

Part I:

Major Highlights

1. Household information

- 1.1 **Population and Households:** Population of Nepal as of the census day (June 22, 2011) stands at **26,494,504** showing population growth rate of **1.35** per annum. Similarly, Total number of households in the country is **5,427,302** with **5,423,297** individual households and **4,005** institutional households (Barracks, Hostels, Monasteries etc).
- 1.2 **Ownership of housing units:** Altogether, 85.26 percent of the households reside in their own house whereas 12.81 percent in rented, 0.63 percent in institutional and 1.30 percent in other arrangements. In urban areas, 40.22 percent live in rented house. Kathmandu district has the highest percentage (58.65) of households living in rented house.
- 1.3 **Type of foundation of house:** Nearly ten percent (9.94 %) of total households live in houses with the foundation having RCC pillar, 17.57 percent households in house with foundation made up of cement-bonded bricks, 24.9 percent in wooden pillar, 44.21 percent in mud-bonded bricks and 2.33 in other type of foundations. In urban areas, 28.42 percent of the households live in houses with the foundation having RCC pillars.
- 1.4 **Type of outer wall:** Highest number of households (41.38 percent) live in houses which has outer wall made of mud bonded bricks or stone followed by outer wall made of cement bonded bricks or stone(28.74 percent), bamboo wall (20.23 percent) and wood/planks (5.31 percent).
- 1.5 **Roof of the house:** Twenty Eight percent of the total households live in houses roofed with galvanized sheet followed by tile/slate (26.68 percent), RCC (22.48 percent) and thatched/straw roof (19.03 percent).
- 1.6 **Source of drinking water:** Tap/Piped water is the main source of drinking water for 47.78 percent of the total households. Tube well/hand pump is the main source of drinking water for about 35 percent of the total households, while spout, uncovered well/kuwa and covered well/kuwa are the main source for 5.74 percent, 4.71 percent and 2.45 percent respectively.
- 1.7 **Usual fuel for cooking:** About two-third of the total households (about 64 percent) use Firewood as usual source of fuel for cooking followed by LPG (21.03 percent), cow dung (10.38 percent). Bio-gas and Kerosene is used for cooking by 2.43 and 1.03 percent of the

total households respectively. Very few households (0.08 percent) use Electricity as usual fuel for cooking. In urban areas, more than two third (67.68 percent) of the total households use LPG as their usual fuel for cooking.

1.8 Source of lighting: More than two third (67.26 percent) of the total household's main source of lighting is electricity. Kerosene is used by 18.28 percent of the total households for lighting while solar and bio-gas is source of light for 7.44 and 0.28 percent of the total households respectively.

1.9 Toilet in the house: More than one third (38.17 percent) of the total households do not have toilet in their houses.

1.10 Household facilities:

The percentage of households having various kinds of household facilities is tabulated as follows.

Household facility	Percentage of Households		
	Nepal	Urban	Rural
Radio	50.82	53.56	50.17
Television	36.45	60.67	30.66
Cable television	19.33	53.80	11.10
Computer	7.28	23.66	3.37
Internet	3.33	12.11	1.24
Telephone	7.37	22.66	3.72
Mobile phone	64.63	84.07	59.98
Motor	1.57	4.03	0.98
Motorcycle	9.58	23.62	6.23
Cycle	32.38	29.95	32.96
Other vehicle	0.68	0.65	0.69
Refrigerator	7.16	23.21	3.33

1.11 Female ownership of fixed assets: Altogether, 19.71 percent of households reported the ownership of land or house or both in the name of female member of the household. In urban areas, 26.77 percent of the households show female-ownership of fixed assets while the percentage stands at 18.02 in rural areas.

1.12 Absent member in households: One in every four households (25.42%; 1.38 million households) reported that at least one member of their household is absent or is living out of country. Total number of absent population is found to be 1,921,494 against 762,181 in 2001. The highest proportion (44.81 percent) of absent population is from the age group

15 to 24 years. Gulmi, Arghakhanchi and Pyuthan districts reported the highest proportion of their population being absent (staying abroad).

