Introduction

- The 2024 Population and Housing Census, which was conducted from April 5 to May 24, 2024, a seven-week process, represents an important event in the statistical history of Kosovo.

- Data was collected for both resident and non-resident population.

- Extended for two weeks period to ensure comprehensive coverage and address potential logistical challenges enabling comprehensive participation, especially in hard-to-reach and urban areas.

- Second census conducted since 2011 and the independence of Kosovo.

- First completely digital census.

Objectives

- Collect and provide accurate, up-to-date demographic, social and economic data on Kosovo's population and housing conditions.

- Align Kosovo's process with international standards of a wide range of statistics.

- Increase Kosovo capacities to collect and manage digital statistical data.

Data collection

Resident population:

- Detailed data were collected on the resident population, including demographics, education, employment and housing conditions.

Non-resident population:

- For the first time, the census included a significant focus on the Kosovo diaspora, collecting data from household members and the online system that was scheduled to continue until August 31, 2024, and then postponed until December 31, 2024.

Planning and Preparation

- Preparations began in 2019.

- A dedicated task force was established to oversee the preparatory phase, ensuring that all methodological, logistical, and legal aspects were equally addressed.

- **Main planning components:**
  - Detailed Action Plan: The road map was drawn up and then a comprehensive detailed plan, which described over 500 activities in different units and sectors. This plan was continually updated to reflect changes in the operational environment, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Risk management: Contingency plans were developed to address potential risks, ensuring that enrolment could continue smoothly despite unforeseen challenges.
  - Tests, pilots and simulations: Several pilot tests were carried out to refine the recording tools, questionnaires and methodologies, ensuring that they were fit for purpose. A mass pilot, two tests and a pre-registration stimulus had been carried out.

Legislative Framework

- Formation of a Working Group comprised of representatives from several institutions and an expert from the World Bank, which was tasked with drafting the law on Census and addressing any legal challenges.

- Government approved the law in September 2021.

- Parliament approved it in the second half of 2022, providing the legal basis for the population census.

- This legal framework ensured that the enumeration could be carried out in accordance with local requirements and international standards.

Census questionnaires

Designing the questionnaire:

- Broad range of stakeholder engagement included government agencies, ethnic and religious groups, NGOs and international organizations.

- Comprehensive consultations. A total of 87 separate meetings with users, as well as two 5-day meetings called "Census week" with users/general population.

- The 2024 questionnaire included around 20% more questions/sub-questions compared to 2011 census, covering a wider range of topics such as education, employment, housing and migration.

- Questionnaire was made available in multiple languages: Albanian, Serbian, Turkish and English.

