CORE MODULE OF THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2010

Proposals for implementation

TECHNICAL DOCUMENT

Draft-1- Mai 2010
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1. Context and justifications

1.1. This technical document is intended for decision-makers and national statisticians who are responsible for conducting a module of farmer’s enumeration in the context of an agricultural census at the national level. Within the census organization there will be many specialists involved in particular aspects of the census. For these specialists, this publication will also provide an insight into all the main aspects of census taking and enable them to better understand their own role within the census organization. It may also be of interest to the government officials involved in deciding how and when to organize an agricultural census, particularly for those who have limited experience of such a major statistical exercise.

1.2. A census of agriculture is a statistical operation for collecting, processing and disseminating data on the structure of agriculture, covering the whole or a significant part of the country. Typical structural data collected in a census of agriculture are size of holding, land tenure, land use, crop area harvested, irrigation, livestock numbers, labour and other agricultural inputs. In an agricultural census, data are collected directly from agricultural holdings, but some community-level data may also be collected. A census of agriculture normally involves collecting key structural data by complete enumeration of all agricultural holdings, in combination with more detailed structural data using sampling methods. This document describes the organization of an operation related to the only Census Core Module.

1.3. To help countries meet the need of MOA for a wider range of data from the agricultural census, while minimizing the cost of census-taking, it is recommended that countries use a modular approach for the agricultural census:

  – A core census module, to be conducted on a complete enumeration basis, will provide a limited range of key structural items of importance for national policy-making, making international comparisons, constructing sampling frames, and analyzing data at detailed geographic or other levels. The core module is similar to the conventional agricultural census in the past, but with a much more restricted range of items.

  – One or more census supplementary modules, to be conducted on a sample basis at the same time as, or immediately after, the core census module to provide more detailed structural data or data not required at lower administrative levels.

1.4. In addition to the modular approach, this document relies on an integrated vision of the production and use of agricultural statistics. In recent years, increasing efforts have been made towards the better integration of statistical activities. Integration, in a statistical sense, means that each statistical collection is carried out,

1 This document was prepared by relying upon FAO publications:
not in isolation, but as a component of the national statistics system. In an integrated agricultural statistics system, the census of agriculture provides certain types of data as part of an integrated set of data on food and agriculture, needed for decision-making in food, agriculture and rural development.

1.5. The main advantages of an integrated statistics system are:

– It is possible to plan and develop a comprehensive statistical programme, without duplication of statistical activities or the release of conflicting statistics, while ensuring the efficient and balanced use of available statistical resources.

– Concepts, definitions and classifications used in the different statistical activities can be made compatible, making it easier to interpret and analyse related data from different sources.

– Any one statistical collection, such as the census of agriculture, can be restricted to a coherent and manageable set of items, in the knowledge that other related data are available in a comparable form from other sources.
2. Methodological considerations

Objectives of the core module

2.1. Since agricultural censuses are undertaken only every ten years, it is natural to associate them with those aspects of agriculture that change relatively slowly over time. Thus, agricultural censuses are mainly concerned with data on the basic organizational structure of agricultural holdings, such as farm size, land use, crop areas, livestock numbers and use of machinery. Agricultural censuses have not normally included data that change from year to year, such as agricultural production or agricultural prices.

For MOA and the Observatory, the objectives of the agricultural census core module for 2010 are to provide:

(a) data on the structure of agriculture and to enable detailed cross-tabulations.

(b) data to use as benchmarks for current agricultural statistics.

(c) frames for agricultural sample surveys.

(d) holdings’ registers to facilitate the follow-up of actions conducted by the MOA.

Scope and coverage of the census of agriculture ²

2.2. Broadly speaking, an agricultural census aims to measure the structure of the agricultural production industry. The scope of the agricultural production industry could be interpreted very broadly to cover not only crop and livestock production activities, but also forestry and fisheries production activities, as well as other food and agriculture related activities. Past agricultural census programmes have taken a narrow view of agriculture by focusing only on those units engaged in the production of crop and livestock products. Units engaged in forestry or fisheries were not covered unless they also had some crop or livestock production activities.

2.3. International statistical standards for defining areas of economic activity are given in the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) (UN, 2004b). The scope of an agricultural census may be defined under ISIC (Rev. 3.1) as follows:

2 In WCA 2010, the word “scope” refers to the target group of units for the agricultural census. “Coverage” refers to the extent to which certain units, such as small holdings, are omitted.
- Group 011: Growing of crops; market gardening; horticulture.
- Group 012: Farming of animals.
- Group 013: Growing of crops combined with farming of animals (mixed farming).

