

REPORT
TO THE REGIONAL CENSUS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
23rd MEETING
Frigate Bay, St. Kitts & Nevis
31 October 2013



Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek van Suriname (ABS)

General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname (GBS)

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INTRODUCTION

This report commences where the 2012 Report to the RCCC finished, namely with the planning for the period 22 October 2012 to 31 August 2013

Activity	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	July-13	Aug-13
Screen PES and Census forms in PES EB's (01)											
Key in PES information and Census Information in PES EB's (02)											
Key in Table 1A and 1B (For provisional results) (03)											
CENSUS SECURITY MEASURES (04)											
Pay Census Field staff (05)											
Screening and Coding of Census Questionnaires (06)											
Keying of Census Questionnaires (07)											
First Match of PES to Census and of Census to PES (08)											
Produce and Publish first Provisional Results (09)											
Computer edits / Cleaning of Census data (10)											
Final Match of PES to Census and of Census to PES (11)											
Produce and publish first Volume with final results (12)											

We shall extend the above table by also dealing with activities in September 2013.

01-Screen PES and Census forms in PES EB's /02-Key in PES information and Census Information in PES EB's/03-Key in Table 1A and 1B (For provisional results)

The technical activities 01, 02 and 03 went more or less according to plan, and on paying the Census Field Staff (05) it became clear that the Extra Security Measures taken (04) were necessary, as some members of the field staff who were penalized for substandard performance (in terms of quantity and/or quality) became very hostile. For some time the Headquarters of the ABS was under siege and people threatened to bust windows of the Office, to vandalize cars and even to vandalize residential premises of ABS Management. Notwithstanding all the pressures, the Bureau managed to pay most people by the end of November 2012, as was contractually required. However a few litigious cases had remained, but all were settled by mid December 2012.

It should be noted that in November 2012, the Census Management Team of the GBS was visited by an IDB mission and discussed inter alia “Lessons learned so far” with the mission. The lessons learned were classified into the areas of “Procurement”, “Fieldwork” and “Other matters”. At this point in time that is all we wish to share about the lessons learned.

06-Screening and Coding of Census Questionnaires / 07-Keying of Census Questionnaires / 08-First Match of PES to Census and of Census to PES

Activities 06 to 08 all went according to planning, hence on 25 January 2013, **circa 5½ months after the Census date of 13 August 2012**, the Provisional results of the 2012 Census were presented at a well-attended press conference (09)



Presentatie van dhr. Drs. Iwan Sno MSc.

Presentation by the Director of ABS/GBS



Overhandiging publicatie aan de Minister van Financien

The Minister of Finance receives the first copy.

Activities 10 and 11 turned out quite problematic, so in the interest of timeliness the GBS ended up utilizing the same practice as for the 2004 Census: Partial editing and cleaning and publishing about those variables that were considered clean.

Actually, these problems confirmed our suspicion and conviction that some of the field staff (enumerators, supervisors and field editors) had not performed well.

By the end of August 2013 a UNASUR Heads of Governments Meeting was held in Suriname, so the President's cabinet had asked the ABS/GBS to push the release of the final Census results back with one week and we certainly obliged.

On 6 September 2013, **circa 13 months after the Census date of 13 August 2012**, the first Volume (Demographic and Social Characteristics and Migration) was launched at a very well attended meeting.

OVERZICHT VAN DE PRESENTATIE van 6 september 2013

- Inleiding
- VN Definitie van Volkstelling
- De Definitieve Resultaten (Vol I)
- Betrouwbaarheid van de Cijfers

OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION OF 6 September 2013

- Introduction
- UN Definition of a Population Census
- Final Results (Vol I)
- Reliability of the Census Results



The Vice President receives the first copy of the final results Vol I

SUMMARY IN CARICOM REPORTING FORMAT

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES #)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY and/or Comments
Eighth Population and Housing Census	Provisional Census results (Jan '13) and Final Census results Vol. I (Sept '13)	Same as previous column, plus incidental data requests. Use of a SURINFO map during the presentation to depict the population by District.	Census undercount (estimated at 3.5%). Particularly perceived under-enumeration of Brazilians and Chinese has sparked a lot of criticism.	Post Enumeration Survey Conducted Comparison with independent sources conducted Demographic Analysis Conducted	Capture/ Recapture when some of the assumptions are violated.	Use of computers with internet access Use of UNMORTPAK-IV

Since Volume I of the final results has been launched the ABS/GBS had to deal with a lot of comments and criticism, ranging from very negative to very positive. Alas, the press never seems to pick up the positive comments, but only highlights the negative ones.

NEXT STEPS

- 1- Publish Second Volume with Results at the National level by end November 2013¹
- 2- Provide 10 % random sample to CARICOM and IGSR, preferably by Mid December 2013, but not later than end February 2014
- 3- Publish: Three Volumes (Urban, Rural and Interior) with data at the District level; Population Projections 2012-2032 and Technical Evaluation of the Eighth Population Census, between January and July 2014.

¹ In principle the GBS could consider publishing / disseminating finished at this time and could consider all other requests as special requests, to be dealt with using commercial rates, but we decided against this, at the risk of being accused next year of releasing historical data and not relevant statistics. Stakeholders in Suriname demand data fast, with national coverage and sufficient detail. Some stakeholders don't consider: Field work 13 August to 3 November 2012 and Data Dissemination between 25 January 2013 and July 2014 a good performance.