





Steering Committee of the International Monitoring Operation on the Population and Housing Censuses in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Seventh Assessment Report

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Jean-Michel Durr, Senior expert, SC Team Leader

Roberto **Bianchini**, Expert

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List of acronyms

BiH Bosnia and Herzegovina

BHAS Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina

CoM BiH Council of Ministers of BiH
CSO Civil Society Organisation

DB District Brčko

EA Enumeration area

FBiH Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

FOS Federal Office of Statistics

EI Entity Instructor

EUPHC 2 Technical assistance to Population and Housing Census Phase II

GIS Geographic Information System

ICEI Department for International Cooperation and External Information

IMO International Monitoring Operation

IMO MG International Monitoring Operation, Management GroupIMO SC International Monitoring Operation, Steering Committee

IT Information Technology

LFS Labour force survey

MCC Municipal Census Commission

MI Municipal Instructor

PES Post Enumeration Survey

Q Question

RS Republika Srpska

RSIS Republic Srpska Institute for Statistics

SA Statistical Area
SI State Instructor

TA Technical Assistance

TAP Technical Assistance Project

TOR Terms of Reference

Introduction and Background

- 1. A Population and Housing Census shall take place in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in accordance with the Law on the Census of the Population, Households and Dwellings in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013 as adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 3 February 2012. The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has invited the European Commission to organise the international monitoring of the Census. Therefore, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed on 18 April 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding to agree upon the following:
- The general objective of the International Monitoring Operation (IMO) of the Population and Housing Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina is to monitor the compliance of the whole Census exercise, from the preparation to the data dissemination, with:
- International standards on population and housing censuses as defined by UNECE and Eurostat, and as adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians as Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing;
- Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 on population and housing censuses, and its implementing measures:
- The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted by the UN Statistical Commission, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice, promulgated by the European Commission;
- Standards on data protection and confidentiality, as provided for in the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data of the Council of Europe, and the relevant European Union regulations in force.
- 2. The Operation will be carried out by a Committee of International Organisations, the Management Group (IMO MG) assisted by a Senior Census Expert, experts in population censuses, one or more experts in information technology and persons monitoring the census enumeration in the field.
- 3. The Senior Census Expert, the Census Experts and the IT Experts will assess the compliance of the Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the requirements listed in the Memorandum of Understanding, but they will not provide technical assistance.
- 4. Under the guidance of the Committee and the Senior Census Expert, the Census Experts shall:
- Examine the technical preparation of the Census including the pilot Census and postenumeration survey, in particular the drafting of questionnaires and manuals;
- Monitor the collection, processing and dissemination of Census data, verifying the accordance with the requirements defined above;
- Control the fair and proper computation at all levels and whether the confidential nature of the individual data is fully guaranteed;
- Investigate any other matter with relevance for the Census.
- 5. The Management Group has designated Mr. Jean-Michel Durr as Senior Census Expert and Mr. Roberto Bianchini, Mr. Bent Noerby Bonde, Ms. Meryem Demirci, Ms. Kateri-

na Kostadinova-Daskalovska, and Mr. Guido Pieraccini as experts in population censuses. The Senior Census Expert and the Experts in population censuses form the IMO Steering Committee (IMO SC) of international experts.

- 6. The first mission of the IMO SC was conducted from 23 to 26 April 2012. The objective of this mission was to assess the preparations for the population and housing census in their main components, including the preparation of the pilot census. The report of the SC was sent by the Senior Census Manager on May 12 to the IMO MG.
- 7. The second mission was conducted from 26 to 29 of June 2012. The objective of this mission was to assess the progress made since the first mission in preparations for the population and housing census, including the preparation of the pilot census.
- 8. The third mission took place on 17 and 18 of September 2012 and was conducted by two members of the SC, Mr, Durr and Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska. The objective of the mission was to assess the implementation of recommendations made in previous reports and to assess the preparation of the pilot census, planned for October 15-29.
- 9. The fourth mission took place between 10 and 29 of October 2012 and was conducted successively by the members of the SC (5 days each, except the senior expert from 10 to 19 of October). The objective of the mission was to observe the conduct of the pilot census in the field. In addition, a team of four observers, composed of Lidija Naumovska, Gabor Rosza, Jean-Paul Sardon and Per Schöning was present during the whole period of the pilot census. Each of them covered several municipalities, in order to observe the pilot census field operations in all the 60 enumeration areas (EAs) sampled in the pilot.
- 10. The fifth mission took place from 19 to 21 of November 2012 (3 days) and was conducted by one member of the SC, Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska. The objective of the mission was to observe the conduct of the Post enumeration survey (PES) of the Pilot census in the field. The expert covered all 6 EAs (in 6 municipalities) sampled in PES sample in order to observe the PES field operations.
- 11. The sixth mission took place from 10 to 13 of December 2012 and was conducted by four members of the SC: Mr. Roberto Bianchini, Mr. Bent Noerby Bonde, Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska and Mr. Guido Pieraccini. The objective of the mission was to hear from the Statistical Institutions about the lessons learn from the Pilot Census and to assess whether the preparations are on level that could allow conducting a census in April 2013.
- 12. The seventh mission took place from 12 to 15 February 2013 and was conducted by one member of the SC, Mr. Roberto Bianchini. The objective of the mission was to assess the situation on the progress of preparation and implementation of the IMO recommendations in the new context of the postponement of the census, with a focus on the achievement of the deadlines regarding cartographic preparations. A second objective was to collect information and materials for a more detailed assessment on the progress of census preparatory activities to be made by all members of the SC in March or April 2013.
- 13. The present assessment is based on the information reported during mission meetings, and on some direct observations of the mission. As a consequence, the comments and recommendations presented below are based on the understanding of the experts, and may not reflect the real situation. The report was prepared by the expert that performed the mission and was finalised by the Senior Census Expert.

14. The experts wish to express their gratitude to the directors and staff of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS), the Statistical Institutes of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska for their availability and collaboration, and to the staff of Council of Europe for the perfect organisation of the mission.

