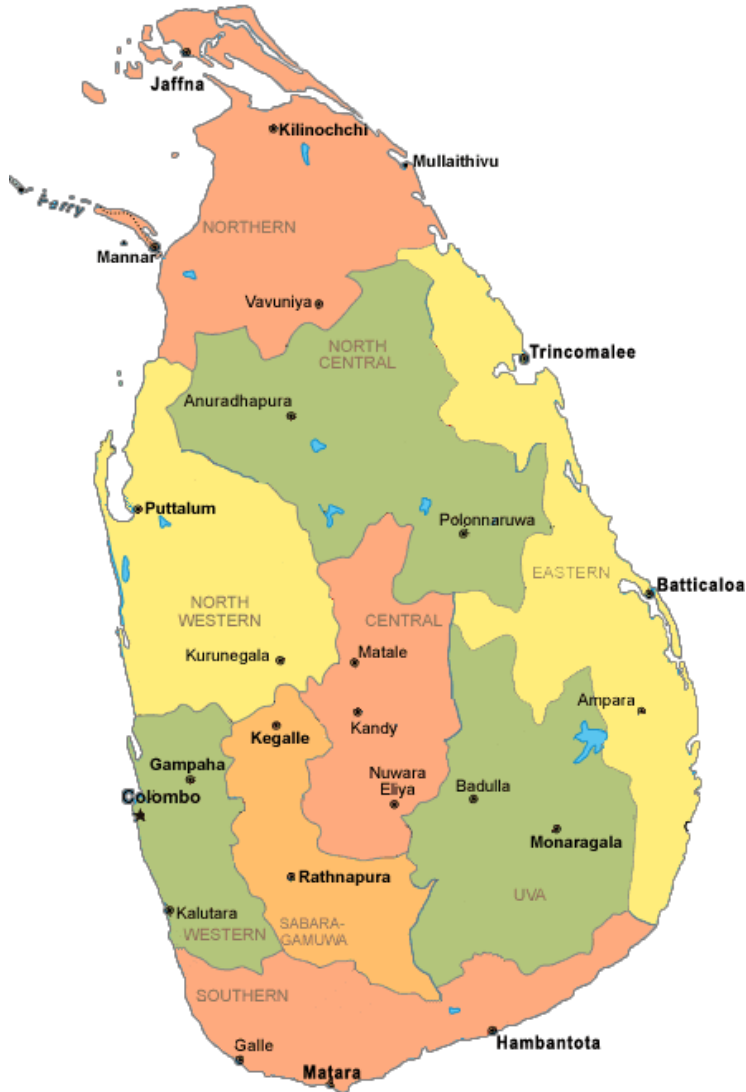# 31st Population Census Conference

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Introduction

Sri Lanka…….

- Is an island nation - having total area of 65,610 km², with 64,740 km² of land and 870 km² of water

- Lies between the northern latitudes of 5˚ 55´and 9˚50´and the eastern longitudes of 79˚42´and 81˚52´

- Is multi-ethnic, multi-religious country

- Population was estimated at 22 million in 2022

- Has 9 provinces, 25 districts, 331 divisional secretariats and 14,021 Grama Niladhari Divisions

History of Census Taking

➢ Census taking in Sri Lanka dates back to the late 19th century. Prior to 1871, estimates of population had been made from time to time on the basis of returns made by village headmen, and the first scientific census in Sri Lanka has conducted in 27th March 1871, and the population reported as 2.4 million. Sri Lanka has the longest history in census taking among South Asian countries.

➢ The census in 1951 was postponed to 1953 owing to the shortage of paper at that time

➢ Next census was carried out in 1963

➢ DCS was able to conduct censuses in 1971 and 1981 but the census which was scheduled to be conducted in 1991 could not be implemented due to the disturbances prevailed in northern and eastern parts of the country

➢ The Census of Population and Housing in the year 2001 was conducted excluding some parts of the country. The last census - the 14th scientific census of the country and, covered the whole island after 30 years, was conducted in 2012

Plan for Data Collection – Census of Population and Housing

➢ Census mapping was already developed applying GIS technology, and the entire country has demarcated into 88,000 Census Blocks (Enumeration Area)

➢ Census of Population and Housing was planned to be conducted in 2021 as the 15th of its series, and postponed to 2023/2024 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic situation in Sri Lanka.

➢ Sri Lanka planned to use CAPI methodology with tablet computers dedicated for census activities in the data collection of the census in the view of enhancing the quality and timeliness of data.

➢ E-census has been designed to capture difficult to reach population

➢ PAPI will be used fro special enumerations unit such as Elderly Homes, Orphanages, Prisons

Evaluation the quality of Census Data

➢ The quality of population and housing census data is very important for many reasons, building public trust

➢ It provides users with a level of confidence when utilizing the data, and to explain errors in the census result

➢ Therefore, Evaluation Method have been developed at the inception of planning activities, as a part the Census Process, to verify the coverage errors as well as the content errors that could occur through out the entire process of the Census

➢ It comprises manual checking, visualization of data, demographic analysis and survey

➢ Quality of data are planned to be evaluated in all stages of the census - mapping, listing and enumeration

➢ A Team for the evaluation process has been identified and trained

Evaluation Tools applied to the Planning Process of the Census

Various tools have been applied to the census process to avoid coverage and content errors as possible as,

- Verification of Census Maps for boundary errors, omission or duplication of areas has already done, it will further verified during the listing stage

- Consistency and range edits has been incorporated to the CAPI programmes and already tested by conducting pre-tests and pilot census

- Publicity programme is implemented to improve awareness through videos, TV programmes etc

- The entire country has demarcated into manageable supervisory areas called "Circles"

Evaluation of Data during Data Collection Period

➢ The management system that has been incorporated to the software system, will facilitate supervisors to generate summary tables, key cross-tabs with other variables

➢ Data will be verified at lowest administrative level with other data sources or previous census

➢ Random physical checking will be made whenever necessary for verifying data through observations

➢ Family Card are planned to distribute to each and every Census Unit during the Listing Stage to avoid any omission of persons

Evaluation of data after Completion of Data Collection

- Demographic analysis

  ➢ Age-sex distribution, Population pyramid

  ➢ Average number of persons per household

  ➢ demographic analysis mainly using graphical and summary indices on age-sex distribution such as Whipple's Index, Myers' Index

- Comparison with administrative sources or other survey results

  ➢

Evaluation of data after Completion of Data Collection

Post Enumeration Survey

- Sri Lanka has planned to conduct the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) within 03 months from the completion of data collection of the enumeration stage of the census using a sample representing the entire country

- About 350 blocks covering all 25 districts and all 4 sectors of the country will be covered at the PES

- All building units in the sample will be independently listed

- Population living in all housing units will be enumerated at the PES

- Data matching followed by data reconciliation

- Calculation of key indicators such as In/Out movers, erroneous inclusions/omissions, Gross/Net Census coverage will be done

Thank you