- Questionnaire was distributed to many users for comments and published online three weeks before the enumeration period (in 4 languages).
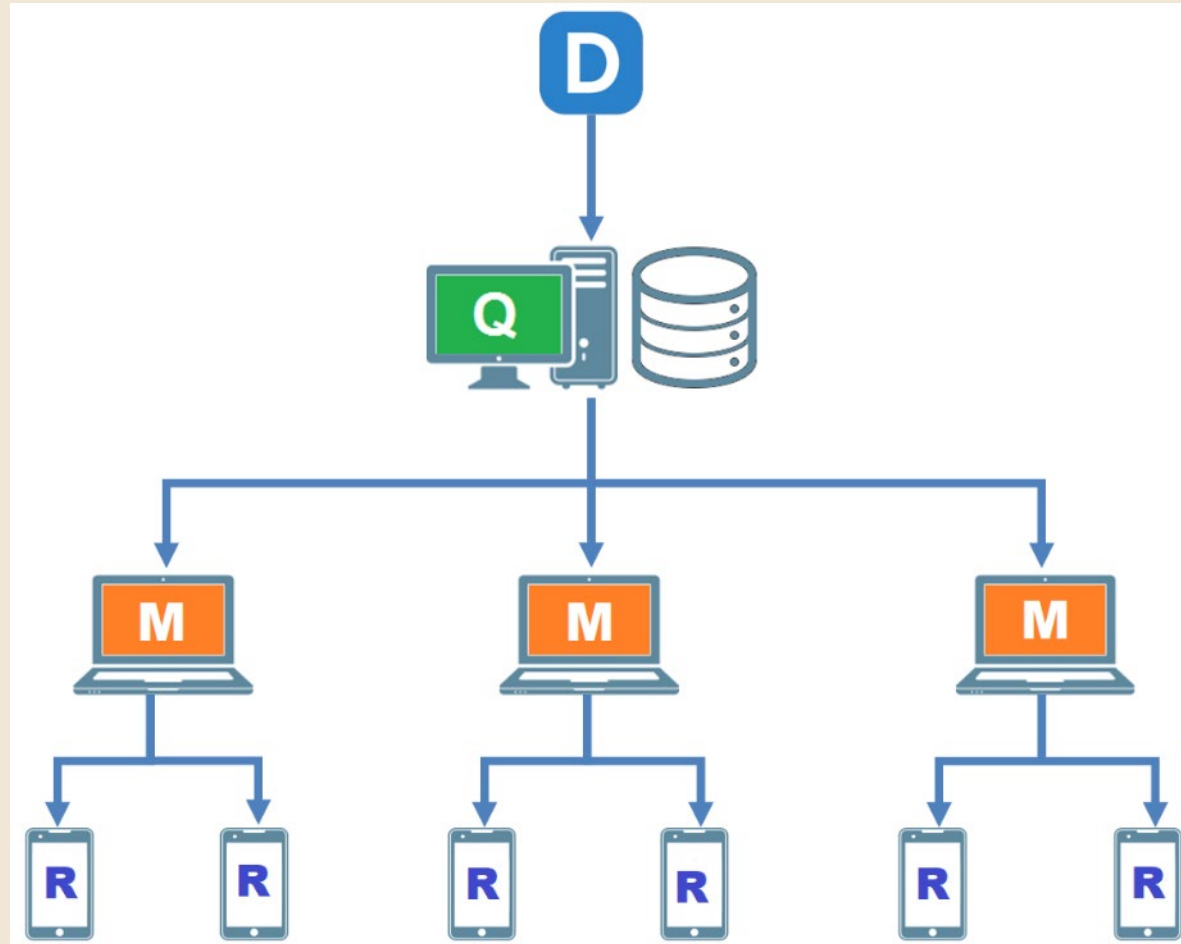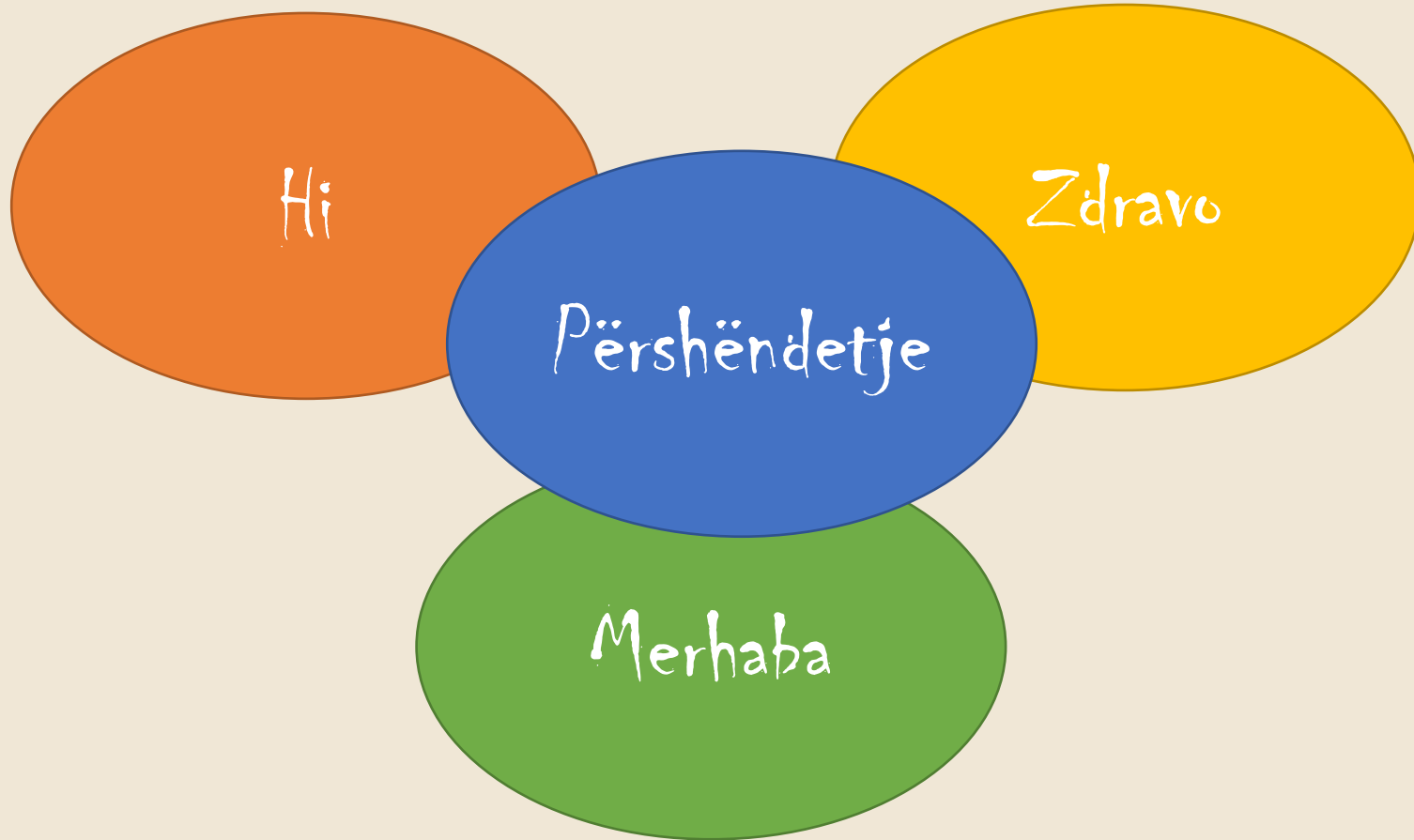
Hi
Zdravo
Përshëndetje
Merhaba
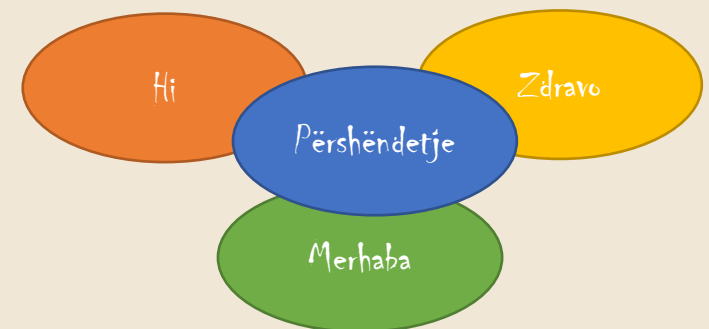
Methodology

