

COMMENTARY ON THE CENSUS ON HUMAN AND PROPERTY DAMAGES DUE TO CONFLICT 2013

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Executive Summary

The results of the '*Census on human and property damages due to conflict - 2013*' are due to be published in March 2014¹, in time for the 25th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva from 3 - 28 March 2014. However, despite the Director General of the Department of Census and Statistics claiming that this census will "*help arrive at an exact decision on the persons missing and died during the period of conflict in the country*"², it is evident from the methodology juxtaposed against the fear and intimidation people feel in the Northern Province alone, that the '*Census on human and property damages due to conflict - 2013*' will not reveal the true extent of death, disappearance and damage caused by the war.

Highlights from this report

- Standard census methods were utilised for this census which had a different objective to that of a traditional census. By using standard census methodology the census department would have failed to meet the primary objective of *this* census - which was to ascertain the exact total number of people who died and went missing, as well as the extent of damage to property due to conflict. In order to avoid double counting, a household could only provide information of their nuclear family and of relatives or other persons who permanently reside in that household and do not have a permanent household elsewhere. This meant that one could not provide information about another family member who had a permanent residence elsewhere, which is important in a standard census. However, in the '*Census on human and property damages due to conflict - 2013*' what happens to the information about entire nuclear families that died or went missing in the war? If they lived in a separate permanent residence, any relatives who are still alive and able to provide their details would not be able to do so.

¹ News360.lk, '[Sri Lanka to publish the census on 'war losses' before Geneva sessions](#)', 29 January 2014

² Defence.lk, '[Sri Lanka to conduct Census on deaths, damages to persons and properties during conflict periods](#)', 25 February 2013

For example, if members of household X included father and mother, and household Y included their married daughter, daughter's husband and their 2 children, this is counted as 2 family units living in 2 permanent residences, even if the 2 houses were next to each other. If all members of household Y died during the war, then there is no one at present to answer on their behalf. Their family who belong to household X cannot answer in their own census schedule either as household Y was a separate permanent residence. Therefore, the 4 people who died in household Y would not be counted in any census schedule and would not be represented in the total death toll as per this census.

Attempting to capture information such as this poses several challenges and there is never a complete guarantee that every single affected persons' information is recorded. It is vital to get as close as possible to an accurate figure without compromising methodology and quality, and every effort should be made to do so in any meaningful census. The 'Census on human and property damages due to conflict - 2013' clearly did not.

- However, it is important to note that even if the methodology was more successful in including those affected by the war, the intimidation and fear still faced by people in the North and East, the militarisation in the North and the harassment and violence faced by families of ex-combatants over the years would have **still** prevented respondents from providing complete and accurate information about family members.

While some households chose to not even mention the deaths and disappearances of certain family members for fear of reprisals from military or intelligence officials and left them out of the census altogether, other households held back on information such as on who was responsible for the deaths/disappearances. Even those who knew the answers to these questions for certain, selected 'don't know' or 'other' as they were not sure about who had access to this information or who would see the completed forms and did want any information that might cause them problems in the future to be mentioned in the census schedules. Grama Niladharis who were the data collectors for this census also expressed concern about being privy to sensitive information that many of them were not aware of prior to the census - some even stated that they went to the extent of selecting 'don't know' or 'other' answer categories when the answer given by the household was different, in order to safeguard themselves as well as the families.

- The bias evident in certain sections in the L2 census schedule was cause for criticism by people as well as Grama Niladharis. In the sections that asked about death, disappearance, injury or disability of family members, one question that is asked is about who is responsible for it. Answer option number three is 'groups suspected to be security forces' and is the only option that can be selected even if the household is completely certain that the death or injury was caused by the

military. Some individuals even know specifically that it was the Army, Navy or Air Force who was responsible - however there is no provision to capture this information.

When asked if specific answers like 'Army', 'Navy', 'Air Force' etc would have made a difference in people reporting the truth - the Grama Niladharis said that there still would have been households reluctant to answer the questions directly due to fear but that the inclusion of these answer categories would have been a sign of impartiality of the Government, which would have given this exercise more credibility in peoples eyes.

