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 தொகைமதிப்பு புள்ளிவிபரத் திணைக்களம்  
 Department of Census and Statistics

# Statistics Newsletter

## Census of Population and Housing 2011

The Department of Census and Statistics is currently planning to conduct an island wide Census of Population and Housing after a lapse of 30 years. Sri Lanka conducted its first scientific census in the year 1871, and therefore recorded as the first country in South Asia region to conduct a Census of Population. Since then decennial censuses of population has been carried out except for a few occasions.

A complete enumeration is being planned to be done in the entire country in 2011

including the northern and eastern areas that have been affected by a long standing conflict, and hence the upcoming census will be of great statistical importance to the whole country. Conducting a Population census, that is regarded as the single most extensive, complicated and expensive statistical undertaking of any country, is a laborious exercise which not only needs a vast amount of capital but also requires careful planning. The DCS has therefore started census preparatory

work in advance as it undoubtedly involves distinct activities as well as requires a long duration. In order to get the maximum cooperation and a wider technical expertise, 15 technical sub committees comprising of DCS staff were appointed to make recommendations and/or to carry out various tasks involving the Census. The Census Division implements these recommendations and acts as the main coordinating body of the census. (To be continued on page 2)

## Revising the base year of the CCPI to 2007

The soundness of a CPI depends on the extent to which it had captured the current consumption behaviour of an average Household in the reference population. The items to be chosen for computing a CPI as well as the relative weights assigned to them need to be based on findings of a Expenditure Survey on consumption pattern of

the targeted group. The relative importance of each item consumed by the Consumer is represented by the weight assigned to each item in the index, derived normally through a periodically conducted Household Survey. Hence, it is expected to revised the base year of the current CCPI to 2007 based on the latest consumer expendi-

ture survey conducted in 2006/07. Prices and Wages Division of the DCS has already taken initial steps to rebase the CCPI to ensure the recent changes in the consumption pattern. It also envisages computing the new index at all Island level, Colombo District and also for Colombo Urban areas separately.

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The DCS conducted regional level workshops to get feed back from the DCS field staff on Census of Population 2011.

## Mapping Activities

## Census of Population and Housing 2011

The Mapping Division of the DCS under the able guidance of Mapping Steering Committee has started preparing Grama Niladhari level maps and demarcating the boundaries of GN divisions/Census Blocks, which is the smallest unit of enumeration in censuses/surveys. With the support of the regional administration, the Department has started mapping activities since 2007 in seven provinces other than North and East. The mapping process consists of preparation of base maps which will then be sent to the District Statistics Offices. Once the maps are drawn and checked by Statis-

tical Officers and Grama Niladharis, they are collected by the mapping division of the DCS. Almost all base maps of the provinces in the above mentioned seven provinces have been already prepared. About 25% of the Census Blocks have been prepared. However, the DCS is faced with the challenge of preparing GN division



maps for the Northern and Eastern provinces which are necessary for a



smooth enumeration of an area which is not completely enumerated in any household census or a survey in 30 years. Nonetheless, the DCS has started mapping Eastern Province which is going on successfully.

## Donor Assistance

## Census of Population and Housing 2011

In order to make the forthcoming census a success, the DCS has requested financial support from various international agencies. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), one of the major population data users in the country that has constantly supported the DCS in its endeavours has pledged to support the DCS in this important undertaking as well.



UNFPA has not only supported in capacity development of the DCS officers by funding them to participate in various

foreign and local training programmes, study visits, workshops but has also assisted to hold 5 regional level workshops in Central, Uva, Southern, Eastern and North Central provinces in order to get feed back from the DCS field staff on Census of Population 2001 as well as to get their ideas on improving the next census.

The DCS in collaboration with the UNFPA has conducted a workshop on 'Engendering the Census of Population and Housing 2011' as an initial step of its commitment towards engendering the forthcoming census. DCS central and field staff as well as experts from various Government and Non governmental organizations actively participated in the workshop while Dr.Meena Acharya, a prominent gender expert from South Asia

region shared her experiences of engendering the Census of Nepal and Maldives. At the end of the 2 day workshop the DCS has managed to come up with a



draft plan of action towards engendering the census.