1.13 **Household size:** The average household size has decreased from 5.44 in 2001 to 4.88 in 2011 at the national level. The household size is recorded highest (6.44) in Rautahat district and lowest (3.92) in Kaski.

2. Individual characteristics

2.1 **Population size, growth and distribution:** Population of Nepal as of the census day (June 22, 2011) stands at 26,494,504. The increment of population during the last decade is recorded as 3,343,081 with an annual average growth rate of 1.35 percent. Terai constitutes 50.27 percent (13,318,705) of the total population while Hill and Mountain constitutes 43 percent (11,394,007) and 6.73 percent (1,781,792) respectively. Among the five development regions, Central development region has the highest population (36.45 percent) and far western region records the lowest (9.63 percent).

2.2 **Sex Ratio:** Sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) at the national level has decreased from 99.8 in 2001 to 94.2 in 2011. In abstract number, there are 796,422 more females than males in the country. Sex ratio is highest (127) in Manang district and lowest (76) in Gulmi district.

2.3 **Population Density:** Population density (average number of population per square kilometer) at the national level is 180 compared to 157 in 2001. The highest population density is found in Kathmandu district (4,416 person per square km) and lowest (3 person per square km) in Manang district.

2.4 **Population Growth in Districts:** The fastest decadal population growth rate is found in Kathmandu district (61.23 percent), and least in Manang (-31.80 percent). Altogether 27 districts including Manang, Khotang, Mustang, Terhathum, Bhojpur etc. recorded negative population growth rate during the last decade.

2.5 **Urban Population:** The urban population (population residing in 58 municipalities) constitutes 17% (4,523,820) of the total population compared to 13.94% (3,227,879)

2.6 **Working age population:** The working age population (aged 15 to 59 years) has increased from 54 percent (12,310,968) in 2001 to about 57 Percent (15,091,848) in 2011 showing the population structure is shifting for enjoying demographic dividend in the country.

2.7 **Household Head:** Female-headed households in the country has increased by about 11 point percent from 14.87% in 2001 to 25.73% in 2011.

- 2.8 **Caste/Ethnicity:** There are 125 caste/ethnic groups reported in the census 2011. Chhetri is the largest caste/ethnic groups having 16.6% (4,398,053) of the total population followed by Brahman-Hill (12.2% ; 3,226,903), Magar (7.1% ; 1,887,733), Tharu (6.6% ; 1,737,470), Tamang (5.8% ; 1,539,830), Newar (5.0% ; 1,321,933), Kami (4.8% ; 1,258,554), Musalman (4.4% ; 1,164,255), Yadav (4.0% ; 1,054,458) and Rai (2.3% ; 620,004).
- 2.9 **Mother Tongue:** There are 123 languages spoken as mother tongue reported in census 2011. Nepali is spoken as mother tongue by 44.6 percent (11,826,953) of the total population followed by Maithili (11.7% 3,092,530), Bhojpuri (6.0%; 1,584,958), Tharu (5.8%; 1,529,875), Tamang (5.1%; 1,353,311), Newar (3.2%; 846,557), Bajjika (3.0%; 793,418), Magar (3.0%; 788,530), Doteli (3.0%; 787,827), Urdu (2.6%; 691,546).
- 2.10 **Religion:** There are ten types of religion categories reported in the census. Hinduism is followed by 81.3 percent (21,551,492) of the population while Buddhism (9.0%; 2,396,099), Islam (4.4%; 1,162,370), , Kirat (3.1%; 807,169), Christianity (1.4%; 375,699), Prakriti (0.5%; 121,982), Bon (13,006), Jainism (3,214), Bahai (1,283) and Sikhism (609).
- 2.11 **Disability:** About two percent (1.94%; 513,321) of the total population reported to have some kind of disability. Physical disability constitutes 36.3 percent of the population with disability followed by Blindness/Low Vision (18.5%), Deaf/Hard to hearing (15.4%), Speech problem (11.5%), Multiple Disability (7.5%), Mental Disability (6%), Intellectual Disability (2.9%) and Deaf-Blind (1.8%).
- 2.12 **Literacy Rate:** Overall literacy rate (for population aged 5 years and above) has increased from 54.1 percent in 2001 to 65.9 percent in 2011. Male literacy rate is 75.1% compared to female literacy rate of 57.4%. The highest literacy rate is reported in Kathmandu district (86.3 %) and lowest in Rautahat (41.7%)

