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<u>Article:</u> The General Census of Population and Housing, Agriculture and Livestock (RGPHAE) in Senegal and ICT

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Abstract

One of the major requirements of the United Nations system is the carrying out by countries of a population and housing census every ten years. As part of this drive, Senegal has put this operation high up on its National Strategy for Statistics Development (NSSD) through the guidelines of the Statistics Development Program 2008-2013.

Senegal undertook three censuses back in 1976, 1988 and 2002. As for agriculture, a single census was carried out; the National Census of Agriculture in 1997. As far as livestock is concerned, no census has been conducted yet.

By combining the General Census of Population and Housing and the Censuses of Agriculture and Livestock, Senegal uses the financial, human and material resources of the country in a balanced way and allows the producers and users of statistics to have at their disposal a broad integrated database. The carrying out of the RGPHAE will make it possible to improve the governance at the national and local level, to measure the development, to evaluate the effectiveness of programs implemented and to plan the new and future actions.

The overall objective of the RGPHAE is to report on the country's demographic trends, to determine the characteristics of housing, to provide specific details about the agricultural and pastoral potential as well as to assess the impact of policies and programs of population, agriculture and livestock being implemented during the past years and best ensure the integration of demographic agricultural and pastoral variables.

The project RGPHAE consists of two major phases: the household census and large specific agricultural and pastoral surveys. After the household census, the sampling frame consisting of Agricultural households is extracted and made available to agricultural and pastoral players.

The other feature of RGPHAE is the data collection system. Instead of the paper questionnaire, the PDA is used. Its use has several advantages.

During its process of implementation, the RGPHAE involves seven major steps. It is currently in the stage of counting preparation. This efficient mechanism is the product of thorough technical preparation by ANSD who is responsible for conducting the RGPHAE.

Implementation of the technical team for coordination and committees

It is responsible for technical aspects, coordination, monitoring and evaluation at all levels due to efficient mechanisms. Apart from the technical coordination composed of the Coordinator, the Deputy and National Technical Advisor, it involves eight departments, including the computer and technology department. The latter ensures particularly the development of IT applications implemented in the PDA, transfer and monitoring web for the quality of collection.

At the institutional level, we have a national steering committee and a national technical committee. At the regional level, we have these two committees and two administrative and technical coordinators. At the departmental level, we have the two committees but one coordinator (technical and administrative).

Mapping the districts of census

Mapping will benefit from the introduction of new technologies of satellite tracking, which will cover the whole country with minimal omissions. DR maps used in the field by cartographers were digitized. They are updated and rescanned before printing to support the mapping database of Statistic Geographic Information System (Stat GIS). The Global Positioning System (GPS) are used to record the coordinates of communities infrastructures and villages. The data collected during the census will also be integrated into the GIS Stat to allow the production of thematic maps and socio-demographic atlas.

Preparation of counting

The strategy and data collection tools are developed by the technical team. They are tested during the RGPHAE pilot conducted in December 2012 and subsequently validated. This operation has enabled to count the population on a small scale to test the adequacy of all technical documents and collection science with the PDA. Subsequently improvements are made on computer applications whose proven quality ensured a successful coverage. Previously, the document managing the counting and a plan of analysis and tabulation is prepared and shared respectively with the managers and users. Awareness campaign and recruitment process of collection staff (enumerators) and supervision (controllers and supervisors) for the counting are in progress.

© Count the population (RGPHAE)

This is the exhaustive counting of the population throughout the national territory and the listing of its individual and collective characteristics. It is planned in the timeframe in may 2013. The use of PDAs instead of paper questionnaires as support will allow to collect in standard and collective households better quality data. Only data on the floating population are collected with the paper questionnaire. The use of PDAs will provide results immediately after the cleaning of data; the data entry is made during the counting at the same time as the interviews. A post-censal survey (EPC) will be carried out after the counting to assess the quality of the census.

Processing of collected data

A device will be put in place to forward the data progressively towards a server located at the Central level. Cleaning operations will be significantly reduced with the introduction of controls of consistency at the time of the collection.

Data analysis and production of reports and platelets

A preliminary report presenting the results and thematic analysis reports will be produced. A document on demographic projections and a directory of areas will also be produced.

© Dissemination of results

All available media, especially new information technologies will be used, to make the data accessible as soon as possible to as many users as possible. Thus, a smooth dissemination of RGPHAE results will be ensured.

To complete the RGPHAE which is of very large scale, the government of Senegal has contributed more than 50% of the budget from own resources. Advocacy to provide funding for the Agriculture and Livestock surveys continues.

Looking ahead, the map road below shows the programme of census activities.

Activités	Start date	Completion date
Cartography	Mar 13/03/12	Lun 31/12/12
Enumeration pilot	Jeu 13/12/12	Jeu 03/01/13
Enumeration General	wednesday 01/05/13	friday 24/05/13
Inquiry Post-censitair	Jeu 06/06/13	Lun 01/07/13
Preliminary results	Ven 13/09/13	Jeu 10/10/13

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