Executive Summary

- 15. The mission was conducted eight weeks after the recommendation made by the IMO that a postponement of the census of at least six months would allow the Statistical Institutions to finalise preparatory census activities in line with EU and international standards, and would give more time to solve some issues which could hamper the successful achievement of a population and housing census in Bosnia & Herzegovina.
- 16. The focus of the mission was to assess the situation on the progress of census preparation and implementation of the IMO recommendations in the new context of its postponement, with a focus on the achievement of the deadlines regarding cartographic preparation. Recommendations given in the last SC report were a guideline for the discussions, focusing on the problematic areas, and the annex 2 to the last SC report was taken as reference to measure the progress.
- 17. In general terms, considerable advancements were made by the three statistical institutions in the census preparations as recommended by the SC of IMO and as indicated in the annex 2 of the previous SC report, at least for the activities planned to be completed within the month of February 2013. However, some milestones have not been reached, and others only partly, mostly because some of the issues already pointed out in previous reports of the SC are still unsolved.
- 18. On the basis of the discussions held during the mission with the Statistical Institutions, the main findings are:
 - a) A positive progress was made in decision-making aspects: the CoMs of BiH appointed recently the Minister of Communication and Transports, Mr Damir Hadzic for the overall coordination of the census operation. His role would be important for the support from the Government to the census operation;
 - b) The internal organisation for communication among BHAS and entity statistical institutions is likely to improve due to a number of initiatives taken by BHAS. A Minister was appointed by the CoMs of BiH as Census Coordinator to support the coordination of the census operation at Government level. However, it is still unclear who should take decisions if there is no agreement between the three Statistical Institutions. An example is the disagreement on the formulation of some questions on census questionnaires and on some points of the overall plan of activities for census operations;
 - c) A detailed plan of activities for the overall census operations until 2016 was prepared by the Agency for Statistics. For each activity the plan indicates the implementation period and the responsible institution. The plan is consistent with the IMO recommendations.
 - d) A document on the Census Communication and Outreach Strategy was drafted by the EU technical assistance project (EUPHC) and agreed by the three statistical institutes, but no training of management and staff on communication was reported to be carried out in the last period;

- e) Some progress was done on the implementation of the BiH census law defining roles, duties and responsibilities of the three statistical institutions and improving instructions on how to conduct the enumeration of the BiH citizens working or residing abroad for more than 12 months (Articles 40-42 in the BiH Census Law). However, no progress was made on other issues: duties and responsibilities of the MCCs, common census database, selection of field staff, establishment of a register of spatial units at the Agency for statistics; no progress was made to harmonize the RS census law with the BiH census law;
- f) Following the decision on the postponement of the date to conduct the census, the Council of Ministers of BIH (CoMs BiH) adopted, in January 2013, the amendments to the Census Law "Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013" and send them into urgent parliamentary procedure. The Law was adopted by the BiH House of Representatives on 31/01/2013;
- g) The overall census budget was revised by BHAS and, after an agreement with the entity statistical Institutions, it is expected to be submitted to the Central Census Commission and to the CoMs BiH for its approval. Its adoption and a clear definition on the distribution and management of funds among the Statistical Institutions is a priority for the progress of census preparations;
- h) Census questionnaires P1 and P2 were revised and agreed between the Statistical Institutions, with the exception of questions 19 (Citizenship), 24 (Ethnicity/Nationality), 25 (Religion) and 26 (Mother tongue) of the census form P1; these versions of questionnaires do not include ID unique codes for addresses or buildings as recommended by the SC;
- i) Cartographic preparations will be concluded according to the plan only in FBiH and Brcko District. In RS, 30 per cent of the territory is still not covered by orthophotos. Therefore, census maps cannot be prepared in that part of the territory as in the rest of the country, making differences in the methodological approach;
- j) The number of Enumeration Areas (EAs) will be defined by the end of February 2013, but the expected total number seems too large in comparison to the 1991 census;
- k) A compiled version of instruction manuals for field operations is being prepared, in the light of the lessons learned from the 2012 pilot census;
- 1) The preparation of data processing activities are in general well progressing but decisions should be taken soon on the access to individual data with personal information, and on the location of the servers for the replication of census data;
- m) A document on the dissemination of census data was drafted by EUPHC and agreed by the three statistical institutes.
- 19. In conclusion, the SC considers that the technical preparations are in general progressing, but with some delay. The delay seems mostly due to the difficulty to establish an efficient decision making mechanisms allowing the Agency for Statistics to implement and monitor census preparatory activities according to the plan of activities, in agreement with the entity Statistical Institutions.

20. In the next mission, the SC will assess the census materials produced until March 2013, and will monitor more in detail the progress made in technical preparations.

Progress made since the sixth assessment of the SC

- 21. Following the last mission of the SC in mid-December 2012, the SC strongly recommended in the sixth report a postponement of census operations for a minimum of 6 months. A set of main milestones for census preparations were included in the report (Annex 2) to support the statistical institutions to monitor the progress on the census preparatory activities, assuming that the census in BiH will be conducted in the period 1-15 October 2013. The progress of the census preparations is briefly assessed below in relation to the activities expected to be completed by February 2013, at the time of the seven mission of the SC. Further assessment is presented in the following paragraphs of the report. The annex 2 was revised according to the achievements made.
- 22. In order to support decision making mechanisms, the CoMs of BiH appointed recently a Minister for the overall coordination of the census operation. His role would be important for the support from the Government to the census operation. Furthermore, the SC believes that this designation showed a strong commitment from the CoMs of BiH on the support to the census operation in BiH. A first positive result was the quick approval from the CoMs of the proposal for the amendment of the BiH census law.
- 23. It was observed that the internal organisation for communication among BHAS and entity statistical institutions is likely to improve, due to a number of initiatives taken by BHAS to establish in the next future communication tools between the Agency and the Institutes of Statistics in RS and FBiH, and to monitor closely the progress of census preparations. Namely by:
 - Setting up of a videoconferencing system between BHAS, RSIS and FOS. This is expected to be operative at the end of February 2013;
 - Drafting of a detailed plan of activities for the overall census project until 2016 indicating for each activity the starting and ending date and which is the responsible institution for its implementation. According to the plan, activities are organised into groups including Legislation, Coordination and Management, Public Campaign, Cartography, Logistics, Methodology and Organisation, ICT, Human Resources, Training, Enumeration and PES, Dissemination, Reporting. The plan was discussed by the three Statistical Institutions, and approved by the Central Census Bureau. RSIS did not agreed with some activities (Harmonization of the RS census law with the state law, establishment of a register of spatial units at the BHAS, definition of the number buildings/dwellings along the entity line). Furthermore, the plan of activities is to be discussed by the CoMs BiH at the beginning of March 2013;
 - Preparation of a template for reporting purposes on the implementation of the plan of activities, to be compiled by each of the three Institutes of Statistics. BHAS proposed that a report should be submitted to the Agency every two weeks. Each report should circulate among the three institutions and a compiled report should be prepared by the Agency and submitted to the Central Census Commission. The reporting system should be operative mid-February 2013;

