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**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CENSUSES**

## 1. Introduction

This report presents the activities carried out since the end of November 2011, when the National Statistics Institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela assumed the coordination of the Working Group on Censuses.

The Working Group on Censuses of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC comprises four subgroups supported by the countries in the region. Each subgroup covers a different area: methodology (coordinated by Paraguay), processing and technology (Brazil), mapping (Mexico) and dissemination (Colombia).

The activities of the Working Group, as well as the participation of the countries in the region, depend on the stage of development of the countries' respective censuses and their ability to capitalize as efficiently as possible on the experiences and knowledge-sharing.

Coordination of the Working Group has involved ongoing communication with the technical secretariat of the Working Group through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay and the countries coordinating or participating in the working subgroups, for the purpose of holding consultations on implementing activities and carrying out the respective evaluations.

The organization of workshops and seminars, the sharing of experiences and the provision of technical assistance for the 2010 census round have helped to strengthen the technical and operational capacities of national statistics institutes in the region for defining the conceptual, logistical and operational framework for conducting censuses.

Of particular significance is the work carried out by Paraguay as Working Group coordinator between 2009 and 2011. During that time the activities carried out included six workshops on the following subjects: procedures for editing census data; census data capture and editing using the Census and Survey Processing System (CSPPro); sharing experiences in census mapping for the 2010 round of censuses in Latin America; using census data for demographic evaluation and estimation: analysing its consistency, quality and coverage; the capabilities and applications of census data; and census management based on the *Handbook on Census Management for Population and Housing Censuses* published by the United Nations Statistics Division.

In addition, several seminars were held to discuss the potential of censuses for analysing health and living conditions. Other seminars were held on the sharing of experiences with classifications and nomenclatures; training population census supervisors and enumerators; assisted coding of classifications of economic activities and occupations; and spatial analysis of census data. Other activities carried out included observations of pilot tests and censuses and the Regional intensive course on demographic analysis using census applications.

All these activities benefited not only the Working Group member countries but also countries such as Angola, Australia, Cape Verde, Haiti, Jamaica, Morocco, Mozambique, Spain and the United States, which gained a better understanding of and greater experience in the various stages of censuses.

The productive work carried out in collaboration with CELADE was initially focused on harmonizing the different subjects to be researched in the next census, as well as definitions, international classifications and emerging issues. Currently, the Group is working on evaluating census data and

population estimates and projections based on recent censuses. It is also working with countries in the region to investigate the analytical potential of censuses and dissemination using a broad range of technological tools.

The following countries still need to conduct their censuses: Paraguay and Haiti (2012), Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala and Honduras (2013), Colombia and Nicaragua (2015) and Peru (2017). The Working Group will provide support and guidance to that end.

## **2. Members of the Working Group**

Member countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

Coordinating country: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

## **3. Summary of the goals and objectives**

The general goals set out in the 2012-2013 programme were to promote and establish initiatives to assist countries in planning, conducting, transmitting, consolidating, validating, evaluating and publishing the 2010 round of population and housing censuses.

These general goals will be achieved by means of the following specific goals: (i) develop training activities; (ii) share experiences in census management and operation; (iii) harmonize the technology used to capture and process census data; and (iv) analyse and disseminate statistical information.

International organizations, in particular the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its country offices have reiterated their technical and financial support and commitment to coordinated action, which has created synergies in international cooperation in implementing the Group's programme.

Without a doubt, delivering workshops and seminars, sharing experiences and providing technical assistance for the 2010 census round develop the technical and operational potential of national statistics institutes in the region. These activities provide an opportunity to assess, approve and expand the conceptual, logistical and operational framework for conducting censuses.

## **4. Activities carried out by the Working Group**

During the period covered by this report a workshop was held on the use of census data for migration analysis with emphasis on the experiences of the 2010 census round and the agenda for other activities was defined.

The countries comprising each subgroup have provided technical, logistical and organizational support for the work. Ad hoc task forces were set up and, using information and communications technology, collaborated closely to plan, develop and execute the scheduled activities.

**Workshop on the use of census data for migration analysis with emphasis on the experiences of the 2010 census round**

Date: 17-18 April 2012

Place: Mexico City

Organizers: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico in its capacity as secretariat of the Knowledge Transfer Network of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC; the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC as technical secretariat; the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay; and the National Statistics Institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as coordinator of the Working Group on Censuses

Participants: representatives of the national statistical offices of the following countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

Objective: To communicate the questions gathered on internal migration, emigration and immigration, as well as relevant studies and methodologies for measuring migration in the countries of Latin America.

## **5. Activities scheduled**

The countries' participation in the activities planned will enable them to capitalize more efficiently on the experiences and knowledge-sharing. The following activities are planned:

**Second regional meeting on using census data for demographic evaluation and estimation**

Date: 11-16 June 2012

Place: ECLAC, Santiago

Organizers: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)–Population Division of ECLAC and the National Statistics Institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Objective: To train professionals and technicians at national statistical offices to analyse the internal consistency, quality and coverage of census data.

**Second regional workshop on the capabilities and applications of census data**

Date: 23-28 July 2012

Place: ECLAC, Santiago

Organizers: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)–Population Division of ECLAC and the National Statistics Institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Objective: To review the multiple possibilities for intensive, widespread use of data, especially microdata, from the 2010 round of censuses and the capabilities and applications of this source of information for the purposes of public policies and social research.

## **Evaluation of the technology used to conduct the census round in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Date: 24-26 September 2012

Place: Caracas

Participants: representatives of the national statistical offices of the following countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

Organizers: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)—Population Division of ECLAC and the National Statistics Institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Objective: To evaluate the technology used to conduct the census round, including paper, scanners and mobile data capture devices.

### **6. Future areas of activity**

By mid-2013, 16 of the 20 countries in the region will have conducted their census. Substantive seminars should therefore be organized to evaluate the round, with an emphasis on sharing lessons learned. As already mentioned by the Working Group, given the wealth of information that will be available, workshops on using and analysing census data would be very useful, focusing on ways to exploit this information, in particular for the purposes of public policy.

In this context, CELADE and the Working Group plan to hold a workshop in 2013 —subject to the availability of resources— to analyse the quality and coverage of censuses conducted during the 2010 round. In addition, regional meetings should continue to be held to enable countries to share experiences and exploit the capabilities of census data.

Another very important area of work is the development of the Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM) program for processing data from population and housing censuses and its combined use with geographical information systems, as well as training workshops on REDATAM, in order to make better use of population and housing censuses. Special emphasis will be given to support for countries in establishing an online consultation system for census results. The region already made significant progress in this area during the 2000 decade.

Workshops will also be held on preparing population projections and estimates using the information gathered during the 2010 census round, as well as seminars to disseminate the results and analytical potential of projections for public policy purposes.