Part II:

An introduction to the National Population and Housing Census 2011

1. Introduction

National population and housing census 2011 (NPHC2011), marks hundred years of census taking in Nepal. Nepal has been conducting population censuses almost decennially and the census 2011 is the eleventh. The first population census was conducted in 1911 A.D. (1968 B.S.). However, the census conducted in 1952/54 is considered to be the first modern census of Nepal introducing internationally comparable concepts, definitions and classifications. Computer processing was introduced for the first time in 1971 census using IBM 1401. NPHC 2011 carries special features of having scientific questionnaires, detailed EA maps for urban and Village Development Committees (VDC) maps for rural areas, ever most inclusive field staff, extensive publicity, independent observance by civil society, most economic operation based on domestic resources and most reliable data processing.

Inter-censal population changes

(1911 – 2011 A.D.)

Census year	Population	Inter-censal changes	Inter-censal changes (%)	Annual exponential growth rate (%)
1911	5,638,749	-	-	-
1920	5,573,788	-64,961	-1.15	-0.13
1930	5,532,574	-41,214	-0.74	-0.07
1941	6,283,649	751,075	13.58	1.16
1952/54	8,256,625	1,972,976	31.40	2.27
1961	9,412,996	1,156,371	14.01	1.64
1971	11,555,983	2,142,987	22.77	2.05
1981	15,022,839	3,466,856	30.00	2.62
1991	18,491,097	3,468,258	23.09	2.08
2001	23,151,423	4,660,326	25.20	2.25
2011	26,494,504	3,343,081	14.44	1.35

2. Census organization of NPHC 2011

A Steering Committee headed by the Honorable Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission (NPC) was formed that consists seven secretaries of various ministries, representatives of Dalit Commission, Women's Commission, Janajati Pratisthaan and Director General (DG) of the CBS as member secretary. The Steering Committee invites subject matter specialist and other distinguished personalities in the meeting. A Technical Committee was formed under the chair of the DG, CBS. There are special thematic committees formed for

publicity, data processing etc. Various working groups were formed for questionnaire design, formation of economic classifications, post enumeration surveys, monitoring of data processing, classifications of caste ethnicity, language and religion. Population Section of the Social Statistics Division took charge of the census operation.

District Census Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of the CDO and participation of other officer-in-charge of district offices and representatives of political parties was formed to undertake the fieldwork at district level.

3. Basic concepts and reference date

A person was counted at his/her usual place of residence. Usual place of residence is defined as a place where a person had been living or intends to live for at least six months. A person absent from usual place for short period for the purpose of treatment or pilgrimage or similar causes is treated as present in the usual place. Persons away or absent from birth place or usual place for employment or study or business purpose is considered absent population and thus, not counted as present population. However, homeless or mobile population was counted at the place where they were traced on the last day of enumeration or 27 June 2011. This method in brief, is termed as 'modified de jure'. Questions on literacy and level of education were asked to all persons aged 5 years and above. A person who can both read and write in any language is defined as a 'literate'. Similarly, questions on activities were asked to all persons of age 10 years and above living in the households selected systematically. Accordingly, his or her activities, occupation and industry of current employment were recorded using Individual Form 2 in the census.

4. Census questionnaire and other tools

Census questionnaires (Listing form, Individual form-1, Individual form-2), enumeration and other manuals, EA maps were major tools used to conduct field enumeration. Complete list of households was prepared during May and June 2011, a month before the main census. Listing schedule contains questions on number of house, households, household members by sex, agricultural land operated and livestock owned by households and operation of small scale non-agricultural activities. Individual Form-1 contains questions on types of house, household facilities/ assets, ownership of house or land of female members of the household, mortality and its causes and details of absent members of households. Also, included in the form-1 are name, surname, relationship to head, sex, age, caste/ethnicity, marital status and age at first marriage, , religion, mother tongue and second language, citizenship, type of disability, literacy and level of education. However, questions on migration, fertility, labour force, occupation, industry, employment status and living arrangement of children (under the age 16) were asked under form-2 to every eighth household selected systematically*.

