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Census methodological documents

With the support of UNFPA the State Committee on Statistics developed the following methodological documents during the second half of the year:

- Regulation on the procedure for processing and protecting personal data of the population census in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2021 for a pilot census;
- Instruction on the procedure for drawing up the organizational plan of the districts and cities for the Pilot Census in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2021;
- Guidelines for data entry, processing of materials and obtaining the final data of the pilot population census;
- Instruction on occupational safety for the instructor, the enumeration area manager, assistant head of the enumeration area;
- Instruction of occupational safety for the enumerator.

The group of local consultants worked with support of international census expert to develop the methodological documents counted above. To ensure the quality of the documents they were translated into English and disseminated among international experts. Received comments were shared with the Goscomstat for incorporation.

Meetings with the census staff at the State Committee on Statistics

On September 30, 2021 a meeting at the State Committee on Statistics (Goscomstat) with the participation of UNFPA's international consultant Ms. Galina Shcherbakova and the Head of the Department of Socio-Demographic Statistics of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS Ms. Irina Zbarskaya was organized.



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The heads and specialists of departments of Goscomstat and representatives of the territorial departments, responsible for ensuring the high-quality preparation of the pilot population census and the main population census in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which will be conducted in November 2023. The following issues were discussed and recommendations developed:

- The procedure for organizing work on the recruitment, selection and training of temporary census workers for the 2021 pilot census.
- The procedure for organizing work in all areas of the pilot population census in 2021.
- The procedure for organizing effective information and explanatory work for conducting a pilot population census.

Recruitment and training of temporary census staff for the Pilot Census



From August 2021 the advertisements on the recruitment of temporary workers as heads of enumeration areas and their deputies, instructors, enumerators were posted in the media, mahalla chats, on the websites of the employment services, Goscomstat, its territorial units and self-government bodies. The announcement included the information about duration of work, duties, requirements, and salary offered for each position.

The basic criteria for recruiting enumerator were that they should be aged 18 or over, be fit, of at least secondary level education and have good communication skills.

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Between 4th and 30th of October the trainings of workers involved in the population census was carried out in groups by categories of workers in all Pilot Census districts:

- from October 4, the heads of the census areas (CA) and their deputies - 3 days and 1 day of practical training in the field;
- from October 11, instructors and enumerators of locally-sited reporting stations - 2 days and 1 day of practical training in the field;
- from October 18, enumerators (in groups of no more than 25 people) 2 days and 1 day of practical exercises in the field.



Overall 100 heads of the CA and their deputies, 254 instructors and 1531 enumerators were recruited to conduct the Pilot Census in Uzbekistan.

UNFPA's International Expert Ms. Galina Shcherbakova and the Head of the Department of Socio-Demographic Statistics of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS Ms. Irina Zbarskaya and Ms. Zhanna Vasilevskaya, the Deputy chairperson of National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus took part at the trainings of the heads of the census areas and their deputies in Yukorichirchik district of Tashkent region and Yashnabad district of Tashkent city answered to the questions and gave their suggestions and comments.



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Training for journalists and bloggers as a part of awareness raising campaign

On 17th of September 2021, UNFPA, jointly with the In-Service Training Centre for Journalists of Uzbekistan in coordination with the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics conducted training for journalists and bloggers from Andijan, Tashkent, Khorezm regions and the city of Tashkent to increase capacity in producing high-quality publications and other media content on Census matters. The training was part of a wider information campaign aimed at raising awareness among citizens on the importance of participating in the census. In the first part of the training, Ms. Irina Zbarskaya, Head of the Department of Socio-Demographic Statistics, Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS and Ms. Galina Shcherbakova, UNFPA International Expert made presentations on the role of the media in raising public awareness on the census.



Mr Kobil Berdikulov, Head of the Census Department of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics explained the regulatory and legal framework for conducting a population census in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the activities carried out in the preparation process for a pilot census.

The second part of the training was conducted in interactive format. Ms. Nargis Kosimova, trainer In-Service Training Centre for Journalists of Uzbekistan, made a presentation on the specifics of preparing materials for the population census, explained the basics of fact-checking while checking census information. Participants worked in groups to prepare media materials and deliver the main messages to the audience. The ethical aspects of the work of journalists when covering the census process was discussed as well.