- Carefully selected based on the 2019 assessment supported by Eurostat.

- Face-to-face interviews provided direct interaction between census staff and respondents, which helped address any potential misunderstandings or problems on site.

- Tablets utilizing CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) technology enabled KAS to collect data digitally, reducing errors associated with manual data entry and enabling real-time data validation

Hierarchy System

Multilingual

Hi

Zdravo

Përshëndetje

Merhaba

Map of Kosovo

Legjenda:

⊚ Qendër e trajnimeve për Mbikëqyrës

⋅ Qendër komunale sipas Rajoneve

▭ Kufiri i Kosovës

▭ Kufijtë e komunave

Burimi i të dhënave:
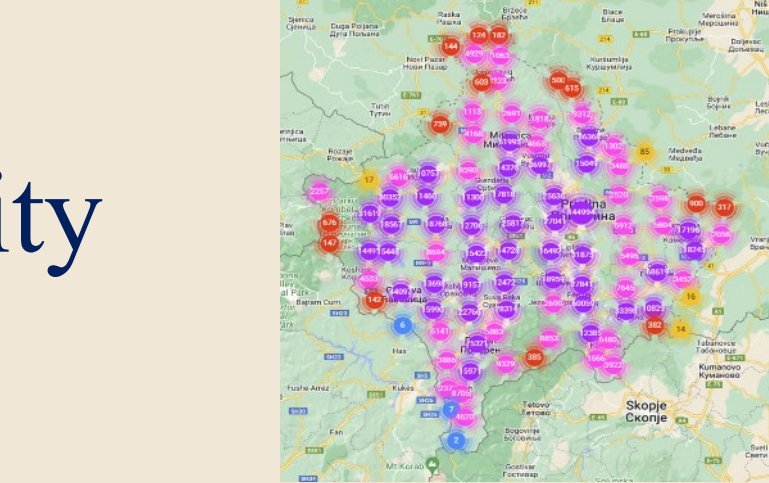Agjencia e Statistikave të Kosovës

Security and confidentiality

➤ Tablets equipped with 4G SIM Cards

➤ Data transmitted to server after each interview

➤ Encrypted data

➤ Additional measures in cooperation with ASHI (Agency for Information Society), according to the laws and regulations in force

Data coverage and quality

Coverage:

- Resident population: Over 99.8% of residential facilities were covered (interviewed) according to KAS monitoring excluding northern municipalities.

- In 4 northern municipalities Leposavić, Zubin Potok, Zvečan, and Mitrovica - there was a significant boycott resulting in under-registration of Serb community.

Data quality control:

- Post Enumeration Survey (PES) focused on coverage

- Real-time monitoring

Data collection application

- Based on the complexity of the application, the security of the data, the experience of 2011 and the experience of other countries in the region, KAS had initially planned to engage an Economic Operator (EO) from the IT field in setting up and managing the system at a cost of about 700,000 euros.

- Since the Census date was not set in time and there were challenges in EO engagement, KAS staff took responsibility for building and managing this system by itself.

- KAS staff managed to build and manage the system application that proved successful by saving around 700 thousand euros.

Digitalization of maps and new zoning

- In the budget plan, about 300,000 euros were foreseen for the new orthophotos and about 100,000 euros for the codification of all construction facilities and the new zoning divisions, an activity that would take place in 2020.

- GIS, made the division of new areas as well as made the new codification of about 600 thousand objects, managing to prepare digital maps with its own capacity.

- This commitment of KAS staff in addition to saving about 300 thousand euros also managed to raise the capacity of GIS to another level that was also appreciated by international institutions.

Census/Enumeration Areas

Map activities:

• Digital and physical maps were provided to census staff, allowing them to easily identify census areas and households.

• Digital maps were particularly useful for real-time monitoring and field work management.

• New area divisions were created, enabling better organization and distribution of census resources.

• Each facility was assigned a unique code, further increasing the accuracy of data collection.

• GPS was integrated in digital maps and other technological tools, enabled census staff to identify households more effectively.

Technological Infrastructure: Equipment and Systems

- Servers and data security: Servers were provided by ASHI, ensuring high levels of data security and continuous access to registration systems.

- Backup systems were also in place to protect against data leakage (cyber attacks).

- Tablets and laptops: Tablets were used by field staff for data collection, while laptops were given to supervisors for operations management and data transmission.

- These devices have been configured and tested by KAS staff (an incredible job in installing the necessary applications and digital maps on about 3,500 tablets and 900 laptops over a 3-week period, with just the capacity of KAS staff!)

- CAPI System: The Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system was developed by KAS staff, enabling efficient data collection and real-time validation.

Monitoring and management systems:

- Data collection application
- Application for the recruitment of Enumerators and Supervisors
- Application for documentation/storage (DEPO)
- Logistics application
- Application for monitoring work in the field (recorders and supervisors)
- Application for daily data management
- Application for Payments

Survey Solutions System

KAS uses the Survey Solutions system for data management since 20218.

