

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

Coming Soon

- ICTAB meeting
- Quality Control workshop
- Pilot Census implementation
- Launching training in the governorates
- Launching publicity campaign

In this issue

Iraq Census: A new phase of development

IPHC09 as a national campaign

IPHC09 challenges

From CTA office

ICR transfer of know-how

IPHC09 classifications

From Kurdistan

IPHC09 News



Iraq Census News

IPHC09 on the runway



Newsletter on Iraq Population and Housing Census (IPHC09), Issue I, May 2009

IPHC09 towards a new phase of development and reconstruction

IPHC09 Legal Basis

The Presidential Council issued the legal basis for conducting Iraq population and housing census (IPHC09) according to the presidential decree number (32) of October 23rd 2008 and the Population and Housing Census law number (40) for 2008 which was published in the Iraqi Official Gazette No. 4095 of November 3, 2008. This legislation mandated the Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) to conduct IPHC09 under the guidance of higher Commission of IPHC09. The legal basis is an important steps towards launching IPHC09 as a legiti-

mate national initiative within Iraq's official efforts for development and reconstruction.

National Dimension

IPHC09 is a national campaign conducted by COSIT and oversight by the Higher Commission of population and housing census (HCPHC) chaired by Minister of Planning and development cooperation Ali Baban. HCPHC is composed of senior representatives of line ministries and public institutions. According to IPHC09 Master Plan, IPHC09 is managed on daily basis by the operations room chaired

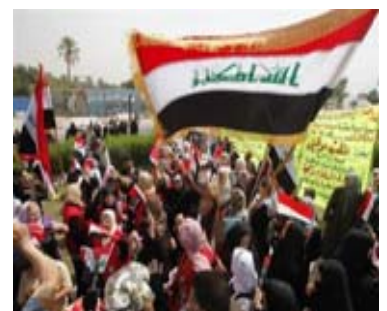
by Dr. Mahdi Alalak, President of COSIT. Another operation room was formed to manage the IPHC09 in Kurdistan region. According to IPHC09, a sub national committee will be formed in each governorate and chaired by the Governor. These committees include representatives from line ministries and public department in the Governorates. The committee will lead the efforts of the census in each governorate. In addition a number of national supporting committees were formed to mobilize human resources and publicity campaign. IPHC09 Master Plan identifies the different roles for line ministries and other public institutions, entities and civil society.

IPHC09 Challenges

Doubtless, the decision of launching IPHC09 is an outstanding one. But it is vital for development and reconstruction goals. In fact, IPHC09 is facing a complex of difficulties that the national census team has to tackle. A risk analysis, conducted by COSIT and UNFPA, resulted in: firstly, **obstacles** normally faced by census activities, such as recruitment and training,

fieldwork, data processing, management and technical problems, etc. Secondly, **challenges** which are caused by brain drain; where there is lack of expertise and lack of documentation for previous censuses, etc..., and thirdly, **risks** which are politically rooted such as counting the whole country, security situation and creating a national consensus on IPHC09. A risk management strategy

was drawn to tackle these difficulties, and the national team is hoping to succeed in managing all types of difficulties.



Role of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

In response to international requests and close consultation with Iraqi authorities, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) established Iraq Trust Fund (ITF). This fund included among other items a project numbered C-23 aiming at increasing national capacity to collect, analyze and use population data for policy formulation and planning with specific focus on census and large-scale surveys. UNFPA was mandated for undertaking with total budget estimated to 7.8 million US\$.



ITF contribution is 5 million US\$, Government of Iraq shares with 1.5 and the core UNFPA's budget 1.2 million US\$. UNFPA/Iraq is implementing this project in coordination with UNFPA's Arab States Regional Office (ASRO) and the technical support division (TSD) at the headquarters. The project focuses on capacity building, facilitation, training and technical backstopping to census implementation, analysis and utilization. At the technical level, UNFPA is working in coordination with other international partners. In this context and upon the request of Mr. Ali Baban, Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, UNFPA and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) started a process to establish Iraq Census Technical Advisory Board (ICTAB). This forum will include high level experts and census consultants from around the world. UNFPA is planning to organize the first ICTAB meeting in early June 2009. ICTAB will serve as an independent forum to technically observe compliance of IPHC09 undertaking with the international standards and procedures.

