

A stylized world map in light yellow is centered in the background. It is populated with numerous blue and orange location pins, primarily concentrated in the Americas, Europe, and Africa. The title "Census Thematic Analysis" is overlaid in large blue font.

Census Thematic Analysis

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Session Outline

- Census and its uses
- Thematic analysis in the census products and services
- Meaning, purposes and benefits of thematic analysis
- Requirements for thematic analysis

Census and its uses

- The census provides reliable and detailed data on the size, distribution and composition of population at the lowest geographical level and may represent the only source of information for some small geographic areas or sub-populations.
- Primary outputs of the census:
 - Population census – age, sex, geographic distribution and socio-economic characteristics of the enumerated population
 - Housing census – geographic distribution of households and population by housing conditions and amenities.
- The census data has a wide range of uses:
 - policymaking, planning and administrative purposes
 - measuring progress in SDGs and national development strategies
 - research on the past and prospective changes in the population
 - business, industry and labor planning
 - boundary delimitation
 - sampling frame for surveys

Census products and services (1)

- Published tabulations – preliminary and final census results
- General interest or special-interest group products.
- **Thematic analytical products**
- Methodological reports
- Post-enumeration survey report
- Administrative reports – census operations and lessons learned
- Census geographical reports including codes and classifications
- Specialized or customized products requested by users such as tables from the NSO database or self-generated by users
- Databases, including microdata and table-oriented databases
- Metadata

Census products and services (2)

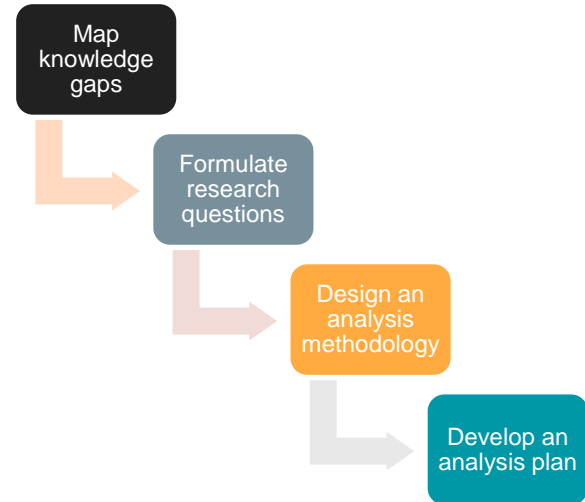
Special audience products

- policy briefs
- summary reports
- **thematic and analytical reports**
- fact sheets
- posters, brochures and flyers
- basic reports
- detailed tables and spreadsheets
- articles
- video and social media products

Thematic analysis: meaning and some steps

- Thematic analysis is the process of systematically identifying, organizing and presenting a deeper analysis of a specific theme/topic for a defined group of users or audience.
- Thematic analysis goes beyond description of census main results to provide deeper insights into demographic trends, socio-economic patterns, and other factors relevant to development.
- Thematic analysis promotes a deeper interpretation of census results by allowing combination of census data with data from other sources for more insightful analyses and making them more accessible to a wider audience for policy purposes.

Some steps in thematic analysis



Purposes of thematic analysis

- The overarching purpose of thematic analysis is to unlock the full potential of census data to inform a policy audience and support policy evaluation and development.
- Thematic analysis should respond to a country's specific development needs and address research questions of national interest.
- Thematic analysis should derive from user consultations for the identification of relevant topics and analysis and present results in formats that meet user needs.
 - Varied presentation formats tailored to user needs (not just voluminous monographs and reports) should be emphasized.

Benefits of thematic analysis

- It enables the exploration of variables beyond the primary census results to provide a deeper understanding of societal dynamics and through trends analysis, how they change over time.
- Provides interpretation of the census results and their implications to data users and stakeholders.
- Can provide operational indicators for monitoring purposes in various sectors (e.g. health, education , labor force, etc).
- Can help identify new problems or new ways of analyzing existing problems, informing the reformulation or refinement of public policies.
- Can serve as a tool for assessing census data quality through a deeper examination of the accuracy of the census results and their consistency with data from other sources.

Requirements for thematic analysis

- Thematic analysis should be planned and scheduled during the census preparatory phase, right from questionnaire development.
- Effective user consultations is required to identify relevant topics and ensure analysis and presentation of results in formats that meet user needs.
- Data security and confidentiality should be ensured through appropriate measures, including anonymization, to facilitate thematic analysis.
- The data should be fully cleaned and coded and detailed metadata provided to guide thematic analysis
- To achieve their purpose, there should be a dissemination and promotion plan for thematic analysis and other census products.
- NSO's capacity for undertaking thematic analysis should be considered and supplemented by other modalities (e.g. partnerships with academia) as needed.



Operational modalities for producing census products

Modality	Description
NSO-led	NSO to undertake the entire tasks in partnership with sectoral ministries
Nationally led by academia	National academic or public research institution lead NSO and sectoral ministries - this could be under an MOU or contracting the services
Donor-funded (1)	Donors provide resources to hire national consultants/national research institutions to work with NSO and other ministries
Donor-funded (2)	Donors provide resources to hire international consultant(s) to lead in areas/topics where national capacity is lacking in partnership with NSO and sectoral ministries/national institutions
Outsourcing	Subcontract the entire production of census products either to national or international research institutions and/or consultants



1. NSO - led

NSO undertake all production tasks in partnership with sectoral ministries

Advantages

- Enhanced national ownership
- Meeting the needs of data users in government
- Capacity building within NSO
- Recognition as official products

Disadvantages

- Limited capacity may affect quality of products or timeliness of delivery



2. Nationally led by academia

National Public Research Institution/s lead NSO and sectoral ministries

Advantages / opportunities

- Tap into (and develop) national research capacity
- Thematic and context-specific knowledge
- Partnership strengthening

Disadvantages / risks

- Research capacity gaps in some areas
- Gaps in policy relevance



3. Donor-funded (1)

Donors provide **resources to hire national consultants/national research institutions** to work with NSO and other ministries

Advantages / opportunities	Disadvantages / risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Involvement of development partners● Strengthening of partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dependence on external funding● Admin/operational and transaction costs● Minimal capacity development of NSO



4. Donor-funded (2)

Donors provide **resources to hire international consultant(s)** to lead in areas/topics where national capacity is lacking in partnership with NSO and sectoral ministries/national institutions

Advantages / opportunities	Disadvantages / risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Involvement of development partners● Harnessing of international technical expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dependence on external funding● Admin/operational and transaction costs● Lack of national ownership



5. Outsourcing/contracting

Subcontract the entire process of producing census products to either national or international research institutions

Advantages / opportunities

- Possibility to hire top-notch research institutions

Disadvantages / risks

- Lack of consultative process
- Potential risk of poor knowledge of local context, hence not meeting user needs



Factors affecting the modes of implementation

- There is no one-fits-all approach to the production of census products
- Factors to be considered when preparing the implementation plan:
 - Human resources available at NSO
 - Research capacity in national government and academic institutions
 - Technical assistance / capacity building required
 - Composition of research teams
 - Sequence of the thematic reports
 - Budget
 - Access to data

