



# Regional Training Workshop on the Implementation of the International Recommendations for the 2030 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Asia

28 September to 2 October 2026 | Chiba, Japan

## Concept Note

### I. Background and rationale

Population and housing censuses are the most comprehensive and authoritative data sources on the size and characteristics of a country's population. They form a cornerstone of national statistical systems, generating essential social, economic, and demographic data. These data provide the baseline evidence required for planning, policy development, implementation, and monitoring across geographical levels, sectors, as well as for research and analysis. Censuses also underpin many Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, enabling countries to track progress toward national and global development targets.

Since its first publication in 1958, the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* have been a pillar of the decennial World Programmes on population and housing censuses, setting out the standards, concepts, and methods that national statistics offices or other national institutions in charge of population censuses should follow to plan, organize, conduct, and use population and housing censuses. In March 2025, the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed the 4th revision of these *Principles and Recommendations*. As with previous versions, the revised guidance covers key census elements (characteristics, methodology, and content) and addresses several key emerging issues, such as the transition to alternative approaches from traditional methods, including the use of administrative data and other data sources, the integration of geospatial information with census data, emergency preparedness and contingency planning, and quality assurance.

The *Principles and Recommendations* play a vital role in harmonizing census practices globally. They help ensure that census data are consistent, comparable, and of high quality across countries or regions, and census rounds. For this reason, capacity-building efforts to support countries in effectively implementing these standards are essential aspects of census preparation.

Within the framework of the 2030 World Population and Housing Census Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Statistics Division, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will organize a regional workshop for selected countries in Asia. This regional workshop will be held in person from 28 September to 2 October 2026, in Chiba, Japan.

## **II. Objectives and expected outcomes**

The objective of this workshop is to strengthen the capacity of Member States to implement the recently endorsed *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Revision 4)* and to improve their overall preparedness for census-taking in line with international statistical standards.

More specifically, the training workshop is expected to:

- a) Improve participants' understanding of concepts and methodologies in the production of population and housing statistics, with some emphasis on the use of administrative data and other data sources
- b) Strengthen participants' capacity to implement the revised recommendations
- c) Facilitate regional cooperation and sharing experiences between countries
- d) Identify gaps and challenges in census-taking that need to be addressed and facilitate discussions around solutions to support the production of population and housing data
- e) Identify possible areas of technical support opportunities and partnerships with international and regional agencies.

## **III. Training design and content**

To achieve the learning outcomes and encourage active participation, this regional workshop will use a combination of formats including presentations, group discussions, and quizzes. In addition to covering the technical content, this workshop is designed to foster peer-to-peer learning by providing a platform for participants to share country experiences on their census of the 2030 round, as well as challenges encountered and lessons learned from previous census rounds.

Participants will be required to prepare and deliver country presentations on different aspects of their census plans and experience. Additional guidance and instructions will be

communicated to the selected nominee(s) prior to the workshop. An online pre-workshop meeting is expected to be organized with the nominees two weeks prior to the commencement of the training.

Furthermore, to support sessions on the use of administrative data for census purposes, the Self-Assessment Tool on Readiness to Use Administrative Data for Census (SATRAC)<sup>1</sup> will be shared with participating countries. All country teams will be expected to consult within their organizations with at least one key administrative data holder in order to complete and submit the SATRAC questionnaire prior to the workshop.

The training will cover new topics included in the revised *Principles and Recommendations*, which have been identified as challenges by countries in the global UNSD survey on the 2020 round of censuses,<sup>2</sup> including inter alia: census methods, census operations, integration of geospatial information and census data, census risk profile, coverage and data quality, census evaluation and quality assurance, data analysis and dissemination, and contingency planning. A draft agenda will be circulated to confirmed participants.

#### **IV. Target countries**

The workshop will target selected countries in Asia that have conducted or are scheduled to conduct a population and housing census in the 2030 census round, namely: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Timor Leste, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. In addition, Brunei Darussalam, China, Hong Kong, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Türkiye will be invited through self-funding arrangements.

Each target country is invited to nominate two qualified individuals engaged in census-related work, either two staff members of the national statistics office or other national institution responsible for the population census (census office), or one such staff and one staff of another relevant government agency. The following criteria should be considered for the selection of nominees:

1. For census office staff: technical staff, statisticians, or demographers responsible for the design, planning and conduct of the population and housing census.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/our-work/statistics/social/satrac>

<sup>2</sup> [https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session\\_56/documents/BG-3b-Survey\\_Report\\_and\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Topics-E.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_56/documents/BG-3b-Survey_Report_and_Analysis_of_Topics-E.pdf)

- Priority should be given to staff member(s) who have a strong understanding of census management processes and can actively contribute to discussions on the census of the 2030 round in their country.
2. For staff of other government agencies: technical staff from agencies whose primary responsibilities relate to establishing and/or maintaining population registers or civil registration and vital statistics systems, or that oversee maintaining authoritative geospatial data (e.g. National Mapping Agencies, Cadastral Authorities, etc.).

## **V. Language**

The working language for this training workshop is English. Hence, nominees for this workshop should be proficient in or have a very good understanding of English.

## **VI. Evaluation and certification**

Certificates will be issued to participants who attend and complete the workshop successfully. A workshop evaluation form will also be distributed for completion by participants.

## **VII. Resources or reference materials**

This training will draw on several resources, including the following:

- United Nations Statistics Division. [Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 4](#), United Nations, New York. 2025
- [Handbook on the Management of Population and Housing Censuses – Revision 2](#). United Nations, New York, 2021.
- UN Social and Economic Council. 2020 and 2030 World Population and Housing Census Programmes: [Report of the Secretary-General. United Nations, New York, 2025](#).
- [Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses](#), United Nations Statistics Division, 2022.
- [UNFPA eLearning Course: Transitioning to a Register-Based Census](#).
- [Self-Assessment Tool on Readiness to Use Administrative Data for Census \(SATRAC\)](#), ESCAP, 2025.