

Progress to date

Governmental Decrees and Resolution:

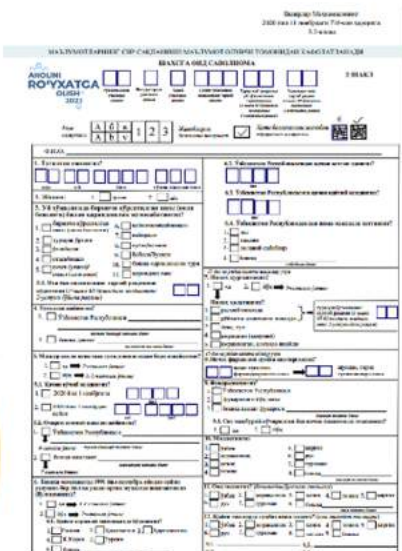
The **Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan "On measures to prepare and conduct the population census in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2023"** was approved on November 11, 2020.

According to the document, **the dates for the census of the Republic of Uzbekistan are determined for November 1-25, 2023**, the Pilot population census is planned to be held on November 1-25, 2021. The pilot population census will be carried out in Yukorichirchik district of Tashkent region, Khujaobod district of Andijan region, Khiva city of Khorezm region and Yashnabad district of Tashkent city i.e. two rural and two urban areas in very different parts of the country.

The Resolution approved the following documents:

1. The procedures of preparation and conduct of the population census in 2023;
2. Population census program (summary description of the census questionnaire);
3. The questionnaire (5 forms altogether);
4. The procedure for recruitment of individuals and legal entities to the population census and payment to their services;
5. "Roadmap" for the preparation and conduct of the population census in 2023 and dissemination of its results.

Census methodological documents



During the fourth quarter UNFPA supported the State Committee on Statistics to develop the following methodological documents:

- The main methodological and organizational provisions for the census in 2023 in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Instructions for the regional and district level statistical offices on compiling the lists of houses in urban and rural settlements;
- The document on organizational and methodological provisions of conducting the Pilot census;
- Instructions for filling out census forms;
- The document with the procedures to conduct the census in closed and special institutions;
- The regulation on job descriptions for census workers;
- The procedure for storing of the census questionnaires and documents, and the rules on their proper disposal;
- The procedure for organizing and conducting population census via internet in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- The procedure for the delivery, proper transfer and distribution of questionnaires and other census documentation for the 2023 population census in Uzbekistan.

The group of local consultants worked with support of international census experts: Ms. Galina Sherbakova (Russia) and Ms. Luisa Engracia (Philippines). Additionally, to the developed documents "Recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians on the Census of Population and Housing 2020" of the UNECE was translated into Uzbek.



O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI VAZIRLAR MAHKAMASINING
QARORI

2020 yil « 11 » noyabr

№ 710

Toshkent sh.

Ўзбекистон Республикасида 2023 йилда аҳолини рўйхатга олишга тайёргарлик кўриш ва уни ўтказиш чора-тадбирлари тўғрисида

"Аҳолини рўйхатга олиш тўғрисида"ги Ўзбекистон Республикаси Қонунида ва Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг "Ўзбекистон Республикасида 2022 йилда аҳолини рўйхатга олишни ўтказиш концепциясини тасдиқлаш тўғрисида" 2019 йил 5 февралдаги ПФ-5655-сон Фармонида белгиланган вазифалар ижросини самарали ташкил этиш, аҳолини рўйхатга олишнинг ташкилий ва методик принципларини, дастурий-техник таъминоти ва маълумотларни қайта ишлашнинг технологик қўлайлигини шакллантириш бўлимининг лавозим ва хўжалик бошқаруви органида,

Progress to date

Pretest in Tashkent city

Despite COVID-19 situation the first census field activity – a pretest of the Census questionnaire – was conducted by the State Committee on Statistics with the support of UNFPA, UNHCR, and financial support of the Embassy of Switzerland during November 3-6, 2020 in the “Donishmand” mahalla of Yashnabad district of Tashkent city. In total, 3584 persons living in 608 dwellings were covered.



