigeria, Congo, and Liberia, and by the end of 1975, for most of the remaining countries participating in the African Census Programme.

Technical and Financial Assistance

12. The African Census Programme is funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities with the United Nations Secretariat serving as executing agency. At Headquarters, primary responsibility for the programme is shared by the Office of Technical Co-operation, the Statistical Office, and the Population Division.

13. At the regional level, the programme is under the general supervision of a Project Officer, who maintains close working relationships with the Chief of the Population Programme Centre, the Chief of the Statistics Division, and the Chief of the Technical Assistance Programme Co-ordination Office of ECA. In addition to the Project Officer, the authorized regional staff includes two demographic statistics advisers, two demographers, one adviser in census cartography, a sampling adviser, two data processing advisers, and a central office operations expert. These experts are available for assignment on a short-term basis (usually one to four weeks) to any country in the region. Their job is to assist with the development of census plans and the formulation of individual country projects; to advise on organizational, administrative, and technical aspects of the census programme; to investigate problems and evaluate progress in relation to established time schedules; and to assist with the analysis, interpretation, and utilization of census data.

14. During the past two years, the regional staff of the African Census Programme (assisted by staff members of the Population Programme Centre and the Statistics Division and several of the Population Programme Officers formerly stationed in Africa) have carried out 58 missions to 24 countries, including Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, and Upper Volta. Two special missions to the Secretariat of the Liptako-Gourma Development Authority have also been carried out to advise on statistical requirements for development planning at the subregional level.

15. At the country level, one or more census experts has been provided to assist with the initial planning, questionnaire design, field organization, preparation of instructions and procedures, table design, training of staff, etc. To date, 42 country experts have been requested, including 22 general census experts, 6 cartographers, 3 sampling experts, 7 data processing advisers, and 4 demographers. As of 1 April 1974, 25 country experts were actually at post and several others were in process of assignment.

16. In addition to the 10 regional advisers and 42 country experts approved for the African Census Programme, the UNFPA has approved one post at the subregional level, located in the Technical Bureau of the UDEAC Secretariat in Bangui, Central African Republic. The expert for this post has already been assigned and, in addition to other duties, he will assist in promoting the exchange of information and experience relating to census methodology among the four UDEAC countries and Chad.

17. Besides supplying census experts, the United Nations is providing other types of assistance, including fellowships for the training of technical and administrative personnel of the countries concerned, vehicles required over a long period of time for preparatory work and followup surveys, office machines and data-processing equipment, and funds for a share of local costs (primarily salary supplements for local staff involved in the preparation and conduct of the censuses).

Training Activities

18. An important element of the African Census Programme is the training of technical and administrative personnel responsible in the various countries for carrying out the census and survey programmes. The nature of the training has been adapted to both the immediate and future needs of the countries for staff trained in data collection, tabulation, and analysis of the census results.

19. Four workshops have been organized to date under the auspices of the African Census Programme in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the government of the host country. The first was a Workshop on Population Inquiries for participants from French-speaking countries and was held in Rabat, Morocco, in October and November of 1972. Thirty-two participants from 16 countries attended this workshop, which covered the principal steps in the planning and conduct of population censuses and surveys.

20. The second workshop was held in Addis Ababa in November 1972 for participants from English-speaking countries. Twenty-seven participants from 14 countries attended this workshop, which covered the pre-tabulation processing of census data.

21. A third workshop, on the Computer Processing of Census Data, was held in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 28 May to 29 June 1973. This workshop was conducted in two sections - one for participants from English-speaking countries and the other for participants from French-speaking countries. A total of 42 participants from 26 countries attended.

22. A fourth workshop, also on the computer processing of census data, was held in Addis Ababa from 25 March to 17 April 1974. Separate sections were conducted in French and English for the 12 participants from francophone countries and the 11 participants from anglophone countries.

Several more workshops are planned for the next two years including:

- A workshop on the Tabulation, Presentation and Publication of Census Data, tentatively scheduled for February-March 1975.

- A workshop on the Analysis and Interpretation of Population Census Data, probably in October/November 1975.

- A training course on the Utilization of Census Data for Development Planning, tentatively planned for 1976.
- A training course on Supplemental Surveys in Relation to Census Data, tentatively planned for 1976.

