

Development and Challenges of the Population Statistics Systems in Indonesia:

An Overview with a Focus on the Census and Registration Systems

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Indonesia is entering a new phase of demographic transition with fertility decline approaching the replacement level, and mortality decline extending to the adult and elderly population. Registration of demographic events is an essential instrument for evidence-based population and overall social development policies. Owing to the underdevelopment of civil registration and vital statistics systems, however, monitoring and analysis of population dynamics and vital events heavily rely on alternative resources such as census and surveys. Several government ministries and agencies such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the National Population and Family Planning Board operate their own registration systems, which run in parallel with limited capabilities to provide reliable vital statistics in terms of coverage and quality. The sample registration system (SRS) was launched in 2014 and has been conducted with a sample of over 8 million individuals across the country. Findings and lessons from the SRS are expected to provide evidence for further development in the national vital statistics systems. Progresses have been also made in the 2020 census, in which, as part of the government's "One Data" policy, the so-called "combined method" was introduced by utilizing administrative data for the pre-listing and verification processes.

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