- Organisation of joint technical meetings among the three statistical institutions to discuss and agree on census materials. A meeting was organised from 22 to 26 January on census questionnaires and a meeting was planned at the end of February to agree on the methods to process data from the pilot census held in October 2012.
- 24. A document on the <u>Census Communication and Outreach Strategy</u> was drafted by the EU technical assistance project and agreed by the three statistical institutes.
- 25. Some progress was done on the implementation of the BiH census law:
 - Roles, duties and responsibilities of the three statistical instititions have been tentatively defined in the plan of activities approved by the Central Census Bureau
 - Instructions on how to conduct the enumeration of the BiH citizens working or residing abroad for more than 12 months (Article 40-42 in the BiH Census Law) are being included in the revised Methodological Manual, upon agreement reached on the formulation of question 1 of the P1 census form.

However, no progress was made on other issues indicated in the previous SC report such as:

- Duties and responsibilities of the MCCs;
- Establishment, maintenance and ownership of "common data base" of Census data;
- Selection of the census field staff in accordance with article 26, points 4 and 5 of the BiH census law (that will ensure the ethnic structure from the 1991 census will be respected, or at least its 50 per cent);
- How to conduct the enumeration in the areas of the boundary line.

Those issues are further addressed in other sections of the report.

- 26. The <u>revision of census questionnaires</u> was made during a working meeting from 22 to 26 January 2013 jointly by the three institutions. A general agreement was reached on the new formulation of the census forms P1 and P2, with the exception of questions 19 (Citizenship), 24 (Ethnicity), 25 (Religion) and 26 (Mother tongue) of P1.
- 27. No <u>training of management and staff on communication</u> was reported to be carried out in the last period.
- 28. All the three institutions reported that the <u>cartographic work</u> for the organisation and conduction of the census will be finalised by the 1st March 2013 as stated in the amendment to the BiH law. It was also reported that at the same date the number of Enumeration Areas will be defined in each entity and in the Brcko District. However, about 30% of the territory of RS is still not covered by orthophotos (as stated in the previous SC report, they were expected to be available in January/February 2013) and the only available maps for those areas are at present out-of-date cadastral maps. Furthermore, the estimated overall number of Enumeration Areas in BiH has not been reduced as suggested by the SC.
- 29. A <u>financial plan</u>, as stated in art. 38 of the BiH Census Law, was drafted by BHAS and is expected to be submitted to the Central Census Commission and to the CoMs BiH by the end of February 2013.

Assessment of the census preparation

CENSUS BUDGET

- 30. The overall amount of the estimated minimum funds for the census operation in BiH indicated in the state census law has been confirmed in the proposed amendment to the law discussed at the Council of Ministers on 23 January 2013. The only change referred to the reallocation of the budget for the year 2015 to the years 2015 and 2016, as a consequence of the postponement of six months of the general enumeration.
- 31. Following the pilot census exercise and the postponement of census operations, BHAS has prepared a new draft of the census budget with the indications of budget lines and procedures for each of the three statistical institutions. The revised census budget is planned to be discussed jointly between BHAS and entity institute of statistics by the end of February 2013. Fieldwork operations will be supported by funds allocated to the entities. The EU, through the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressed a general availability to support field census operations with a direct grant of about 7.5 million euros.

Recommendations

32. Even though the SC was not provided with the revised draft of the census budget, it is recommended to ensure that the census budget is not only revised and agreed between the three statistical institutions, but also that a responsible body for each budget line be established, and procedures to allocate funds be well defined in terms of budget management and budget distribution.

CENSUS LAW IMPLEMENTATION

- 33. Upon a proposal from the Agency for Statistics, the Council of Ministers of BIH defined, on 23 January 2013, a Proposal of Law to amend the Law on "Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013". The proposed amendment states that the census operation will be conducted from 1st to 15th October 2013 and that the "census moment" is midnight between 30th September and 1st October 2013 (Art.3 of BiH law). The other main proposed amendments to the BiH census law are:
 - Art 11. Usual residents not found at home by enumerators should provide data to the relevant census commissions by 15 October 2013;
 - Art 30. Cartographic preparations should be finalised by 1st March 2013;
 - Art 31. Names, borders and territories of the municipalities, local communities, settlements, units of local self-government, statistical and enumeration areas, streets and house numbers should not be modified in the period 1st January 31 December 2013;
 - Art. 35. Data collection for persons with diplomatic status, prisoners, military personnel should be conducted starting from 29th September 2013 and the related census materials should be delivered to the Census commissions responsible for their place of usual residence by 15 October 2013;

- Art. 37. Census results should be published in the period between 1st July 2014 and 1st July 2016;
- Art. 39. The census budget should be reallocated until 2016;
- Art. 40. Persons subject to enumeration living abroad should send to the Agency for Statistics their filled in census forms by 15th October 2013.
- 34. The proposed amendments include an explanatory note providing details on the articles to be amended and on the reasons of the postponement of the census operation: delay on the preparatory cartographic work and on the definition of the number of Enumeration Areas which in turns provided delay for the launch of procurement procedures for field operations, delay on the definition of methods of funds management between Entities, and, as a consequence, delay in the implementation of other technical preparatory activities. The note states that the proposed amendments weres prepared in line with the recommendations of the IMO.
- 35. Some provisions in the Census Law of RS remain not defined in the same way as in the BiH Census Law and therefore are considered by BHAS as not fully in line with the state Census Law and thus are subject of disputes. Those provisions refer mainly to the following topics:
 - The competencies of the MCCs (Art. 26 BiH census law);
 - The selection of census staff in Municipalities according to the national structure of the population of the 1991 census (Art. 26 BiH census law);
 - The establishment by the BHAS of a single register of census spatial units (Art. 20 BiH census law).

