

Progress to date

Law on census: The Law on census was approved by the Senate on 28 February 2020 and approved by the President of Uzbekistan on 16 March. The Law stipulates the objectives of the census in Uzbekistan, the conduct of census every 10 years, and its authorization by the President, etc. The Law also made clear that results of census data will be publicly available for legal entities and individuals and will be posted in the media and on the official website of the State Statistics Committee.

Census Methodology: As the preparation of the Population and Housing Census (PHC) continues, the State Statistics Committee has made a few key decisions on the methodology. The 2022 census will be paper-based (PAPI), manual entry of data, and preparation of cartography using satellite imagery. The decision enables the preparation of census plan and census budget.



Capacity development:

Study visits: January 2020. Study tour to Azerbaijan was organized for the State Statistics Committee and the State Committee of Geodesy and Cadaster staff. Based on learnt experience, the Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan made key decisions on using paper based questionnaire and manual entry of data.

Census workshop: February 2020. A 5-day workshop for the State Statistics Committee and Committee on Land, Geodesy and Cadastre (Goscomzemcadastre) with Belarus expert Ms. Natalia Stankevich on population census issues was conducted. During the workshop following issues were discussed:

- Questionnaire for the census, main sections and questions;
- Cartography and provision of cartographic materials and technical requirements;
- Organization of work of temporary census staff and their training;
- Census budget and preparation of annual cost estimates for the preparation and conduct of the pilot census in 2021 and main census in 2022;
- Formulation of procurement plans, purchase schedules for goods and services for the census;



Belarus expert as well as previous international experts who provided TA on census in Uzbekistan strongly recommended the establishment of the Census department at the State Committee on Statistics.

Challenges and way forward

Proposed priorities (April - May 2020) - section II Census office/department establishment

It is also necessary to operationalize a strong, well-staffed and capacitated PHC office at central, region and district levels. Since the last census in Uzbekistan was conducted in 1989, the current staff at the State Statistics Committee, other national institutions at all levels needed to acquire knowledge about census, its organizational structure, their own roles and responsibilities. The main coordinating body within the State Statistics Committee, and census supervisors at regional and district levels require further support in strengthening their managerial and technical capacity to lead and coordinate the preparation and undertaking of the census.



Census budget, questionnaire, methodological documents and mapping

Currently State Statistics Committee is working on:

- Questionnaire will be shared with ministries and donors in the beginning of April
- PHC plan and budget will be shared in April
- Adoption of the legal and normative documents regulating organization of PHC and the pilot census
- Elaboration of technical details and requirements for the development of cartographic materials for the census.



Resource mobilization

The government allocation

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan allocated 30 billion Uzbek soums for 2020 for preparation of census to the State committee on Statistics. The census budget is being revised taking into account the recommendations of Ms. Natalia Stankevich. The initial proposal is close to \$150million.

Contribution to Multi-Donor Census Pooled Fund

- The \$166,000 Agreement between Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and UNFPA Uzbekistan CO was signed on 20 February 2020 in the framework of the Multi-Donor Pooled Fund for technical support to the preparation and conduct of population and housing census in 2022 in Uzbekistan.
- UNFPA allocated \$200,000 for 2020 which will be used for technical assistance, capacity development and establishing the census office.
- UNFPA launched regional project 'Strengthening Population Data Collection, Analysis and Utilization for Evidence-Based Policy Making in the Commonwealth of Independent States', funded by Russian Federation, which will be implemented by UNFPA EECARO during 2020-2021, in nine countries in the region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Uzbekistan mainly will be part of the component on Data Collection: Support the 2020 round of Population and Housing Censuses according to international standards. An allocation of around \$250,000 is proposed to support the Uzbekistan census in 2020.

