



Government of Pakistan  
M/o Planning Development & Special Initiatives  
**Pakistan Bureau of Statistics**  
21-Mauve Area, G-9/1  
Islamabad  
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No. Census. PD&SI (1)/2020

Islamabad dated 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

Subject: MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ADOPTION OF BEST PRACTICES FOR UPCOMING POPULATION CENSUS

Kindly find enclosed herewith duly approved minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 (Thursday) at 10:00 AM under chair of DCPC and subsequent meeting held at 02:00 PM under Chair of Minister for PD&SI, Islamabad in the Committee Room at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of M/o PD&SI for information please.

(Muhammad Sarwar Gondal)  
Member / Secretary of the Committee  
Consultant on Digital Census

**Distribution: -**

1. Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Zubair, Chief Economist
2. Dr. G.M Arif, Independent Researcher Ex. Joint Director of PIDE, (Member)
3. Dr. Zeba. A. Sathar, Country Director, Population Council, Islamabad, (Member)
4. Professor Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin, Independent researcher, (Member)
5. Dr. Syed Muhammad Arif, Retd, Professor, University of Balochistan, (Member)
6. Dr. Durr-e-Nayab, Demographer, Joint Director, PIDE, Islamabad, (Member)
7. Mr. Ehtesham Shahid, DG (Projects), NADRA, Islamabad.
8. Dr. Ayesha Shiraz, Demographer, Senior Fellow, NIPS, Islamabad, (Member)
9. Dr. Sanam Wagma Khattak, Demographer, University of Peshawar, (Member)
10. Khawaja Mazhar Jamal, GIS specialist, Karachi, (Member)
11. Syeda Ayesha Tassaduq, Director (HP), PID, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Islamabad
12. Syed Muhammad Alam Raza, Deputy Director, NADRA, Islamabad
13. Mr. Muhammad Saeed, Assistant Census Commissioner, PBS, Islamabad
14. Syed Farhan Hussain, DPO, PBS, Islamabad

**Copy for information to:**

- SA/JS to Minister, M/o PD&SI, Islamabad.
- SPS to Secretary PD&SI
- Staff Officer to Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Islamabad.
- APS to Member (Census & Surveys), PBS, Islamabad.

No. Census. PD&SI (1)/20-  
Government of Pakistan  
M/o Planning, Development & Special Initiatives  
**Pakistan Bureau of Statistics**  
Islamabad  
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Subject: MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ADOPTION OF BEST PRACTICES FOR UPCOMING POPULATION CENSUS

Two meetings of the Committee constituted for "**Recommendations & Adoption of Best Practices for upcoming Population Census**", were held on **15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021**, **first** at 10.00 am under the chair of the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission (DCPC) and **second** at 2.00 pm under chair of Minister PD& SI in the Committee Room at 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Ministry of PD&SI. List of participants is at **Annexure A**.

Proceedings of the first Meeting: -

2. Meeting started with the recitation of few verses from the Holy *Quran*. DCPC welcomed all the honorable members and requested Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (Secretary) of committee to proceed further as per agenda of the meeting. He apprised the Committee that the recommendations have been prepared for the 7<sup>th</sup> Population and Housing Census-Digital Census on the basis of detailed deliberations, valuable feedback of esteemed members in the six meetings and the extensive work done both by PBS teams & committee members (comparative studies on census processes, UN Principles for census, lesson learnt from last census). He then presented in detail the process adopted for reaching to the recommendations on the basis of main issues identified. It was informed that during detailed review it has been observed that the main issue regarding the controversies about Census 2017 results was due to lack of confidence on the process. He then listed the **broader issues** in the Census 2017 process as follows:

- General public was **not fully aware** about true **census objectives** and importance
- Lack of **involvement of all stakeholders** in whole Census Process
- **Delayed publicity campaign**, minimal use of **social media**
- **Ambiguity of Concepts** (usual place of residence)
- Verification of **CNIC from NADRA in Field Enumeration**
- Involvement of **Armed Forces in Parallel data collection**. (Form-786)
- **Pilot Census** was not conducted
- Census in **phases**
- Trainings- **Short duration**- non-usage of **modern technologies**
- Gap between trainings and field enumeration
- Use of **old questionnaire-2008**(Printed for proposed census-2011)
- Non availability of **updated maps**
- Dropping of Sample **Form-2A**
- Minimal use of **Female enumerators**
- **Manual**- Paper based Data collection
  - Traditional **monitoring mechanism**
  - Absence of **Prompt Messaging System**
  - Non- Usage of **GIS Technology**
- No **standard mechanism** to evaluate **Field Quality Control (FQCs) forms**
- **Post Enumeration Survey** was not conducted