The SC had already pointed out these differences in its third assessment report, and the same was reiterated in the sixh report. RSIS have issued a letter on the above topics on 17 October 2012.

- 36. In relation to the competencies of the MCCs, RSIS acknowledged the differences with the state law, but expressed its committment to avoid that municipalities may modify census materials, including census forms.
- 37. With regard to the selection of census staff, RSIS pointed out that this provision is not included in the RS census law since not in all municipalities it will be possible to ensure the ethnic structure from 1991 or its 50 per cent because of population changes occurred from 1991. As an example, were mentioned the cases of 'East Mostar' and 'Sanski Most'.

Assessment

- 38. The proposed amendments of the BiH census law, as a consequence of the postponement of the census operation, reflects the recommendations of the IMO expressed in the six assessment report.
- 39. On the contrary, the non-complete implementation of BiH Census Law and different opinions and interpretations of the same Law continue to contribute to poor coordination between the three Statistical Institutions and to inefficient decision-making process.

Recommendations

40. As already pointed out in the sixth IMO report, it is recommended that the Statistical Institutions ensure full compliance with the BiH Census Law and overcome the different interpretations of the Census Law and the disputes about RS Census Law through adopting decisions or procedures, or making clear provisions in the Census Methodology about duties and responsibilities of each census actor.

CENSUS ORGANISATION

- 41. As already described in the sixth report of the SC, a first analysis on the pilot census exercise was carried out by each of the three statistical institutions. A report was prepared by RSIS and FOS mainly on the evaluation of the census organisation, training, logistics, observation, participation of households, functioning of CMCs, manuals of instructions, reporting. However, no meetings were organised between the statistical institutions in order to fully evaluate all the phases of the pilot census and no compiled report was prepared.
- 42. The institutions have started to work jointly in the revised methodological manual which, it was decided, will incorporate into one the two manuals used for the pilot census: "instructions for organising and conducting the census" and "manual for enumerators and municipal instructors". It was also agreed that a short and easy-to-use version of instructions for enumerators will be prepared and agreed between the Institutions.
- 43. It was also agreed that a letter will be prepared with the support of the EU technical assistance and transmitted in the next months to municipalities in order to inform them about roles and responsibilities of the municipalities for the full census. Both entities have also contacted the relevant ministries to update the lists of collective living quarters and collective households.
- 44. It was reported that BHAS has prepared a draft of 'The Procedure of selection of all census bodies and census staff'. It will be transmitted to both entities for their consideration and comments by the end of February 2013.

Assessment and Recommendations

- 45. All assessments and recommendations given in the fourth and sixth reports can be considered still valid. There is a large part of the pilot exercise which would be important to continue to analyse in order to make use of the lessons learned for the full census. This activity should also include the data processing phases of the pilot census and the aspects related to the communication campaign and to the dissemination of census data.
- 46. It is recommended to organise a joint meeting between the statistical institutions to share and discuss best practices and lessons learned as well as it is recommended to compile a single report for BiH on the overall evaluation of the pilot census. This report should also include a section devoted to data capture, data cleaning and imputation, with a focus on data quality.

CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRES

- 47. Census forms P1 and P2 have been almost agreed by BHAS, RSIS and FOS, and approved by the Central Census Commission in February 2013. A positive result of the technical meetings held from 22 to 26 January between the statistical institutions on the revision of the census questionnaires was the agreed formulation of question 1 of the form P1 related to persons to be enumerated, making a better distinction and clearer formulation for resident persons, absent persons and persons temporarily present. However, RSIS did not agreed with the present formulation of question 19 related to citizenship, question 24 on ethnicity/nationality, question 25 on religion and question 26 on mother tongue. In relation to citizenship, RSIS asked to associate to the modality "BiH" the specificities of the entity, "RS" or "FBiH". With regard to questions 24-26 RSIS asked to consider them pure open questions, while the present formulation is with semi-open questions.
- 48. Based on findings obtained from the Pilot Census field activities and report analyses as well as the analyses of the filled census questionnaires during the manual preparations, each of the three Statistical Institutions made a draft of revised census questionnaires with changes mainly in the first questions in the form P-1 (Individual form). The discussions on the three different proposed draft questionnaires were scheduled for the week after the SC mission. The three Statistical Institutions should come up with a harmonized and common draft and then adopt the questionnaires as final. Then manuals of instructions shall be amended accordingly.

Assessment

- 49. The agreement reached by the three statistical institutions on the full versions of the census forms P1 and P2 represents to the view of the SC a positive result, since it was perceived as an outcome of joint technical discussions between demographers and experts from the statistical institutions. However, the concern remains on the 4 questions which need to have an agreed formulation.
- 50. As already expressed by the SC in the second and sixth reports, the preference should be for a "strictly open question" "to avoid any risk of bias in the responses when some answers are proposed, but also not to describe some ethnic groups as "others", which may sound disrespectful."
- 51. The SC noticed also that already recommended inclusion of unique ID codes for addresses on census forms, relevant for census coverage, (4th and 6th SC mission reports) was not included in the versions submitted to the Central Census Bureau. It was repeated in RS and FBiH that the technical issue was discussed, but no common decision was taken between the two entities on this aspect.

