Draft of Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On measures for radical reform of the statistical system in the Republic of Uzbekistan’

Currently the draft of the Decree is under consideration by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Presidential Administration and is being finalized by the State Statistics Committee. Decree includes the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020–2025, developed with the assistance of the World Bank, as well as the Road Map for its implementation. It is envisaged to establish a National Statistical Committee (Natstatcom) on the basis of the State Committee on Statistics. Draft Decree includes articles on strengthening census activities, Civil registration of vital statistics (CRVS) system, gender statistics and SDG statistics in Section V. “Improving particular statistical areas and methodologies”, Sub-section 1. “Strengthening the capacity of the statistical system in the field of censuses”. The draft Decree stipulates the creation of a census department in the structure of the National Statistical Committee.

The winners of the Census logo and slogan are determined

On March 11, in collaboration with UNFPA a contest for the best census logo and slogan was announced on the official website of the State Statistics Committee (www.stat.uz). A total of 19 applications were received. Out of these applications, 38 design proposals were submitted for the best logo and 99 for the best slogan. Based on the selection results the “Best Slogan” nomination was awarded to Isakov Hasan Rustamovich, for the following proposed slogan:

«Yangi O‘zbekistonning bir qismi bo‘ll!»
«Become a part of the new Uzbekistan!»
«Стань частью нового Узбекистана!».»

The “Best Logo” nomination was awarded to Aladdin Design advertising agency. The selected logo and slogan will be used as a brand of population census in the Republic of Uzbekistan in the preparation and conduction of the 2022 census.

COVID19 impact to preparation of census in Uzbekistan

In spite of strict lockdown and quarantine situation with COVID19 during April–May, Goskomstat continued to work, albeit in a limited mode (only administrative staff has access to office) on preparation of census and some activities performed in distance. The Census calendar for preparation of census activities and conducting pilot census 2020–2021 is being updated accordingly taking into account the implication of the Covid19.

Census methodological documents

During the second quarter UNFPA supported Goscomstat to develop census methodological documents – Technical specifications for cartographic materials and elaboration of official census web-site. The group of local consultants works with support of international census experts: Ms. Natalia Stankevich (Belorusia) and Ms. Luisa Engracia (Philippines).
Technical specifications for the development of cartographic materials for the census completed and agreed with the State committee on statistics and State Committee on land resources, geodesy, cartography and state cadaster. This document is developed based on the Recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians of the United Nations (UNECE) under the Census Round program 2020. The document includes technical specifications for cartographic material and requirements for schematic maps and plans, scales for regional and district centers, schematic maps of areas and their scales, content of cartographic kits, and other requirements.

Schematic plan of makhalla borders in Bogot district (Khorezm province)

Map of makhalla territory in Yangiyul district with the marks of the boundaries of areas, streets, buildings etc.

Official web-site on PHC in Uzbekistan

IT specialists of the State committee on statistics are currently working on creation of a web-site on census in partnership with UNFPA, the testing version of which will be available at the link census.stat.uz in June 2020. The web-site will be in three languages (Uzbek, Russian and English) and will contain all related information on PHC in Uzbekistan: legislative and normative documents, news, census methodological documents and instructions, data section and other updates from the State committee on statistics.
Draft of Census questionnaire discussed between State committee on statistics and line ministries

The first discussion of the initial draft of census questionnaire, developed by the State committee on statistics, was organized during the webinar on 2nd June, with participation of the Ministry of finance, Ministry of higher education, Ministry of public education, Ministry of labor, Ministry of health, Ministry of economic development and poverty reduction, Committee on tourism and Committee on archiving. The discussions yielded a number of comments and proposals as well as corrections in formulating questions.

Comments and proposals on the census questionnaire will be submitted to the State committee on statistics by the line ministries officially during June. Meanwhile, the State committee on statistics created a telegram group for the members of the working group from the involved ministries called Population census (questionnaire) which will be devoted for discussion of questionnaire and other census activities in a more informal and interactive form.

European Union preparing a census workshop/webinar

EU in cooperation with the State committee on statistics is organizing a webinar on population and housing census on 30 June 2020. The webinar will serve as a pre-session for the upcoming 2-day TAIEX-DEVCO Peer-to-Peer Workshop foreseen in autumn 2020. The objective of the EU TAIEX support is to enhance the knowledge of the State committee on statistics and the State committee on land resources, geodesy, cartography and state cadastre (SCLRGCSC) on cartography and data processing techniques. As a result of the online pre-session and succeeding workshop, the participants shall be able to identify

a) key factors to be taken into account for planning in the different census areas,

b) methods for data collection, IT systems and data processing phases,

c) methods for evaluating the census operation in terms of census coverage and data quality.

Additionally, the participants should be able to envision the immediate next steps after conducting the census and the role of communication activities as they directly affect the current planning stage as well.
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Challenges and way forward

Census office/department will be established in the structure of the State committee on statistics (new National Statistical Committee) in the frame of approved Decree on radical reforms of the statistical system. Meanwhile, State committee on statistics is working on:

- Updating census calendar and census operational plan
- Finalizing the census questionnaire and development of manuals and instructions documents
- Continuing to prepare and finalize main methodological and organizational provisions for conducting a Pilot census of 2021
- Developing legislative and normative documents regulating organization of PHC and the pilot census and preparation of drafts Decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan:
  - "On measures to organize and conduct a population census of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022"
  - "On the organization of the census of 2022"
  - "Program of the census of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2022"
  - "On the procedure for disseminating the final data of the population census of 2022" and other documents
- Preparing cartographic materials for the Pilot census, including coding of street names, numbering of houses and apartments in the Yashnabai district in Tashkent and the Kuyirchikchik district of the Tashkent region that were selected to carry out pilot census;
- Data management: Preparation of procurement documentation for census software, services to create a data entry system and data processing obtained during the census
- Preparing a series of training for regional departments of Goskomstat to introduce census plans and organization of pilot census as well as questionnaire and its instructions.

Key issues to be discussed in Q3 2020:

- Revision of the Census calendar for 2020-2021 in the light of impact of COVID19
- Date of pilot census - April 2021
- Location of pilot census - 2 districts: Yashnabad district of Tashkent city and Yukorichirchik district of Tashkent province

Resource mobilization

In spite of the joint efforts of the UNFPA CO in Uzbekistan with the Swiss embassy and Russian statistics project to provide technical assistance in improving census plan and developing census manuals and instructions, there are some gaps remaining in preparation of census till the end 2020:

- Series of workshops on instructions of census questionnaire for the staff of regional departments of Goskomstat
- Printing manuals and instructions
- Procurement of special bags for enumerators and census staff to Pilot census in 2021
- Procurement of IT equipment for central and regional statistics departments
- Technical assistance and expertise in data management and formulating technical specifications for procurement of census data software.