5. Human resource management

Besides central staff, Approximately 41,000 field staff were engaged in census taking in 75 districts. Eighty District Census Officers, 278 Area Census Supervisors, 1100 district office staff, 7900 Supervisors and 31000 Enumerators were employed in the census at district level. The census work force was ever most inclusive, with participation of janajatis, dalits and more than 40 percent females. Teachers, government employees and youths were employed for data collection. Supervisor enumerator ratio was 1 to 4 in the fieldwork.

6. Census publicity

All kinds of media cooperated in census publicity. All national dailies, weekly papers, magazines, all TV channels, radios also carried out census message to the public throughout the period of the field work. Most instrumental this time were the local FM radios which transmitted messages in local languages. Radio jingles, posters, stickers, pamphlets for different target groups were also produced and distributed. An official census website was launched to provide the respondents and census staff the easy access to all census tools and IEC materials. School students, local cultural groups, various religious groups, caste and ethnic communities also transmitted messages voluntarily. The publicity campaign was successful in reaching all around the country.

7. Logistics management

Management of logistics is one among huge tasks of the census operation. Special precautions were taken in logistics management in the context of the rainy season and the difficult terrains of the country. Therefore, special quality paper for the printing of the questionnaire was ordered. In fact, the filled up questionnaires were not affected of moisture or rough use in the field despite delay in coding, editing and data entry operation (due to unavoidable reasons). One hundred thousand special pens for field staff, 45000, bags, 45000 umbrellas, 9000 calculators were procured. Fifteen million sheets of questionnaires were printed, 60,000 enumerator's manuals, 15000, supervisors manuals, 1000, District Census Officers's manuals, 100,000 notepads were printed almost a year before the census fieldwork. Besides, administrative manuals, special manual for the use of maps, disability, Gender and Social Inclusion etc. were also prepared. Besides, others stationeries including ready-made appointment letters of supervisor and enumerators, letter heads, stamps, training materials, flip charts were also prepared. In order to get these materials printed. Altogether, nearly 250 tons of papers were used for census purpose.

Packing materials at EA level and transportation in time was a challenge. Packaging of questionnaires, manuals, maps and other materials for all field staff were done at the center to ensure all materials reach to the hands of each supervisor and enumerator to commence field work in stipulated time. These supplies were transported to 67 districts by road and air dropped in the remote districts such as Bajhang, Bajura, Humla, Dolpa, Mugu, Jajarkot, Manang, Khotang, Solokhumbu by private airlines. Similarly, filled up forms and census documents from those

remote districts were airlifted by army helicopters. Thorough checking and verification to ensure all questionnaires from all wards, VDCs and districts are received and proper storing were equally important.

8. Field operation

District Census Offices were open since March 16, 2011. Census operation was carried out in two phases: Household listing and individual enumeration. Listing of households, after recruitment and training of 7900 Supervisors (almost half of whom were school teachers) began from May 15, 2011 and ended in about two weeks (18 days). Recruitment and training of 31000 enumerators were completed by the second week of June 2011. Finally, the individual enumeration or the census taking started on 17 June which ended by 27 June, 2011 after observing 22 June 2011 as a census day.

9. Census processing

Keeping in mind the quality of the data processing operation and the capacity of CBS to undertake, it has been decided to source out the operation as it was done in 2001 census. Nevertheless, processing site and the computers were provided to the contractor so that both quality and confidentiality lie strictly under the control of CBS. Manuals of coding, editing and key entry operation were prepared, training and key entry operation were monitored and supervised by the core team of the CBS. Despite delay in awarding the contract, the whole operation was completed in six months from the date the contract was signed. Approximately, six hundred processing staff plus experts were engaged in coding, editing, key entry operation and verification.