Recommendations

52. It is recommended that an agreed version of the census questionnaires will be available according to the indicated plan of activities, and that their final version is prepared in light of the lessons learned from the pilot census and the results from the processing of the pilot census data. It is also recommended that the final version of the census questionnaires will include in the forms P1 and/or P2 the unique ID code to be copied from the census maps by enumerators.

- 53. As already stated in previous reports, it is recommended to prepare a separate individual form for BiH citizens working or residing abroad for more than 12 months in compliance with the content prescribed in Article 40 paragraph 2 and method of enumeration prescribed in article 40, paragraph 3 and 4.
- 54. The SC reiterates the opportunity to conduct a questionnaire test of the agreed versions of the census forms, especially to test the new formulations of questions, not tested with the pilot census. In addition, the SC reiterates the recommendation already made for strictly open questions on ethnicity, religion and language, as reported above.

MANUALS: "THE METHODOLOGICAL MANUAL"

- 55. BHAS drafted a compiled version of the two manuals used in the pilot census: "Instructions for organising and conducting the census" and "Manual for enumerators and municipal instructors". The methodological manual was drafted taking into consideration the lessons learned in the pilot census, and considering the last changes agreed by the statistical institutions on census questionnaires. The compiled version was trasmitted to RSIS and FOS for comments and, by the end of February 2013, BHAS will organise a technical meeting to agree on the document. Its final version is expected by 31st of March 2013. At the same date, an agreed version of a short manual of instructions for enumerators, which should be used as a reference guide in the field during data collection, is also expected.
- 56. The improvements are mainly related to:
 - Clarification of the roles, duties and responsibilities of census actors.
 - Improvement of the structure for a more easy use of instructions, with more examples on the different cases enumerators may face in the field.
 - Clarifications for the case of household members living abroad or in a place of the country other than the place of enumeration.

Assessment

57. At the time of the mission, the methodological manual was not ready. Its draft version should be assessed during the next mission of the SC.

Recommendations

58. It is recommended to continue the process of revision of the census manuals taking into consideration the lessons learned from the pilot census and the recommendations of the SC provided in previous reports.

TRAINING MATERIALS

59. The revision of the training materials for census staff used in the pilot census has not started yet, and could not be assessed at the time of the mission. The revision is planned to start in a near future and to be completed by the end of May 2013.

CARTOGRAPHY

Assessment

- 60. In spite of what was reported during the previous SC missions, cartographic preparations in the Brcko District have not been finalised. It was reported that an additional revision was necessary to resize some large Enumeration Areas with more than 100 households. Therefore, it was reported that the total number of EAs will increase of about 10 per cent in comparison to what has been already reported. However, BHAS ensured that the cartographic work will be completed by the 1st of March 2013.
- 61. FOS reported that the deadline of 1st of March 2013 will be respected also in the Federation, even though quality checks for the GIS database will continue also in the following months. At the end of February, FOS will receive by the outsourced companies the GIS database at Statistical and Enumeration Area level, census maps in pdf format, the register of spatial units for the FBiH territory, a technical report. It was reported that all the cartographic materials have been validated by the Geodetic Administration in the FBiH. Census maps will be printed by the outsourced companies.
- 62. In RS, the Geodetic Administration reported that the deadline of 1st March 2013 can be respected only for 70 per cent of the territory, since the orthophotos for the rest of the territory have not been delivered yet to the mapping institute. The orthophotos are supposed to be provided by 'Geofoto', a Croatian company, main contractor of the EU funded project in BiH "Spatial information services phase two-digital ortophoto maps". The RS Geodetic Administration could be able to meet the deadline of 1st March but using cadastral maps, which are considered not suitable for census purposes. Census maps will be printed by the RS Geodetic Administration.
- 63. A unique ID code for each address is reported on the census maps in the FBiH and Brcko District, while a unique ID code is reported on each building in RS. This difference may not be relevant from a methodological point of view if an appropriate system of data linkage between census data and the GIS database is established in the post-enumeration phase. The crucial element is however the inclusion of the unique ID code for address-es/buildings in the census forms P2 and/or P3. As stated above, no agreement was reached between institutions until now.
- 64. No decision was taken yet on the establishment of a systematic mechanism to number, manage and monitor the coverage of dwellings inside buildings, relevant for census coverage, as recommended in the fourth and sixth SC reports.
- 65. In relation to the modalities on how to conduct the enumeration in the areas of the boundary line between entities, no advancements were made by the statistical institutes of the two entities, in terms of decision making and discussions. However, as recommended by the SC, FOS estimated that in the area of 50 meters from the boundary line in the FBiH may live about 500 households. The Geodetic Administration of RS did not provide such data, yet. However, assuming reasonably that a very low number of households are living also in the RS side across the populated places of the boundary line, the conduction of the enumeration in those areas seems possible to be organised at local level, considering specificities of the populated areas across the entity line.

- 66. The provisional number of Enumeration Areas in BiH at the time of the mission, as reported by the statistical institutions, was almost 24,500, whose 15,774 in FBiH, 8,092 in RS and 455 in Brcko District. All the three institutes of statistics confirmed that the final number of EAs by municipality will be available by the end of February 2013. The EU technical assistance project, EUPHC, provided to the SC a figure of 24,647 EAs, with an average size at national level of 57 households per EA.
- 67. As already pointed out with the previous SC report, the overall number of EAs in comparison with the 1991 census has largely increased, mostly in the territory of FBiH. FOS explained that this has happened because of new buildings constructed in the last twenty years, the high percentage of vacant dwellings at least in some areas from where people moved elsewhere, because of the methodological decision to keep the criteria that a single EA cannot be located in more than one Statistical Area (SA), and that the consistency of boundaries between SAs and EAs should be preserved. In addition, while demarcating EAs, the statistical institutions had the tendency to preserve the EA boundaries used for the 1991 census.
- 68. As a result, for a large number of EAs it is estimated that there are no households, or that there are living less than 30 households. EUPHC estimated that at national level about 1,150 EAs are without households, and almost 6,000 are with less than 30 households.