- Cause of death/ injury/ disability - Interviews revealed that the fact that 'air strikes' was not one of the answer categories for this section had been problematic and Grama Niladharis had filled either '(4) Other bomb attack' or '(8) Other'. The fact that air strikes had not been included as an answer category made people question as to whether the Government was trying to cover up events as air strikes had caused many deaths and injuries during the war in the North. A good example is the air strikes on 9th July 1995 by the Sri Lanka Air Force where 65 people were killed and 150 wounded while seeking refuge at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Navaly, Jaffna³. This is just one example of many air strikes that took place and an answer category that should have been included if the census schedule went into details such as 'set fire to' or 'acid attack'.
- The lack of public awareness about the census and it's objective at the time it was conducted is cause for concern. While people in war affected areas are used to information being collected from them regularly from multiple State actors, including military, this census captured a lot of detailed information which caused a lot of distress to respondents who had to revisit and recall traumatic memories. Furthermore, it was reported by some Grama Niladharis that the easiest way to get information from households had been to inform them that there would some form of relief or compensation made by the Government using the information provided by them - raising the hopes of many. If people had been more aware about the census and why it was being conducted, if there had been more information and assurances available about how the information would be used and who had access to it - respondents may have been less fearful or suspicious and more forthcoming.
- Another cause for concern is in the data collection itself. The data was collected in the North and East by Grama Niladharis (with no reports thus far of any military involvement in data collection) who got just a one day training and had no prior experience of carrying out such extensive surveys of this nature. Even though the detailed handbooks are extremely useful and the methodology and each item in the census schedules are explained in detail, the time period allocated for data

³ ICRC Resource Centre, '[Sri Lanka: displaced civilians killed in air strike](#)', 11 July 1995

collection did not leave much time for Grama Niladharis to consult the handbook when in doubt. The data collection period was 20 days and a Grama Niladhari in the North and East had on average 500 - 600 affected households to gather information from. The time spent at each household being a **minimum** of 30 minutes due to the complexity of information gathered and recalled, there was not a lot of time for them to familiarise themselves with every aspect of the handbooks. Given that this was not a standard census and is one that relies heavily on collective and subjective memory (a lot of which is traumatic for most of the respondents), a more rigorous training process over a longer period would have been ideal, in addition to the data collection period being at least a month.

In a paper titled 'Conducting Censuses under Challenging Situations, Crisis and post Conflict'⁴ that reviewed the different challenges facing census operations in situations of post crisis and post conflict, drawing from the experience of operations supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in different countries, there are certain measures that had been taken by countries such as Sudan and Kenya that Sri Lanka could have also adopted or revised to suit this census. Referring to types of adaptations taken in census taking exercises, it highlights the need to *"build into census strategy, management and planning, some mechanisms that enhance credibility and secure acceptance of census results in a social and political environment where controversy can seriously damage the legitimacy, acceptance and utilisation of the statistical data"*. These mechanisms include vigorous publicity and communication campaigns during the months preceding the census, leaders from all political parties seen publicly supporting the census and advocating for full and accurate information to be provided and engaging national as well as international census monitors, to provide independent, unbiased assessments on the reliability of the census process and its ability to produce accurate results.

The numbers that will emerge from this census is crucial to the Government to counter the 40,000 death toll quoted in the report commissioned by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon⁵ in 2011, and even the number of disappearances. P.B. Abeykoon, Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration which supervised the census, at press conference in November 2013 stated *"A lot of people have come out with various accusations with their own figures. We will come out with the real facts,"*⁶. In the lead up the release of the preliminary data, State media quoted a Census Department official who claimed that the data for the number of disappearances used by the TNA and NGOs has been exaggerated and now that the Government has the correct figures, it will be able to prevent any

⁴ Rogelio E. Fernandez-Castilla, 'Conducting Censuses under Challenging Situations, Crisis and post Conflict', 2011

⁵ Report of the Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka, 31 March 2011

⁶ Live Mint, 'Sri Lanka says 'nothing to hide' as it counts war dead', 28 November 2013

adverse effect on the country⁷. This will probably be the strategy adopted by the Government and State media once the census results are released as the data will prove to be very useful to counter against accusations of war crimes, civilian deaths caused by the Government forces in the last stages of the war, military involvement in disappearances.