After presenting the main issues, the **Major Recommendations** devised by the committee for conducting 7<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census were presented, which are as follows: -

- **Effective Communication for Clarity regarding the Primary objective of Census (Policy Planning Purposes) for awareness of General Public**
- **Ensure Universality:** Counting of whole population residing in the country at the time of census irrespective of its **Status/ Holder of CNIC or not**
- Census must be conducted **simultaneously in shortest possible time**
- **Involvement of Stakeholders** in three steps, firstly Consultation / Sensitization workshops with *data users, academia, Researchers, NGOs etc.*, then consultation with *Political Parties, notables etc.* at each Provincial Headquarter and finally Consultation / Engagement mechanism with **Provincial Governments.**
- **Robust Communication & Advocacy campaign** may be designed with collaboration of ministry of Information and Broad casting and must begin early till the finalization of results for clarity and awareness of general public by adopting integrated approaches and including notables and local social context.
- **Law enforcement /Security agencies** may be used for **security not for enumeration or verification**
- Do not Link **Census Enumeration Work with CNIC/ Verification** from NADRA
- **De-jure method** of enumeration may be used for comparability purposes, however comprehensive trainings for clarity of concept (usual place of residence) must be imparted.
- Census questionnaire should be short **as much as possible and strictly in relevance** to the **Objectives of Census.** It is recommended that short & long questionnaire may be administered containing most relevant questions. However, a **dedicated committee** may be constituted to finalize the **questionnaire**
- **Modern Multi-mode data collection methodologies** may be adopted for complete coverage, quality real time monitoring & timeliness. the following methods have been recommended: -
  - **Self-enumeration:** Launched 15 days prior to face to face interviews, submitted info in step-1 & verified (step- 2) in face to face enumeration phase (expected coverage **10 -15 percent**)
  - **Tablet Based Collection:** Face to face interviews, data will be collected both offline/online using tablets which include geo tagging of all structures and pre-installed digitized maps for coverage and avoiding omission & overlapping (expected coverage **85-95 percent**)
  - **Pen & Paper Personal Interview (PAPI):** - In the remote and sensitive areas PAPI approach will be used. (approx. coverage: 5% - 10%).
- **Pilot Census** which is **pre-requisite** before the conduct of census as per international standards, must be conducted specially to test / run the whole process for risk management & disaster recovery for successful conduct of "**Digital Census**".
- **Extensive trainings** using technological interventions just before field enumerations by involving academia/ students for trainings & monitoring of digital census
- **Monitoring & Supervision of field work:** An Real Time Dashboard System(RTDS) must be developed for **real time monitoring** and to cross-check the data by the supervisors and rectify the errors /omissions immediately. Further Special Quality Control Forms (**FQC**) be designed to check the quality and must be analyzed and processed in the field operation.
- **Post Enumeration Survey (PES)** must be conducted to evaluate quality & coverage within heels of the field enumeration and It is recommended that modern technologies like **Computer Assisted Telephonic interviews(CATI)** approach may be used to save the time and Financial/Human resources
- For **monitoring, coordination and policy decisions** the Committee recommends **establishment of National Census Coordination Center (N3C) under Minister PD&SI** with representation of all **Chief Ministers** and PBS, this will lead to ownership of Census processes.