Recommendations

- 69. In the light of the assessment made during the mission, it seems that cartographic preparations, including final definition of the number of EAs, will be finalised in FBiH and Bricko District by 1st of March 2013, even though further work will be made on the improvement of addresses and updating at building level also after the deadline. In RS it seems that the same output will be achieved for about 70 per cent of the territory. Instead of working on out-of-date cadastral maps for the remaining 30 per cent of the territory, the SC recommends to wait for additional two months for the delivery of updated orthophotos, or to investigate alternatives, in order to maintain the same methodology at state level for census mapping purposes. Indeed, a different methodological approach to prepare census maps for a part of the country may have consequences on the coverage and data quality on those areas.
- 70. Unique ID codes of addresses or buildings should be reported on census forms as already recommended.
- 71. A common systematic mechanism to number, manage and monitor the coverage of dwellings inside buildings should have been established in both entities by 28 February 2013.
- 72. As already pointed out in previous SC reports, it is recommended to investigate the demarcated EAs in order to reduce the overall number of EAs in BiH, by merging adjoining EAs with no households or with a small number of estimated households. A less preferable option is to keep the same number of EAs, but assigning to a single enumerator more than one EA, ensuring that each enumerator will have to interview at least 60 households.
- 73. It is again recommended that a single register of spatial units is established at BiH level, in accordance with art. 20 of the BiH census law.

LOGISTIC

- 74. BHAS is finalising a document indicating roles, duties and responsibilities for MCCs to be sent to entities for comments in order to define an agreed document for census operations at municipal level.
- 75. A plan for census logistics was drafted by BHAS taking as census reference date 1st April 2013 and now it is being revised with the date of October 2013. The plan is expected to be ready at the end of March 2013.
- 76. The procurement tender for census logistics is expected to be launched by mid-march upon official information on the final number of EAs and census forms to be printed. This will include the printing of census materials, assembling boxes for enumerators, organisation of the delivery and return of census materials. The materials will be directly transported from the printing house to municipalities under supervision of the statistical institutions.

Assessment

77. Considering that at the time of the mission the revised plan for census logistics and the tender procedures were not ready, no assessment was made. It is expected to be carried out during the next mission of the SC.

Recommendations

- 78. It is recommended to prepare updated and detailed plan for census logistics in accordance with the new recommended period of enumeration. The revised plan for census logistics considering October 2013 as the date of the enumeration, should be amended taking into account the lessons learned from the pilot census.
- 79. It is recommended to launch the tender procedure for census logistics as planned, with no delay. Indeed, unexpected factors may interfere with procedural aspects which may delay the availability of census materials.

PREPARATORY WORK, LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

80. The Logistics Management System was described with the last SC report. Its development is connected with the definition of the census logistics and the tasks of census actors involved in field operations. It is very important for the management and monitoring of field preparations and implementation.

Assessment

81. The System is currently being developed with the support of the EUPHC technical assistance project. It is expected to be completed by the end of April 2013. No technical assessment was made on its progress. It will be carried out during the next mission of the SC, when the expert on IT will be present.

Recommendations

82. It is recommended to progress quickly on the implementation of the system, for its testing before its final version. The SC has already recommended defining who will be the

users and what will be the tasks. Manuals and training materials for the different users should be also prepared.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- 83. At the time of the mission, no discussion took place among the statistical institutions on the lessons learned in the pilot census, and the working group for communication that was established in the early summer last year has not met anymore.
- 84. The communication and outreach strategy has been drafted by EUPHC and transmitted to the Agency for Statistics. It was accepted by the entities, which provided minor comments. An exception was the census logo and census slogan on which RSIS did not agree on the present formulation. BHAS will report the issue to the Central Census Commission and to the CoMs BiH to take a decision.
- 85. EUPHC has almost completed the procedure to select a company to implement the strategy. The company will cover all the aspects of the publicity campaign, including printing.
- 86. A document on the dissemination strategy of census data has been also drafted by the EUPHC, and shared with BHAS. Its final version is expected to be prepared in a near future.

Assessment

87. At the time of the mission, communication and outreach strategy was not ready. Its final version should be assessed during the next mission of the SC, together with the technical capacity of the outsourced company to implement the census publicity campaign.

Recommendations

88. It is recommended that a meeting of the communication working group will be organised soon to discuss the implementation of the strategy.

DATA PROCESSING

- 89. The BiH census law states that a single census database of collected and processed data should be established and that the statistical institutions would have access to the data (art. 22). Statistical institutions already agreed on this principle, but are discussing if database replication should be made in the servers assigned to each statistical institution. The procurement for IT equipment is concluded.
- 90. Pilot census data was entered through manual data entry at BHAS premises and raw data was delivered by the Agency to RSIS and FOS without personal information (names and full ID numbers). A complete set of the pilot data was provided on a CD to the Directors of the institutes of statistics of the two entities, with an accompanying letter preventing the use of data without an agreement with the other statistical institutions.
- 91. The backup and disaster recovery system will be located in Brcko District. The open issue is who will have access to this data and how to deal with individual data.
- 92. With the support of the EUPHC, a number of applications have started to be developed, including a web-based application to enter census preliminary data, an application

to enter control forms, the application for the manual entry of census forms P1 and P2. The training on the use of scanners and its related software 'Iflow' is planned to start by the end of February 2013. For coding purposes, it is planned to use 'Gcode' software package.

Assessment

- 93. The SC has already recommended as a preferable option, the replication of the census database in the servers of the institutions, located at the same location in Istocno Sarajevo. This would facilitate the procedures for database management and for data replication.
- 94. The transmission of the pilot census database to the statistical institutes of the entities, allowed a first analysis of the census data especially on the first 7 questions of the form P1. However, the analysis was not extended to all the questions and was not carried out on cleaned data. A joint meeting between the statistical institutions involving IT experts and members of the methodological working group is planned to take place by the end of February 2013 to define control tools, edit rules and procedures for the cleaning and imputation of the pilot data.

