



Pre-Conditions for an Administrative Census in GCC Countries

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Introduction

The 2020 Population Census project is one of the priority projects for the Statistical Centre of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC- Stat) and the member countries. It is one of the projects that GCC-Stat seeks to implement in order to support the provision of quality harmonised statistics across the GCC.

The objectives of this project include supporting member countries to use administrative sources to conduct a harmonized population census in 2020. This is in line with international statistical developments that urge countries to use administrative records in statistical processes.

To assist countries in preparation for the 2020 Census, GCC-Stat has prepared a list of pre-conditions. These are the pre-requirements that need to be in place in a country to support the preparation and implementation of an Administrative based census.

The list is based on the UN Principles and Guidelines for Population



and Housing Censuses, Version 3, which was endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2015. It has been supplemented by the experiences of other countries who have used the Administrative Census approach.

The Pre-Conditions list focuses on the elements that need to be in place to ensure the right environment for a successful Administrative based Census. Statistics offices can use this list to help determine the feasibility of an Administrative Census, and as a base to review country preparations.

Subsequently, more technically orientated assessments will need to be conducted to determine whether the available Administrative Registers are statistically 'fit for use' in the Census. During the Administrative Census 'operations', a programme of testing and analysis will need to take place to determine whether the integrated administrative dataset meet the agreed set of User Requirements.

Pre-conditions

Appropriate Legislation

- Legislation directing National Statistics Office (NSO) to conduct a census, including maintaining confidentiality of census records
- Legislation authorizing NSO to access and use administrative registers for statistical purposes (including linking and matching)
- Legislation providing for the creation of a population register (if population register does not exist)

Strategic and Political Support

- Government and Political Support
- Partnerships in place with the administrative agencies who will provide the administrative data
- Public Support

User Requirements

- An agreed set of requirements (Data Basket) in order to meet the different information needs and reporting requirements, including community, national, regional and international information needs

Availability of Administrative Registers

- An established central Population Register exists (or is be able to be created for statistical purposes), with data of high quality and comprehensive geographic coverage. The Population Register must be well maintained and regularly updated. It must contain unique records, each with their own unique identifiers.
- An Address register exists (or is able to be created for statistical purposes) with unique identifiers and containing address and geography for any form of housing unit. A Register of businesses (profit/non-profit) may be helpful in preparing the Address Register.
- Specialist administrative registers containing information on the social and economic characteristics of people or information on the characteristics of buildings/housing units; must also exist. These registers also need to contain identifiers that can be used to link with the Population and/or Address Registers.

Statistical Use of Registers

- Population and Address registers contain unique records for each individual or address
- Population and Address registers, have the necessary identifiers to allow them to be linked and matched, including to other registers and to any data collected using traditional methods

Quality Frameworks

- Quality frameworks and assessment processes, have been set up to assess the statistical quality of the administrative data sources

Methodology

- Initial assessment conducted to identify what user requirements can be provided only by administrative data, and what may need to be collected using traditional methods
- Statistical methodologies are available and tested, to enable data linking, managing missing data, and managing data inconsistencies

Infrastructure

- Mechanism for collection of administrative data from the relevant authorities (e.g. via a government network)

Plan

- High level plan showing major steps, including decision points, tests and trials

Financial and Human Resources

- High level budget prepared and agreed
- Assessment made of the required skills to establish and implement an administrative census
- Necessary sets of skills available/ or able to be resourced to meet the timetable

Organisation of Census

- Organizational structure to manage the census, designed or set up in the NSO
- Governance arrangements (e.g. Census Committee) in place (within NSO and/or across government)

Key Definitions

The following definitions and terms are used.

Census

Population and Housing Census, undertaken to measure people, their characteristics and their housing situation.

Administrative Census

Census conducted by using data from administrative registers

Register

A systematic collection of unit-level data organised in such a way that updating is possible. Units in registers may include individuals, families, addresses, buildings, establishments, land areas, etc. Data about units will include facts or events, which are updated on a regular basis. Updating refers to the processing of identifiable information with the purpose of establishing, updating, correcting or extending the register.

Administrative Register

Records used in an administrative information system. Normally operated by central or local governments (e.g. municipalities)

Statistical Register

Database of statistical records created by processing data from administrative registers for statistical purposes. Can be created from one or more administrative registers.

Population Register

Record of all people in a country, and their vital events (births, deaths, marriage, divorce and migration). May be created as an administrative or statistical register.

Address Register

Record of all housing unit (Private or Collective) and/or addresses. May be created as an administrative or statistical register.

Specialist administrative register

An administrative register which serves a specific purpose or clearly defined purposes. (e.g. Education register)