- Establishment of **Census support centers at tehsil level** for 24/7 technical support, management and for complaint redressal
  - **Access to Individual Information**-For credibility and transparency, an innovative concept of access to individual-information by designing a mechanism to authorize general public to view their **respective data** through **secure login/password** during census activity for their **satisfaction and Verification** (if needed)
  - In the end, it was also recommended that for **efficient resource management and building resilient systems**, relevant authorities may be engaged to develop registers, which may be used in 8<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census as adopted in many countries UN Principles in their recent censuses.
3. After presentation the Worthy Chair, opened the floor for deliberations & feedback: -
- **Dr. Zeba. A. Sathar** congratulated PBS for preparing the comprehensive report on recommendations for upcoming census, however she was of view that as far as proceedings of the meetings, committee did not recommend self-enumeration mode of data collection as it will create confusion. It is again requested that modern technologies may be adopted but it may be kept as simple as possible. She further added that self-enumeration mode may be tested in pilot phase and based on results either extensive communication strategy may be adopted for general awareness of public or it may be used in 8<sup>th</sup> Population Census to avoid controversies. Regarding involvement of Army in the census process, she emphasized that Census must be conducted by civilians and for security, local police and rangers can be utilized to save financial resources as major chunk of the 6<sup>th</sup> census budget was spent on services provided by Army and allied arrangements. Further the involvement of stakeholders especially provinces may be immediately started for confidence building and Provincial Census commissioners may be deputed with clear TOR's for deliberations regarding implementation, coordination & effective management. She strongly advocated single questionnaire with relevant questions as mortality & fertility data collected through census has never been used for any projections.
  - **Dr. G M Arif** appreciated the work done. He was of the view that PBS has done extensive work and came up with comprehensive plan. He added that along with principles of **Universality & Simultaneity**, remaining three (3) UN guidelines regarding coverage may be included in the recommendations. He also proposed that if 7<sup>th</sup> population & housing census will be conducted in 2024 after proper preparations and the next census in 2031, Pakistan will again back in mainstream series which has been missed after 1981. He further added that based on the comparative studies of 15 countries and exploring Bangladesh in detail, it is recommended that Pilot census and Post Enumeration Survey(PES) must be integrated in to census process and each activity must be planned and conducted accordingly for provision of credible results. PES must be conducted as soon as possible after conduct of full enumeration and before conduct of Long Form (if separately conducted). He also emphasized that for complete coverage & quality of data, block size must be as small as possible, as other countries in region i.e. India & Bangladesh have created blocks up to maximum of 150 houses. Regarding questionnaire, *he strongly proposed that single questionnaire may be used with most relevant variables only as remaining variables are already being collected by PSLM District level surveys.* For self-enumeration he agreed that this is way forward but for this, literacy of the country is one of deciding factor. To avoid confusion, Self – Enumeration must be tested in Pilot and then may be implemented after careful planning and advocacy. He highly appreciated the idea of **N3C** and was of view that it must be established as soon as possible for engagement of provinces in the whole process for bringing ownership, transparency credibility and broader acceptability of Census Statistics. He further endorsed the idea of using relevant registers in the 8<sup>th</sup> census as many countries are already being implementing the same. However, registers are developed by different agencies relevant to their mandate other than statistical agency, therefore sensitization regarding the matter may be initiated by engaging them and by introducing proper legislation.



- **Dr. Ayesha Shiraz**, also supported the idea to administer a single questionnaire as Long Form indicators are already being catered by district level surveys of PBS. She also added that master level students may be involved in data collection along with teachers & LHWs for quality data collection. Regarding Self enumeration, she was of view that statistical literacy is very important to understand what has been asked in questionnaire otherwise people will understand according to their own perception. Literacy and proper guidelines are critical for its successful implementation and it must be carefully designed and piloted before taking decision to implement it.
  - **Dr. Sanam Wagma** added that Post enumeration survey must be conducted within one to three months of field enumeration before preparation of final results as per international standards. PBS must make efforts to integrate it in the original design and immediately conduct after full fledged operations. She was also of view that use of modern methods of data collections are highly recommended and foolproof mechanism may be devised to ensure its successful implementation and storage of data as some countries have experienced problems during census data collection. Lessons learnt by the countries in implementation of modern technologies may be utilized for devising the systems. She also endorsed the single questionnaire for upcoming census to ensure quality of data.
  - **Khawaja Mazhar Jamal, GIS specialist** appreciated the work done so far and was of view that these recommendations have been devised after thorough analysis and taking into account the problems faced in last census. Their successful implementation will lead to ownership of the process and broader acceptability of the results.
  - **Syeda Ayesha Tassaduq, Director (Home Publicity)**, assured her full cooperation for devising the communication and advocacy campaign and appreciated the work done by PBS as it addresses all the components. Now only steps are required to properly design and implement it.
  - **Syed Muhammad Alam Raza, NADRA**, of view that PBS idea of portal for record updation is really encouraging. As it will contain the indigenous and sensitive information, efforts must be made to safeguard this system from hacking attempts by using the appropriate security technologies
4. The worthy Chair thanked the honorable members for their expert views and valuable work done for preparation of recommendations. He highly acknowledged PBS efforts for preparation of material and was of view that PBS must be credited for self-critique and accepting the short comings in the last census process for rectification and bringing credibility for the next census process. He also added that successful conduct of national activity of 6th Population & Housing census after a gap of 19 years was major accomplishment of PBS and they must be appreciated for it. However, this process will identify the steps which will help in decreasing the trust deficit and bring wider acceptability of the process and results. He informed that while reviewing the recommendations, it is noted that there are certain issues which are still open and need decision before presenting the final recommendations to the Minister PD&S. He then discussed in detail on matters and following decisions were taken:

#### Decisions

- **Self-Enumeration:** - He was of view that this mode of data collection is very useful, and at the same time very challenging. Keeping in view the literacy level and complex ground realities of the country, it must be piloted first in upcoming population census and then be fully applied in 8<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census to avoid ambiguities and controversies. Further, proper communication will be the key for addressing misconceptions and misgivings regarding the process. There is a need to package it properly for successful implementation.
- **Deployment of Security Forces:** - As per UN principles, Census is civilian activity. However, keeping in view the specific ground realities, Security forces may be used on need basis as per decision of the provincial and district government for provision of only security to census staff but proper role may be defined by devising Terms of Reference.

- **Role of Provinces:** As Census is part of Federal Legislative List part II, it is joint responsibility of Federal & Provincial Government. It is imperative to have formal provincial representation in all committees for ownership of the processes & results. The recommendations devised must be deliberated in detail with the Provinces as early as possible for addressing their apprehensions and accordingly amending them, if needed.
  - **Communication strategy;** Work plan may be designed with the help of experts from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting by keeping in view the general thinking of people and the socio cultural context for appropriate dissemination of objectives of Census and for confidence building of all stakeholders.
  - **Single questionnaire may be used.** However, the technicalities (number & type of indicators) will be deliberated and decided by the specialized committee in due course of time.
  - **Feld operations** can be efficiently managed if the **block sizes** are small with well-prepared maps. For quality coverage more **female enumerators** may be involved. There is also a need for proper planning and budgeting for provision of facilities to enumerators in terms of transportation and allied matters.
  - Pakistan has huge young, literate student's population, which must be utilized for the upcoming "**Digital Census**". They are more capable of using technologies and are well aware about the census importance and sensitivity. The Human resource must be utilized efficiently for collection of reliable & credible data by involving LHWs, being a large work force and for wider coverage. Data collection work may not be left entirely on teachers and Patwaris
  - **Post Enumeration Survey** may be conducted as early as possible after completion of full enumeration by using latest tools and techniques like CATI approach after taking all stakeholders on board.
  - PBS must establish dedicated **Census Planning & Operation/ Census Project Management Unit** immediately. It will design and operate whole census in *Project based approach for conducting census for systematic application of all steps, including monitoring & evaluation and third party validation*. The unit must be equipped with specialized people in **Human Resource, Information Technology/ Data Processing, Procurement expert, Communication & Monitoring & Evaluation Framework**. Legal framework may also be designed and legal expert may also be hired for managing all activities smoothly. *All required Human resource may be hired for the period of two to three years for smooth execution of census activities.*
  - **Trainings** must be designed by engaging **training specialist/consulting firms** and adopting modern technologies. Questionnaire and training material may also be designed in local languages for better communication and understanding of concepts.
  - Linkage of data/**verifications with CNIC** must not be adopted in any case as Census is conducted for counting people for planning & resource allocation and not for registration
  - **Comprehensive time frame** must be prepared with proper budgeting requirements for successful conduct of 7<sup>th</sup> population & Housing census.
  - **NADRA/IT Universities** or other reputable consulting firms may be involved for development deployment of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Solution for Digital Census, Establishment of Infrastructure-Data Centers and other allied services required for smooth operations.
  - All the members agreed with the worthy chair to present the **above broader agreed recommendations to the Minister PD&SI** for accordingly devising the roadmap for future consultations and presenting to Council of Common Interest (CCI).
  - **Report of the committee** may be published after making necessary incorporations based on feedback of esteemed members.
5. The DCPC thanked all honorable members for their valuable feedback and invited them to join for meeting with Minister PD&SI at 2.00 pm for expressing their views as per their convenience.

