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STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS
AND RESEARCH IN THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

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STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS
AND RESEARCH IN THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

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ANNEX: TABULATION OF MOST RECENT CENSUSES

I. SOURCES OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. The main sources of demographic data relating to the two Rhodesias and Nyasaland are summarized below:

(a) Population Censuses

2. In the case of Southern Rhodesia reports have been published on eleven territorial censuses held between 1901 and 1951. For Northern Rhodesia there have been reports on five censuses held between 1911 and 1951 and for Nyasaland there are reports on six censuses held between 1901 and 1945. In addition figures for each territory are given in the report on the Federal census held in 1956 and similar figures are being given in the reports, which have not yet been completed, on the 1961 Federal census.

3. All these reports give details in respect of the non-African population. In addition those relating to censuses in Southern Rhodesia since 1921 to Northern Rhodesia from 1931 and to Nyasaland since 1956 also give details of the countries of origin and the industrial distribution of African employees in the money economy as reported by the employers.

4. Most of these census reports also give some estimates of the total African population, but the first attempt to count all Africans was a group enumeration undertaken by the Nyasaland Government in the 1945 census of Nyasaland. An individual enumeration of Africans in Southern Rhodesia, the first of its kind in the Federation, was completed by the Central Statistical Office in May, 1962. Only a few brief statements on the results have been published to date. More detailed reports will follow. Similar censuses are planned for Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland next year.

(b) Large Scale Demographic Sample Surveys

5. There have been three sample surveys of the rural African population, including studies of birth and death rates. One in Southern

Rhodesia in 1948, one in Northern Rhodesia in 1950 and a second in Southern Rhodesia over the years 1953-55. The Northern Rhodesia 1950 survey also covered the urban areas.

6. More detailed surveys of the age and sex composition and of various other personal characteristics of the African population have been undertaken by the Central Statistical Office in the main urban areas of Northern and Southern Rhodesia over the years 1957 to 1960. The Rhodes-Livingstone Institute has also published reports on the Northern Rhodesia towns and the Blantyre-Limbe area of Nyasaland.

(c) Other Reports

7. Annual estimates of population, quarterly estimates of the industrial distribution of employees in the money economy, monthly non-African migration statistics and European vital statistics are given in the Monthly Digest of Statistics. Further estimates relating to the indigenous African population, i.e. excluding migrants from neighbouring territories, are given in the annual reports of the territorial departments dealing with African affairs. Partial figures on African migration are given in the reports of territorial departments dealing with African affairs and also in those dealing with labour. The annual reports of the Secretary for Health give partial figures on African deaths.

II. CHECKS ON ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS

8. The Central Statistical Office has not yet attempted to undertake a systematic post enumeration sample check on the accuracy or completeness of a census. A limited amount of checking is undertaken in the field during the enumeration stage of a census or survey, all returns are subsequently scrutinized in detail for internal consistency and as far as possible the final tabulations are checked against information available from other sources before being published.

9. For the field checks district supervisors or their assistants are required to check the work of their enumerators, particularly during

the first few days of the exercise, by comparing the results obtained by the enumerators with answers obtained from the households by the supervisor or his assistant. Pressure of work and a shortage of staff precludes any large-scale checking along these lines, but this method has led to the detection of some errors and on a few occasions a re-enumeration of a small area has been called for.

10. Other checks undertaken at the district level particularly in the rural African areas, take the form of a post enumeration scrutiny of the returns to see that all known villages have been included. In urban areas the returns are as far as possible examined to see that all known dwellings have been recorded.

11. At headquarters the returns are scrutinized in detail and wherever possible further information is obtained from the respondents by means of postal enquiries to clarify apparent inconsistencies and to complete the form where one or two items have been omitted from the original return. A study is also being made to check the consistency of the figures relating to employees as reported firstly, by employers in the September 1961 census, secondly, by the non-African households in the September 1961 census and thirdly, by the African households in the April/May 1962 census of Africans in Southern Rhodesia.

III. OTHER ANALYTICAL STUDIES

12. Apart from the checks on completeness and consistency referred to above, the Central Statistical Office undertakes a wide range of other analytical studies, either in the preparation of the reports on the censuses and surveys or in response to special requests from government departments and committees concerned with economic and social planning and policy matters.

