

Vanuatu - Vanuatu National Population and Housing Census 2009

Vanuatu National Statistics Office - Vanuatu Government

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER

DDI-VUT-VNSO-CENSUS-2009-v2

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

V2: Scanned & Edited data, final version for tabulation and reports.

PRODUCTION DATE

2011-02-24

Overview

ABSTRACT

The key objective of every census is to count every person (man, woman, child) resident in the country on census night, and also collect information on assorted demographic (sex, age, marital status, citizenship) and socio-economic (education/qualifications; labour force and economic activity) information, as well as data pertinent to household and housing characteristics. This count provides a complete picture of the population make-up in each village and town, of each island and region, thus allowing for an assessment of demographic change over time.

With Vanuatu, as many of her Pacific island neighbours increasingly embracing a culture of informed, or evidence-based policy development and decision-making, national census databases, and the possibility to extract complex cross-tabulations as well as a host of important sub-regional and small-area relevant information, are essential to feed a growing demand for data and information in both public and private sectors.

Educational, health and manpower planning, for example, including assessments of future demands for staffing, facilities, and programmed budgets, would not be possible without periodic censuses, and Government efforts to monitor development progress, such as in the context of its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) commitments, would also suffer greatly, if not be outright impossible, without reliable data provided by regular national population counts and updates.

While regular national-level surveys, such as Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, Labour force surveys, agriculture surveys and demographic and health surveys - to name but just a few - provide important data and information across specific sectors, these surveys could not be sustained or managed without a national sampling frame (which a census data provides). And the calculation and measurement of all population-based development indicators, such as most MDG indicators, would not be possible without up-to-date population statistics, which usually come from a census or from projections and estimates that are based on census data.

With most of this information now already 9 years old (and thus quite outdated), and in the absence of reliable population-register type databases, such as those provided from well-functional civil registration (births and deaths) and migration-recording systems, the 2009 Vanuatu census of population and housing, will provide much needed demographic, social and economic statistics that are essential for policy development, national development planning, and the regular monitoring of development progress.

Apart from achieving its general aims and objectives in delivering updated population, social and economic statistics, the 2009 census also represented a major national capacity building exercise, with most Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO) staff who were involved with the census, having no prior census experience. Having been carefully planned and resourced, all 2009 census activities have potentially provided very useful (and desired) on-the-job-training for VNSO staff, right across the spectrum of professional rank and responsibilities. It also provided for short-term overseas training and professional attachments (at SPC or ABS, or elsewhere) for a limited number of professional staff, who subsequently mentored other staff in the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO).

With some key senior VNSO members involved with the 1999 census, provides a wealth of experience that was available in-house and not to mention the ongoing surveys such HIES and Agriculture Census that the office has conducted before the census proper. The VNSO has also professional officers who have qualified in the fields of Population and Demography who had manned the project, and with this type of resources, we managed to conduct yet another successful project of the 2009 census.

While some short-term census advisory missions were fielded from SPC Demography/ Population programme staff, standard SPC technical assistance policy arrangements could not cater for long-term, or repeated in-country assignments. However, other relevant donors were invited for the longer-term attachments of TA expertise to the VNSO.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

The Unit Analysis of the 2009 Population and Housing Census included:

- Household
- Person (Population)

Scope

NOTES

The scope of the Census includes:

Household: Household characteristics, water and sanitation, insecticide treated mosquito nets as well as farming activities of the household in terms of livestock, poultry, cash crop farming etc.....

Individual: Individual characteristics, usual residence, education, employment, disability

Women: Fertility Questions

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
censuses [14.1]	CESSDA	http://www.nesstar.org/rdf/common
fertility [14.2]	CESSDA	http://www.nesstar.org/rdf/common
migration [14.3]	CESSDA	http://www.nesstar.org/rdf/common
morbidity and mortality [14.4]	CESSDA	http://www.nesstar.org/rdf/common

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The 2009 Population and Housing Census Geographical Coverage included:

- National (Vanuatu)
- Provinces (Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa, Shefa, tafea)
- Inhabited Islands (From Hiu, Torres Islands to Aneityum, Southern Islands)
- Enumeration Areas (EA assigned to each enumerator)
- Villages / Towns

UNIVERSE

The census cover all households and individuals throughout Vanuatu.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Vanuatu National Statistics Office	Vanuatu Government

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
Statistics and Demography Program	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	Technical assistance in pre-census preparation (Planning and budgetting), cartography, Data Processing, Data Analysis and Census Monitoring

FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Vanuatu Government	Vangov	Principal funder
Secretariat of the Pacific Community	SPC	Secondary funder
Australian Agency for International Development	AusAID	Secondary funder

OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS)		
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)		

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Vanuatu National Statistics Office	VNSO	Government	Data producer and documentation of the study

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2012-07-09

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 1 (July 2012). This is the first metadata documentation of the survey using the IHSN Toolkit. This version was done after the data was fully edited and final reports published.

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI-VUT-VNSO-CENSUS-2009-v1

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

Not Applicable

Weighting

Not Applicable

Questionnaires

Overview

The questionnaire basically has 5 sections; the geographical identifiers, the general population questions and education, labour force questions, the women and fertility questions and the housing questions.

