

The 2000 Population Census of Mongolia

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I. Introduction

The population of Mongolia is 2.4 million with a population density of 1.5 people per square kilometers. About 32 per cent of the total population lives in the Capital –Ulaanbaatar. 36% of population is children below 15 years old.

Literacy rate in Mongolia is very high amounting 97.8% of the population aged 15 years old and above.

The 2000 Census is the ninth in its history, which was the first conducted since Mongolia moved from the centrally planned economy to a market economy in 1990. It was planned keeping in view the needs of emerging modern market economy and therefore has deviated from many of the past practices. One of the distinctive features of the 2000 Census was that it followed internationally acceptable methodologies.

II. General Feature of the 2000 Population Census of Mongolia.

The entire census operation was sub-divided into three stages, pre-census, census enumeration and post-enumeration activities.

The pre-census stage included the following activities:

- Creation of a legal basis for census-taking
- Estimation of costs and preparation of budget
- Fund raising and advocacy
- Development of a census work plan and timetable
- Establishment of a dedicated census organization
- Preparation of census maps
- Preliminary listing of households and houses
- Design of questionnaire
- Conduct of census pretests
- Planning for enumeration
- Design of output tables
- Design and testing of processing system
- Recruitment and training of staff
- Design of census communications and publicity strategies

In order to accomplish census preparatory work, census general plan was developed based on the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

The census enumeration stage covered the actual process of collecting census information from the entire population through interviews and the completion of census questionnaires.

Finally, planning for the post-enumeration stage included design of census evaluation, data processing, analysis, dissemination, publication of results and support to users of census data.

1. Legal Basis

The 2000 Census was conducted as of 8: 00 a.m. of January 5, 2000 in accordance with the Law on Statistics and the following orders:

- a. The Parliament Resolution concerning the time of conducting the Population and Housing Census (No. 6, 1998)
- b. Parliament resolution about establishing a National Census Committee (No. 39, 1999)

These legal documents stipulated the census taking date, defined responsibilities for the NSO, the regional governors, and the ministries in Mongolia, and enumeration procedures of the Census.

2. Persons Enumerated in the Census

The 2000 Census enumerated persons at the places where they were at the time of the Census on the basis of “de facto ” and attempted to measure all persons usually resident in the country as “de jure”.

In 2000 Census, all the persons who had been living or would be living in Mongolia, for six months or more are to be enumerated. The foreign diplomatic corps and consular corps, their suits and dependents were excluded form the coverage.

3. Census questionnaire

The Census included the following topics:

1.Social and demographical Characteristics

Name
Relation to household head
Date of birth
Age
Sex
Marital status
Citizenship
Ethnicity

2.Geographical and migration characteristics

Residential status
Duration of residence
Place of birth
Place of residence five years ago

2.Educational characteristics

Educational level
Literacy
School attendance

4.Economic characteristics

Activity status
Occupation
Industry
Employment status
Unemployment

The 2000 census differed in many important respects from that of 1989 and earlier censuses.

4. Census Organization

An important consideration for the successful conduct of the census during the transition period was that it should have the very highest level of political and administrative support.

According to the Law on Statistics, NSO is responsible for organizing and conducting population censuses. In order to mobilize the government support the National Census Committee was established under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Mongolia, the Chairman of NSO was appointed as the deputy chairman of the Census Committee. All the levels of the census commissions were responsible for overall monitoring of the quality of all census operations, and for ensuring adequate human and financial resources, including the provision of transportation, were allocated to the census.

5. Census enumeration

The 2000 Population and Housing census was conducted within seven days commencing at 8 a.m. on 5 January and finished at midnight on 11 January 2000.

About 12707 enumerators, and 3177 supervisors undertook field operations throughout Mongolia.

The territory of Mongolia was divided into 12.7 thousand enumeration areas. For each of these enumeration areas, a census enumeration map was developed. One enumerator enumerated 300-350 persons in urban areas and 30-35 households in rural areas.

III. Tabulation and Publication of the Results

1. Data processing

Data entry and processing was done at the NSO. Integrated Microcomputer Processing System (IMPS) was used for data processing.

The following table shows that capacity and speed of the installations had risen dramatically.

Changes in selected system components and applications, 1969-2000

System Component	Year of census			
	1969	1979	1989	2000
Hardware system	Tabulator, sorter	ES- 1040/IB360	One-ES1040, Two-ES-1045/IBM 370	'Server' computers Pentium II
Means of transferring information	Card with holes	Magnet tape, disk 29 MB	Magnet ape, disk 100 MB	Computer network
Capacity of main computer	Speed of circulation of motor	380,000 actions per sec.	880,000*2 actions per sec	30,000,000 ² actions per sec
Capacity of disk		180 MB	1,000 MB	30,000 MB ³
Software	Board of program	PL/1	PL/1	IMPS,MS SQL Server, VB
Number of programmers	Foreign specialist	14	8	3 + 3 internat. Experts
Number of data entry terminals and operators	8	12/3 in shift	20-24 * 2 shift	30 (after one month 34+2)/2
Number of engineers	-	12	20	2

2. Census output tables and publications

All the questionnaire were accumulated at NSO by February 2000. The data and several products produced from the 2000 Census were released earlier than for the previous Census – 1989. The final results of the 2000 Census were released in December 2000, which is by 7 months earlier than planned. We developed the dissemination strategy. According to this strategy we are planning to produce four major types of census products. These include the various summarized tables at the national and regional levels, thematic monographs and other analytical products, methodological papers or documentation for all stages in the census process and etc.

IV. Conclusion

The 2000 population and housing census of Mongolia differed from earlier censuses in many ways. As the first to be conducted during the transition period to a market economy, it was expected to reflect a changing emphasis in the demand for economic and social data. The 2000 Census was based largely on UN principles and recommendations for conducting censuses.

The active assistance and support of the National Census Committee, state and governmental organizations greatly helped towards its success. The UNFPA and the Australian Government financial assistance, UNSD and ESCAP technical assistance were very useful and important for the successful conduct of the 2000 Census.