It is designed to facilitate complex surveys and censuses by providing tools for questionnaire design, data collection, and management.
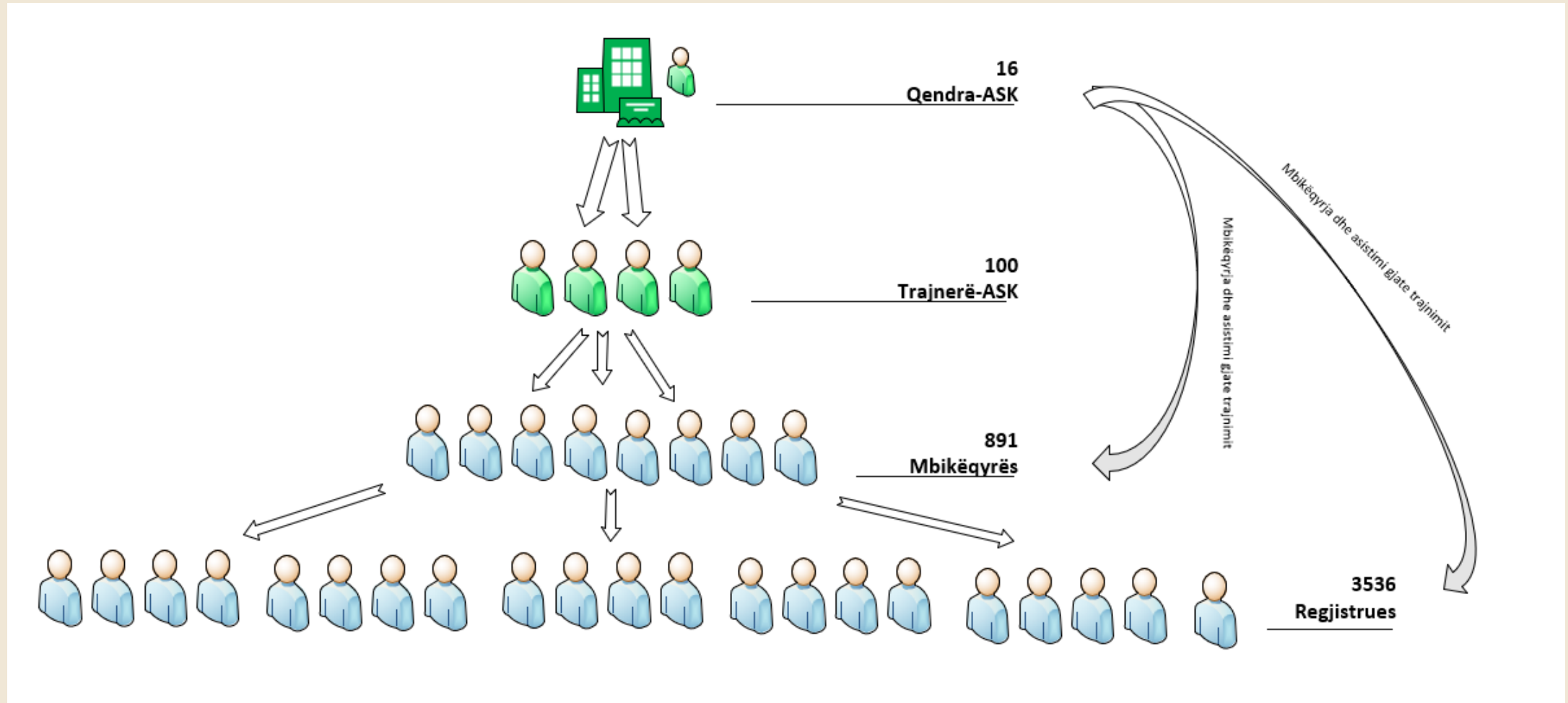
Survey Solutions enables surveyors to conduct interviews using electronic devices such as tablets or smartphones, allowing for real-time data synchronization and quality control.

The software offers features such as skip patterns, validation rules, multimedia integration, and GPS tracking, making it suitable for a wide range of survey applications.

KAS staff is experienced with the CAPI system, having conducted more than 30 surveys using this methodology, ensuring efficient implementation and data collection for the census.