2.4. Ideally, an agricultural census should cover all agricultural activity in a country according to the above ISIC groupings. In the past, many countries have applied a minimum size limit for inclusion of units in the census or excluded certain areas such as urban centers. This is justified on the grounds that in Lebanon there is usually a large number of very small holdings making little contribution to total agricultural production and it is not cost-effective to include them in the agricultural census. The threshold area is fixed to 1000 m² for open air cultivation and to 500 m² for greenhouses. This leads on the Census basis of 1998 to a total number of 175,000 holdings distributed by villages and according to the 5 regions as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution of the number of villages and holdings by Mohafaza in 1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beqaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of holdings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistical Units: The Holding

2.5. The statistical unit for a data collection is the basic unit for which data are collected. In the previous agricultural census of 1998, the statistical unit used has been the agricultural holding and this is used again in the Core Module for 2010. The definition of an agricultural holding remains the same proposed by FAO; that is:

“An agricultural holding is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form, or size. Single management may be exercised by an individual or household, jointly by two or more individuals or households, by a clan or tribe, or by a juridical person such as a corporation, cooperative or government agency. The holding’s land may consist of one or more parcels, located in one or more separate areas or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, providing the parcels share the same production means, such as labour, farm buildings, machinery or draught animals.”

3 According to FAO, there are two types of agricultural holdings: (i) holdings in the household sector – that is, those operated by household members; and (ii) holdings in the non-household sector, such as corporations and government institutions. In most countries, the majority of agricultural production is in the household sector. The concept of “agricultural holding” is therefore closely related to the concept of “household”. 
According to Census results in 1998, 77% of agricultural holders had their main residence inside the village where their holdings are located and they cultivated 73% of the Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA), whereas 7% had their main residence in another village (13% of UAA). The remaining holders lived in urban cities (13%) and abroad (1.6%).

Lists of census units per village

2.6. In a statistical collection, the frame is the means by which the statistical units to be enumerated in the collection are identified; in this case, agricultural holdings. The Observatory has a list of all agricultural holdings, identifying each unit without omissions or duplications and without any units other than agricultural holdings. Such a list could be obtained through the last census of 1998 but must be updated at each village level, according to the below explained modalities.

2.7. Care is needed in establishing frames for the agricultural census to ensure that all agricultural production units are covered. If agricultural holdings are missing from the frame, they will not be enumerated in the agricultural census and the validity of the census results will be compromised. This is especially important in an integrated agricultural statistical system, as any weaknesses in the agricultural census frame will be reflected in all the surveys that follow.

Enumeration areas (EAs) by municipality

2.8. An EA is a geographical unit of suitable size to organize the census data collection – typically, more or less 120 households. In Lebanon, an EA could correspond to existing administrative units, such as villages. In fact, it will be necessary to subdivide big administrative units to form suitable sized units. This is will be done by examining existing maps and administrative records, with field inspection undertaken as required. Aerial photographs and satellite images can also be useful during the establishment of the EAs. Currently, Lebanon is divided into 5 Regions called Mohafazas but the census results will be published taking into consideration the additional two Mohafazas newly implemented but not yet taken into effect.

Personnel needs for data collection according to the size of the villages

The total number of villages in Lebanon having agricultural holdings inside their delimitation is 1,451 villages. The corresponding total number of holdings is 175,000 holdings. These figures allow us to estimate an average number of 120 holdings per village which will be surveyed by an enumerator for a 3 weeks’ period corresponding to the filling of 8 registrations per day with a simple questionnaire. In order to assign a number of enumerators around this ratio, according to the number of holdings inside each village, villages will be distributed by class ranges of 120 and they will be assigned a corresponding number of enumerators. The distribution of class ranges is as follows: 60-180=1 Enumerator; 180-300=2 En.; 300-420=3 En.; 420-540=4 En. and so on.
Regarding villages of less than 60 holdings, it is suggested either a regrouping in EA with a small sized neighboring village having a ratio of 60 to 180 holdings, or a regrouping with a big village allowing surveys to be conducted by enumerators of this latter village. These arrangements’ distribution will be made in coordination with concerned regional services of MOA and the municipalities. The project team shall prepare necessary documents required for this field activity.