Post-enumeration Evaluation Surveys

23. While a post-enumeration evaluation survey is not a requirement of the African Census Programme, individual countries are encouraged to undertake some type of coverage check to measure the completeness and accuracy of their census counts. Five of the 22 countries participating in the African Census Programme have mentioned plans for a post-enumeration coverage check in the formal requests which they submitted for UNFPA assistance. Other countries, hopefully, will take appropriate measures to evaluate the completeness and accuracy of their census results. While no standard methodology is recommended for all countries, in view of the variations in settlement patterns, migratory movements, and living arrangements in the various countries, some type of post-enumeration evaluation check would probably be feasible for all countries. The regional advisers are available to assist with the development of appropriate plans for each country.

Recommended Tabulations

24. Annex III contains a list of proposed standard tabulations based on the minimum and additional recommended items for inclusion in the African Census Programme. The recommended format for most of these tables is given in African Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses, E/CN.14/CAS.6/1. The tables to be prepared for any given country would, of course, depend on the items included in the census questionnaire. It is hoped that the first 14 tables (based on the minimum list of items) would be standard for all countries and that tables 15-40 (based on the additional first and second priority items) would be prepared in standard format wherever information is available.

25. Comments on both the recommended items (Annex II) and the recommended tabulations (Annex III) would be welcome.

Co-ordination of the African Census Programme with other Related Programmes

26. Appropriate steps have already been taken to co-ordinate the African Census Programme with other related activities, particularly with FAO-sponsored censuses and surveys of agriculture in the region, and the United Nations supported World Fertility Survey.

27. With regard to the agriculture census programme, the ECA has exchanged information with FAO on census dates and experts assigned to countries in the region. This information has been sent to the population census experts in each country with the request that they co-ordinate their activities with any plans the country may have for an agriculture census or survey.

28. During the past year, several meetings have been held with representatives of the International Statistical Institute with a view to co-ordinating activities of the World Fertility Survey with those of the African Census Programme. It has generally been agreed that the censuses of population which are scheduled in the region should take priority over any other statistical activity during 1974 and 1975.

29. A programme of integrated demographic and social statistics has been proposed by the United Nations as a follow-up to the African Census Programme. The new programme would be somewhat broader in scope than the population census and would ensure the continuous production of interrelated demographic, social and economic data throughout the region. The planning and conduct of this programme are being carefully co-ordinated with the African Census Programme, particularly with regard to timing, content and methodology.

ANNEX I
NATIONAL CENSUSES OF POPULATION TAKEN OR PLANNED
BY ECA MEMBER STATES: 1966-1975

<u>1966</u>		<u>1974</u>	
April	Algeria	February	*Congo
	Lesotho		*Liberia
May	Egypt	November	*Cameroon
	Swaziland	December	*Central African Republic
	Tunisia		*Chad
August	Malawi		*Mali
<u>1967</u>			*Niger
August	Tanzania		*Upper Volta
<u>1969</u>		<u>1975</u>	
August	Kenya	January	*Somalia
	Uganda	February	*Ethiopia
	Zambia		*Ivory Coast
<u>1970</u>		March	*Dahomey
Jan. - Dec.	Gabon	April	*Senegal
March	Ghana		
April	Togo		
<u>1971</u>			
July	Equatorial Guinea	<u>Dates to be announced later:</u>	
	Morocco		*Burundi
August	Botswana		*Madagascar
			*Mauritania
<u>1972</u>			*Sierra Leone
June	*Mauritius	<u>No information:</u>	Rwanda
December	Guinea		Zaire
<u>1973</u>			
April	*Gambia	* Participating in the	
	*Sudan	African Census Programme	
July	*Libya		
November	*Nigeria		

Annex II

MINIMUM LIST OF ITEMS AND ADDITIONAL ITEMS RECOMMENDED
FOR INCLUSION IN THE AFRICAN CENSUS PROGRAMME

- I. Minimum list of items recommended at this meeting which are included in the "African recommendations"
1. Name
 2. Place where found at the time of enumeration
 3. Place of birth
 4. Sex
 5. Age
 6. Children born alive
 7. Children living
 8. Live births in past 12 months (by sex)
 9. Deaths in past 12 months (by sex and age).
- II. Additional list of items recommended at this meeting which are included in the "African recommendations"
- (i) First priority
1. Type of (economic) activity
 2. Occupation
 3. Educational attainment
 4. Marital status
- (ii) Second priority
1. Relationship to head of household
 2. Ethnic group (or citizenship)
 3. Literacy
 4. School attendance
 5. Industry
 6. Status (employer, employee etc.)
 7. Usual place of residence
 8. Duration of residence
 9. Previous place of residence
 10. Religion
 11. Number of wives
 12. Number of years since first marriage
 13. Children below school age
 14. Worked any time in the past 12 months