⁷ Daily News, '[TNA tries census nonsense](#)', 17 February 2014

Introduction

The “Census on human and property damages due to conflict - 2013”, will soon be published, compiling data collected from across the country in November and December 2013⁸. The need for such a census was recommended in the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report⁹. According to a statement by the Department of Census and Statistics *“The responsibility to conduct a Census to assess the human and property damages has been assigned to the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs and the Department of Census and Statistics. This Census which has to be completed within six months is scheduled to be held in October, 2013.”*¹⁰

Using the ‘Population and Housing Census 2012’, the census on human and property damages due to conflict was supposed to collect information from every household on deaths, missing persons, injured/disabled persons and damages to property due to internal conflicts in the island from 1982 onwards. It was conducted at the Grama Niladhari Division level (14,022 in total) and Grama Niladharis were appointed as data collectors for the census.

The media reported that according to D. C. A. Gunawardena, Director General of the Department of Census and Statistics, *“This scientifically designed census will help arrive at an exact decision on the persons missing and died during the period of conflict in the country”*. The same media report stated that he had also said that one of the objectives of this exercise was to pay compensation to the affected families through Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms¹¹.

In late December 2013, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) rejected the census on the basis that procedures adopted by the officials in gathering information were not agreeable to them. Media reports stated that the decision to reject the census decision was taken at the special meeting chaired by TNA leader R. Sampanthan and that TNA Parliamentarians, the Chief Minister of the Northern Province, the NPC Ministers and members had participated in this meeting¹².

Two census schedules were used for this census - called the L1 and L2 schedules. Details of the household were marked in the L1 schedule which asked for name of head of household/special institution, address, type of unit, number of people in the family unit and number of family members

⁸ Daily News, ‘[Major war damage count](#)’, 28 November 2013

⁹ [Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation](#), November 2011

¹⁰ Department of Census and Statistics, ‘[Census on human and property damages due to conflict - 2013](#)’, September 2013

¹¹ Defence.lk, ‘[Sri Lanka to conduct Census on deaths, damages to persons and properties during conflict periods](#)’, 25 February 2013

¹² Daily Mirror, ‘[TNA rejects casualty census](#)’, 26 December 2013

who have died, disappeared or injured (in any) and property damage. Only if a household was affected by internal conflict that took place in the country after 1982 through death, disappearance, injury or property damage, would the data collector have filled an L2 schedule for the household. The L2 scheduled asked in detail information about household members who are currently alive as well as about household members who had died, disappeared or were injured due to war, as well as property damage to assets owned by the household. As an official English translation of the schedules was not made available by the Department of Census and Statistics, CPA translated the L2 schedule into English (see Annex 1).

High resolution scans of an original L2 schedule (in Sinhala and Tamil only) are available online¹³.

Information in this report has been compiled through examining the census schedules (L1 and L2 schedules), the handbooks for data collection officials (two handbooks - one for each schedule where the L1 handbook also included methodology and household selection details) and in depth interviews with Grama Niladharis from the Northern and Eastern Provinces, as well as households in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. All interviews were conducted by Researchers and field staff from Social Indicator, the survey research unit of the Centre for Policy Alternatives.

This census and its findings are extremely important to the Government at this point in time, with additional pressure felt due to the March 2014 Human Rights Council session. A lot of weight is being thrown behind the argument that the Government has nothing to hide¹⁴ and that conducting this census is proof of this.