## Proceedings of the Second Meeting

6. - Subsequent meeting of the Committee constituted for "**Recommendations & Adoption of Best Practices for upcoming Population Census**", at 2.00 pm under the Chair of the Mr. Asad Umar Minister PD&SI in the Committee Room at 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Ministry of PD&SI to review and deliberate on the recommendations made by the committee. List of participants is at **Annexure A**.

7. Meeting started with the recitation of few verses from the Holy *Quran*. Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan Deputy Chairman Planning Commission (DCPC), Chairman of the committee briefed the worthy chair regarding the proceedings of the committee and highly appreciated the dedication of PBS and committee members for devising recommendations and preparation of report. He informed that being sensitive exercise, it is strongly recommended that Census may be planned and conducted *with Project Approach for systematic application of all steps, including monitoring & evaluation and third party validation* for timely completion, transparency and credibility of the process. He sensitized the chair that worldwide census preparatory exercise is initiated at least three years before the conduct of census. As census exercise is not only gigantic but of paramount importance for Planning & Resource allocations therefore needs prudent planning and extensive groundwork. Planning & conducting census in a short span of 1 & half year time is a challenging task. He also added that Committee has agreed on broad recommendations and technical matters may be deliberated in detail in the specialized committees. He then requested Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member/Secretary) of committee to brief the Chair regarding the broader agreed recommendations for conduct of 7<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census.

8 Member/Secretary Committee apprised the Chair that committee after detail deliberations in the six meetings and extensive review of 6<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census Process. Did comparative studies of practices adopted by countries of region/globe and UN principals and identified issues in the last census to compile sound recommendations for conducting 7<sup>th</sup> Census in transparent manner as per International standards for wider acceptability has been prepared. He informed that during detailed review it has been observed that the main issue regarding the controversies about Census 2017 results were "**Trust Deficit**" and "**Communication Gap**" along with the failure to adhere International standards. Non-conduct of Pilot & Post enumeration Survey, data verification through NADRA, Parallel data collection by Armed Forces, Use of old questionnaire, conduct of census in phases resulting in overlapping and over enumeration due to longer period of data collection, shorter duration of trainings without technological interventions and last but not least Manual data collection and absence of exhaustive mechanism for monitoring & evaluation for quality data collection and complete coverage are major notable deficiencies. Keeping in view these issues, recommendations for conducting 7<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census have been devised and presented (as mentioned in para 2-4). Minister PD& SI largely agreed on the recommendations, however raised queries on certain points along with some proposals/directions as follows:

- **Effective Communication Strategy for Clarity regarding the Primary objective of Census (Policy Planning Purposes) for awareness of General Public.** The campaign will start from September 2021 and will continue till the end of field work i.e. **August –September of 2022.**

The chair at this point emphasized that keeping in view the nature of exercise and its linkage with political representation & resource allocation, it is essential that communication strategy may be devised with the focus on ground realities and educate the people of Pakistan regarding Census importance and the processes. This will address their grievances, avoid exploitation of people for vested interests and increase their confidence. Further there must be direct engagement with Electronic/Print Media for designing appropriate publicity campaign along with efficient use of Social Media for widespread reach.

- **Ensure implementation of UN principles of Universality:** (Counting of whole population residing in country at time of census irrespective of it **Status/ Holder of CNIC or not**) and **simultaneously** (conduct of census in shortest possible time). Armed forces may be used only for security on the need basis.

