

Population Estimation Survey

The Population Estimation Survey (PESS)



December, 2013 update

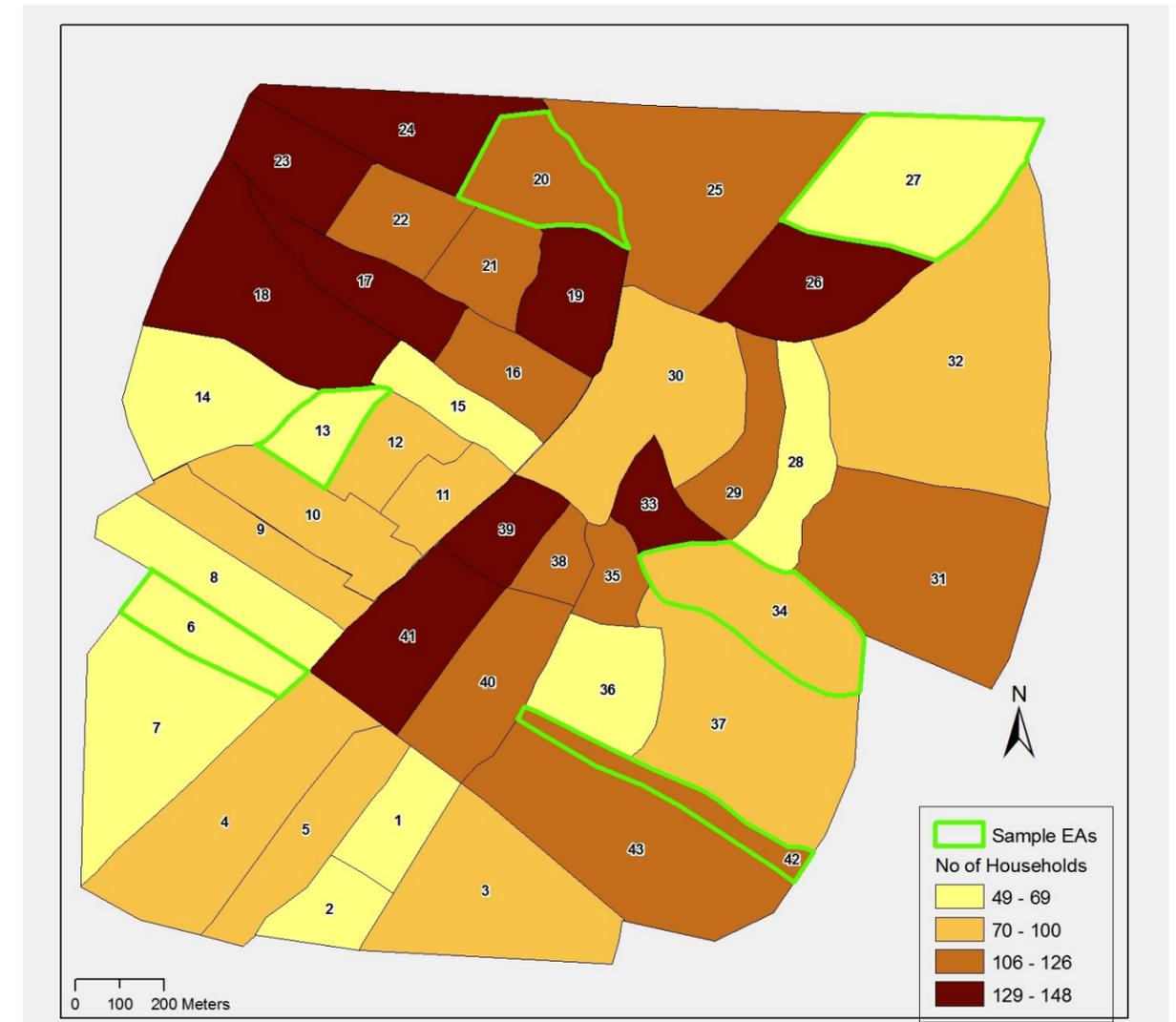
Appreciation Note

The PESS became a reality due to generous contributions, tangible support and commitment of the donor community and UN agencies, funds and programmes as follows:



An enumerator conducting a household interview





Map of households counted



Nomads



Data Source: UNFPA, UNSOA, OCHA
UNFPA GIS Section: Dec-2013

Opportunities beyond PESS

- In depth analysis of PESS data conducted as part of on-the job training for the three zones, including working with the data to suit the current administrative structures to aid in planning and programming.
- Availability of a sampling frame to be used in conducting future censuses and other surveys.
- Develop statistical capacity building plan for the Somali authorities in collaboration with UN and other donor agencies.
- Establishments of geo-databases in the statistical offices – Hargeisa, Garowe and Mogadishu including training of staff to manage and update these geo-databases.
- Establishment of capacity to conduct and analyze household sample surveys.