13. In so far as the studies made in the reports on censuses and surveys are concerned, these are primarily concerned with the examination of the changing structure of the population as revealed by comparisons with earlier censuses and surveys. The nature and scope of these

studies varies from time to time according to the staff available for such work. In some of the earlier reports details have been given of reporting errors in the census age distribution, life table calculations, the adequacy of housing, migration movements and fertility of the non-African population.

14. A detailed study of fertility and mortality of Africans was made in the report on the 1953-55 demographic sample survey of Southern Rhodesia. This dealt with birth and death rates, gross and net reproduction rates, a crude age distribution and certain life table functions. The basic information under examination comprised births and deaths reported in the survey for the previous twelve months, and reports from the adult women of the total children ever born and the number of these still living at the date of the enquiry.

15. Further studies relating to the African population were given in the reports on the urban sample surveys of the main towns in the two Rhodesias between 1957 and 1960. These covered such projects as the general level of education, size of families and adequacy of housing, and the relationship between standard of education and income.

IV. ANALYTICAL WORK ON MOST RECENT CENSUSES

16. Details of the tabulations being undertaken for the last three censuses are given in the Annex. These cover the September 1961 Federal census of non-Africans, the September 1961 census of employees which took the form of returns completed by the employers and finally the April/May 1962 census of Africans in Southern Rhodesia.

17. The details of each of these censuses is being released in three stages. Firstly, there is a series of short press releases giving broad details as they become available : To date there have been two issues in this series relating to the non-African population, three issues on the results of the census of employees and one on the African census. Secondly, a series of more detailed preliminary reports, of which there

has so far been one each on the non-African population and on the census of employees, are being prepared. Thirdly, there will be a final report on each of the censuses combining and expanding the details given in the preliminary reports.

18. Government departments and committees concerned with planning and policy matters are being provided with advance information as required. To date preliminary unchecked figures of the geographical distribution according to the April/May 1962 census of Africans in Southern Rhodesia have been given to the Ministry of Health and a number of local authorities. The Federal and Territorial Departments of Education have been provided with information on the age distribution. Details on the occupational and industrial structure of employees have been provided to assist with a man-power survey.

19. A detailed study has been made of the trends in the supply of and demand for labour and also of the unemployed for (i) a Federal committee studying the overall unemployment problem, (ii) a Southern Rhodesia Commission examining the economic structure of the territory with particular reference to African Agricultural policy and (iii) a Southern Rhodesia Parliamentary Select Committee reporting on the establishment of an Unemployment Insurance System.

20. The Central Statistical Office will also shortly be undertaking a study of why the results of the 1962 census of Africans in Southern Rhodesia are twenty per cent higher than was expected. A preliminary examination of the discrepancy indicates that it is due to under-estimates in the locally born population and in the rate of natural increase as given by the 1953-55 survey rather than to under statements in the estimated number of immigrants. The most disturbing factor is the indication that the rate of natural increase may be well above the 3 per cent per annum used in past estimates for an upward revision of this figure could have serious repercussions on most development plans, particularly those relating to food supplies, health and educational services and the provision of employment opportunities.

V. DIFFICULTIES OF DEVELOPING WORK ON EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS

21. In the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland the difficulties encountered in demographic work may be summarized under two headings namely (a) the practical difficulties of collecting reliable basic facts and (b) a shortage of suitably qualified staff.

22. The practical difficulties arise from the facts that the majority of the public are illiterate, live in widely scattered villages, still have many taboos and superstitions and many of them still have only a rather vague knowledge of the dates of important demographic events. These factors seriously restrict the scope of most demographic surveys, and increase the time and cost of an enquiry.

23. Added to this there is a shortage of suitably qualified staff to undertake the field work, to attend to the supervision and control of enumerators and to undertake the necessary scrutiny and study of the results. The only point at which little or no difficulty is experienced in recruiting suitable staff is with clerical labour for the coding and summarization of the returns.

