Guyana Population and Housing Census - 2012

Theme: “Statistics in Everyday Life Let Us Educate and Appreciate”

Prepared by the Bureau of Statistics for Observance of International Year of Statistics 2013
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**Preparation:**

- Guyana commenced its preparation in 2008 for Census in 2010 to return to the years ending zero (0) and also to be on par with the other CARICOM countries for easy comparability of data. However, due to preparation for General Elections in 2011 it was decided that the Census should be in 2012 instead.

- An Internal Census Committee, a number of sub-committees and a management structure were put in place to plan and execute the census;
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**Preparation:**

- In February 2012 due the National Budget presentation Honourable Minister of Finance, the Minister responsible for Statistics indicated Guyana will be conducting the Population and Housing Census in the latter half of 2012. With this announcement and the passage of the Census Budget by the National Assembly preparations intensified;
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- **Preparation:**
  - Bureau executed a Pilot Census in May 2012. The enumeration period lasted for one (1) week. A sample of households were interviewed from regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 including sections of the gated communities, an institution and a proportion of the Brazilian and Chinese population;

- Recruitment and Training of Area Coordinators (AC) in August 2012 for a period of two (2) weeks. They are responsible for training and supervision of a specific coordinating area within each region;
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- **Preparation:**
  - The Census Order and Census Regulations were signed by the Minister of Finance on the 14\(^{th}\) August 2012 as required by Law designating 15\(^{th}\) September 2012 as Census Day and six (6) weeks of enumeration;
  
  - Recruitment and Training of Enumerators and Supervisors in August 2012;
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• **Enumeration:**

  • Enumeration commenced on the 15\(^{th}\) September 2012 along with a public education campaign to educate the public about the Census and what to expect;

  • Our field activities have officially concluded in the month of December. We are now in the post enumeration phase randomly checking households which were already enumerated and also enumerating households of persons who have notified us that their household were missed during the enumeration phase.
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- **Enumeration Challenges:**
  - Shortage and quality of the Census labour force;
  - Language barrier;
  - Guyana unlike most CARICOM countries encounter numerous logistical difficulties during the enumeration given the geographical spread from coastland to extensive savannahs and mountainous areas;
  - Travelling within such regions as 1, 7, 8 and 9 for long periods on water and or over land (mountainous terrain) and air to be able to access remote communities;
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**Enumeration Challenges:**

- One such example is a Wai Wai village situated in the extreme south of the Rupunui’s in Region 9 in an area referred to as Konshen. The name of this village is Massakanariya – plenty mosquito.

- Given the remoteness of this village there are no schedule flights to this village. To visit this village by air a flight has to be chartered and this is very costly.

- The only other means is a week or two by boat the duration is dependent on whether it is engine or paddle to reach the closest village.
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- Enumeration Challenges:
  - Map of Guyana
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Massakanariya Village – An aerial view
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Airplane lands at Gunn Strip
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Chief Statistician on the 45 mins. trek to the village
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Team arrives at the village
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Toshao Paul Chemkema addressing villagers
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Regional Census Coordinator – Region 9 – Mr. C. Loyola address villagers with assistance from the Teacher
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Team pose with some of the villagers for picture
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- Enumeration Challenges:
- Bureau personnel conducting enumeration of residents in Eteringbang and Arau in Region 7. The only means by which these communities can be accessed is via air, that is, a charter had to be taken.
- Eteringbang is a bordering community situated on the Cuyuni River and it is in close proximity to the Venezuelan village of San Martin.
- Arau is an Amerindian Village situated at the top of the Pakarampa Mountain. To access this village residents and villagers have to climb the mountain using a wooden steps built into the side of the mountain which takes an 1hr 45mins.
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Enumeration along Eteringbang River Bank
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Travelling by Boat to Mango Landing
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Climbing Pakarama Mountain to Enumerate Residents of Arau Village
At the top of Pakarampa Mountain where the Arau Village is situated
Thank you