List of items of the core module

2.9. Items have been selected as being suitable for the core module on the basis of the following criteria:
− The items are the key items needed for agricultural policy-making and planning.
− Data for the items are required to be produced for small administrative units such as districts or villages, or in the form of detailed cross-tabulations
− The cost of data collection should be acceptable within the framework of the budget allocated.
− The data are required to establish sampling frames.
− During collection, data should not embarrass agricultural holders.
− The number of selected items should not make heavy the interview.
− The data are required to make international comparisons.

List of Items proposed for the Core Module

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0001</td>
<td>Identification and location of agricultural holding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0002</td>
<td>Sex of agricultural holder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0003</td>
<td>Age of agricultural holder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0004</td>
<td>Holder agricultural activity and/or other economic activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0005</td>
<td>Household size.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0006</td>
<td>Main purpose of production of the holding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0007</td>
<td>Legal status of agricultural holding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0008</td>
<td>Land tenure types on the holding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0009</td>
<td>Presence of Irrigation on the holding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0010</td>
<td>Utilized Agricultural Area on the holding (UAA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0011</td>
<td>UAA according to land use types.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0012</td>
<td>Constraints impeding holding development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0013</td>
<td>Types of temporary crops on the holding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0014</td>
<td>Types of crops under protective covers on the holding.</td>
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<td>0015</td>
<td>Types of permanent crops.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0016</td>
<td>Marketing services.</td>
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<td>0017</td>
<td>Agricultural services on the holding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0018</td>
<td>Use of fertilizers on the holding.</td>
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<td>0019</td>
<td>Use of pesticides on the holding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0020</td>
<td>Livestock number on the holding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0021</td>
<td>Veterinary services on the holding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0022</td>
<td>Machinery and Equipments on the holding.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Items of community surveys

2.10. Some types of administrative data are of interest in an agricultural census, especially for decentralized planning, identification of poor villages, planning of
targeted area development programmes, and targeting communities for relief operations in case of natural disasters. A community-level data collection, often at the village or the commune level, can be useful for examining the infrastructure and services available to holdings. Data on whether the community is prone to natural disasters can be of interest for analysis. A community survey may cover agriculture-related data not able to be collected from holdings, such as the area of communal land. Often, the community-level data complements the holding-level data; for example, community-level data on the existence of farmers’ associations may complement data on participation in those associations collected from each agricultural holding.

2.11. The list below is the one proposed by FAO, whereas during its preparation phase, the project shall establish an adequate list taking into consideration the previous village survey conducted in 1998.

### List of Items for the Village Survey as proposed by FAO

**Geography**
- Location
- Agro-ecological, climatic, topographical, or soil types
- Land use
- Area of communal grazing land
- Area of communal forest
- Travelling time to the nearest major urban centre (by season, if applicable)
- Whether the community has year-round access to the nearest urban centre by a motorable road
- Whether the community is prone to natural disasters, such as droughts and floods (if applicable)

**Socio-economic conditions**
- Population according to different population groupings
- Number of households
- Economic status (if applicable)
- Economic activities
- Whether there are seasonal food shortages (if applicable)

**Community infrastructure and services**
- Presence of a fertilizer dealer; if not, travelling time to the nearest fertilizer trading centre (by season, if applicable)
- Presence of a pesticides dealer; if not, travelling time to the nearest pesticides trading centre (by season, if applicable)
- Presence of a seed dealer; if not, travelling time to the nearest seed trading centre (by season, if applicable)
- Presence of a credit institution; if not, travelling time to the nearest credit institution (by season, if applicable)
- Presence of irrigation facilities
- Area equipped for irrigation
- Availability of veterinary services; if not, travelling time to the nearest veterinary services (by season, if applicable)
- Presence of a periodic or permanent agricultural produce market; if not, travelling time to the nearest periodic or permanent agricultural produce market (by season, if applicable)
2309 Existence of agricultural produce collection network
2310 Presence of food storage facilities.
2311 Presence of agricultural processing facilities
2312 Presence of facilities for maintaining agricultural machinery
2313 Existence of farmers' associations, cooperatives, and other bodies providing
   support and services to farmers.
2314 Availability of agricultural extension service
2315 Whether electricity is connected
2316 Presence of a primary school; if not, travelling time to the nearest primary
   school (by season, if applicable)
2317 Presence of a health facility; if not, travelling time to the nearest health facility
   (by season, if applicable)
2318 Presence of radio, telephone, and Internet services
2319 Availability of public transport: bus, train, boat

Development programmes
2401 Presence of specific development projects in the community

Tabulation program

2.12. Data collected in the agricultural census are only of statistical interest if they
   can be presented in aggregated form. This means that the data collected for each
   holding must be aggregated to provide totals, such as the number of cattle in a given
   province or the number of holdings in the country growing wheat. In a community
   survey, aggregate results such as the percentage of communities with marketing
   constraints are produced. The primary form of presentation of statistical data is a
   statistical table. The tabulation programme is the overall set of statistical tables
   prepared to present the census results.

