

Using technology to achieve efficiencies in Census – experiences from the Abu Dhabi Census 2011

Badria Abdulla Obaid* and Nancy McBeth, Statistics Centre Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Corresponding author: Badria Abdulla Obaid, email bobaid@scad.ae

Many countries are evaluating whether they can continue to conduct Population Censuses in the traditional manner. While the information from a traditional Census is seen as very important, these types of Censuses are becoming very expensive and time consuming. The Abu Dhabi Census 2011, conducted by the Statistics Centre Abu Dhabi (SCAD) is an example of how a new statistics office has been able to use technology and methodological innovations to successfully conduct a traditional census within a very short time. This included the use of iPads and Galaxy Tabs programmed with the census questionnaire and incorporating built-in updated aerial maps and GPS systems to enable an efficient collection operation. SCAD also utilized administrative data where ever possible. In later stages of the Census, SCAD utilized technology innovations such as CANCEIS editing, an automated bilingual coder; and automated output products. These innovations were driven by the need to maintain costs while providing quality data in an efficient manner.

Key Words: Census technology, Methodological innovations, Census Data collection, iPad