

# The 2000 Population Census of Indonesia

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### I. Introduction

Five population censuses had already been conducted by the Indonesian government since independence in 1945. The first population census was carried out in 1961, which was implemented on the complete enumeration basis. This means that all persons in Indonesia were counted by the census. The next population censuses were carried out in 1971, 1980 and 1990, which were implemented on the sample enumeration basis. The number of population was estimated by the enumeration results from 5 percent selected census blocks (the smallest enumeration area unit applied in the census). Moreover, the 2000 population census, as the 1961 census, was conducted on the complete enumeration basis.

Along with the execution of the 2000 population census, the first housing census was also carried out in Indonesia. Information which was gathered from the housing census included type of dwelling unit, building classification (complete or not complete), occupancy status, and ownership status. The number of households and the number of household members by sex who stayed in the dwelling units were also asked in that census.

### II. Coverage

The 2000 population census in Indonesia covered all persons residing in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia, except members of diplomatic corps and their families. Two approaches were implemented for enumerating them, namely *de jure* and *de facto* approaches. *De jure* approach was applied to enumerate persons who had permanent residence. They were recorded in the census according their usual residence. In addition, persons who did not have permanent residence (such as the homeless, crews of ships, boat / floating house people, remote located tribesmen, and the internally displaced persons) were enumerated on *de facto* approach. They are recorded in the census in the place where they are found.

### III. Implementation

The implementation of the 2000 population census was carried out in the period of 1 – 30 June 2000. The census date was decided on the 30 June 2000 at 00.00 o'clock. The implementation of the 2000 population census was made up of two activities. These activities were:

### **a. Housing Census**

The 2000 housing census collected data regarding the type of dwelling unit, building classification (complete or not complete), occupancy status, and ownership status. In the occupied buildings, the housing census collected also data regarding the number of households and the number of household members who lived there. Moreover, those who lived in the occupied building were also covered by the population census.

### **b. Population Census**

Population census enumerated not only all persons who had permanent residence, but also those who did not have permanent residence. A person was considered to have permanent residence if he / she had stayed in the particular dwelling unit continuously for at least 6 months, or he / she had stayed there for less than 6 months but intended to stay or to move permanently.

In this census, those who had permanent residence were interviewed with questions regarding his / her characteristics. These characteristics included name, sex, relation to the household head, religious, marital status, place of birth, migration status, ethnicity, educational attainment, and economic activities, and for ever married women were asked questions regarding fertility and child mortality.

Meanwhile, those who did not have permanent residence were enumerated in the area where they were found. They consisted of the homeless, crews of ships, boat / floating house people, remote located tribesmen, and the internally displaced persons. They were asked simple questions, such as, name and sex.

## **IV. Data Processing**

There were two types of data entry applied for processing the results of 2000 population census. First, the conventional data entry applied for processing the results of the listing of buildings and dwelling units, and the results of the enumeration of those who did not have permanent residence. Second, data entry using the character reader machines (scanning machines) applied for processing the results of the enumeration of those who had permanent residence. This was not the first time Indonesia utilized the scanning machines for data entry of the population census results. Data entry for the 1971 population census results were processed by using the marked reader machines.

## V. Problems

Some problems were encountered in the implementation of the 2000 population census. These problems included:

1. Problems in obtaining the qualified field workers  
So far, Indonesia has experienced difficulties for applying the mailing systems in the population census. This relates closely to the relatively low level of education of people in Indonesia (particularly in rural areas). Therefore, a large number of field workers (enumerators and supervisors) were required for the implementation of the complete enumeration in the 2000 population census. The enumeration was carried out by approximately 350.000 part time field workers which were recruited from regional government officers, school teachers, community leaders, students, etc. Since the educational level of most people in Indonesia was still low, the recruitment of low level educated field workers, particularly in rural areas and in the remote places outside Java, could not be avoided. This situation could probably affect the quality of data recorded in those areas.
2. Problems in utilizing the scanning machines for data entry  
The 2000 population census utilized the character reader machines for the data entry. These machines required reasonable clarity of character (letter) written on the questionnaires and clarity blackened space prepared on those documents. Since most of enumerators had low level of education attainment, it was found that many enumerators still used their writing style rather than followed the specimen of letters or characters showed in each questionnaire. This case would create the misinterpretation of letters or characters read by the machines. In order to reduce mistakes in the data entry, a pre computer editing was done, although this effort took an extra time.
3. Enumeration problems in unstable situation areas  
Several provinces in Indonesia experienced riots or unstable situation since the economic crisis started in the mid 1977. The enumeration in those provinces (Aceh, Maluku, Central Sulawesi, and Papua) was only conducted in the areas which had a conducive situation. Meanwhile, an effort to estimate the number of population in the areas which could not be enumerated was necessarily taken. Therefore, the total number of population in each province would be obtained.
4. The incidence of non-response among people in the elite areas  
In the last three decades, a large number of apartments, condominiums, and exclusive houses had been developed in many urban areas in Indonesia, particularly in Jakarta and its surrounding areas. Those who live in these areas are mostly very active in economic and social activities.

This was the main reason which explained why enumerators in these elite areas encountered difficulties to meet them. Some of enumerators had tried to make appointment with them for interviewing them. However, this effort could not be done properly. Even though they could not be enumerated in the population census, but the number of them by sex were recorded in the housing census. Therefore, the exact number of them was known. The number of those who were not enumerated in the 2000 population census was around 3.5 million people.

## **VI. The Future Plans**

There are three main topics which should be considered for the planning of the 2010 population census. These include:

1. The cost for conducting the population census for enumerating the large number of population completely requires is very expensive. Meanwhile, Indonesia encountered difficulties to recruit a large number of qualified field workers. Therefore, there is a consideration the for conducting the 2010 population census, Indonesia would apply the enumeration method on the sample basis, as it was applied in the 1971, 1980 and 1990 population censuses.
2. There is a consideration to utilize the marked reader machines for the data entry, as it was applied in the 1971 population census, or by applying the conventional type for the data entry, as it was applied in the 1980 and 1990 population censuses. These data entry types had already been proved as the best method for data entry of the Indonesian population census.
3. There is a consideration to apply the mailing system for enumerating people in Indonesia, particularly for those who live in the elite areas.