2.13. The tabulation programme for the core module of the agricultural census
   must be determined at the same time that the design of the census questionnaire;
   otherwise, one may find out after the data collection that the data collected do not
   meet the requirements for the tabulation programme. Also, the tabulation
   programme may have direct implications for the census design.

2.14. The tabulation plan will be developed in three phases:

   • First, information which has high priority and which should be released as
     early as possible. These tables may be preliminary results from manual
     tabulations of control sheets; either a representative sample, or a geographic
     subset: the producers Registers and the total area broken down by crop
     types (page 1 of the census questionnaire)

   • The basic tables are those which are designed to be most useful to a large
     spectrum of national data users. To assist in the creation of an appropriate
     group of these tables, a check-list is shown in the box below.

   • Finally, an additive subset of tables which incorporate country needs and
     priorities will be processed; these tables may either be planned from the
     beginning; use of fertilizers and pesticides already request by MOA (page 4
     of questionnaire). It may be added at a later time upon request.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Admin Zones</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>UAA</th>
<th>Land Tenure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0001 Identification and location of agricultural holding.</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>0002 Sex of agricultural holder.</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>0011 UAA according to land use types.</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>0012 Constraints impeding holding development.</td>
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<td>0013 Types of temporary crops on the holding.</td>
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<td>0014 Types of crops under protective covers on the holding.</td>
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<td>0015 Types of permanent crops.</td>
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<td>0021 Veterinary services on the holding.</td>
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<td>0022 Machinery and Equipments on the holding.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

N= Number of holdings; A= Area
3. Core Module Organization

General figure of the module

Census module steps

Preparatory phase (2 months)
- Determine the overall strategy for the agricultural census as part of the system of integrated agricultural censuses and surveys;
- Define the objectives of the Core Module;
- Develop a work plan and budget for developing and carrying out the census;
- Form a National Census Committee, Regional technical committees for Coordination and support local committees to oversee the census;
- Develop and implement the census publicity campaign;
- Create the Agricultural Census Office and recruit the necessary staff;
- Prepare agricultural holding lists to be surveyed;
- Prepare maps for census field operations;
- Develop the tabulation plan;
- Design and test questionnaires;
- Design and test the computer processing system, including data entry, editing and tabulation;
- Prepare field instruction manuals;
- Prepare logistics measures.

Field Data collection phase (2 months)
- Develop the field system;
- Recruit and train field staff;
- Census enumeration;
- Data processing.
- Undertake quality control checks on the data;
- Data Entry operation;

Phase of primary data processing (1 month)
- Conduct Data processing;
- Tabulate and analyze the data
- Prepare Core Module Report and disseminate results.

National, Regional and Local Committees

3.1 The preparation and the conduct of the core module will be assumed by the project’s team who will ensure coordination with MOA services. Different other partners will be involved during the 5 months of the operation and will play a key role in the success of the Core Module. These correspond to Municipalities and to main territorial authorities as well as to agricultural professional organizations (CCIA, Unions of cooperatives, etc.) who are asked to mobilize their members. Institutions working in the agricultural sector (Training, research, Consultancy firms) but also those working in the communication areas (Radio, Television, Press) will be also involved in this operation. Specialized services in censuses and economic studies will be invited also to contribute to the Core Module. These different contributions can be made either by participating in the national committee. The exact composition of the committee will be determined before the beginning of the operation by ministerial decree.

3.2 The technical regional committees for coordination will be responsible of coordinating the activities in their respective region. They will include under the supervision of the regional services of MOA, representatives of regional bodies in order to review and support practical measures regarding the preparation and the carry out of the operation. They will bring direct support to regional and municipalities’ teams in charge of data collection and census control checks. Their composition, mandate and status shall be determined at the beginning of the preparatory phase in coordination with the regional authorities.

