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**PRESENTATION
OF VIETNAM DELEGATION**

**THE 2009 VIETNAM POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS
(SUMMARY IMPLEMENTATION AND LESSONS LEARNT)**

- ✓ On 10 July 2008, the Prime Minister released the Decision No. 94/2008/QĐ-TTg on taking the Vietnam Population and Housing Census at 00.00 hour 1 April 2009.
- ✓ The Census aimed to collect basic data on the population and housing for the entire territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to provide data for research and analysis of population and housing developments nationally and for each locality.
- ✓ It responded to information needs for assessing implementation of socio-economic development plans covering the period 2000 to 2009, and for developing the socio-economic development plans for 2011 to 2020 and for monitoring performance on Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations to which the Vietnamese Government was committed.

CENSUS ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Census preparation

Development of the census strategy and plan

- ✓ “A users’ workshop” was held in Hanoi on 9th October 2006 to capture need for information from Ministries/Branches, locality and international organizations.
- ✓ Census sample survey size was increased to 15% of the population to allow expansion of the survey contents and improvement of information quality for sensitive and complicated indicators, to allow expansion to the district level with rapid speed of data dissemination, at the same time to reduce costs.
- ✓ Intelligent Character Recognition (scanning) technology for data entry replaced traditional keyboard data entry.

Development of the census strategy and plan (cont)

- ✓ In early 2007, the General Statistics Office (GSO) actively developed an overall plan, established a plan for publicity campaign.
- ✓ On initiative and active spirit and with technical support from the UNFPA, GSO created an overall plan, set up a plan for publicity campaign and compiled some materials to deploy mobilization of sponsoring for the census. In early 2008, two booklets of publicity material were printed and distributed to related Ministries, Branches and provinces/cities.
- ✓ The Census Steering Committees at the central, provincial, district and commune levels were set up. Until late 2008, a series of regulated writings along with organization machinery system from the Central to locality were rapidly established to steer and implement officially the census.

Respondents, unit and method of the census

- ✓ The 2009 Census enumerated all Vietnamese regularly residing in the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the reference point of 0:00 on 1 April, 2009; Vietnamese citizens given permission by the authorities to travel overseas and still within the authorized period; deaths (members of the household) that occurred between the first day of the Lunar Year of the Rat (7 February, 2008) to 31 March, 2009; and residential housing of the population.
- ✓ Census was implemented simultaneously taking the household as the survey unit. The household head was the main respondent. For information of which the head of household was unaware, the enumerator was required to directly interview the survey subject.

Respondents, unit and method of the census (contd)

- ✓ For information on labour and employment, the enumerator was required to directly interview all respondents aged 15 and older; for questions on births, the enumerator was required to directly interview women in childbearing ages (from 15 to 49 years of age) to determine the responses. For information on housing, the enumerator was required to directly survey the household head and/or combine this with direct observation to determine the information to record in the forms.
- ✓ To enhance census efficiency and reliability, a sample size of 15% of the total national population was adopted. This ensures to be representative to the district level about basic information.

Census pre-test and pilot

The census questionnaires and materials were tested through three rounds of pre-testing and one pilot test prior to being officially launched for the Census.

Mapping and listing number of dwellings, households and individuals

✓ A population and housing census is considered to be successful when everyone is enumerated and only enumerated at a single specific address. To achieve this, it is necessary to have a system of administrative units, sketch maps and household listings of enumeration areas that are up-to-date at the time of the census.

Mapping and listing number of dwellings, households and individuals (contd)

- ✓ Training activities for mapping and household listing were implemented at two levels. In October 2008, two courses for training of provincial trainers were created by the Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee. Following, these provincial trainers in their turn were responsible for training the mapping and listing staff.
- ✓ In mapping and household listing activity, digital maps owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment were used as base maps by most of the provinces/cities.
- ✓ Due to lack of technical infrastructure, skill base and budget at the GSO made the application of GIS impossible. Consequently, in the 2009 Census the sample enumeration areas are only represented by image in sketch maps.