Tracking of UNFPA's Efforts Towards IPHC09

2006-2007

- November 2006 sensitization workshop to 21 members of HCPHC in Cairo to discuss census implementation and identifying its modalities.
- Three meetings in 2007 in March, April and August to facilitate COSIT-CAPMAS dialogue and to identify the capacity building and training packages for COSIT national staff to utilize scanning methodology and to identify their needs and specifications of technology required and modalities of mobilization.

2008-2009

- Expert group meeting in July, 2008 on census questionnaires and optical data capture where experts from Morocco, Sudan and Egypt presented their expertise to help IPHC09 national team to identify their own options regarding optical data capture.
- International expert meeting in January on census questionnaire and quality assurance of IPHC09. Experts from Arab region, Norway, UNSD and UNFPA discussed the compliance of census tool with international standards.

More News from UNFPA's CTA Office



UNFPA continued its efforts to provide sound and timely technical backstopping for IPHC09. In this context, Luay SHABANEH was recruited as Chief Technical Advisor for the IPHC09. We are

establishing a technical support network in Amman, Baghdad and Erbil in cooperation with COSIT to overcome the mobility and commencement problems, said Dr. Georgi, Representative of UNFPA to Iraq. The Technical Support Unit (TSU) based in UNFPA/Iraq office in Amman organized two technical meetings and one video conference in addition to one telephone conference as well as the daily contacts by e-mail and via internet to provide Iraq's national census team with the needed technical backup, said the CTA. A quality control training and planning workshop is planned early May in Amman to enhance the

newly established quality control sector within the structure of IPHC09. The TSU team finalized the revision of the census main tool and the technical field manuals, in addition to quality assurance activities on the provided training by Egyptian Statistics according to the signed protocol between COSIT and CAPMAS regarding the transfer of know how in the field of ICR technology. UNFPA organized also a study tour for COSIT experts to Morocco on scanning methodology.

Census Quality Control

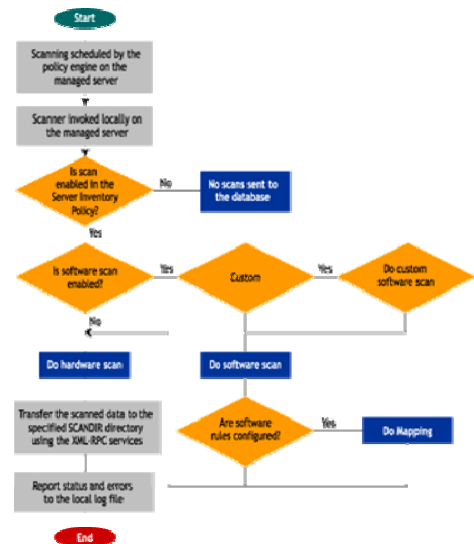


In accordance with role of UNFPA in IPHC09 undertaking, COSIT and UNFPA decided to pay special attention to quality control. In this context, COSAIT and UNFPA started the development of quality control (QC) manual. The main objective of this manual is to document and plan the quality control procedures that will be implemented to secure three main characteristics of IPHC09; namely **accuracy** of the outcomes, in terms of statistics and estimates relevance of census contents to make sure that the census satisfies the users needs and in line with their expectations, and timeliness of releasing the re-

sults to make sure timeliness of published results to enable user to utilize census results in due time, in addition to utilization of census cost. A special attention has been given to the process of how competent the census team in handling different activities. Therefore, COSIT established a stand alone sector for QC to handle and ensure quality control of census implementation. QC will be launched using a mixture of central and built-in procedures. QC is the responsibility of all heads of sectors and the documentation and assessment of QC will be mandated to the quality control sector.