24. The supply of people with a sufficient standard of education to undertake elementary enumeration work is improving rapidly, but it will probably remain a problem in Nyasaland for a longer period than in the two Rhodesias. The supply of staff available to attend to the direct supervision of enumerators and the detailed district organization of a large-scale enquiry is also improving, but it is on the whole limited by the availability of suitable executive and administrative officers in the government services. At the higher levels the Central Statistical Office has experienced great difficulty in recruiting professional staff, but it has now made arrangements for the training of officers at the newly formed University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. However, it will be several years before the first recruits are qualified as professional officers.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES AND APPLICATION OF RESULTS

25. As indicated in the preceding parts of this paper, all the major demographic studies in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland have been undertaken by the Central Statistical Office. Other government agencies and a small number of private institutions, particularly the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute which is part of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, have undertaken a few small-scale enquiries. However, with the exception of the University College they have little or no staff with any professional training in statistics or demography.

26. The agencies of government which have an important interest in the results of demographic studies as an aid to economic and social policy-making and planning are extensive. In the Federal Government the more important ones are probably the Ministries of Economic Affairs, the Treasury, Health, Agriculture, Education and Commerce and Industry. In the three Territorial Governments the more important are probably the Provincial Administrations, the Ministries of Finance and the agencies concerned with African Education, Labour, Town Planning, African Agriculture, Housing and Social Welfare.

27. Apart from the published reports on censuses and surveys, as indicated previously, the interested government agencies are provided with memoranda giving further details of the enquiries and estimates and projections according to their special needs. The staffs of both the Central Statistical Office and the University College are generally freely available to help agencies (government and non-government) by giving expert advice at meetings and discussions.

ANNEX

TABULATIONS OF MOST RECENT CENSUSES

A. September, 1961 Federal Census of Non-Africans

(1) Tabulation of all returns:

This will be confined to a detailed geographical tabulation of Europeans, Asians and Other Non-Africans by sex.

(2) Tabulations of 10 per cent sample of returns for speedy release of main results:

(i) tabulations by race, sex and territory relating to type of dwelling, individual years of age, marital status, religions, citizenship, birthplace, length of residence, income group, industry, distance to work, size of family.

(ii) cross-tabulation of males and females of each race within each territory: marital status by five year age groups, main religions by ten year age groups, citizenship by birthplace, locally born population by five year age groups, birthplace by length of residence, income by length of residence, income by industry, income by occupations, income by employment status, occupations by industries and employment status, married women by industry.

(iii) Urban areas only: number of motor vehicles, number of dwellings by type and terms of occupancy, houses and flats by terms of occupancy, rent or mortgage payments by number of rooms.

(3) Final tabulation of 50 per cent sample of returns:

(i) details as in 2(i) above for each district

(ii) details as in 2(ii) and (iii) above

(iii) further tabulations for urban areas:

number of persons per dwelling by type of dwelling and number of rooms occupied, various others required for town planning purposes and social studies by local university details of which have not yet been finalized.

B. September 1961 Federal Census of Employees

(1) Tabulations of all returns by race, sex and districts:

Numbers employed by industries, total wages by industries, vacancies and new engagements by industries.

- (2) Additional tabulations in respect of African employees for each territory and large districts:

Countries of origin and wage distribution analysed by industry of employer.

C. April/May 1962 Census of Africans in Southern Rhodesia

- (1) Tabulations for each district of each characteristic recorded i.e. number of huts or rooms, epileptics, totally blind, persons who have lost use of limbs, males and females by three broad age groups, persons born in and outside Southern Rhodesia, persons at school by standard of education, other persons by standard of education and finally employment status of males over 16 years of age distinguishing between

- (i) self employed
- (ii) employees of Africans
- (iii) Other employees
- (iv) unemployed and seeking work
- (v) Others neither working nor seeking employment.

- (2) Additional tabulations, probably by districts or provinces, from a 5 per cent sample of returns: number of persons per dwelling by number of rooms in dwelling, individual years of age of persons born since 1946, age by birthplace, and by standard of education, disabled persons by age and employment status where applicable, males aged over 16 years by employment status by age group, by territory of birth and by standard of education.

- (3) Finally a summary from the full returns of persons in each enumeration area subdivided by villages.