HOW ADMINISTRATIVE DATA IS SUPPORTING CENSUS-TAKING IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

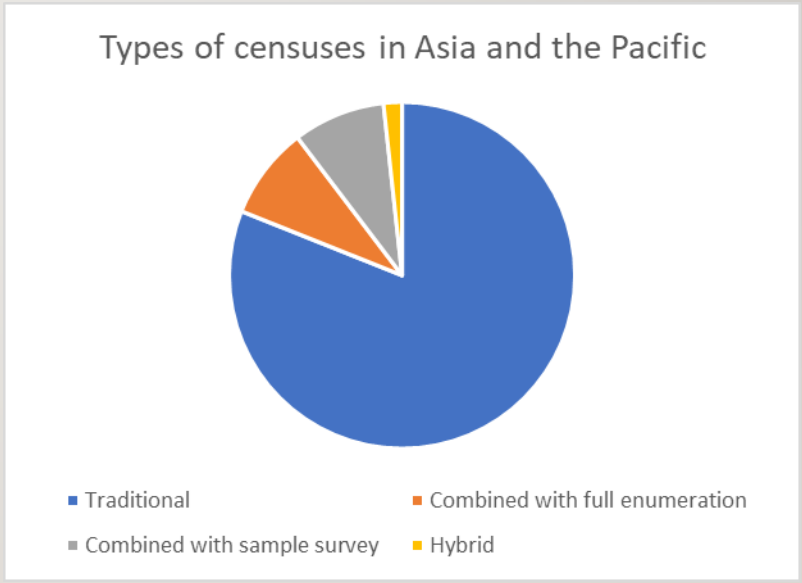
- Global trend with increasing use of administrative data for censuses.
- From 15 to 29 per cent globally between 2010 and 2020 rounds.
- Study displays approaches to using administrative data for censuses in Asia and the Pacific.
- Country case studies showcase variety of approaches.



https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/emerging-trends-census-approaches-asia-and-pacific-country-examples

AN OVERVIEW OF CENSUS APPROACHES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FOR THE 2020 CENSUS ROUND

- Traditional censuses still dominate with 47 countries
- 5 countries combined register data with full enumeration
- 5 countries combined register data with sample survey
- 1 country conducted hybrid census



COUNTRIES WITH COMBINED APPROACH

- Register data combined with full enumeration
  - Australia
  - Indonesia
  - Iran
  - Malaysia
  - New Zealand
- Register data combined with sample survey
  - Armenia
  - Mongolia
  - Republic of Korea
  - Singapore
  - Turkey

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SHOWCASE A WIDE VARIETY OF APPROACHES TO USING ADMINISTRATIVE DATA IN CENSUSES

- Turkey, Singapore and Republic of Korea have well established population registers/administrative data sources and is close to producing all census variables from register data.
- Armenia and Mongolia have newly established population registers and have conducted combined census for the first time in the 2020 round. Iran also has an established population register; however, in their previous census, they conducted full enumeration, but they are exploring ways to further using administrative data in future censuses.
- New Zealand has two-pronged approach: short-term modernization of traditional census, long-term transition towards register-based census.
- Australia is increasingly using administrative data to increase quality and cost-effectiveness of traditional census approach.
- Indonesia is using administrative data for creating household lists, but still conducts full enumeration. Malaysia using 2020 census to prepare administrative data for next round.
- Thailand is conducting pilots to assess quality of administrative data in parallel with census.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IN TRANSITION

- Several countries are in an early phase of exploring the use of administrative data, either for use in the 2020 round or in preparation for the next census.
- Several countries in the region have expressed interest in exploring the use of administrative data for future censuses.
- There are relevant initiatives, such as Get Every One in the Picture that aims to accelerate and focus efforts to improve CRVS systems in the region
- It is very likely several countries in the region will attempt to join the current ten countries in conducing combined censuses.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

- A key question is the existence of high-quality administrative data sources in the country.
- NSOs are dependent on other government entities for access to administrative data. Legal issues may have to be resolved.
- NSOs should be part of the national conversation on government systems for administrative record keeping.
- The establishment of population registers or civil registration systems is key.
- Administrative data on addresses can reduce the need for a costly mapping exercise.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Countries considering using administrative data for their census should conduct a thorough assessment of the existence and quality of administrative data sources in the country.
- It is important to promote a cautious approach in phasing out full enumeration. Quality control of administrative data is essential.
- Countries are encouraged to explore the use of administrative data to support their census even if the production of census variables from registers is currently not possible.
- There is scope for more peer-to-peer learning on the myriad ways administrative data can be used to support a census.
- Countries are encouraged to prepare and disseminate methodological notes on how their census was conducted.

THANK YOU!

Read more, please visit



https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/emerging-trends-census-approaches-asia-and-pacific-country-examples