This report was compiled in order to provide information about the environment in which this census was conducted in the North and East and to highlight the challenges and resulting futility of gathering sensitive information under such circumstances. Furthermore, the findings from the census are compromised by several limitations which range from methodology to the data collectors themselves, and must be taken into account in the reading of the final census findings.

¹³ Click on <http://www.scribd.com/doc/190054457/Census-on-human-and-property-damages-due-to-conflict> to read online, <https://app.box.com/files/0/f/1362836226> to download individual scanned pages.

¹⁴ Daily Mirror, 'SL says 'nothing to hide' as it counts war dead', 28 November 2013

Issues arising from the 'Census on human and property damages due to conflict - 2013'

1. Household selection

The 'Population and Housing Census 2012' was used by data collectors to identify households. Details of the household were marked in the L1 schedule which asked for name of head of household/special institution, address, type of unit, number of people in the family unit and number of family members who have died, disappeared or injured (in any) and property damage. If a household was affected by internal conflict that took place in the country after 1982 through death, disappearance, injury or property damage, the data collector had to fill the L2 schedule for the household as well.

In the L1 handbook for officials collecting the census data there is a detailed explanation of what "internal conflict" in the census schedule includes. According to the handbook, internal conflict includes "Tiger terrorist conflict from 1982 onwards, political conflict that took place in the country in the latter part of the 1980s and other internal conflict. During the terrorist conflict period, the various bomb blasts, attacks etc that took place in different parts of the country are considered side effects of the conflict. For example: Central Bank bombing, attack at Kolonnawa oil refinery, railway/ bus bomb blasts and suicide bombers".

Going by this definition means that while the JVP insurrection in the late 1980's can be included in the census, events that took place in July 1983 cannot.

Members of a household that were supposed to be included in the census schedule are as follows -

- Members of a nuclear family unit that permanently resides in the household. A nuclear family is defined in the census methodology as - (1) a person who is currently married, his/her spouse and unmarried children (2) a person who is currently unmarried, his/her parents and unmarried siblings.
- A family member from the nuclear family that temporarily resides at another location - either abroad or within the country.
- A relative, a boarder or a domestic worker who is not a part of the nuclear family but has been residing in that household for a long time and does not have a permanent residence elsewhere.

In a household that has more than one nuclear family in permanent residence, data collectors had to record information as separate units and not as one household.

Therefore, households could not provide details about other family units who live/lived in a permanent residence elsewhere. This is done so in order to avoid double counting (double counting occurs when an individual's details are included in more than one schedule - basically they are counted more than once in the census). However going by this method there are many of those who were affected by the war who would not be counted.

For example, if members of household X included father and mother, and household Y included their married daughter, daughter's husband and their 2 children, this is counted as 2 family units living in 2 permanent residences, even if the 2 houses were next to each other.

If all members of household Y died during the war, then there is no one at present to answer on their behalf. Their family who belong to household X cannot answer in their own census schedule either as household Y was a separate permanent residence. Therefore, the 4 people who died in household Y would not be counted in any census schedule and would not be represented in the total death toll as per this census. If household X shared a permanent residence with household Y, then their details would have been included in the census schedule of household X.

Family card issue - a 'family card' is a document that was given to displaced persons during the war in order to receive rations for their family. Even in post war Sri Lanka, the family card is still being used in the Northern Province for those who have been resettled or returned home, as well as those who are still displaced. Interviews conducted in the Northern Province revealed that only those whose names were in the family card (in households that had a family card) were included in the census. This was confirmed by the Grama Niladharis interviewed in the Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts as well. The problem with using the family card to determine who should be included in the census is that there are family members who are eligible to be included in the census that are not in the family card - for example family members who work abroad, those who stay in temporary residences in other parts of the district/country.

