



Our Message

Census is a message of unity and consensus of all Iraqis. For the first time since two decades all Iraqis will be counted nationwide. UNFPA and other partners are helping Iraq to launch nationally endorsed & internationally recognized professional census.

Ali Baban,
Minister of Planning
Chairman of HCPHC



Iraq Census News

IPHCO9 on the runway



Newsletter on Iraq Population & Housing Census (IPHCO9), Issue IV, August 09

International Support and Recognitions of Census Methodology-ITAB-IC



UNFPA organized the first ICTAB (Iraq Census Technical Advisory Board) meeting in Amman 8-9 July 2009. In order to include both international and national dimensions, it was decided to change its name to become International Technical Advisory Board for Iraq Census (ITAB-IC). The meeting was opened by official speeches on behalf of Jordanian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) and Iraqi Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC). Paul Cheung, Director of UNSD and Hafedh Chekir, regional director-ASRO-UNFPA delivered two key note speeches. The meeting gathered experts from the Arab region as well as from developing countries and developed countries, regional and international commissions as well EUROSTAT, and United Nations experts from UNSD and UNFPA. The participants appreciated the creation of the ITAB-IC, which shows the commitment and professionalism of the Iraqi government in its preparation of the census.



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is too much condensed. President of COSIT expressed his deep appreciation for the valuable contribution and recommendations of the ITAB-IC and assured that the Census Higher Commission (CHC) will examine them carefully and review the census plan in consequence to ensure that the quality of census at least the same level as of the previous ones.

Another CTA mission to Baghdad and Erbil

UNFPA-CTA launched another mission to Baghdad to continue the UNFPA technical support to Iraq census. During this mission more technical meetings were organized with the top management of Iraq census to discuss the follow up on the international technical advisory board for Iraq census (ITAB-IC) meeting held in Amman 8-9 July 2009, and seek future scenarios in light of the recommendations of ITAB-IC. Additional meetings with the heads of quality control, training, technical executive directorate and publicity campaign were organized. It was agreed to develop a full fledged advocacy-communication and publicity campaign, and to add a new

component for quality control plan to focus on timely monitoring and control during different implementation stages. In addition, the CTA organized a workshop with all heads of sectors of IPHC09 and discussed the progress, identified potential areas which need more development. In this context, it was agreed to organize an additional mission within the coming two weeks to assess the maps and the work that has been achieved by cartography sector and sort out the problems raised during the discussion in regard to geographic preparations and development of census maps.

More News From CTA Office



Another mission was followed to Erbil to meet the census national team in Kurdistan region, This mission met with Mr. Uthman Shwani, Minister of Planning in Kurdistan region, Dr. Noori Unthman, President of Diwan and council of minister, and Erbil Governor. All KRG senior official expressed their utmost support to conduct the census ASAP, they also expressed their full support and satisfaction from the wise and professional leadership of Dr. Al-alak and appreciation to the support provided by UNFPA. In addition the CTA met the heads of statistical offices in Kurdistan region in addition to the national fieldwork team conducted the pilot census in Kurdistan region. It was confirmed the need to work on maps to sort out the difficulties faced during the pilot census.



It was also agreed that to conduct more missions in order to provide timely advice by UNFPA experts. On different note, the CTA office approached a number of high level educational institution to enroll 10 Iraqi national in Masters Programs tailored to the Iraq technical needs.



Iraq Population and Housing Census Between Politics and Development

Iraq has a long history of conducting population censuses. In fact Iraq started launching censuses before more than seven decades. 1977 census was the most remarkable census in recent census history in terms of methodology, implementation and timely production of statistics. The 1997 census did not cover three governorates in Kurdistan region. The population census is seen by most Iraqi officials and by the international community as a vital developmental initiative and potential peace making tool. In fact

COSIT badly needs the census to update the sampling frames, and the Ministry of planning and development Cooperation (MoPDC) badly needs the census for micro planning initiatives at the governorate and district levels. In addition, the local authorities including governorates municipalities and other small scale local authorities need the census as the only chance to produce detailed databases at the disaggregated level. But census is still facing a challenge of over politicizing its role. This came out when the reconciliation of

some politically based problems were linked to conducting a census to identify demographic structure in these areas. The census was postponed more than once due to these problems which do not seem to find solutions within the coming few months. In fact COSIT is mobilizing efforts for more than three years to launch the census. President of COSIT said that the census has to be launched soon noting that the technical team has already completed the forms, questionnaires, plans, and training of the fieldwork team.

IPHC09 in Progress: Test-implement-manage-supervise-monitor-evaluate

Technical Operations

Further changes were made by the technical sector on the definition of who is covered by enumeration in light of ITAB-IC recommendations. Accordingly changes on the population questionnaire is under process. The sector continued its effort to finalize classifications, manuals and other related forms and documents. The technical sector is also preparing the new scheduling of the census including the numbering, listing and training.



Fieldwork Sector

The fieldwork sector is engaged in the training of fieldwork staff who will assume the delineation and numbering in the urban areas. A number of training courses were conducted mid July for two weeks to prepare the team for conducting the first field operation related to delineation of Mahalla-district to complete geographic preparations. This sector has also evaluated pilot census fieldwork plan.

TRAINING SECTOR

The training sector organized training courses for the first wave of fieldwork staff. The training included field operations, maps, geographic divisions and classifications. The sector has also prepared a report on the evaluation of the training course conducted for the pilot census. A quality assurance procedures for training activities to ensure the high quality of training.



DATA PROCESSING

Data processing sector started the scanning for pilot census questionnaires. The scanning process is going smoothly with some delays due to creating a new frame of households to check the scanned questionnaires within the coverage tests. The sector has also organized a training course to transfer the knowledge gained in Cairo training to the census staff members.

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