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The training course contributed in developing of series of publications on pilot census by participated journalist and bloggers. Some of publications could be reviewed on the following links:

<http://www.toshstat.uz>

<http://uza.uz/posts/303261>

<https://zarnews.uz/cli>

<http://murojaat24.uz/oz/main/news/cTCpawSUIr;>

https://uza.uz/uz/posts/mamlakatning-kelazhakdagi-rezhalarini-ishlab-chiqish-uchun-aholini-royxatga-olish-muhim_303261

International conference on the directions of census data use

On the 6th and the 7th of October 2021 UNFPA, in collaboration with the Research Institute "Mahalla and Family", under the Ministry of Mahalla and Family organized an international scientific-practical conference "Directions for the use of census data for Sustainable Development Goals" to strengthen the capabilities of data users for effective use of census results through the involvement of international and local experts.

This conference provided an opportunity to familiarize and expand the understanding of data users in Uzbekistan on effective and full use of the results of the population census by sharing international experience and by considering other information sources, such as GIS, thematic sample surveys and/or mobile data.

It is expected that the results of the census will be used to develop evidence-based policies in the planning and establishment of social infrastructure, improving the provision of services for the population, meeting the needs of vulnerable groups across geographical regions and support business among others.

The preparation and publication of the census results is a crucial step that requires good planning and building up the analytical capacity of state bodies, analytical centers and other stakeholders.



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Conference was supported by the UNFPA Regional Programme “CISPop: Better Data for Better Policies” and funded by the Russian Federation.

More than 20 international experts and specialists working in the field of population participated in the conference. Experts from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, World Bank, US Census Bureau and the leading experts from Azerbaijan, Austria, Belarus, Czechia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Netherland, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, USA, national statistical offices and leading think tanks made presentations and participated in discussions. It brought together experts, leading scientists and specialists from around the world.

The conference has provided an opportunity to familiarize and expand the understanding of data users in Uzbekistan and international participants on effective use of the results of the population census.

UNHCR supports collection of data on statelessness within population census in Uzbekistan

On November 10, 2021 the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR supported the collection of data on statelessness within 2023 national population and housing census in Uzbekistan, by donating 70 sets of tablets and 6 laptops to the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics.



The State Committee used this equipment to digitalize the data collection process during the pilot census rolled out in November 2021 in four districts of Uzbekistan, as well as the national population census scheduled in November 2023.

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UNHCR is pleased to assist Uzbekistan's collection, analysis and dissemination of data on stateless persons, in line with the principle of "leaving no one behind", to support the achievement of legal identity of all persons by 2030 (SDG 16.9) and other goals of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. Censuses provide a critical opportunity for governments to gather statistics and information on the situation of stateless persons. The census results can provide data on the number of demographic characteristics of stateless persons to inform the work of policy makers to study the causes of statelessness and how it can be speedily resolved and prevented in the future. When national censuses miss stateless persons, it can lead to skewed demographic estimates and inefficient allocation of public and private resources.

Pilot Census conducted

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers #710 approved on 11 November 2020 finalized key decisions and set the parameters of the Population and Housing census (PHC). The main census was shifted from 2022 to 1-25 November 2023, while keeping the Pilot census date in November 2021. Considering that pilot census is an important step to test all aspects of the census preparation before the main census the Government of Uzbekistan has carried out the pilot census on 1-25 November 2021 in Yukori Chirchik district of Tashkent region, Yashnabad district of Tashkent city, Khiva city of Khorezm region, and Khojaabad district of Andijan region. This territory covers 594 thousand people, which is 1.8% of the total population of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The enumeration stage of the Pilot Census was carried out using one of four methods of data collection:

- (a) Self-enumeration using an online questionnaire;
- (b) Household interview by interviewer at the dwelling using a paper questionnaire;
- (c) Household interview by interviewer at the dwelling using an electronic questionnaire managed on a tablet; or
- (d) Personal interview carried out at locally-sited reporting stations using the paper questionnaire.



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Internet based self-enumeration.

On November 1- 5, any citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan had an opportunity take part in the online pilot census by following this link:

<https://census.stat.uz/>

1,7% of total population in the pilot census areas were self-enumerated through internet. The highest share was in Yukorichirchik district of Tashkent region – 3,1%; the lowest was in Yashnabad district of Tashkent city – 0,9%; in Khujaobod district of Andijan region it was 2,05% and in Khiva city it was 1,4% respectively.

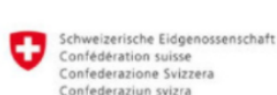


Observation Mission of international experts

To address some operational and technical challenges, international observation mission of the pilot census was conducted on 12-20 November 2021 in four pilot districts with support of the UNFPA.