Works disconnected | GPS, image, barcode | Multilingual
Android Tablets | CAWI & mixed mode | Export
Collaboration | Free cloud server | API

Structure of CASCADE of training

16
Qendra-ASK

100
Trajnerë-ASK

891
Mbikëqyrës

3536
Regjistrues

Mbikëqyrja dhe asistimi gjate trajnimit

Mbikëqyrja dhe asistimi gjate trajnimit
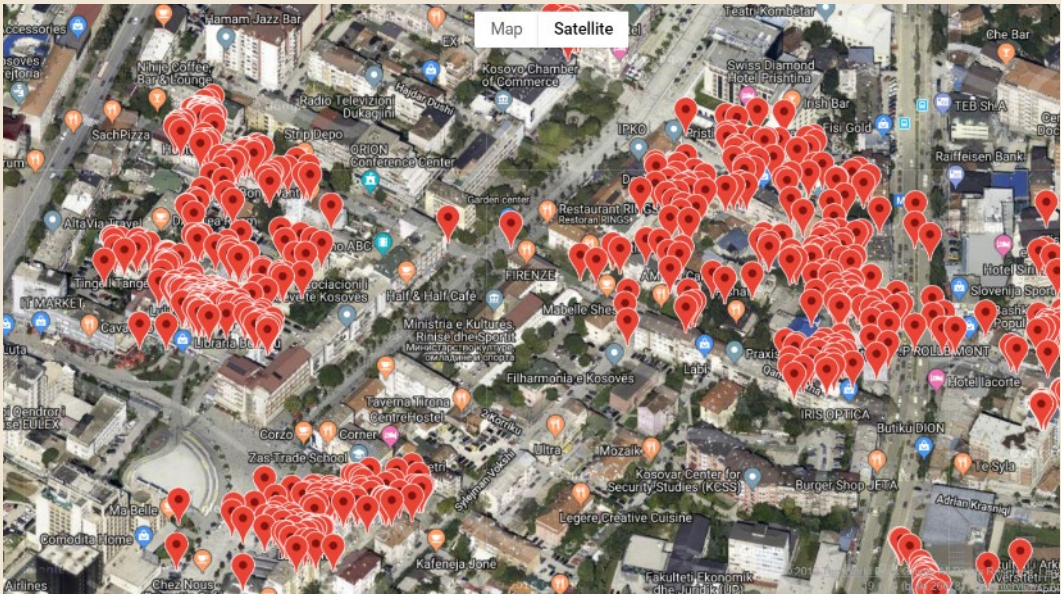
Monitoring Enumerators and Interviews through GPS!