Aerial view of one of the IDP's settlements

“Numbers tell us about people. The Population Estimation Survey will provide critical data to guide plans, policies and programs to meet the Somali people's needs and improve their lives”

Cheikh T. Cisse, UNFPA Representative

The PESS equips both Somali and international stakeholders with one of the most fundamental tools required for effective and sustainable human, social and economic development: population statistics.

Somali's resilient communities, authorities and their partners are daring to dream of a bright future. After decades of facing man-made and natural calamities, they are envisioning educated Somali girls and boys, access to quality healthcare and food, better roads, security, and better lifestyles. Information, particularly population figures, about Somali communities can serve as a key resource to turn their dreams into a reality.

A decades'-long lack of information about population size and vital statistics has made it difficult for national authorities of the Federal Government of Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland and their partners to identify and respond to the needs of every child, every man and every woman. In that situation, how do government bodies, NGOs and international agencies and other stakeholders plan for long-term recovery, and development? How do they set up focused programmes that improve the quality of life?

Up-to-date population data would allow the Somali administrations and their development partners to design effective policies and strategies in various social sectors and follow trends such as mortality and fertility, understand social behavior, measure progress and ensure accountability.

To bridge the data gap, UNFPA is taking the lead and teaming up with several partners in and outside of the country by conducting the Population Estimation Survey .

The PESS will be the first source of credible population estimates for the country after the census conducted in 1975; since the one carried out in 1985/6, did not publish any significant information. The survey has focused on empowering statistical departments and developing the technical skills of the Somali staff in the planning departments in preparation for the upcoming census in the future.

The survey will enable stakeholders to plan their programmes effectively and shape policies to address realities on the ground, by providing realistic information on population down to at least the district level.

"In a world of seven billion, every person should enjoy human rights and human dignity, and have the opportunity to make the most of his or her potential"

Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director

The main objectives of the PESS are to:

- ◆ Provide accurate and reliable population estimates of the Somali population living in urban, rural and nomadic areas and in IDP settlements.
- ◆ Strengthen statistical capacity of institutions responsible for statistics in the existing federal and zonal administrations.
- ◆ Prepare the ground for a census in the future. The questionnaires that are developed for the PESS, the large numbers of Somali staff involved, the experience gained by the Statistics Departments in Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Garowe, the experience with counting nomads using the water point approach will all contribute to better 'census-preparedness'
- ◆ Produce basic socioeconomic data about the population that will include data on births, deaths, internal and international migration, education, labour force as well as housing characteristics, amenities and level of wealth of the households



Heads of UN agencies at PESS workshop

An inclusive process

UNFPA is ensuring that Somalis are playing a leading role and are accountable to the population survey and its results. In a complex working environment, where insecurity and various challenges hinder progress, the project has built strong relationships with Somali partners and international communities.

Estimation of Internally Displaced Population (IDPs)

IDPs living in camps are included in the PESS through a sample from the list of IDP camps from UNHCR. A quick count of the IDP households in the selected settlements was carried out, followed by segmentation into EAs and a sample of one or more segments taken. All households in the selected segments were interviewed using the standard questionnaire.



IDPs Settlement

Processing of Survey Data

Systems for data entry, data cleaning and analysis have already been set up. Training of data management team and data entry operators from Somali authorities is ongoing through technical support by statistics Norway and PESS technical support unit. Data entry and cleaning will be carried out at the zonal level.



PESS Supervisors sorting out completed questionnaires

This group is prone to being missed in any census or demographic survey. In this PESS this group will be captured at the water points during the dry season. This ‘water point approach’ is not new, it was also used for the 1975 and 1986 population censuses of Somalia.

However, water points in the country are not only used by ‘pure nomads’ as agro-pastoralists with a permanent places of residence might also be using the water points. All households, represented by the herdsmen visiting the water points, will be listed and screened and only nomadic households without a permanent place of residence will be interviewed. The household listing information will be crucial for the estimation of the ‘true nomadic population.