Minister PD&SI, expressed satisfaction on adoption of UN principles by aligning them to country specific conditions and delinking of verification of census data with CNIC at stage of enumeration. However, he strongly

urged that efforts must be made to ensure full coverage as ultimately data collected through census will be linked with NADRA registration data and eventually with voter lists, which had created controversies in the last census. He was also of view that conducting Census in small period of time implies that Armed Forces will not be used in the census process. **DCPC informed that as Per UN Principles**, no other agency should be involved in parallel data collection, however International observers accepted role of armed forces for provision of security in last census. As security conditions have improved therefore it is proposed that law enforcement agencies may be used on need basis with consultation of the Provincial governments. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member/Secretary of the committee informed the worthy chair that keeping in view the past experiences of PBS in 1991 and 2011, where massive over enumeration was reported (which lead to discarding the whole operations and results), there must be role of armed forces for provision of security and to lend credibility to whole process. Further using armed forces in one area/province and not using in another area/Province will create political controversies and violate the condition of similar environment. Therefore, the matter may be looked in to with great care and decision may be made by taking in to confidence all key stakeholders. The chair agreed with the views of the both, and directed to prepare detailed document with *Pros and Cons of use of Armed forces in the census operations* for taking appropriate decision at the highest level.

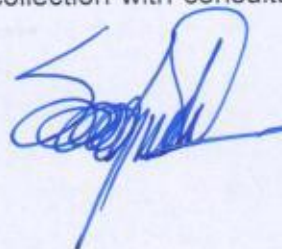
- *De-jure method of enumeration may be used for comparability purposes, however comprehensive trainings for clarity of concept (usual place of residence) must be imparted.*

It was enquired by Minister how PBS ensures that the person who is reporting that he is living at this place for more than six months and has no usual place of residence elsewhere. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, informed that the enumerators are extensively trained to understand the concept and to explain to respondents. Whatever the respondent reports are usually noted by enumerator and not cross checked with any other source. **Dr. Zeba Sathar** at this point proposed to cover the population by using de-facto approach (enumerate the person where it is found during the enumeration period) and to include also one question for getting his usual place of residence and by imposing curfew as done in Turkey. However, **Mr. Mazhar Jamal** opposed the idea of imposition of curfew on the basis that the enumeration work on block size of 200 to 250 houses usually take 15 days to complete and cannot be enumerated by imposing curfew of two to three days. If enumeration work is to be completed in one or two days, then all the blocks have to be again delimited and new maps have to be made. This is not only time taking exercise but also needs huge human and financial resources. Further provision of field staff in huge numbers at one point of time cannot be managed based on the problem faced in last census.

Minister PD&SI directed to prepare document by studying different *countries where the curfew was imposed for census enumeration* and how they managed for taking most appropriate decision according to ground realities and effective use of human & financial resource management.

- *Modern Multi-mode data collection methodologies may be adopted for complete coverage, quality real time monitoring & timeliness, including **Self-enumeration** (as per the deliberations of the committee members it is proposed that it must be piloted during &7<sup>th</sup> Population & housing Census and may be implemented in the 8<sup>th</sup> population & Housing Census), **Tablet Based Collection** (face to face interview, both offline & online expected coverage 85-95 percent), **Pen & Paper Personal Interview (PAPI)**: - In the remote and sensitive PAPI will be used. (approx. coverage: 5 -10%).*

The chair was of view that **Self-Enumeration** is excellent technological intervention. Keeping in view the lack of confidence in the process, this technique will not be able to yield desired results but may create confusion and may be exploited to discredit Census results and process. Therefore, the process may be piloted in 7<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census for its full fledged implementation in 8<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census. He also strongly emphasized that Census all over country **must be conducted electronically using Tablets** and efforts must be made to remove impediments in electronic data collection with consultation of relevant stakeholders/ respective administration





- **Role of Provinces and Establishment of National Census Coordination Center (N3C)**

Minister PD&SI highly appreciated the idea of establishment of N3C for involvement of Provinces in the whole Census process for coordination, provision of field & monitoring staff, Real time monitoring of data, policy decisions for successful implementation of Census Operations. He was of view that this will work as Confidence Building Measure (CBM) and resultantly all stakeholders will own the process and accordingly the census results. However, he suggested that **N3C may be headed by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission (DCPC)** and all Chief Secretaries and Provincial Census Commissioners along with Chief Census commissioner may work together in this forum for successful conduct of 7<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census. He further added that N3C may be notified as soon as **Council of Common Interest (CCI)** approves the conduct of census with proposed recommendation and timelines and N3C must set time based milestones for smooth conduct of census and present regular updates to CCI for review and appropriate policy decision (if needed). However, he endorsed to establish dedicated Census Project Management Unit immediately and appropriate manpower may be deputed in PBS HQ as well as Provincial HQs immediately so that Census activities may be planned and coordinated involving all stake holders.