CSPro, an integrated software developed for data entry, editing, verification and tabulation by US Bureau of Census was used for data processing (Key entry, editing and verification). However, CSPro, SPSS and STATA are used for tabulations. Range and consistency checks were done thoroughly during the processing operation. The captured data were further cleaned with the assistance of international experts. New classifications of occupation and industry were prepared based on ISOC and ISIC (Rev. 4). Similarly, classifications of caste/ethnicity, religion and language were prepared based on the recommendations of the academicians and subject matter specialists.

10. Quality control

10.1 Utmost attention was laid for quality in the whole census operation, from designing of the questionnaires and manuals to standardization of the training of enumerators, monitoring of the field work, processing operation and tabulation as well. Continuity of form-1 and form-2 has been maintained in the design which was helpful in simultaneous data entry and also in tracing the common identification of both forms.

Wide range of consultation and roundtable workshops with various stakeholders and data users were carried out both in the center and districts to collect the suggestions/feedbacks before finalizing the census tools (questionnaires and manuals). Also, the questionnaires and manuals were revised and peer-reviewed by the subject matter specialist and (gender and social inclusion) GESI experts to make the tools more user and GESI friendly.

- 10.2 The ratio of supervisor to enumerators has been improved to 1:4 as compared to 1:5 in 2001. The work load on an average stands at 828 persons per enumerator against 1135 in 2001.
- 10.3 None of the wards or VDC or any part of the country is missed in the census which could not happen in 2001 due to the conflict.
- 10.4 Wide range of mass media and publicity materials (in various local languages) including individual SMS messages were used to pre-inform the respondents about the contents and methodologies of the census. An official census website and a dedicated toll-free hotline were used to receive suggestions/complaints of any omission/duplication of households throughout the field operation period to ensure the wide participation of the respondents.
- 10.5 There was independent monitoring and observation of the census field work in all 75 districts by the civil societies and their feedback was encouraging in terms of the coverage and dedication of the census staff.

11. Management of census results and analysis

Preliminary results with the total no of houses, households and sex-wise population by districts were released in September 2011 immediately after the forms were received from the field based on the control forms (summary sheets) filled in by the field staff. Final results of the census is planned to be released in different phases and the national report and the population by VDCs and districts are the first to be brought out. It has been planned to bring out the census results in different volumes e.g. volumes on demographic characteristics, volumes on social characteristics (caste/ethnicity, religion and language), volumes on literacy and education volumes on economic characteristics, Volumes on migration and absent population. Special volumes by gender characteristics and urban areas will also be produced and released. These outcomes will be made available in electronic formats. A sample data set will be made available for researchers as well.

Analysis of census results is planned to be undertaken on different characteristics by experts and that will include trend analysis, social and demographic analysis as well. Economic

demography will be the special part of the analysis. The results of the analysis will come out with monograph volumes. Hard copies and electronic copies will be released as well. The results will be disseminated at the centre and also in districts.

12. Cooperation of development partners

Generous co-operations were received from development partners since the preparatory phase. Continuous technical assistance from UNFPA has been instrumental in making the census a success. UNFPA assistance in pilot census, field work, PES and analysis has been important. Likewise, assistance of UNWOMEN particularly in publicity and development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in gender and social inclusion perspective both in pilot and main census is instrumental. Similarly, the support of DANIDA in the development of EA maps and support of UNDP in designing and development of training materials are appreciated. Likewise, the technical support of US Census Bureau at the final stage of processing the census data is significant.

13. Challenges faced during the census operation

13.1 State's priority during the census project period was drafting a new constitution and total efforts of the government and political parties were concentrated on the issues of the contents of the constitution. Also, people's aspirations from the census were high and issues of identities were brought upon surface by various caste/ethnic and social groups. As a result, the streets were almost occupied with demonstrations and, so, fears of the census being jeopardized were also there.

13.2 High expectation of users from the census: There were demands for more questions to be included in the questionnaire. As a result, the questionnaire has become one of longest with more than 50 questions. It might have adverse effect in the quality of data if proper attention were not given at every stage of the census operation.

13.3 Financial resource management: Amount of fund required for the census was huge. Exploring the external resources took longer and eventually, Government of Nepal provided most of the expenses (98.50 percent) for the operation. Nevertheless, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, DANIDA, JICA, US Bureau of Census provided logistics and technical support for the census.

