

Brief on the Population Estimation Survey in Somalia

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PES Issue - 2



“As we keep count of valuables, like money and live-stocks, we also need to keep count of the most valuable assets we have, which is our people”

Minister of National Planning and Development,
Somaliland,
Dr. Saad Shire.



Cartographer Emma Odhiambo explaining the mapping exercise.



“Numbers tell us about people. This Population Estimation Survey will provide critical data to guide plans, policies and programmes to meet the Somali people’s need and improve their lives”

UNFPA Representative,
Cheikh T. Cisse

“Because everybody counts, everybody deserves to be counted.”

The PESS (Population Estimation Survey in Somalia) activities have now taken a significant pace. This brief note briefly shares the progress on a number of aspects and highlight what will be done in the upcoming few months.

Methodology The UN Technical Taskforce held a number of meetings and drafted with development partners and National Somali officers, technical notes on the methodology of the survey. The PES will combine between analysis of secondary data made available through work of UN agencies and data generated by a sample survey to collect primary data. The sample of the survey will be a probability cluster sample design.

As agreed at the Kampala task force meeting, the preliminary sampling frame consists of the list of settlements obtained from UNDP settlement census 2005/2006. However, the frame will have to go through an extensive updating exercise. The UNDP database of this census and data from more recent sources collated by FAO data were merged to obtain a more complete list. This list contains about 9,000 settlements with the estimate of the number of households for each one with additional information on the geographic coordinates.

The sample areas that will be selected for the survey will be verified and updated by teams of cartographers in order to have an adjustment factor for correcting the entire list so that it will be the most reliable sample frame as possible. In the regions of South and Central Somalia, which had not been covered by the UNDP 2005/2006 will be covered in this exercise as the security situation had significantly improved. Satellite images will be used as a starting point to complete the sampling frame.

Cartographic Preparations Mapping work will be undertaken in all cities and town areas to delineate enumeration areas, which will be sampled for data collection using a household questionnaire.

After completion of the exercise of settlement listing and verification with geographic positioning, a sample of settlements to be selected for data collection in the sample survey using the household questionnaire.

Mapping and cartographic work in cities, towns and villages requires recruitment and training of sizeable taskforce. This started by recruitment and training of core trainers from South Central Somalia, Somaliland and Puntland. Recruitment and training will be expanded to covers all levels of the cartographic preparatory work in all regions.

Satellite Images The PES heavily relies on satellite images, covering all towns and cities as starting point. UN Habitat made images of 23 Somali district capitals available to the project. An inventory exercise of all images available from various UN and non UN sources including the US Government, which will decide on the usability status of each of them and to define the need for any new images.





At the end of the training of trainers Salada Robleh and Eric Jager from UNFPA handed over diplomas to the participants.



“After systematically following up with the PES team in Somalia, I am now more confident that it will move faster on the ground and fully supported by development partners”

UNFPA Population Expert,
Abdallah Abdelaziz Zoubi.

Data Collection Documents A revised structured questionnaire, based on a draft version that agreed up in Kampala meeting in April 2012, is now ready. It takes into account the inputs received from some agencies and the UNFPA Regional Office and Somalia national personnel. Some additional questions were added to determine the level of maternal mortality. The questionnaire consists of four sections: a) geographic and administrative information and household mobility focusing on IDPs, b) household members and their characteristics, c) vital events: diaspora, fertility, mortality including maternal mortality and d) housing characteristics

Arrangements are underway for the rapid acquisition of the digital pens to be used for the data collection process that enables fast and efficient data entry.

A manual for the enumerators is being developed and will be finalized once the questionnaire has been.

All these documents will be tested during a pilot survey which will take place by the end of the year. Necessary corrections will be made.

All these preparations are committed to realize the data collection of the PES in February 2013 which is the best time to investigate nomadic populations because of their concentration around permanent water points.

Resource Mobilization Development partners have demonstrated increasing interests to financially supporting the PES. Below are an overview of pledges:

- ◆ DFID : 2.2m USD
- ◆ CHF : 332,000 USD
- ◆ AfDP : 500,000 USD under discussion.
- ◆ EU : About 1.0m EURO
- ◆ UNICEF: 100,000 USD, plus in-kind contribution.
- ◆ WFP : 100,000 USD plus in-kind contribution.
- ◆ FAO : 50,000 USD, plus in-kind contribution.
- ◆ UNFPA : 300,000 USD, plus in-kind contribution.
- ◆ UNDP : 200,000USD, plus in-kind contribution.
- ◆ Sweden : under discussion.
- ◆ Denmark: under discussion.

All UN agencies are supporting the PES and providing in kind contribution.



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