ICR Transfer of Know-how

In line with the international recommendations to utilize ICR in census implementation, COSIT decided to use scanning for data entry and processing. ICR methodology will be utilized in the scanning process. Supported by UNFPA, technical assistance for the development of the software and transfer of know how is being provided by Egypt Statistics (CAPMAS) according to the signed cooperation protocol. UNFPA has contracted a private company to deliver the software and training on basic skills for using the software to the Iraqi nationals through a TOT modality. CAPMAS will customize the software and develop some routines and tools using the ICR methodology. Iraqi nationals will develop the databases and process the census data afterwards.



IPHC09 utilizes the up-to-date international classification

Within the framework of the preparation for launching the IPHC09, the census team prepared the main standard classifications which will be utilized during the census implementation phase. In this context, the national team, in cooperation with UNFPA's TSU, has finalized the Iraqi version of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) of 2008 in both Arabic and English. This version is in line with the ILO ISCO2008 and takes into consideration the Iraqi national needs. In addition, the Iraqi version of Standard

Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities have been prepared in both English and Arabic. This classification is based on ISIC 4. Census team has also prepared the standard classification of education based on ISCED 1997. The technical support unit of UNFPA has reviewed these classification to make sure that all updates are in line with the international recommendations and the international comparison is ensured. A number of other classifications such

as geographic administrative classification, nationality, other related classification are in the pipeline to serve all census electronic coding at the scanning stage



From Kurdistan



- According to Census Master Plan, an operation room was established to undertake the day to day management of census activities in Kurdistan region the northern part of Iraq. Kurdistan operation room held a number of meeting to organize the modalities of undertaking the census.
- Census executive director, Ms. Nuha Sharma, visited Kurdistan region to coordinate census implementation in line with the general census master plan.



- A number of training activities and technical meetings were organized in Erbil to equip the Kurdish census team with the required skills. In addition representatives from Erbil participated in all training courses held in Cairo.

IPHC09 News

- Presidential Council issued the legal basis for conducting IPHC09 in Presidential decree number (32) and IPHC09 law number (40) for the 2008.
- A revised English version of IPHC09 Master Plan has been produced in cooperation with the technical supporting unit of the UNFPA.
- A pretest was conducted in Baghdad and al-Mahmoudiah districts. COSIT documented the pretest by producing a documentary film.
- Ten census team members are currently enrolled in ICR training in Cairo to be equipped with ICR software customization, scan quality assurance and archiving techniques.
- A two-week training course for the pilot census is being launched in Baghdad; where 75 census directors and their assistants in addition to field supervisors will receive intensive training in census management and technical matters and teamwork skills.



HCPHC News

Higher Commission of Population and Housing Census (HCPHC) held a number of meetings to provide the required political support to census teams and mobilize the government resources.



More Census News

Operations Room News

Dr. Allak, the chairman of operations room, presented census plans and content to the Iraqi legislators at the Iraqi Parliament, where intensive discussions and debate took place. Legislators expressed their consensus and support to the census team.



- COSIT organized a workshop to the Iraqi diplomatic corps abroad to discuss counting the Iraqis abroad, a number of recommendations were issued.
- UNFPA organized a technical meeting in Amman to furnish core census staff with required skills to design and launch publicity campaign and general census sectoral plans.
- UNFPA will also organize a training workshop in Amman to discuss Iraqi quality control procedures.

- Census executive director in cooperation with UNFPA technical advisor produced the final version of census questionnaires in addition to instruction manuals and editing rules for field operations stage.
- CAPMAS is finalizing the training of Iraqi data processing core staff. These courses should provide the national team with the needed skills to undertake the scanning in Baghdad for the pilot census and for the census full scale activities afterwards.
- A special meeting with Governors will be organized early May to handover census responsibility to the governorates' census committees in each governorate.

For Correspondence and comments, please contact us at:



COSIT (+964) 7901926259
UNFPA (+962)-6-5549864/6



Alalak_mm@yahoo.com
Shabaneh@unfpa.org

Census link: http://cosit.gov.iq/english/cosit_census.php

الله أكبر