Somali nomads at the water points

Limited documented evidence exists of changes in nomadic life style and the extent of ‘pure nomadism’. But it is believed that nomadic movements over long distances are far less frequent nowadays. Apparently, it has also become more common for water to be trucked to the animals instead of the animals ‘legging it’ to the water points. The PESS survey will be able to provide some statistical evidence on the extent of ‘pure nomadism’ and movements that may be useful as a baseline for more in-depth studies, as highlighted below.

Nomadic movements and ‘pure nomadism’ : what will the PESS tell us?

1. Measuring of nomadic movement by collecting information about nomads’ whereabouts in the last wet season compared with the locality of the water point where nomads are enumerated.
2. Measuring the extent to which livestock watering households at water points are ‘pure nomadic households and the extent to which these households split up in the dry season in groups responsible for different types of livestock: camels, goats/sheep, cattle
3. For all households: ownership of livestock; ownership of land used for different purposes, including for keeping livestock
4. For all members of households 12 years and over: economic activity and occupation, which includes live stock herding

“ The results of the PESS will set the ground for the reconstruction of Somalia”

Mohamad Soleiman Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Finance and Planning,
Mogadishu

Estimating nation-wide population for small administrative areas: the population estimation data base

The **PESS Household Survey data** will be the best possible source of population estimates for the survey’s sampling domain of the 18 regions as they existed at the time of 1986 Population Census of Somalia. More sources of data are needed to ensure that population estimates will also be made for (i) In parts of the rural areas in South and Central Somalia where the PESS survey could not be conducted, and (ii) Administrative areas below the regional level.



Enumerators training

To achieve this, under the PESS project a **population estimation database** is being established. The smallest geographic units in this database are the PESS primary sampling units (or Enumeration Areas) and represent population with information from the mapping phase in urban and rural settlements and water points. During this phase, data on number of households for every rural settlement, part of urban settlements and nomadic households using a water point was collected. In rural areas the work consisted of two steps:

Step 1 - Visit the district capitals to update the list of settlements from the 2005/6 UNDP survey and obtain an initial estimate on number of households **from interviews with clan elders.**

Step 2 - Verify the household figures obtained from the clan elders by doing **ground counts** of (a sample of) settlements within the district and ensuring that all new settlements were included.

Information on number of households from clan elders and ground counts is less reliable than getting accurate numbers of males and females through household interviews. Nonetheless, these sources can be used to compute adjustment factors that will be used to extrapolate the more reliable population figures from the PESS household survey (lower coverage) to get estimates for all areas. This population estimation data base will be further populated with data from other non-PESS sources, most importantly data on physical structures from satellite images, data from the 2005/6 UNDP settlement census, and WHO mass polio immunization data. These and possibly other data sources will be used to for consistency checking. Using these procedures is not out of the question that the PESS project will produce plausible estimates for rural settlements.

Sampling Frame for Future Surveys

The PESS has realized a national capacity of Somalis from each of the three zones developed in mapping and the use of GPS technology to create a hierarchy of geographic sampling units covering all accessible areas in the 18 Pre-war regions as were used in the 1986 population census.



Editing household listing forms and PESS

The sampling units have been compiled into a geo-file which was critically reviewed and validated by members from the Somali taskforce from the three zones, representatives from the three administrations and the Technical Support Unit (TSU) of UNFPA. The geo-file was used to come up with the sample frame from which a sample was drawn using standing sampling procedures. Having this sampling frame is in itself a landmark achievement.

Preparation for Field Enumeration

The PESS household survey questionnaire was designed in consultation with the Somali zonal taskforces. The questionnaire was endorsed by **Somali representatives of the three zones**.

In preparation for the field enumeration, UNFPA conducted an intensive joint workshop for over 100 trainers from all three zones in September 2013 in Hargeisa

A joint UN-Somali technical meeting held early in September flagged off the field enumeration process for the PESS, thus creating a great momentum to conduct the survey with enthusiasm and a sense of commitment. The field enumeration in all rural and IDP settlements was completed by the end of November 2013.



Senior Somali PESS staff and UNFPA

Counting the nomads': the PESS survey at the water points

Many Somali households own livestock and depend on them for livelihood, however not all of these households are 'pure nomads'. Pure nomads are defined as those households who predominantly depend on livestock for their livelihood and who do not have a permanent place of residence. These 'pure nomads' usually live in make-shift tents ("*aqals*") in temporary nomadic settlements which are difficult to locate.