Recommendations

- 95. It is recommended that a decision should be taken soon on data replication of the census database. Indeed, the decision involves logistics aspects for the location of the servers and for their administration and communication with the other servers, if they are placed in different locations. According to the timetable of activities, the decisions on the census database should be taken by the end of February 2013. A decision should be also taken on the access to data and related procedures for the backup and disaster recovery system located in the Brcko District.
- 96. It is recommended to define soon control tools, edit rules, error localisation procedures, and imputation procedures to apply to the pilot census data in order to start the process of data cleaning for testing this phase of the data processing, and in order to prepare a final dataset of the pilot data, also for a more detailed analysis on the formulation of the questions for a final version of the census questionnaires.

POST ENUMERATION SURVEY (PES)

97. The data collected during the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) has been entered and the PES working team is waiting to have access to the PES and pilot census data for record matching. However, this activity has not started yet at the time of the mission, since no common decision was taken on the access and use of personal information. The three Statistical Institutions reported that a joint meeting is scheduled by the end of February 2013 and the decision is expected from that meeting. The automatic record matching is planned through the personal ID numbers.

Assessment

98. No assessment was made during the mission on PES data or record matching, since no decision was taken on how to access individual data. The assessment is planned during the next SC mission by the PES expert. No relevant advancements were made on the revision of PES questionnaire and manual, since this activity depends on the final version of census questionnaires and on the results of the analysis of PES data.

Recommendations

99. It is recommended to take a quick decision on the analysis of PES data, ensuring the access of the PES team to individual data containing personal information. A second recommendation is to progress on the revision of PES questionnaire and manual in the light of the results of record matching and on the basis of the lessons learned from the PES Pilot census.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. AGENDA

Seventh mission of the

<u>International Monitoring Operation Steering Committee</u> Date: 12 - 14 February 2013

Participants from SC, the expert: Roberto Bianchini.

The focus of the mission is to assess the situation on the progress of preparation and implementation of the IMO recommendations in the new context of the postponement of the census, with a focus on the achievement of the deadlines regarding cartographic preparation. Recommendations given in the last SC report should be a guideline for the discussions and focusing on the problematic areas.

Time	Торіс	Place				
Monday,	Monday, February 11, 2013, Arrival to Sarajevo					
	Tuesday, February 12, 2013, Agency for Statistics of Bi	H (BHAS), Sarajevo				
8:30 - 13.00	Meeting with the Director, Deputy directors and Census coordinator of the Agency for Statistics of BiH (BHAS),	BHAS, Sarajevo				
15.00	Sarajevo	Participants: Zdenko Milinović, director				
	- Main aspects related to the progress made in the census	Slavka Popović, deputy director				
	preparation, including census budget and census law;	Fadil Fatić, deputy director				
	main encountered problems - Decisions taken to ensure the achievement of the mile-	Admir Kulić, coordinator				
	stones listed in the previous IMO report	Tamini Iruito, Coolumium				
	- Decisions taken on the implementation of the IMO rec-					
12.00	ommendations					
13.00- 14.00	Lunch					
14.00 - 16:00	Meeting with all relevant staff for the Census preparation (methodology, logistics, data processing, dissemination,	BHAS, Sarajevo				
10.00	communication etc.)	Participants:				
	- Census organization					
	- Census forms and manuals	Admir Kulić, Census coordinator - Census organisation)				
	- Training materials	Nora Selimović – Census forms				
	- Logistics	and manuals; Training materials				
	- Cartography	Dajana Mitrović – Logistics				
	- Communication and outreach strategy	Bakir Sujoldžić - Cartography Ivona Bulić - Communication				
	- Data processing	and outreach strategy				
	- PES	Sulejman Hasanović – data pro-				
	- State of play of the Census preparations according to the milestones listed in the last SC report	cessing Edin Šabanović – PES				
		Admir Kulić – State of play of				
		the Census preparations according				

		to the milestones listed in the last SC report
16.00 – 16.30	 Meeting with EUHCR TA Progress on the census preparation. Main aspects and issues 	BHAS, Sarajevo Participants: Victor DINCULESCU, PhD Team Leader, EUPHC Phase2, BiH Census

	Wednesday, February 13, 2013, Federal Office of Statistics of FBiH (FOS), Sarajevo				
8:30 - 09:30	Meeting with the Director, Deputy Director and Census co- ordinator of the Federal Office of Statistics of FBiH	FOS, Sarajevo			
	- Main aspects related to the progress made in the census preparation, including census budget and census law; main encountered problems	Participants: Hidajeta Bajramović, director Galiba Karačić, Secretary of the FOS Hidaeta Čolović, assistant director,			
	- Decisions taken to ensure the achievement of the milestones listed in the previous IMO report	Sector for population statistics and social statistics			
	- Decisions taken on the implementation of the IMO recommendations				
09:30 -	Meeting with all relevant staff for the Census preparation	FOS, Sarajevo			
11:30	(methodology, logistics, data processing, dissemination, communication etc.)Census organization	Participants: Hidaeta Čolović, assistant director, Sector for population statistics and social statistics			
	- Census forms and manuals	Jasmina Velić, head of the Department for population statistics and register			
	Training materialsLogistics	Zehra Kaba, head of the Department for publications			
	Communication and outreach strategyData processing	Šemso Šurković, head of the Department for Information system and technical sup- port			
	PESState of play of the Census preparations according to the	Nermina Sarajkić, head of the Department for development of data entry applications			
	milestones listed in the last SC report	Sanela Čengić, head of the Financial-accounting department			
		Nusreta Imamović-Kaljanac, head of the Department for industry, construction and energy			
		Arijana Amina Muhić, head of the Department for statistical methods and coordination			
		Muamera Idrizović, advisor for demographic analysis and projections			
12:00 -	Meeting with all relevant staff for the Census cartography	FOS, Sarajevo			
14:30	Progress on the cartographic workList of EAs by municipality	Participants: Munira Zahiragić, advisor to the director			
	 Coding of addresses, buildings and dwellings Boundary line between entities Preparation of census maps 	Belmira Hadžiabdić, head of the department for GIS and register of spatial units			
		Representatives of the FBiH Administration for geodetic and property affairs:			
	- Map printing	Nežad Pašalić, assistant director			
	1				