Mapping and listing number of dwellings, households and individuals (contd)

- ✓ Two types of maps were employed: base maps and enumeration areas maps. Base maps were prepared for all communes and depicted the position and outstanding features of all the enumeration areas in each commune. Enumeration areas maps show the detailed characteristics of each enumeration area (such as: travelling direction, boundaries, streets, roads, pathways, channels, ponds/lakes, schools, hospitals, etc) to help enumerator locate the positions of each dwelling in enumeration area.
- ✓ Listing dwellings, households and household members was carried out at the same time as the drawing of enumeration areas maps.
- ✓ Mappings were largely performed by land management officers from each commune, and listings made by local people familiar with the terrain and local population settlement.

Logistics

Our success was to receive the concern from the Government and international organizations. State budget provided 480 billions VND, the UNFPA in Vietnam supported 22 billions VND. Total budget has been 502 billions VND (5,900 VND or 0.35 USD per capita versus 0.13 USD in 1999).

Census publicity

The objective of a deep and wide publicity campaign of the 2009 Census was to:

- ✓ *Firstly*, take advantage of the support and assistance of State agencies, mass media agencies and mass organizations through creating adequate awareness of the importance and purpose of the Census.
- ✓ *Secondly*, make the people understand the benefits of the Census, and become aware of their rights and responsibilities with regard to the Census so they are more willing to cooperate, and to provide complete and accurate information.

Census publicity

- ✓ Publicity material for the 2009 Census was rather plentiful including printing material, audio-visual media, propaganda material.
- ✓ The Vietnam Television and the Voice of Vietnam broadcast the census publicity programmes, questions and answers, and songs. Localities were notified of the time schedule and duration of these broadcasts so that they could be relayed locally or recorded for reuse.
- ✓ Some localities applied many creative propaganda forms such as: civilian meetings, local newspapers, loudspeaker cars, loudspeaker motorbikes for publicity, propagandized pupils, acting in a play, singing, pasting symbols on public transportation means, etc.

Census publicity (contd)

- ✓ Census publicity has not only been communicated by the mass media of Vietnam, but also via the information channels of the United Nations communication offices.
- ✓ For the first time in the history of Vietnam's census, telephone hot-lines were installed in both central and provincial census steering committee offices. The main objectives of the hot-line services were to serve as a communication tool for the census management and operation, as well as to receive honest feedback from the people on census activities.

Survey data collection and supervision

Enumeration area

- ✓ The entire country was divided into about 172,000 enumeration areas. Clear or relatively clear borders were identified for each enumeration area, so that the number of households per enumeration area was appropriate for one enumerator to complete survey work within the allotted time.
- ✓ The number of households in an enumeration area varied across geographic regions. In general, enumeration areas are hamlets (or blocks, villages or other small units) with an average size of about 100 households.

Survey data collection and supervision

Recruitment and training of enumerators

- ✓ Enumerators recruited had to meet criteria such as a strong sense of responsibility, ability to write numbers and letters legibly, suitable educational attainment and preferred ages. Almost all interviewers were recruited from the local area.
- ✓ Team leaders were appointed to directly manage enumerators' work. It was stipulated that each team leader was responsible for 2 enumerators in mountainous, isolated and remote areas. In the remaining areas, 1 team leader was responsible for 4 enumerators.
- ✓ There was a workforce of supervisors at all levels from central, provincial, to district levels with primary responsibility for supervising the activities of the network of team leaders and enumerators, monitoring and providing technical support for the lower level Steering Committees.

Survey data collection and supervision

Recruitment and training of enumerators (contd)

Training for census was implemented at 3 levels:

- ✓ Central level trainers instructed provincial level trainers and census steering committees for 8 days in technique, management and supervision of the Census.
- ✓ Provincial trainers taught trainers and census steering committees at district levels for 6 day courses.
- ✓ District level trainers instructed census steering committees at commune level, team leaders and enumerators for 4 days for completed enumeration areas, 8 days for sample enumeration areas.
- ✓ Census mobilized about 300,000 enumerators, team leaders, supervisors and members of the census steering committees at all levels to take field-work at enumeration areas.

