

High-level Seminar on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS Countries

The 2009 Population and Housing Census in Kyrgyzstan

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After gaining independence the Kyrgyz Republic conducted its national Population Census twice. The following tasks were set in order to take the census timely and to produce data of high quality:

- To obtain comprehensive, relevant and reliable information that meet international standards on socio-demographic and economic characteristics of the population;
- To compile socio-demographic indicators at the level of the smallest administrative-territorial units
- to ensure a full coverage of residential and non-residential premises.

Development of the Legal Basis of the Census was one of the main priorities. It was the Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as the Government Acts.

It was at first time when documentation for the census was approved by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

According to the traditional method of census during the Population and Housing Census 2009, the personal data collection was carried out by enumerators who surveyed each adult and completed questionnaire during visits to residential and non-residential premises.

According to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic «**On Population and Housing Census**», the population census is compulsory and respondents could not refuse to provide the information required by census questionnaire.

Changes in demographic and socio-economic situation that took place during the years of free market economy resulted in number of challenges.

The challenge of enumerating the homeless was solved due to of indoor census premises which were provided by the local authorities. Survey of respondents was carried out in the presence of police.

Another challenge was the increasing internal and external migration and lack of residential premises.

Recently housing construction in the country has been increasing. However, we needed to consider that some premises were not registered and provided to the population. Nobody resides in some premises. Also in some rural areas there were empty residential buildings.

To address the challenges, statistical authorities together with local government made all their effort in pre-census period. They made “Lists of residential and non-residential buildings, where the people could live» and elaborated list of census districts.

Difficulties during the census: some citizens refused to participate in the census, and some were not at home at day time. These persons were enumerated with the help of the chairpersons of the residents committees, and police. Permanent residents, who left the country and planning to return, were enumerated using information provided by their relatives who indicated the reason and of the absence as well as their place of temporary residence.

Methodology of the census developed in accordance with international standards helped enumerators to ensure the full coverage and completion of questionnaire.

Census documents tested 4 months before the Census (November 2008) by regional statistical offices together with local governments enabled to improve guidelines for enumerators.

Census data publication program was developed. It comprised more than 120 output tables where data is provided with the various attributes characterizing the Kyrgyzstan population.

According to the results of the census there were made 17 publications in Kyrgyz, Russian and English in soft and hard copies.

The results of the 2009 Population and Housing Census provided a unique opportunity for comprehensive and broad analysis on various characteristics and their possible combinations, both on the national and regional levels. The 2009 Census created the database for implementation of national projects on public health, housing and education. The Census data were used for **a new sample Design** (5016 households) for the integrated household and labor force survey. The census results reflect the profound socio-economic changes that had occurred in the country over the last decade, and meet the requirements of international comparability.