Pretest in Tashkent region

The second pretest was conducted during 24-27 of November by the Statistics Committee with the support of UNFPA, UNHCR, and the financial support of the Embassy of Switzerland in the “Usmonobod” mahalla of Yukori Chirchik district of Tashkent region.

1912 persons living in 333 dwellings were covered in this round.



To ensure full protection during both pretest activities, UNFPA equipped Statistics staff and respondents with face masks and sanitizers, thanks to the financial support of the Government of Switzerland and UNHCR.

Seminars and webinars for the staff of regional units of the State Committee on Statistics

In order to prepare its Tashkent city branch staff to pretest the census questionnaire in “Donishmand” mahalla of Tashkent city, the Statistics Committee with the support of UNFPA, and UNHCR conducted a training.

Ms. Galina Sherbakova (international expert on Census) made a presentation and explained in detail how to approach respondents, how to correctly fill out the questionnaire and how to respond to questions asked by respondents, be short and consistent in their replies, and most importantly refrain from trying to interpret the census questions as that may mislead respondents and may jeopardize uniform approach to the administration of the census questionnaire. Instead the census staff was requested to note most frequently asked questions, and adequacy of explanations provided in the census instructions. Marin Roman (UNHCR) made a presentation and explained in detail the questions on the legal status of respondents, the member of households, and the ‘statelessness’ status to correctly document this in the census questionnaire.

The same training was repeated on November 23, 2020 for the 25 Statistics Committee staff of the Tashkent region before the pretest activities in Tashkent region during November 24-27. This workshop also included hands-on activities in groups that improved participants' ability to complete census questionnaires.



Progress to date

On December 10-11, based on the accumulated experience of two training workshops, and the results of two pretest activities, UNFPA with the financial support of UNHCR supported the training and experience sharing for 35 staff of their 14 regional offices: 12 administrative regions, Republic of Karakalpakstan and Tashkent city, thus scaling up the knowledge to all regions of Uzbekistan which did not have hands-on field experience with administration of the census questionnaire.

In addition to the discussion of the results of census questionnaire testing, and lessons learnt from experience, Ms. Galina Sherbakova also made a presentation on the roles of census management staff at regional, district and sub-district level, on how to effectively manage enumerators and processes to ensure successful completion of the exercise.



issues and challenges identified during Pretest

- ❑ The maps of the mahalla provided by the cadastral authority did not correspond to reality, which challenged the correct demarcation of enumeration areas, caused navigation issues on the ground for enumerators, and added work for them to mark additional dwellings and request for more questionnaires;
- ❑ Uncooperative, hostile families limited access to premises, to obtain reliable data, and sometimes perception of safety issues on the part of enumerators;
- ❑ Absence of respondents at home making them unreachable to the enumerators, and no reliable alternative information on such respondents to fill the gap;
- ❑ The size (volume) of the questionnaires. It was noted that filling out the questionnaires took a lot of time which may cause loss of attention, change of attitude towards enumerators and fatigue impacting the quality of the collection of data;
- ❑ Lack of awareness of the population about Census, it being viewed as personal data collection for something of no benefit to them;

The questions which were least welcomed by respondents:

- Question 18, "What is the amount of your monthly income?";
- Question 22, "Where is your place of work located?".

Challenges and way forward

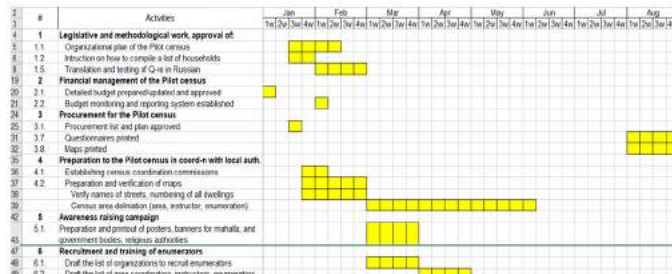
The main tasks of the State Committee on Statistics in 2021:

- ❑ Complete preparation of methodological documents training packages
- ❑ Working closely with local authorities and Cadaster agency to prepare accurate maps at required scale
- ❑ Create and test data management system for the Pilot census on 1-25 November, 2021.
- ❑ Prepare training packages, recruit census staff and train them
- ❑ Procure ICT, supplies, ensure availability of transport, storage and other services, office premises (contribution of local authorities mandated) in Pilot census districts, and their respective regions
- ❑ Raising awareness of the population on the pilot and main population census

