

BACKGROUND TO THE 2020 CENSUS QUESTIONS

“Why collect particular information in the census?”





Republic of Zambia

CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

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1.0 Introduction

Zambia has been conducting a national census of population and housing, every 10 years since 1969 under the provisions of the Census and Statistics Act, Chapter 127 of the Laws of Zambia. Under this Act, all people residing in Zambia, except foreign diplomats accredited to Zambia, are required to provide the necessary information during the census. A Population Census aims to enumerate all the people in the country in order to provide the Government, private organizations, individuals, and other stakeholders with the number of persons in each district, township, locality, among others, according to age, sex, and other socio economic characteristics. For every aspect of planning, it is essential to know the size, structure and distribution of the population of a country. Zambia has so far conducted censuses in 1969, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010. The 2020 Census is going to be the 6th in the sequence.

2.0 Planned Questions for the 2020 Census

This document summarizes information on the questionnaire content of Zambia's 2020 Census. In general, the number of items for which data are obtained in the census and the major content areas have remained about the same over the years. It is a requirement that throughout each decade, regular content reviews are conducted to ensure that the information collected through the decennial census is required by Government and other stakeholders.

Factors considered when developing the questionnaire for the 2020 Census of Population and Housing included; national data demands, international recommendations, historical comparison and suitability of topics for collecting reliable information in the census

2.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Information on socio – demographic characteristic includes:

2.1.1 Membership Status

Statistics on membership status determines the defacto and dejure population of the country. This is established through knowing the usual members present and visitors who spent the last night with the household (defacto) as well as usual members present and usual members absent (dejure) during enumeration.

2.1.2 Sex

Data disaggregated by sex are used in planning, funding and evaluating government programs and policies to fairly and equitably serve the needs of males and females. These statistics are also used to enforce laws and regulations against discrimination in society.



2.1.3 Household Relationships

Household members' relationship to the head data can be used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or goods and services to families, parent/ guardian raising children alone, grandparents raising grandchildren, or other households that qualify for additional assistance.

2.1.4 Age

Age data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific age groups, such as children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against age discrimination in government programs and in society.

2.1.5 Ethnicity and Language

Ethnicity

Data on ethnicity provide information on the diversity of the population and can serve to identify sub-groups of a population.

Identification of ethno-cultural characteristics of the country's population has increasing importance in the context of migration, integration and policies affecting minority groups.

Some areas of study that rely on such data include demographic trends, employment practices and opportunities, income distribution, educational levels, migration patterns and trends, family composition and structure, social support networks and health conditions of a population.

2.1.6 Predominant Language of Communication

Language data can be used in planning government programs for adults and children. These data can also be used to ensure that information about public health, law, regulations, voting, and safety is communicated in languages that community members understand.

2.1.7 Marital Status

Marital status and marital history data helps government and other stakeholders understand marriage trends, forecast future needs of programs that have spousal benefits and measure the effects of policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families, including tax policies and financial assistance programs.

2.2 Migration

Migration data include place of birth, residence, nationality and purpose of stay are used in planning government programs. The characteristics of people who have moved are also an important part of estimating population changes. These population estimates are used in the following;



funding decisions, to estimate changes in other data, and to produce official international migration estimates.

2.3 Disability

Disability data are used in planning government programs that provide funds or services for populations with disabilities. In addition, these data are used in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure that they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination.

2.4 Orphanhood

Statistics collected on orphanhood can be of use in the developing of strategies (education provision, school feeding programs, health provision) to support orphans and vulnerable children. Additionally, the data can be used for indirect estimation of adult mortality.

2.5 Birth Registration and Certification

The questions on birth registration and certification have been included in the 2020 Census questionnaire in order to assess the coverage and completeness of birth registration and certification.

Birth registration and certification are very important since they provide permanent, official and visible evidence of a country's legal recognition of child's existence as a member of society.

2.6 Education

Questions on education are used to assess education attainment of the population, school enrollment and field of study.