Annex III

Recommended Tabulations based on the Minimum and Additional
Recommended Items for Inclusion in the African Census Programme

(Depending on the needs of individual countries, it is recommended that the following tables be prepared for the total population, urban and rural, and for any administrative or planning divisions which would be meaningful for the countries. Table numbers in parentheses after the table title refer to table numbers in the African Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses, E/CN.14/CAS.6/1)

Tabulations based on the Minimum List of Recommended Items:

1. Total population and population of major and minor civil divisions, by sex. (Table 1)
2. Population in localities by size-class of locality and sex. (Table 2)
3. Population of principal localities and their urban agglomerations by sex. (Table 3)
4. Number of households by size of household.
5. Population by single years of age and sex. (Table 5)
6. Population by 5 year age groups and sex. (Table 6)
7. Population by place of birth, age, and sex. (Table 8)
8. Female population aged 15 years of age and over, by age and number of children born alive. (Table 20)
9. Female population 15 years of age and over by age and number of children now living. (Table 21)
10. Female population 15 years of age and over by age and number of children born alive but no longer living.
11. Female population 15 years of age and over by age and number of live births in last 12 months. (Table 28)
12. Female population 15 years of age and over by age and number of children born alive in last 12 months and still living.
13. Female population 15 years of age and over by age and number of children born alive in last 12 months but no longer living.
14. Number of deaths in last 12 months by sex and age of decedent (Table 29)

Tabulations Based on Additional First Priority Items:

15. Population by marital status, age, and sex (Table 7)
16. Population 10 years of age and over by type of activity, age, and sex. (Table 9)
17. Economically active population by occupation, age, and sex. (Table 11)
18. Economically active population by occupation, educational attainment, age and sex. (Table 23)
19. Female population 15 years of age and over by age, number of children born alive, and educational attainment. (Table 24)
20. Number of households by size of household and occupation of head of household (by a maximum of 10 categories of occupations)
21. Occupation of head of household (by a maximum of 10 categories of occupation) by number of children in household and age of wife.

Tabulations based on Additional Second Priority Items:

22. Population in households number of family nuclei by size of household and number of persons not living in households. (Table 4)
23. Economically active population by ethnic group (or citizenship), industry and sex. (Table 10)
24. Economically active population by ethnic group or citizenship, occupation age and sex. (Table 11)
25. Economically active population by ethnic group or citizenship, status, age, and sex. (Table 12)
26. Economically active population by ethnic group or citizenship status, industry, and sex. (Table 13)
27. Economically active population by ethnic group or citizenship status, occupation and sex. (Table 14)
28. Economically active population by ethnic group or citizenship, industry, occupation, and sex. (Table 15)
29. Population 10 years of age and over by literacy, ethnic group or citizenship, age, and sex. (Table 16)

30. Population 5-24 years of age by school attendance, educational attainment, age and sex. (Table 18)
31. Population 5-24 years of age by school attendance, single years of age, and sex. (Table 19)
32. Population not economically active by functional categories, age and sex. (Table 22)
33. Population by citizenship or ethnic groups by age and sex. (Table 25)
34. Female population aged 15 years of age and over by 5 years age groups, number of years since first marriage, and number of children born alive. (for rural and urban populations only) (Table 26)
35. Economically active females by 5 age, marital status, and number of children below school age. (for rural and urban populations only) (Table 27)
36. Population of urban agglomerations by duration of residence, age and sex. (Table 30)
37. Population of urban agglomerations by place of usual residence, place of previous residence and sex. (Table 31)
38. Population by religion, age and sex. (Table 32)
39. Married males by number of wives and age. (Table 33)
40. Population unemployed in the reference week by work status in the past 12 months, age and sex. (Table 34).