3.3 At cazas’ level, (an average of 5 to 6 per Region), Local Support Committees will be established regrouping around the Caimacam, concerned municipalities, farmers’ representatives of the area in addition to influent cooperatives and associations in such a way that necessary support will be brought during the operation conduct.
List of potential partners in the Core Module

National Committee
- Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture
- Representative of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
- Representative of the Central Administration for Statistics
- Representative of the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute
- Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture
- Representative of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
- Representative of the Central Administration for Statistics
- Representative of the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute
- Representative of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
- Representative of the Lebanese Center for Research and Agricultural Studies (CREAL)
- Representative of the Universities (Faculties of Agricultural Sciences, Departments of Statistics)
- Representative of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Representative of the Observatory

Regional Technical Committee for Coordination
- Representative of the Regional Service
- Representative of the Governor (Mohafez)
- Representative of the Cooperatives
- Representative of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
- Representative of NGOs / International Organizations

Local Support Committee
- The chiefs of the caza Caimacams
- Representative of the Union of municipalities
- Representative of the Farmers associations/union/cooperatives
- Representative of NGOs / Projects

Cooperation with the agricultural holders

3.4. The obligation to cooperate in the Core Module operations is not provided for in the legislation in subsidiary texts. Refusal to be interviewed or to furnish the data needed, or giving false information or delaying the submission of returns, cannot be punishable acts. Holders often tend to be sceptic of statistics and the usefulness of the agricultural census; they may consider the census to be interference in their personal affairs and a prelude to an increase in taxes. For this reason, as a part of the publicity campaign, the content of the Core Module should be publicized so that people are aware that the information they supply will be treated in confidence and that they are invited to give the information asked of them.

3.5. The establishment of agricultural holders’ lists is linked to the request made by MOA and which is in line with the ministry’s strategy for the coming 5 years summarized as per its main objectives as follows:

- Make farmers benefit from extension services;
- Make farmers access to laboratory tests within reduced prices;
• Help farmers having easy access to agricultural credits ;
• Make farmers benefit of agricultural inputs ;
• Help farmers obtain certificate of origin ;
• Help farmers obtain agricultural vehicles' license ;
• Help farmers have access to Health and Social Security

3.6. During preparatory phase, special attention should be made to the publicity campaign that must go along with the carrying on of the activities within the region. To this effect, key persons specialized in communication will be called in, so as to identify the constraints to ensure favorable cooperation of farmers to census operations and prepare adequate support. This will help farmers have a better knowledge of the census procedures and a change in the attitude or opinion they may have regarding MOA activities.

Capacity Building of the project’s team

3.7. The presence of national experts and the know-how acquired during the Census of 1998 as well as during the current agricultural production surveys conducted since 1997, will allow conducting the operation without modification of the current project team. Additional contributions correspond either to thematic development needs (1 MOA specialist in communication), or to speed up certain activities (35 office control check agents and 35 data entry operators will be mobilized during 2 months).

Regional team

3.8. At regional level, it is necessary to mobilize additional staff during the period of preparatory work as well as during the data collection operation. Regional services of the MOA, shall be responsible of the conduct of the operation in their region assumed by the chief of regional service, chief of department and the statistician) in addition to the 100 field supervisors. These correspond to the 50 engineers recently recruited by MOA and for whom this activity will represent a good professional entry point in addition to 50 other engineers selected by both the project and the regional services among persons usually accustomed to previous surveys activities conducted annually.
Their function is crucial for the success of the operation as they will provide training (with the support of the project), follow-up and supervision of activities locally conducted within the municipalities by the foreseen 1 500 municipal registry enumerators.
Timetable of the Core Module operation

3.9. The timetable for the implementation of this operation requires 6 weeks work per region (6 weeks work for the supervisors and 5 weeks work for the enumerators), spread over the 5 regions during 2 months (with 1 week difference at each time from one region to another). The consultants of the project will have the responsibility of following-up all activities before (to support preparation and train regional and local team staffs) and during data collection (3 weeks at a time). This overall mobilization shall greatly benefit from the support of the regional technical committees as well as from that of the local committees at cazas’ level. The estimated overall time for the operation till the publication of preliminary results will be of 5 months.

3.10. The order of the beginning of the core module census in the regions will be as follows:

- Region 1: Nabatiye
- Region 2: South
- Region 3: Beqa'a
- Region 4: North
- Region 5: Mount Lebanon
## Workplan

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<td><strong>Preparation phase</strong></td>
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<td>- Establishment of National and Regional committees</td>
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<td>- Preparation of holding lists units to be surveyed</td>
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<td>- Conception, test the system of Data processing</td>
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<td>- Design, testing and questionnaire printing</td>
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<td><strong>Field Data Collection phase</strong></td>
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<td>- Census enumeration Region 1: Nabatiye</td>
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