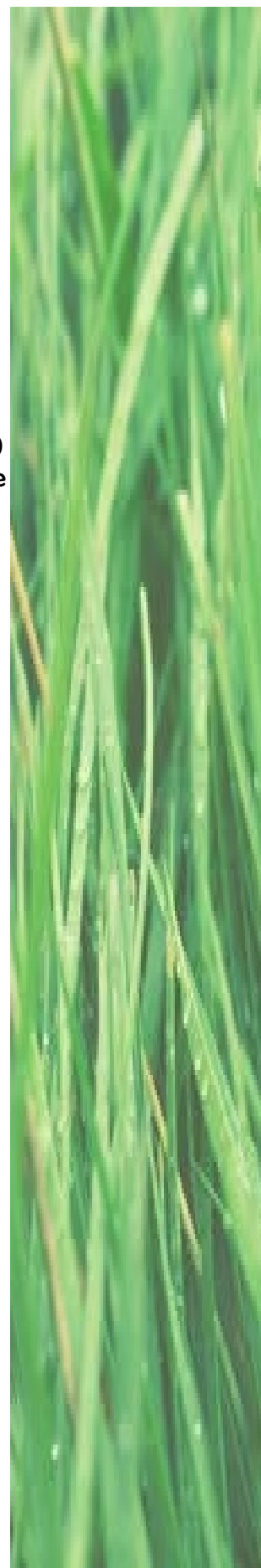
2.7 Economic Activity

Statistics on economic activities will provide information on the working age population, labour force (employed and unemployed), employment status, occupation and industry.

Data will also enable to assess the labour absorption capacity of the country.

2.8 Fertility

Fertility data are used in planning government programs and adjusting other important data, such as the size of the population eligible for different services, as more people are born. These statistics can also be used to project the future size of the population and to understand more about growing families.



Knowing the number of women with a recent birth in combination with other information, such as marital status, Labour force status, household income and poverty status, can help communities understand changes in the demand for services such as health care.

2.9 Household and Housing Characteristics

Type of Housing

It is important to know the differences in the built up structures across different housing units. Type of housing can be associated with different variables which can be important to users of census information. Type of housing is also important as it highlights the status of housing infrastructure in Zambia.

Main type of material used for the roof, wall and floor for the housing unit

Type of roof used is important because this acts as a first line of defense from natural hazards such as wind, rain, fire and extreme heat. It is the most vulnerable part of the building.

Building materials used for the roof, walls and floors form the basis for evaluating the status and quality of housing in Zambia.

Type of Occupancy

Government supports the principle of home ownership. Information on type of occupancy will be able to help to determine how many households are occupying single housing units and how many are occupying several housing units. Information on the number of households occupy one housing unit also helps government know the housing deficit.

Main source of water supply for household use and drinking

Water is a vital element in our lives. Source of water supply can help determine how many households have access to clean and safe water.

Number of Rooms

The number of rooms in a housing unit can help examine the living conditions of the household following the number of people in the household.

Main source of energy for lighting, cooking and heating for the household

Household's sources of energy will help the government and other stakeholders in knowing whether households use energy that is environmentally friendly such as solar for lighting and heating or electricity for cooking.

Household assets

Knowing the kind of assets a household has will help the government in knowing households' economic status. It will help government know the



significant assets of low-income households, and therefore provide much needed information for planning of services

Household garbage disposal

Information on household garbage disposal is vital for government and other stakeholders to provide waste management and collection services.

House Ownership

This will provide information on the number of housing units that are owned by any household member.

2.10 Agriculture

Households engaged in Agricultural Activities

Answers to whether a household is engaged in agriculture or not help in capturing all the households involved in agriculture activities at national and sub national levels. Information from this question helps identify households practicing a particular agricultural activity such as crop growing, orchard production, livestock raising, poultry rearing, fish farming, vegetable production, game ranching and bee keeping.

2.11 General and Maternal Deaths

Mortality statistics collected in the census provide an important indicator of the health and well-being of a population. Mortality statistics are required to estimate summary measures of population health, for example the life expectancy at birth, as well as to understand differentials in population health among different sub-groups in the population.

Probably most importantly, mortality statistics provide information about the nature and efficacy of health care delivery systems. Thus, for example, if high levels of child mortality are observed, this may spur interventions to improve child health through changing models of care and service provision, availability of immunization programmes among others.