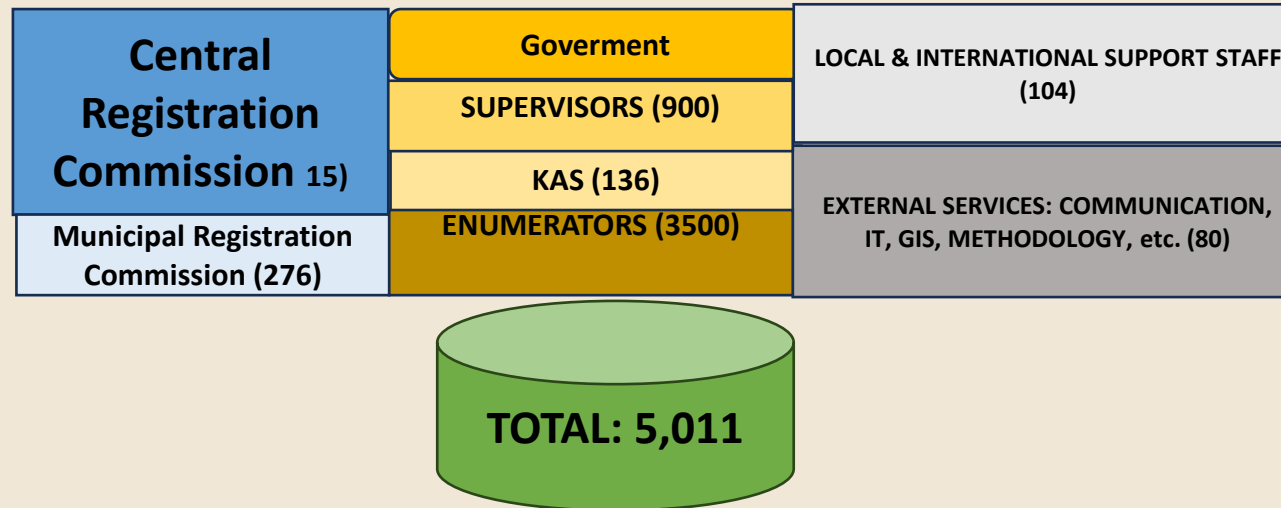GPS urban-Pristina center

GPS urban-Sunny Hill

Public communication/awareness campaign

- A new website was developed (within the KAS website) dedicated to census activities
- During the campaign, all means of communication were used:
  - Number of conferences organized,
  - Debates,
  - Census weeks (2 times),
  - Numerous interviews,
  - Video messages through print and TV media,
  - Written articles,
  - Mass use of social networks,
  - Sending messages on the phone,
  - Convening more than 160 events (in all municipalities, some schools, universities, colleges and other institutions)
  - Produced and distributed informative letters, leaflets, posters and numerous advertisements on social networks.

Personnel and budget in the Census

- The census project had a total estimated budget of €13.9 million
- Central Census Commission (CRC)
- Municipal Registration Commissions (MCCs)
- Working group for cyber security
- National expert group
- International expert group (European Commission (Eurostat), UNFPA, World Bank and UNECE) contributed with short-term experts were:.
- IT and GIS support team
- Working Group for Monitoring and Management

Over 5,000 persons were involved in the population census project at different stages.

Central Registration Commission 15)	Goverment	LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF (104)
	SUPERVISORS (900)	
	KAS (136)	
Municipal Registration Commission (276)	ENUMERATORS (3500)	EXTERNAL SERVICES: COMMUNICATION, IT, GIS, METHODOLOGY, etc. (80)

TOTAL: 5,011

Post Census Activities

Publication of preliminary data:

- According to the census law, the preliminary data had to be published within three months of the census.

- KAS has managed to exceed expectations by publishing preliminary data only 1.5 months after the end of registration through a public conference.

- Publication of final data: Final data are required to be published no later than 15 months after the registration date, with a deadline set for September 2025 (according to the registration law). However, KAS plans to publish the first set of final data by the end of December 2024, just 6.5 months after the census

Long-term international technical assistance

- During 2019 - 2020, KAS had regular short international technical assistance with short missions (3-5 days) in the drafting of several documents. This support came from Eurostat, UNFPA and the World Bank.

- A UN Mission composed of an UNFPA regional office and two UNECE colleagues came on a short mission in April 2024 to monitor the Census process.

- The technical assistance was calculated at around 1.2 million euros in areas such as: management, methodology, training, communication, IT, GIS and analysis.

- Due to frequent changes of the population census date (usually the date is set 2-3 years in advance - which was as a condition for technical assistance) KAS did not manage to receive international technical assistance. Since the activities were covered by KAS staff, these funds (1.2 million Euros) were not received from the donors and were not used.

Recommendations for future censuses

- Early planning and safe timelines: early planning and testing process (3-4 years before census date).

- KAS must ensure that the census date is confirmed well in advance (at least 1.5 years in advance).

- Update the legislative framework

- Expand digital capabilities

- Strengthen Protocols and Crisis Management

- Broaden and engage stakeholders

- Improve communication strategies

- Increase budget allocations for communication and outreach

Conclusion

- The 2024 Kosovo Population and Housing Census was a historic achievement, marking the second census conducted since Kosovo's independence and the first to be fully digital.

- Despite numerous challenges, delays, and logistical complexity, including the boycott by Serb community in the northern municipalities, KAS successfully conducted a comprehensive census.

- The success of the census is attributed to the strong commitment of KAS staff, effective use of technology, robust training programs and extensive support from government institutions and international partners.

- The recommendations provided in this report aim to further increase the efficiency of future censuses, ensuring that Kosovo remains at the forefront of modern, digital census operations.

| NATALITY / FERTILITY | PUPILS | STUDENTS | OCCUPATIONS BY EDUCATION | EMPLOYEES | RETIREES / POPULATION AGING |

ReKos 2024

Thank you for your attention!

Q&A