

**Regional Training Course on Genderizing the Population and Housing Census**  
**12 – 16 July 2010 Chiba, Japan**  
**Country Report: Republic of Vanuatu**

**1. The Census Organization.**

a) Describe the organization responsible for the census of population and housing. What organization is responsible for the census?

The Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO) is a government institution empowered by legislation for its existence and for its role as an official entity responsible for collection and dissemination of official statistics. It is in this Act that has a provision for taking national censuses. Undertaking Censuses in Vanuatu has relatively a young history with the 2009 being the third official census after gaining its sovereignty as an independent nation. Censuses are undertaken on a decennial basis.

b) What is its relationship to the other organizations in the national statistical system?

The national statistical system comprises of different but main government and non government sectors particularly health and education, women, and church, all of provide the basic services to the development of the country. It also includes other socio-economic services such as labor and immigration, trades and government statutory bodies, all of whom contribute at different angles of the statistical system and have determined by different government policies.

c) How many persons in the organization are directly involved in the design, data collection, data processing, data analysis, and data dissemination of the census?

With the limited and smallness in size of the VNSO, persons directly involved directly involved in the design, data collection, data processing, data analysis, and data dissemination of the census is very small and often requiring technical support, mostly supplied from outside through regional and donor support.

d) Who serve as census enumerators? What are the criteria for selecting enumerators?

With the current level of literacy, the main approach used for gathering data in censuses and surveys and in Vanuatu is through face-to-face mode via interviewers otherwise known as enumerators. Due to budget limitations, VNSO does not have enough budget to retain enumerators, and taking into account the huge duration of interval between census and surveys, enumerators are therefore hired on ad hoc basis. Up to 800 individuals in total were engaged in different aspects of the census ranging from pilot testing, household listing, enumeration and data processing. Over the past censuses and surveys, the VNSO have developed a pool of interviewers, trained them and dispatched them to canvass the enumeration areas nationwide and conducting interviews.

In regards to the recruitment process, staff were selected on the basis of competence with consideration given to the use of the same staff for successive operations, thus reducing the turnover of personnel. A database containing a list of applicants from all over the country was used to finalize based on the areas where they reside and if they have completed 10 years of

education. This is the minimum requirement and it is assumed with that level of qualification, they should be able to execute the required knowledge gained through training appropriately.

e) Who serve as census supervisors? What are the criteria for selecting supervisors?

In addition, through collaboration with the Ministry of Education, they were able to provide teachers as trainers of enumerators. From the training of enumerators, supervisors were able to be identified based on their performance and ability to demonstrate good understanding of concepts as required. A ratio was used to determine the workloads of supervisors taking into account the number of subordinates and the area covered in terms of distance and accessibility.

## 2. The Census of population and Housing.

a) Describe the census of population and housing (to be) conducted as part of the 2010 round.

When will the national census be conducted as part of the 2010 round?

Vanuatu conducts national population and housing Census every 10 years. The 2010 Censuses round have actually been conducted in 2009 and is currently under the data processing phase.

b) What are the broad objectives of the census?

Censuses are international phenomenon and apart from being used to measure wellbeing and growth of the population, it also serves as a basic tool for planning for schools, health services, housing, and transport and electoral boundaries. It also provides a framework for future statistical surveys, used for projecting population growth into the future. The 2009 census also saw for the first time, the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in mapping of households. The GPS provides a powerful tool for analysing regional data and comparing with other geographic information

c) How are census results used in government? Please cite specific examples.

Census have wide range of objectives ranging from national policies, research and business purposes. Like the international priorities and obligations, each country have their own national priorities which tend to be in line with the international standards such as that of the MDGs. The Priority Action Agenda is the national priority areas of the government. Policies such as Elimination of gender disparities in education are in relation to Education and Human resource development priority. This indicator has been collected through censuses and administrative records and in most cases the census data being the common denominator. Through time, a series of data is being able to provide the trend on the progress and if the indicator is achievable according to deadlines set.

d) What is its geographic coverage? Are any parts of the population excluded?

Census by definition is a total count and in this instance, the national population and housing Census in Vanuatu is the total count of individuals and households who are in the country in the census night of 15 November 2009. The only groups of people excluded are the foreign diplomats resided in the country, otherwise all citizens and non citizens,

residents and tourists who are in the entire archipelago on the census night are basically counted.

e) What data items are (to be) included in the census?

Unit of collection	Data items	100 percent	Sample
On persons	sex	X	
	age	X	
	relationship to HOH	X	
	religion	X	
	biological parents	X	
	ethnicity and citizenship	X	
	place of birth and residence	X	
	disability	X	
	literacy		X
	level of education		X
	use of internet		X
	use of alcohol and tobacco		X
	Labor force and economic activity		X
	women's fertility		X
On households	household fishing	X	
	household income	X	
	household durables	X	
	household bed nets	X	
	household mortality	X	
	drinking water	X	
	washing water	X	
	toilet	X	
	lighting	X	
	Household solid waste	X	
	cooking energy	X	
	livestock	X	
	cash crops	X	
	On housing	type of living arrangements	X
housing material and rooms		X	
housing tenure			X
land tenure			X

f) Does the organization responsible for the census consult data users in the determination of the data items and questions to be included in the census? If yes, describe briefly how this is done and what broad groups of data users are consulted.

The initial questions were adapted from past censuses. A regional review of the census questionnaire for the 2010 round of census was made by the countries in the region particularly to

the core topics of the census. The combination of international and local questions formed the first draft.

In regards to consultation with data users, a national workshop was organised which gathered together users/stakeholders to comment on the draft. While most questions were ideal for the census, key ideas to consider in adopting the questions include its importance locally and internationally and its comparability. It was also noted that the load of questions should fit in an A3 double sized paper.

g) Based on your experience, who are the actual respondents – women or men?