Following the footsteps of UNFPA, its sister agencies United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Sri Lanka have agreed to provide their assistance to the DCS in successful conduct of the Census of Population and Housing.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Taking into consideration the operational issues faced by the DCS as well as data user issues of the Census of Population and Housing 2001, the DCS has identified the importance of changing the method of enumeration to be adopted at the next census. Based on the recommendations on possible method of enumeration suggested by Dr.S.Suharto, and various suggestions of senior staff of the DCS put forward at the two 'Method of Census Enu-

meration Awareness workshops' held in Colombo, the Sub Committee on Method of Enumeration has recommended the best method to be adopted at the next census.

The Sri Lanka Standard Classification of Occupations (SLSCO-08) and Sri Lanka Standard Industrial Classification (SLSIC) are being prepared by two sub committees assigned for those jobs based on International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) and Interna-

tional Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC Rev.4) respectively. Another development in data processing that is expected to be introduced at the next census is using Computer Assisted Coding to code occupations and industries of respondents at the next census. A sub committee appointed for this has developed a prototype for this which is expected to drastically reduce the time taken for manual coding of data at the census operation.

## Suggestions are Welcome

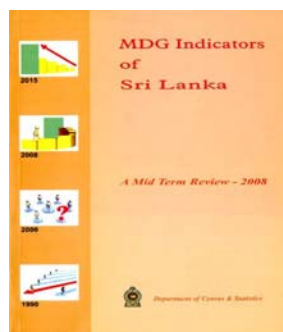
The Census Division has posted a letter to all statistical staff of the DCS to share their experiences in previous censuses and to make suggestions on possible improvements in all aspects of the census operations. The Department of Census and Statistics anticipates the support of all DCS staff towards the successful planning of the next census which is to be held in July 2011.

**NI Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped**

## Millennium Development Goals A mid term review

A study undertaken by the research and special studies division of the Department reveals that we are on the track in achieving most of the indicators on Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The data for this study was collected through a survey on MDG Indicators and collection of administrative statistics from various government institutions in a timely basis .

The areas to be concentrated more in the development process are pointed out in this publication. Some highlights are



Report published by the research and special studies Division

- ◆ Energy use (petroleum in kg) per \$GPG has followed a declining trend since 1990, with the highest value of 0.21 reported for 1990 and the lowest value of 0.05 reported for 2005
- ◆ Chlorofluorocarbons or CFC is a chemical product that causes depletion of the ozone layer. Sri Lanka has introduced many rules and regulations to reduce the use of such substances. As a result, CFC consumption which had risen to 521 MT in 1995 from 210 MT in 1990, has gradually declined to 62 MT by 2007.

## Improving the Quality of Administrative Statistics

The Publications Division of the department is entrusted with the collection of administrative statistics from various government institutions and publishes Annual Statistical Abstract (Statistical Year Book), Pocket Book and furnishes estimates for other technical divisions. One of which is collection of local government statistics from local government authorities Island wide. The data collected by this way is used for National Accounts Estimates. But it is felt that the questionnaire used for the collection of data has to be updated to capture the recent changes. Therefore a programme has been initiated with the assistance of STATCAP for redesigning the questionnaire with the contribution of local government officers who are involved in this activity.

The first workshop was organized for Colombo district local government authorities (4 Municipal Councils, 5

Urban Councils, 4 Pradeshiya Sabhas). The Commissioner/Secretary and two other officers from each council involved in this work, were invited. Mrs.D.B.P Suranjana Vidyarane, Director General, Mr.D.C.A Gunawardena, Director (Prices), Mrs H.D.



Somararatne, Director Industries Division Mrs. Nalini Kumarasinghe, Deputy Director, National Accounts Division participated at this occasion.

The second workshop was conducted in Anuradhapura on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Mr. D.C.A.Gunawardena Director prices and Mr Viraj Perera Commissioner North western provin-

cial Council were the keynote speakers of this workshop. The local government officers who attended the workshop, agreed to provide the building Statistics in time if they provided with enough forms.



The questionnaire is now updated with the amendments made by the local authorities is to be sent to the districts for data collection. The department expects hundred percent response and it intends to do an annual publication on this. This will be very useful to the policy makers and to the local bodies for their self monitoring.

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The STATCAP being implemented by the Department is aimed at constructing a building for the Department. An agreement was signed between The engineering consultant and the Department on 1st October 2009.

Publisher : Publications Division,  
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### Our sincere thanks are due to;

1. Mr. D.C.A. Gunawardena - Director (Prices),
2. Ms. L.P.De Silva - Director (Census)

FOR SHARING NEWS ITEMS FOR THIS PUBLICATION.