13.4 Human resource management: Managing large number (40,276 persons) of human resource of different level was one of the major challenges. Deputation of field staffs- enumerators and supervisors considering gender and social inclusion aspect was found quite cumbersome.

13.5 Security threat: Security threats were faced by some District Census Officers and field staffs in some regions. Disturbances in the field work and threats of abduction while

questionnaire were being transported to Kathmandu were faced. But, the situation was tackled with the help of the local administration.

13.6 The procurement of census materials, data processing work as per existing rules and regulation of government procurement procedure was really challenging to compromise with timeline and quality.

14. Recommendations for the next census

14.1 Financial resources should be decided in time so that census operation modalities, selection of technology and methodology could be fixed in advance to avoid uncertainties.

14.2 Number of census questions should be optimally determined; open questions should strictly be minimized; and a viable new technology should be explored for more efficient field operation and data processing.

14.3 Enumeration area (EA) maps should be prepared in time and used extensively for reducing coverage errors in the census.

14.4 Field staff should mostly be recruited from unemployed educated youths and priority should be given to college students.

14.5 A Special Census Act that mandates for an independent commission for the census, facilitates financial and human resources required, eases quick procurement of census materials and services and, addresses gender and social inclusion in overall management of the operation is recommended.

14.6 New technology of data capturing be adopted for easing data collection, capturing and processing.

Population and Housing Census 2011, Nepal

Calendar of Activities

1	Masters' Training of Trainers	Jan 27- Feb 09, 2011
2	District Census Officers' Training (Center)	Feb 17 – Mar 03, 2011
3	Area Supervisors' Training (Center)	Feb 23 – Mar 03, 2011
4	Establishment of District Census Offices	March 15, 2011 Tues
5	Establishment and first meeting of DCCC	Mar 16 – 23, 2011
6	Recruitment of Area Supervisors and Preparation for the Establishment of Area Census Offices	Apr 03 – 13, 2011
7	District Level Census Sensitization workshops	Mar 29 – Apr 08, 2011
8	Establishment of Area Census Offices	Apr 14, 2011 Thursday
9	Training of Area Supervisors	Apr 16 – 23, 2011
10	Area Level Census Sensitization workshops	Apr 24 – May 03, 2011
11	Recruitment of Supervisors and assign the area for field work	Apr 28 – May 03, 2011
12	Training of Supervisors	May 05 - 11, 2011
13	Field Work of Household Listing	May 15 – Jun 01, 2011
14	Sample Selection and Preparation for Enumerators' Training	Jun 02 – 03, 2011
15	MTOT for Supervisors who work as a resource person in Enumerators' Training	Jun 05 - 06, 2011
16	Recruitment of Enumerators' and assign the area for Field Work	Jun 07, 2011 Tuesday
17	Enumerators' Training	Jun 08 – 14, 2011
18	Deadline for Enumerators to reach the assigned area for field work	Jun 16, 2011 Thursday
19	CENSUS	Jun 17 – 27, 2011
20	Census Day	Jun 22, 2011 Wed
21	Deadline for Enumerators' to submit the filled up questionnaires to supervisor	Jun 28 – Jul 02, 2011
22	Closing the Area Census Office	Jul 03 – 06, 2011
23	Closing the District Census Office	Jul 09 – 16, 2011
24	Dissemination of Preliminary Census Results	October, 2011
25	Launching of National Report 2011	Novemebr, 2012

Total Staff Engaged in Census at District Level

S.N.	Human Resource	Number
1.	District Census Officers	80
2.	Area Census Supervisors (Recruited from Center)	80
3.	Area Census Supervisors (Recruited in Districts)	198
4.	Accountant	80
5.	Office Helpers (at district)	160
6.	Office Helpers (at Area Census Offices)	289
7.	Additional Management Staff (District Census Office)	320
8.	Additional Management Staff(Area Census Offices)	267
9.	Field Supervisors	7,909
10.	Enumerators	30,793
11.	CBS Staff (at Center)	100
	Total	40,276