The geographical identifiers contains the Village name, GPS code, EA number, household number and the Enumerator ID
The Person questions contain the person demographics including the education level and labour force status. A section on fertility for women in the reproductive age is also included. all have been guided by 'skips' to guide the flow of questions asked

Household questions contains the basic description of the house materials, tenure, access to water and sanitation, energy, durables, use of treated mosquito nest and internet access.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2009-04	2009-08	Census Listing
2009-11-16	2009-11-30	Census Enumeration

Time Periods

Start	End	Cycle
2009-11-16		Census Night

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The Data Collection for the Vanuatu 2009 Population and Housing Census was carried out in the following phases:

1. The Pre-test (Pilot Test) of the Census was carried out in March 2009 to test the questionnaire and also to test the new processing tools namely the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) system
2. There were two sets of training to prepare the enumerators for the field operation. The two trainings are:
 - a. 2 weeks Train the Trainers of the Zone Curriculum Advisor (ZCA). These are government teachers who will, during the census, act as Area Managers to oversee the performances of the Supervisors
 - b. 2 weeks training of the Enumerators and the Supervisors (Training was jointly conducted by VNSO and the ZCA)
3. The actual enumeration was carried out for a period of 2 weeks however, there were cases where the works were not completed within 2 weeks hence extra time was given to complete.

All the data collected were in the method of a FACE to FACE interview with the Head of the Household by the Enumerators.

Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Vanuatu National Statistics Office	VNSO	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

SUPERVISION

The 2009 Census enumerators were short term recruited casuals who have successfully qualified based on the following certain:

- Participants were selected basically from the list of applicants, and also those who have already engaged in enumerations from past surveys and censuses conducted by VNSO.
- Another criterion is the place of residence as a way of selection. Enumerators enumerating on Motalava Island were ensured to have reside on the island.
- All enumerators and supervisors were ensured to have completed at least year 10 (or Junior secondary) education.

The supervisors were selected by trainers towards the end of training and basically this is someone who displayed broad knowledge of the concepts and experiences covered during the training. After they were identified, they were briefed with their roles using the Supervisors manual. In this census, the supervisors were those who have supervised in the past or those who have displayed some supervisory qualities during the enumerator training.

Data Processing

Data Editing

In the Census proper, the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) system (ReadSoft Application System) was used to capture information from the completed forms. The captured data were then exported to MS Access database system for further editing and cleaning before the final data is transferred to CSPro for more editing and quality checks before the data was finalised. All system files and data files were stored in the server under 2009PopCensus folder. Three temporary data operators were hired to do the job, under the supervision of Rara Soro, the system analyst for VNSO. No data was stored in work stations, because all data were directly written to the DATA folder in the server.

Range checks and basic checks (online edits) were built in the manual data entry system, while the complex edits were written in a separate batch edit program. If the system encounter and error during data entry, an error message will be displayed and the data operator cannot proceed unless the error displayed is fixed. e.g Males + Females = Total Persons. Please re-enter. It was strongly recommended to the data operators not to make up answers but consult the supervisor if he/she cannot fix it. Listed below are the checks that were built into the data entry system.

- 01 Person 1 must be the head of household
- 02 Sex against relationship
- 03 Age against date of birth
- 04 Marital status - Married people should be age 15+
- 05 Spouse should be married
- 06 P9, P10, P11 against village enumerated
- 07 Never been to school but can use internet - Is this possible
- 08 Check for multiple head or spouse in the household
- 09 Husband and wife of same sex
- 10 Total persons match total people in personal form
- 11 Total children born and live in household (F2a) against total persons total
- 12 Age difference of head and child is less than 13
- 13 Total children born (F4) against total alive(F2) + total died(F3)

A separate batch edit program was developed for further data cleaning. All online edits were also re-written in this program to make sure that all errors flagged out during data entry were fixed. Some of the errors detected are not really errors, but still requires double checking, and if the answer recorded is the correct answer, don't change it. The batch edit was performed on each batch, and also on the concatenated batch. Below is the summary list of errors generated from manual data entry data before batch editing.

MDE Error message summary

- Age does not match date of birth 272
- Total children born and living in household (F2a) > total in 1
- Attend school full-time in P12 but also working 16
- Too young for highest education recorded 14
- Highest ed completed do not match with grade currently attending 80

Age had the highest errors rate, and this is due to an error in the logic statement, otherwise all ages that do not match their date of birth are corrected during data entry.

The Data capturing (Scanning) and Editing process took about 6 months to be completed but then more checks were made after that to finalise the dataset before publishing the results.

During re-coding of zero's and blanks, a couple of batch edit statement written in the batch edit program were wrong, and it created errors in the scanned data. The batch edit was suppose to recode only those people that didn't answer questions P19, P23 - P25, but instead it recoded valid codes as well to blanks. This was only picked up when tables were generated and numbers were found to be so much different in manual data entry and scanned data. Another batch edit program was developed to recode and fix this problem.

Data Appraisal

Estimates of Sampling Error

Not Applicable

Other forms of Data Appraisal

Household characteristics and basic demographic variables for the census data was used in comparison with the 1999 census data to determine the accuracy of the pilot data. Some of the key indicators used for comparison are the household size, sex ratio, educational attainment, employment status. A pyramid was also used for the comparisons.