Surveying and supervision of enumeration

- ✓ The survey in all completed enumeration areas was implemented for 7 days, and in each sample survey enumeration was 15 days.
- ✓ Provinces maintained regulations of report and review of the rate of progress. The result of this was that many errors were timely found and corrected very soon on the first days. Experience drawn from this allowed errors to be decreased rapidly over the next few days. Some United Nations organizations also actively cooperated to participate in the supervision activity in many provinces.
- ✓ Telephone hotlines, an operative website designed especially for the census and the General Statistics Office's electronic network were available to provide efficient leadership and management for the census.

Questionnaires

Two types of questionnaires were used in the 2009 Census. The short form was for the completed enumeration areas and the long form was for the sample enumeration areas.

- ✓ The short form included questions about members of the household: full-name, relationship to the head of the household, sex, month and year at birth in solar calendar (completed age in years), ethnicity, religion, education level, literacy, housing status of the household.
- ✓ The long form included also questions like short ones but there were additional questions. For examples, migration for 5 years prior to the Census time-point, disability, marital status, labour force (employment and unemployment), birth history of women in the reproductive age (15-49 years old), mortality information of the household, detailed information on housing and living condition of the household.

Evaluation and appraisal of the census result

Verification and additional enumeration of cases informed by people through telephone hotlines

The Standing Member of the Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee cooperated effectively with the Vietnam Television and the Voice of Vietnam to inform the people nationwide and encourage people to provide information in order to find missing cases for additional enumeration. Up until 20 April 2009, the Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee Office received advice from 975 households over the whole country via hotlines. It was verified that 744 households were additionally enumerated and 231 remaining households were interviewed through other household members or indirectly enumerated.

Evaluation and appraisal of the census result (contd)

Post Enumeration Survey

✓ After finishing enumeration, post enumeration surveys (PES) were conducted to define the completeness and accuracy of the census data. A set of 60 enumeration areas were randomly selected for re-interview which was directly organized and conducted by the Office of the Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee.

✓ The PES result shows that the error rate is 0.3% (under-count rate minus over-count rate), equivalent to about 258,000 people. Compared to the error rate ranging from 1.5% to 4.5% of total population in the censuses of most countries, it can be evaluated preliminarily that the completeness of the 2009 Census of Vietnam is quite high.

Evaluation and appraisal of the census result (contd)

Evaluation of the quality of recording in forms

Immediately after the enumeration was completed, the Standing Central Census Steering Committee organized a mission team to check the quality of recording in the census forms. The results of this exercise indicate that the quality of recording in forms met requirements, and ensured the ability to use scanning technology for processing.

Evaluation and appraisal of the census result (contd)

Checking focal sites for subjects with a high likelihood of being omitted

In order to have a stronger basis for releasing preliminary results of the Census, the Standing Central Census Steering Committee decided to undertake sentinel checking for 3 types of subjects with a high probability of being missed. These subjects included: (1) students living in dormitories, (2) students living in boarding houses in the enumeration area, and (3) workers working in industrial zones who rent housing from the local population or who live in tents or other temporary housing of the project or production enterprise far from residential centres. Particularly for Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Binh Duong, places with a large number of in-migrants, the Central Steering Committee Office directly implemented the checking.

Data Processing and Tabulation

- ✓ In order to speed up rate of data processing and to improve the quality of data, an important strategy needed to test and to conclude early was to *innovate processing technology by scanning technology*.
- ✓ Prepared carefully necessary conditions to ensure successful application, such as: the questionnaire design and print, ball-point pens and other office stationery, means for maintaining the questionnaire, infrastructure of information technology, software and other machines and equipments for Data Processing Centers.
- ✓ With the completed rate of progress in processing of the short and long forms, we could affirm that application of the scanning and identification technology shortened time and capacity of data entry.

LESSONS LEARNT

The 2009 Census had obtained important and basic results. On 13 August 2009 the Central Census Steering Committee has announced the preliminary results, and on 31 December 2009 had disseminated expanded sample results, and on 21 July 2010 announced the completed result of the Census. Finally, the workshop on dissemination of the 2009 Census publications was organized on 14 June 2011. The data warehouse of the 2009 Census is available on the website of the GSO of Vietnam. The above results were provided promptly and properly as planned.