Social Indicator interviewed a family in Point Pedro where the head of household was an elderly lady who lived with her 7 year old grand-daughter. Her daughter works in the Middle East and she has another grand daughter (aged 20) who had been living in a hostel in Jaffna for the past three years as she attended school there. The grand-daughter living in Jaffna and her mother working in the Middle East are both not included in the family card as they have not lived at home for some time and therefore were not included in the census. What is important to note here is that the grand-daughter had been injured in the war in 2008 when they were living in the Vanni. She had lost her right arm and three fingers in her left hand and is partially blind. The Grama Niladhari had not included her stating that her name was not in the family card. This is just one example of how individuals had been left out

of the census and valuable information lost - a fact that was confirmed by Grama Niladharis who said that they used the family card method.

The handbook given to data collectors explains very well in great detail (using examples when necessary) household and respondent selection and also gives detailed explanations for all the questions and answer categories. However, given that the Grama Niladharis were given only a one day training and they have no background in surveys of this nature, as well as taking into account that the family card also leaves little allowance for a person's name to appear in 2 cards - it seems only natural that it was an easier way to administer the census.

2. Reporting on deaths

- Omission by methodology

Interviews conducted in the Northern Province revealed that the selection of family members to be a serious issue faced by Grama Niladharis when collecting information from households. A considerable percentage of households, especially in the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts had family members who were living in separate permanent residences and had died due to the war, and were not counted in the census as they had no living nuclear family members to report on their behalf. This had caused a great deal of distress as well as anger among people when they were told that certain family members who were not alive could not be listed due to a technicality.

- Omission by choice

Having a family member who was in the LTTE - voluntarily or involuntarily - was a cause for a lot of harassment and intimidation by the military over the years for many families in the North and the East. Several mothers reported that they chose not to mention a child/ children who had died during the war, even if the child had been forcibly recruited by the LTTE. Harassment by the military over the years - at times even extending to physical threats and intimidation - have left some families scared to acknowledge family members' existence, let alone death, and it was a conscious decision made by many to not include deceased family members who were ex-combatants for the simple reason that they were unsure as to what consequences any prior linkages might entail.

Furthermore, some Grama Niladharis reported certain households' reluctance to report the death of a former spouse - as remarriage is still a culturally sensitive issue in parts of the country. If the former spouse had been an ex-combatant, or died/disappeared in the last stages of the war, the spouse who is still alive and remarried sometimes chose to not mention the details of the previous marriage.

According to the L2 schedule handbook that was given to data collectors, if a person had a spouse who had died/disappeared due to the war and he/she had subsequently remarried, the details of the death or disappearance should be included in the schedule and under 'relationship to head of household' it should be marked 'other' - which means that the methodology allowed for inclusion of deceased/ disappeared individuals whose spouses are currently remarried to someone else. The handbook also states that remarriage can include a lawful marriage as well as an unlawful one - unlawful marriage has been defined in the handbook as one that has not been registered or one that is not a traditional marriage.

3. Reporting on disappearances

The same issues mentioned in the section above on 'reporting on deaths' is relevant to households reporting family members that had disappeared during the war.

In the East, there were a few reports from families that had young men who went missing during different stages of the war and had no involvement in any activity with the LTTE or any paramilitary group - and had in fact been going about every day life attending school or university or working, when they went missing. Their searches over the years had been futile and some families reported being harassed by the military who claimed that the missing person had links with the LTTE. Some families had been issued death certificates while some had not - either way they had decided not to bring up a painful past and chose not to include the family member who had disappeared.

Furthermore, there is no provision in the census schedule to mark family members who surrendered/ were detained. The census schedule collects information about the family members who are currently alive and family members who have died or disappeared.

Households that chose to report about family members who had surrendered to the military during the last stages of the war provided the details to be entered in the disappeared section. Grama Niladharis reported that even though those who provided this information reported that the family member surrendered to the Army, there was no provision to fill that information as reported (See *section below on 'those responsible for death/ disappearance/injury/disability'*). Interviews with different Grama Niladharis revealed that the answer filled in for this varied as they had filled in one of the three - (3) groups suspected to be security forces, (4) other or (5) don't know. Grama Niladharis appeared to have favoured 'don't know' as many said that that was the best way to safeguard families.