The main objectives of the observation mission were to understand the potential issues and challenges, to assess the quality of the census enumeration process, its alignment with international standards and to draw recommendations to successfully conduct the main census. The observation mission consisted of experienced census professionals from CIS Stat, Belarus Stat, US Census Bureau, EU, UNHCR and UNFPA have visited pilot districts and developed recommendations. Prof. Vyron Kotzamanis expert from Greece, Dr Rosza Gabor expert from Hungary and Derek Azar from the US Census Bureau were deployed to Khujaobod district of Andijan region. Pilot census in Tashkent city was observed by Sherrell Goggin from US Census Bureau and Marin Roman, Regional Protection Officer with UNHCR.

On November 13, 2021 observation mission started from the Kickoff meeting. The head of the census department familiarized international experts with the achievements in preparation to the pilot census. The organizational and logistic issues discussed as well.



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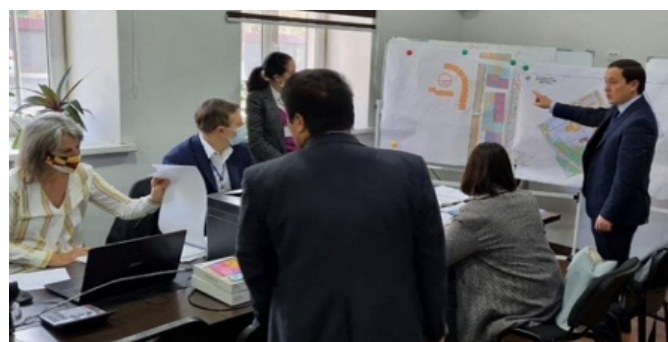
The observers were divided into groups and deployed during the ongoing data collection phase of the Pilot into four regions. On November 15th-16th two days site visits were arranged. The pilot census in Yukorichirchik district of Tashkent region was observed by Ian White, international expert from UK, Zhanna Vasilevskaya from the National Statistical Committee of Belarus, Michelle Jouvenal from the Italian National Institute of Statistics.

Galina Shcherbakova UNFPA's international expert and Galina Selishcheva from Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS visited Khiva city to observe the pilot census activities.



Prof Vyron Kotzamanis expert from Greece, Dr Rosza Gabor expert from Hungary and Derek Azar from the US Census Bureau were deployed to Khujaobod district of Andijan region. Pilot census in Tashkent city was observed by Sherrell Goggin from US Census Bureau and Marin Roman, Regional Protection Officer with UNHCR.

Each group of observers managed to visit a substantial number of census areas and instructor stations and familiarize with the organization of interview and filling out the paper census questionnaires by enumerators, observed the interview by the enumerator of locally-sited reporting stations, talked with the field census enumerator, those who came to the instructor station, who used a tablet, etc.



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Publicity of the Pilot Census



Each enumerator was equipped with the census branded bag, scarf, gloves and umbrella. UNFPA supported Goscomstat with the publicity materials (billboards, flyers, posters) for the pilot census. During the observation mission observers highlighted that publicity materials were visible in all locations visited.



Debriefing meeting

On November 19, 2021 Goscomstat and UNFPA organized a debriefing meeting on preliminary findings and recommendations of the international observation mission of the pilot population census in Uzbekistan. International observers have noted the impressive progress made in a short period of time by the State Committee on Statistics for census preparation despite the challenges and lack of experience in conducting a population census. Recommendations on further improvement of the regulatory framework, methodological documents, cartographic materials, census personnel recruitment and training, awareness raising, and information campaigns have been developed and shared





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Challenges and the way forward

The State Committee on Statistics is to work on:

- Developing the draft Governmental resolution to change the data collection methodology of the main census to CAPI data collection (tablets)
- Revising the main methodological documents
- Processing of the Pilot census data
- Mapping for the whole republic
- Coordinating the further improvement of the data management system
- Developing the specifications of the tablets and its procurement
- Revise the questionnaire content
- Update the training curriculum
- Raising awareness of the population on the population census

Key issues to be discussed in 2022

- Government decision on the methodology of the main Census
- Census Budget
- Mapping
- Data management system
- Recourse mobilization for procurement of tablets
- Questionnaire content

Resource Mobilization

UNFPA allocated \$ 170,980 to support census preparation activities during 2021 for the trainings of the temporary Pilot census staff, support to awareness raising campaign and other activities.

The Government of Russian Federation supported UNFPA's activity on technical assistance on the census in Uzbekistan through the regional programme "CISPop: Better Data for Better Policies" in the total amount of \$ 140,893.

UNHCR provided support for the census preparation procuring the tablets in the total amount \$25,000 in 2021.

In addition to financial support, experts were provided by EU, CIS Stat and US Census Bureau to support the pilot census.