Challenges and way forward

Key issues to be discussed in 2021:

- Preparation to the Pilot Census
- Pilot and Main Census budgets
- Data management system
- Maps for the Pilot census areas
- Training of census staff
- Internet based census



Resource mobilization

Development Partners' Financial Contribution to Census

The Government of Switzerland supported census preparation activities contributing to straighten capacities of the Census department by hiring an international consultant, facilitating preparation of a set of methodological documents, providing trainings on census preparation and management and covering basic needs in ICT equipment including 41 desktop all-in-one, 16 printers B&W, a color multifunction printer A3 and camera to start work.

No	Partners	Amount
1.	UNFPA	\$ 85,732.25
2.	The Government of Switzerland (through UNFPA)	\$160,000
3.	Russian Federation (through UNFPA)	\$ 20,000
4.	UNHCR (through UNFPA)	\$ 30,000

UNFPA supported study tours of Statistical committee staff to learn the experience of Belarus, Russia and Azerbaijan, and supported CIS-Stat Committee meeting in Tashkent which brought in experts on census to share experience with Uzbekistan. Also launched a Project "Multi-donor Pooled Fund for Technical Support to the Preparation and Conduct of Population and Housing census in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022 (Phase I)" and supported establishment of Development Partners' Coordination Group (DPCG) on PHC with participation of international organizations and embassies, including UNHCR. The main objective of the DPCG is to ensure a coordinated technical and financial support to the Goscomstat Uzbekistan to timely plan and implement the PHC 2022 which is in line with the United Nations principles and recommendations to PHC.

Additionally UNFPA procured 15 teleconference IT set to provide communication of the central office with regional units through conducting online meetings and PPEs for Goscomstat to carry out census preparation safely amid Covid.

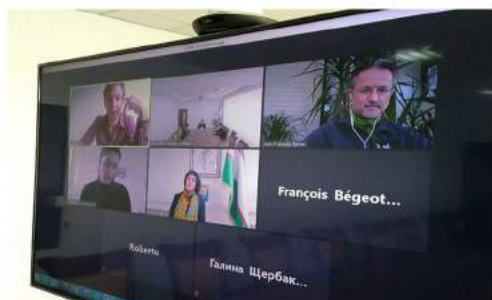
Within the framework of the Regional Project funded by the Russian Federation, Goskomstat and the CIS Statistical Committee are also closely cooperating on the preparation of methodological documents for the PHS. Experts of the CIS Statistical Committee V.L. Sokolin and I.A. Zbarskaya contributed with their knowledge and experience in the development of questionnaire and instructions for filling it out.

UNHCR supported the census efforts with high quality technical assistance, questionnaire-testing trainings, the contribution was also used to procure 19 computers for the newly created regional offices of the Census Department to quickly boost their operational capacity and accelerate census preparations.



The Delegation of the European Union to Uzbekistan provided technical support through the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) facility, organizing webinars to strengthen the capacity of the State Committee on Statistics, the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency. Through the seminar, the participants acquired knowledge and skills to identify methods for data collection and data processing systems, methods for evaluating the census operation in terms of census coverage and data quality, and methods for mapping.

Throughout 2020, experts from Czech Republic, Estonia and Italy, who conducted the webinar in June, were also providing their independent recommendations on the draft materials shared by the State Committee on Statistics such as the templates for questionnaires. Furthermore, the expert from Italy agreed to continue supporting the preparation of the census in Uzbekistan also in 2021 by sharing his experience in mapping.



The Embassy of France organized the webinar with the participation of French experts to share the France experience in conducting population and housing census.

US Census Bureau sent a technical and financial proposal offering support on spatial data integration, GIS and field mapping operations, developing an operational control system etc.

Estimated Pilot Census Budget

Total requirement for pilot census:	\$ 1 511,104
Committed	
Government	\$ 810,000
UNFPA	\$ 191,500
Russian Federation (through UNFPA)	\$ 242,904
Total	\$ 1 244,404
Resource gap	\$ 266,700