4. Those responsible for death/ disappearance/injury/disability

In the L2 schedule, in the sections which ask for details about death/disappearance/ injury/disability, one of the questions is about who was responsible. The answer categories given for this are (1) terrorist Tigers, (2) other illegal groups, (3) groups suspected to be security forces, (4) other and (5) don't know. Some households and Grama Niladharis admitted to selecting 'other' or 'don't know' even when they knew for certain that the military was responsible. In the Eastern Province, some households mentioned that it was the TMVP who was responsible but they still chose to say 'other' or 'don't know'. They stated that as they were not sure about who would see the forms or had access to the information it was safer to go with those options. However, households that knew the LTTE was responsible said that they had no fear in revealing that information.

Some households had reported directly to the Grama Niladhari that a member of the Armed Forces was responsible and was even able to specify whether Army, Navy, Air Force and also provide exact location and dates. However, many did not realise that there was no provision in the census schedule to actually capture their answers with regard to the party responsible. Others, who were informed by the Grama Niladhari about this said that it was proof that it was not an impartial exercise conducted by the Government - a statement that was echoed by many Grama Niladharis themselves as well.

When asked if specific answers like 'Army', 'Navy', 'Air Force' etc would have made a difference in people reporting the truth - the Grama Niladharis said there still would have been households reluctant to answer the questions directly due to fear but that the inclusion of direct answer categories would have been a sign of impartiality of the Government and this census, which would have given this exercise more credibility in people's eyes.

5. Cause of death / injury / disability

In the L2 schedule, the sections which capture details about death /injury/disability, households are asked about what caused the death, injury or disability. The answer categories given for the causes are (1) Gun shot, (2) Mine, (3) Shelling, (4) Other bomb attack, (5) Attacked/ Hacked to death, (6) Abducted and killed, (7) Set fire to/ Burnt/ Acid attack and (8) Other. Interviews revealed that the fact that 'air strikes' was not mentioned had been problematic and Grama Niladharis had filled either '(4) Other bomb attack' or '(8) Other'.

The fact that air strikes had not been included as an answer category made people question as to whether the Government was trying to cover up events as air strikes had caused many deaths and injuries during the war in the North. A good example is the air strikes on 9th July 1995 by the Sri Lanka Air Force where 65 people were killed and 150 wounded while seeking refuge at the Church of

St Peter and St Paul in Navaly, Jaffna¹⁵. This is just one example of many air strikes that took place and an answer category that should have been included if the census schedule went into details such as 'set fire to' or 'acid attack'.

6. Assessment of mental trauma

Section E in the L2 schedule takes details of family members who were injured or disabled due to internal conflict from 1982 onwards. E3 asks for specific details of the disability and under mental disability the answer categories are - (1) High mental disability (2) Moderate mental disability (3) Low mental disability. In the handbook these answer categories are defined as follows -

- (1) High mental disability is defined as someone who cannot perform day to day activities without the assistance of someone else.
- (2) Moderate mental disability is defined as someone who can perform day to day activities on their own but needs the assistance of someone for certain activities.
- (3) Little mental disability is defined as someone who does not fit into the above categories but it can be observed that there is some effect on their mental state due to the conflict.

Grama Niladharis and public officials who collected the data are not trained mental health experts and answering this section required them to observe the relevant family member or obtain the information from the household member providing the information. The definition of low mental disability left many Grama Niladharis confused as there are plenty of people in the North who are still traumatised, show some level of PTSD. It is almost a given that the protracted war would have some effect on their mental state. Furthermore, the fact that they had to relive memories through the census schedule had caused distress in several households.

An amendment to the guidelines handbook state that if a member of the family was injured or disabled due to internal conflict but is no longer alive due to non conflict related reasons, they are also supposed to be included in Section E (Details of injury/disability) as their details would not be captured in Section C (Details of family members who are currently alive) or Section D (Details of those who died due to internal conflict). For example, if a man who had his legs amputated after stepping on a land mine in 2008, died in 2012 due to dengue - the details of his land mine injury should be recorded in Section E and not the details of his death due to dengue.

