



**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

MINUTES OF MEETING

Title of Meeting	Consultative Meeting on 7 th Population & Housing Census-2022 First Ever “Digital Census” of Pakistan
Date & Time	September 08, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
Venue	Committee Room of P& D Department, 2 nd Floor Tuglaq House, Sindh Secretariat, Karachi
Participants	Signed list of participants attached

A consultative meeting on the 7th Population & Housing Census-2022 First Ever Digital Census of Pakistan was presided over by Chairperson, P & D Board, Sindh. At the outset the chair welcomed the participants, after the round of introduction, Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Focal Person, Digital Census, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) presented a comprehensive power-point presentation whereby he informed participants that in the 45th meeting of Council of Common Interest (CCI) it was decided that **“the process of next census should start as early as possible according to international best practices by using latest technology”**. Subsequently, the federal government has earmarked the funding for the 7th population and housing census in FY 2021-22. He informed that a Census Advisory Committee was constituted for recommendations for adoption of best practices for upcoming census with representation from all provinces. The committee has done extensive work and reviewed the whole process of Census 2017 and identified the issues that has brought criticism on the process and accordingly devised recommendations with measures to avoid all such bottlenecks in next census for transparency, credibility and broader acceptability. The Committee emphasized on the **involvement of stakeholders especially provinces from initial stage of planning to compilation of results** therefore consultative process has been initiated with provinces for their feedback before finalization and approval from the relevant forum. Accordingly, earlier an online introductory meeting of Secretary PD&SI regarding recommendations of the committee for upcoming population census was held with all Chief Secretaries and their teams on 13th August, 2021. He highlighted the role of Provinces in the field of data collection & monitoring process is central for successful conduct of the important & gigantic activity of paramount importance.

Today's consultative meeting is the first step towards the consultation process, in second step consultation would be done with the provincial political leadership, civil society and in third step consultation with provinces for provision of field staff and conduct of census will be made.

2. While presenting the broader recommendations of the committee, he informed about the complete roadmap, methodology and timelines to complete the process. It was further informed that 7th Population & Housing Census will be the first ever “**Digital Census**” of Pakistan and data will be collected electronically through tablets linked with GIS for real time monitoring & complete coverage. Further, he informed that with digital census, Internet based self-enumeration is proposed which will be launched 15 days prior to census activities through web-based solution, the generated QR code at the time to web registration will help census teams to verify the household and information they provided along with geo coding. PBS, however initially planned that 5-10 % response but envisage a high response rate during self-enumeration based on experience of other countries of the region. It was informed that geo-tagging of all structures (including structures with economic activities, masjids etc.) will be done during census and this will provide basis of sampling frame for Economic Census and other specialized surveys in future. In addition, due to linkage with GIS, the chances of overlapping/duplication of blocks will be diminished. Live monitoring of census data blocks will be carried out with the help of dashboard. It is further added provision of Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) has not been kept mandatory for the upcoming census as it was in 6th population census. The Law Enforcement Agencies would only be engaged for security purposes and will authorize to collect duplicate copy of census Forms which they did in last census as it is against the principles of UN guidelines. He further informed that a pilot will be conducted in March, 2022 and all tools will be finalized after review in lines with pilot results. He also shared with the house that, Computer Assisted Telephonic Interview(CATI) will also be used during census operations for real time data quality monitoring and to ensure coverage.

3. After the presentation, the chair asked Director General, Bureau of Statistics to give his comments and preliminary recommendations The Director General, Bureau of Statistics appreciated the presentation and was of view that all the queries which were raised during previous presentation with chief Secretary has been addressed. Further he stated that response rate envisaged by PBS through Self-Enumeration seems to be on higher side despite technological adaptability, access to quality internet service is far flung areas of the province is yet a challenging aspect. He further emphasized on translation of census questionnaire & informative videos into local languages, increasing female enumerators. He also stressed for inclusion of Bureau of Statistics representative in the Census Technical Committee and inclusion of staff in census activities for capacity building.

4. Thereafter, the chair summarized the discussion and concluded that the comprehensive provincial comments & recommendation on the 7th Population & Housing Census would be shared

with PBS after consultation is completed with all provincial stakeholders including consultation with political leadership.

Decisions:

- Census Questionnaire & Informative videos would be translated into regional language.
 - Bureau of Statistics will be engaged in the upcoming census & will be given representation in the technical committee(s).
 - Comprehensive recommendation from the province will be shared with PBS after consultation with political leadership.
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- **Picture Gallery**

Second Provincial Meeting held at Karachi, Sindh on 8th September, 2021