- **Access to Individual Information**-For credibility and transparency, an innovative concept of access to individual-information by designing a mechanism to authorize general public to view their **respective data through secure login/password** during census activity for their **satisfaction and Verification** (if needed).

The Worthy Chair valued the recommendation, however for making process easier, he proposed that instead of login and password, a system like SMS for Covid Immunization (1166) may be introduced.

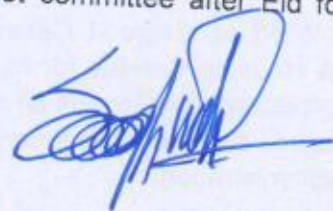
- **Work plan with timelines (April 2021- February 2023)**

The Chair also directed that Post Enumeration Survey must be conducted by October –November 2021 and before final Census results for assurance of quality & coverage. He further enquired that why still two months' time is reflected for finalization of Census results when data is collected electronically through tablets and will be available instantly. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal informed the worthy chair that it is essential to check the demographic trends and the patterns including Population Pyramid, age heaping etc. before finalizing the results to avoid any complications. However, PBS will work to reduce the time. It was further informed by Secretary of committee that successful conduct and completion of First ever "**Digital Census**" of Pakistan and provision of results by February 2023 largely depends upon the procurement of tablets, preparation/ acquisition of software's and hiring of well reputed companies for overall management for trouble shooting and allied support services. According to PPRA rules, this need significant time, which may lead to delay the whole process. Therefore, some **special arrangements for procurements** must be considered for timely completion of this gigantic task.

9. In the end Minister, showed his satisfaction over the work done by committee and highly acknowledged the committee and PBS (for self-critique for identifying the short comings) for devising solid recommendation for improving the Census process for conduct of 7<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census. He directed that the recommendations along with detail timelines may be presented to cabinet committee after Eid for onward submission to CCI for approval.

10. Meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

**Participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

1. Mr. Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, (Chairman)
2. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, (Member/Secretary)
3. Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Zubair, Chief Economist, Planning Commission, (Member)
4. Dr. G.M Arif, Independent Researcher Ex. Joint Director of PIDE, (Member)
5. Dr. Zeba. A. Sathar, Country Director, Population Council, Islamabad, (Member)
6. Dr. Ayesha Shiraz, Demographer, Senior Fellow, NIPS, Islamabad, (Member)
7. Dr. Sanam Wagma Khattak, Demographer, University of Peshawar, (Member)
8. Khawaja Mazhar Jamal, GIS specialist, Karachi, (Member)
9. Syeda Ayesha Tassaduq, Director (HP), PID, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Islamabad
10. Syed Muhammad Alam Raza, Deputy Director, NADRA, Islamabad
11. Mr. Ayazuddin, Member (Census & Surveys), PBS,
12. Ms. Rabia Awan, Director. PBS, Islamabad
13. Mr. Inam Ullah Khan, Assistant Census Commissioner, PBS, Islamabad
14. Mr. Muhammad Saeed, Assistant Census Commissioner, PBS, Islamabad
15. Syed Farhan Hussain, DPO, PBS, Islamabad

**Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

1. Mr. Asad Umar, Minister Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Islamabad
2. Mr. Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Islamabad
3. Mr. Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh, Secretary PD&SI, Islamabad
4. Mr. Qamar Sarwar Abbassi, Joint Secretary/Special Assistant to Minister PD&SI
5. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, (Member/Secretary)
6. Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Zubair, Chief Economist, Planning Commission, (Member)
7. Dr. G.M Arif, Independent Researcher Ex. Joint Director of PIDE, (Member)
8. Dr. Zeba. A. Sathar, Country Director, Population Council, Islamabad, (Member)
9. Khawaja Mazhar Jamal, GIS specialist, Karachi, (Member)
10. Mr. Ayazuddin, Member (Census & Surveys), PBS,
11. Ms. Rabia Awan, Director. PBS, Islamabad