	- State of play of the cartographic preparations according to the milestones listed in the last SC report	Valentino Vlašić, inspector
14:30 - 15:30	Lunch	
16.00	Departure to Banja Luka	

<u>Thu</u>	Thursday, February 14, 2014, Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics (RSIS), Banja Luka				
8:30 – 09:30	 Meeting with the Director, Deputy directors and Census coordinator of the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics Main aspects related to the progress made in the census preparation, including census budget and census law; main encountered problems Decisions taken to ensure the achievement of the milestones listed in the previous IMO report Decisions taken on the implementation of the IMO recommendations 	Participants: Radmila Čičković, director Radosav Savanović, deputy director Bogdana Radić, assistant director, sector for statistics of population, education, social statistics and justice Radoslav Latinčić, assistant director, ICT and publishing sector			
9:30 – 11:30	Meeting with all relevant staff for the Census preparation (methodology, logistics, data processing, dissemination, communication etc.) - Census organization - Census forms and manuals - Training materials - Logistics - Cartography - Communication and outreach strategy - Data processing - PES State of play of the Census preparations according to the milestones listed in the previous IMO report	Participants: Bogdana Radić, assistant director, sector for statistics of population, education, social statistics and justice Radoslav Latinčić, assistant director, ICT and publishing sector Milka Miholjčić, head of population statistics department Vladan Sibinović, head of publication databases and statistical publications Mladen Marić, head of department for data entry, aplication development and databases administration Rajko Vranješ, senior officer for population censuses and projections Dara Petković, senior officer for national population change statistics Nataša Dragić, senior officer for register of spatial units and GIS Darko Marinković, senior officer for statistical sample and analysis Dean Arežina, senior officer for			

12:00 -	Meeting with all relevant staff for the Census cartography	population censuses and projections Dragana Mandić, senior officer for migration statistics Vanja Vilipić, senior officer for social protection, health and gender Banja Luka
14:30	 Progress on the cartographic work List of EAs by municipality Coding of addresses, buildings and dwellings Boundary line between entities Preparation of census maps Map printing State of play of the cartographic preparations according to the milestones listed in the last SC report 	Premises of the Geodetic Administration Participants: Dragan Macanović, assistant director for geodetic affairs or Darko Mišković, advisor for geodetic affairs, Geodetic administration of RS Vitor Velibor, head of IT, Geodetic administration of RS Miladin Đokanović, advisor for policy of cadastre development, world and european integration, Geodetic administration of RS Radimila Čičković, director, RSIS Radoslav Latinčić, assistant director, ICT and publishing sector Milka Miholjčić, head of population statistics department Nataša Dragić, senior officer for register of spatial units and GIS, RSIS
14:30 - 15:30	Lunch	,
16.00	Leaving for Sarajevo	

Friday, February 15, 2013
Departure from Sarajevo
Departure from barajevo

ANNEX **2. C**ENSUS PREPARATION MILESTONES

Milestones before the Census day (C-Day) considering enumeration 1-15 October 2013	Date	Weeks remaining before C- Day	Achievement/Remarks
Internal organisation for communication among BHAS and entity SI agreed	End Jan.	35	Potentially improved, to be further assessed
Census Communication and Outreach Strategy finalised and agreed	End Jan.	35	Achieved, to be assessed
Decision taken on the following topics regarding the implementation of the census law:	End Feb.	31	Partly achieved, see report
- Roles, duties and responsibilities of the three statistical institutions in the Census			
- Duties and responsibilities of the MCCs			
- Establishment, maintenance and ownership of "common data base" of Census data;			
- Selection of the census field staff in accordance with article 26, point 4 and 5 (that will ensure the ethnic structure from 1991 and where is not possible at least 50 %);			
- How to conduct the enumeration in the areas of the boundary line;			
- How to conduct the enumeration of the BiH citizens working or residing aboard for more than 12 months in compliance with the Article 40-42 in the BiH Census Law.			
Draft of revised questionnaire based on Pilot Census	End Feb.	31	Partly achieved, see report
Training of management and staff on communication carried out	End Feb.	31	Not achieved
Finalized cartographic work and final list of EAs by municipality	End Feb.	31	Partly achieved, see report
Financial plan adopted (Art. 38 of the Census Law)	End Feb.	31	Not adopted
Census maps prepared in electronic format	End Mar.	27	
Detailed Logistic Plan	End Mar.	27	
Contract for Communication Campaign awarded	End Mar.	27	
Census reporting system developed	End Mar.	27	
Field Test of the revised Census Forms and reporting system	Beg. Apr.	26	
Tender specification for printing and distributing census materials adopted	Mid April	25	
Tender specification or printing and distributing cartography materials adopted	Mid April	25	

Adopted Final Census forms	End April	22	
Finalization of Census logistic tool	End April	22	
Manual of Instructions revised and adopted	End May	18	
Training material revised and adopted	End May	18	
IMR/ICR application developed with the final questionnaires	End May	18	
State instructor and entity instructors appointed	End June	14	
IMR/ICR application tested with real questionnaires	End June	14	
Contract for printing and distributing census materials awarded	End June	14	
Contract award for printing and distributing cartography documentation awarded	End June	14	
Municipal census commission (MCC) established	End July	9	
Training census materials printed and distributed	End Aug.	5	
PES prepared: questionnaire, methodology, manuals	End Aug	5	
Municipal instructors appointed	6 Sept.	3	
Enumerators selected (inc. contract signed)	6 Sept.	3	
Data capture system operational	6 Sept.	3	
Verification and coding phases operational	6 Sept.	3	
Census materials for enumeration printed and distributed	13 Sept	2	
Cartography documentation for enumeration printed and distributed	13 Sept	2	
Fieldwork staff trained	20 Sept	1	
Census information campaign carried out	20 Sept	1	
Boxes containing census material for enumerators assembled	20 Sept	1	
Enumeration (census field data collection)	Oct. 1-15	0	
PES sample selection	Mid Oct	-3.00	