In the process of organization and implementation of the Census, some of the causes and lessons learned were as follow:

LESSONS LEARNT

Firstly, the census has been the whole political system the efficient to direct attention, people throughout the country are enthusiastic response, the Steering Committee at all levels, sectors and especially the Chairman was interested and directed closely. This is the most important cause, the cause of all causes of the victory of the Census.

Secondly, the preparations were carried out carefully, and have sufficient scientific basis for practice. Based on the comments of the building levels and branches from the user's workshop, receive recommendations and technical support internationally, we have bold technological innovation, conducting many tests, pre-tests and the pilot, investigations in areas of approval on many diverse different regions, gradually draw the sum of useful experience in order to minimize errors that may occur.

LESSONS LEARNT (contd)

Thirdly, by setting proper role of the review of the administrative boundary between the territorial levels, mapping and household listing is the key task of the preparatory work, so this work has been implemented in the context of drastic changes of administrative boundaries and redistribute the population is continuous and active in the past 10 years.

The determination of the proper delimitation of enumeration areas and to make regulations consistent with the population characteristics of different geographical regions has helped mapping and household listing advantages and achieve very great results high compared with the official results.

LESSONS LEARNT (contd)

Fourth, logistic support was efficient for the professional activities of the Census. Funds (calculated move by the USD) for this Census increased 2.7 times higher than in 1999. Supplies, equipment and office stationery also increased as demand for the questionnaire preservation of the scanning technology. This is the first time the public bidding mechanism for the census was applied.

Fifth, after completion of the census pilot, only in a very short time, we have urgently to develop training manuals and DVDs with the projector audio-visual means to support coaches of all levels. These are really useful means to improve the quality and uniform training for about 5,000 nationwide, are factors that directly impact the quality of information gathering.

LESSONS LEARNT (contd)

Sixth, the propaganda had been prepared earlier and caring.

✓ Instruction of the Secretariat together with the Decision and the Directive of the Prime Minister was the Party Committees, Government, and the Steering Committees at all levels for the thorough implementation of strict and strong impact on overall operations of the 2009 Census in general and propaganda in particular.

✓ Propaganda campaign, not only to convey the materials and facilities available, but more importantly, has attracted all the media (both domestic and international), the mass and volume people participate in many different forms. The propaganda has created "Festival Day of the Census" penetrates until pork smoking villages, forming power of the people as the census is the duty of herself.

✓ The cause of this success is combined with our Party's ideas and the popularity, rooted in directing the attention of the Party and governments at all levels.

LESSONS LEARNT (contd)

Seventh, the mass media has promptly communicated his instructions, the Standing Deputy Prime Minister - Chairman of the Government Census Steering Committee and the Central Electricity No. 547/CD-TTg of the Prime Minister has completed promote system-level Steering Committee of the forces simultaneously, regardless of rainstorms and difficult terrain, strictly implement the regulations and plan to investigate. Inspection and supervision work has been investigating the issue thoroughly instructed fully on the implementation plan and assign members of the Steering Committee and its office close to the locality. The Party committees, Governments and the level Steering Committee has decided to postpone the meeting, maintaining progress reports, the full mobilization of forces, systems and information hot line to serve the direction and smoothly.

LESSONS LEARNT (contd)

Eighth, with close direction from the Leaders of the GSO and the effective assistance of international organizations, we organized the elaborate testing and successful application of the scanning and identity technology solutions. However, after treatment completion of the 2009 Census problem, to review lessons learned in designing the questionnaire and processes, printing paper and quality of printing the questionnaire, promptly overcome problems in equipment, how to write letters and numbers in the survey, especially to ensure the screening process results in a strict import information.

Ninth, the check, assessment and appraisal of results were closely directed, through many times and many stages of the Census. Until now, we are able secure with the quality of the 2009 Census data.

THANK YOU