In a country like Vanuatu where culture and tradition pretty much in existence with modernization, it is still a male dominated society in most aspect ranging from household to community and nation level of development. Since the census questionnaire is required to be answered by the head of households, it is mostly men who are head of households and most of the time it is the male who respond to the questions. However whenever the men are not available and are absent temporarily, either at work or in the garden, women tend to respond on their behalf.

h) How will the respondents be informed about the census? Describe briefly the messages, target audiences and media to be used.

Publicity is another important component of a census. Census communication and publicity was guided by a strategy, each targeting different levels or groups. Some of the approaches include TV and radio spots including radio talk-back show, print media advertisement including posters and T-shirts and information pack, Household stickers that were placed on household doors also contain a census message. There is also electronic message though intranet and e-mails. There were also community awareness particularly targeting village chiefs who tend inform the community about the census and its purpose and when to expect their areas to be visited.

i) Describe briefly the plan for census data analysis.

With the current demand for data and information, analysis of the census data will have different targets while keeping the tradition basic analysis for general users. There will be the preliminary results followed by usual basic stuff such as basic tables and this will be more specific demographic analysis focusing on key demographic areas that include fertility, mortality and migration.

j) What information are (to be) included in the census reports? Do you (plan to) have census reports about specific areas or groups of persons?

Now that Vanuatu has ratified several conventions such as CEDAW, CRC and Disability, specific analysis focusing in these areas will be made to outline the status and progress made. Data will be disaggregated by different levels such as sex, geographical level, economic activity and labor force.

k) How will the census results be disseminated?

Dissemination of the census results tends to be the last puzzle of the census operation and is whereby results are made available to potential users in their preferred format. Basically

there are different levels of different forms and range of products ranging from basic tables to details analysis.

Printed publications tend to be the main medium of publication in Vanuatu provided the limited infrastructure in information technology. The office website has been and will continue to serve as a medium for wider and international medium whereby different publications will be published online with no or minimal cost.

Since the last census, there has been development for the population Geographical Information System (PopGIS), a CDROM based production where information from the census are available in the lowest geographical level and with corresponding digital map production. This is considered a planning tool combining census information with geographical information and the ability to dig down to the lowest level of geography unlike past census outputs. This is a product that will be updated with more features such as comparisons with the last census.

**3. Gender Concerns.**

a) Describe the following briefly.

Does the government have a gender and development action plan? If yes, describe the three most important issues being addressed in the plan.

Under the Comprehensive Reform Program introduced in 1997, the Government introduced the Gender Equity Policy comprising nine benchmarks to improve the situation of women, three of which are shown on the table below

NINE BENCHMARKS OF THE GENDER EQUITY POLICY	RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM, SEPTEMBER 2006
1. Visibility and meaningful participation in decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Amend the People's Representative Act by 2007</li> <li>ii. Conduct awareness on fundamental rights, CEDAW and Quota Systems in 2007</li> <li>iii. Re-establish a Task Force to monitor the implementation of the Nine Gender Benchmarks in 2007</li> <li>iv. Amend [policies/Acts] for National Statutory Bodies to include 30% representation of females and stakeholder quotas by 2007</li> </ul>
2. Valuation of the contribution of women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Make relevant legislation to enumerate the important contribution of women by 2007</li> <li>ii. Give awards to recognize the contribution of women in community and Government</li> </ul>
3. Economic equality and independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Include women in National Committees by 2007</li> <li>ii. Amend laws that exclude women and gender equality terminology by 2010</li> <li>iii. Create equitable and healthy work environment</li> <li>iv. Increase female representation in employment positions in Government to 30 percent by 2010</li> <li>v. Carry out programmes that mentor, train and promote women into [higher salary scales] as a priority by 2007</li> <li>vi. Target annual collection of gender data (by sex) and sector for publication and distribution for Government by 2007</li> <li>vii. Reduce health risk of females at the workplace through supporting a Government worker's insurance legislation by 2007</li> <li>viii. Pass Equal Employment legislation, Equal Opportunity legislation by 2007</li> <li>ix. Create work for people with disabilities and toilets to cater for their needs by 2008</li> </ul>

*Source: Vanuatu Gender profile, 2007, Department of Women's Affairs*

b) What is the government organization or body primarily responsible for gender concerns?  
There have been several institutions advocating for gender concerns, all of whom have support from donor partners. The Department of Women Affairs which a public institution tends to play the leading role in terms of policies with support from NGOs such as the National Council of Women and the Women Center.

The Department of Women's Affairs have a manned post of a gender planner whose task is to ensure proper planning that included women and to also enforce gender issues at national level. Donor partners have also been implementing equal opportunities as public institutions and these have been reflected from job advertisements where women are encouraged to apply as well as stating the equal opportunities for applications.

c) Does the census organization have any links or coordination mechanisms with this organization or body?

The census steering committee comprises of main stakeholders and one of which is the women's group represented by the National Council of Women. Their role to provide advise particularly to the interest of women and the type of data of interest to be captured by the census.

d) Does the national statistical system (national statistical office) have a unit responsible for gender statistics? If yes, describe this unit and its relationship to the census organization briefly.

The Department of women's affairs is the official institution in reporting gender concerns. Gradually, with the government commitment towards gender policy, statistical activities have become conscious of gender issues and are starting to pick up on the relevant gender requirements. The National Statistics Office has been actively involved in these types of collections and reporting and has adopted the need for a focal point for gender issues as far as statistics is concerned.

e) Does the census organization conduct training on gender and development for its personnel? If yes, describe briefly.

Not quite that precise, but gender has become a topic in all statistical training and the personnel mostly involve in the analysis of statistics are well conscious of the gender requirements in Statistics and there have been intentions for gender training for personnel in near future.