¹⁵ ICRC Resource Centre, '[Sri Lanka: displaced civilians killed in air strike](#)', 11 July 1995
Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) | March 2014

7. Lack of awareness about the census

Compared to the publicity given to the 2012 census, the awareness created around this census was far less. Therefore, many people, even in the Western Province were not aware about the census or why it was being conducted until the Grama Niladhari or data collector came to their house. If no one was at home when the data collector visited, a letter was left by the data collector explaining the details of the visit and contact details to reschedule another visit (see Annex B). In the North and East, some people reported about a notice being put by their Grama Niladhari which said that households would be visited to collect information during a certain time period. However, Grama Niladharis stated that they were not asked to put up a notice and some had done it by choice. When asked about why they thought the census was conducted, some households said that they did not know and added that they were used to government officials or the military collecting information from them. Other households said that it was conducted so that they would receive compensation for war related damages.

A Grama Niladhari from the Kilinochchi District said that he told all the households that he was collecting information for the purposes for compensation and benefits as that was the only way to get households to answer all the questions in the schedule. He admitted that he had collected information for more than 500 households and had been questioned later on by people about the status of the compensation. He said that conducting the census had caused issues between Grama Niladharis and the people because of the expectations people have after answering the questions.

If people had been more aware about the census and why it was being conducted, if there had been better information and assurance available about how the information would be used and who had access to it - people may have been less fearful or suspicious and more forthcoming.

9. Issues faced by Grama Niladharis

The main issue that was common for all the Grama Niladharis was the time period given to them for data collection. The census commenced on the 28th of November and the time period given for data collection was 20 days. Grama Niladharis interviewed in the North and East said that they had around 500 - 600 affected households each to collect information from and that the **minimum** time spent in each household was 30 minutes. There are a lot of questions that required respondents to recall from memory - especially with regard to displacement, dates as well as bringing up traumatic memories from the past. This was not only time consuming but distressing for both the data collector and respondent.

It was mentioned in some interviews that they had heard of allegations of some Grama Niladharis filling out schedules or certain sections in the schedules themselves as they did not have time visit all the households or about certain mistakes made during the survey period with regard to methodology - however this information is unverified.

Grama Niladharis claimed that as many people answered the questions thinking that they will receive some sort of benefits or compensation, there was a tendency to exaggerate loss of property and assets. Some Grama Niladharis who were new to the area said that this was something they had no way of verifying as the census did not require them to check supporting documents and that in any case, most households had lost supporting documents.

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ANNEX 1

Census on human and property damages due to conflict - 2013

L2 Schedule

Section A – Identification details

A1. District

A2. DS Division

A3. GN Division

A4. Sector - 1. Urban 2. Rural 3. Estate

A5. Type of Unit –

1. Living as a family unit
2. Other special institution (Go to C1)

A6. From _____ families living in this unit, this is family number _____.

A7. This housing unit -

1. Owned by a member of the family
2. Rent/ Lease – Government owned
3. Rent/ Lease – Privately owned
4. Occupied free of rent
5. Encroached
6. Displacement camp
7. Other

Section B - Summary details

B1. Number of family members who died

B2. Number of family members who have disappeared

B3. Number of family members who were injured/disabled

B4. Was any property (houses, buildings, land, vehicles, business related equipment etc) damaged?

Section C1 – Details of family members who are currently there (If it is a special organisation the details of relevant members)

C1.1. Number

C1.2. Name

C1.3. National Identity Card Number/Passport number

C1.4. Relationship to Head of Household

1. Head of Household
2. Husband/Wife
3. Son/ Daughter
4. Son in law/Daughter in law
5. Mother/ Father
6. Brother/ Sister
7. Other relative
8. Other

C1.5. Sex

C1.6. Birth date

C1.7. Nature of residency

1. At this location
2. Within the country at a different location
3. Temporarily abroad

C1.8. Marital status

1. Never married
2. Married
3. Widowed
4. Divorced
5. Other

C1.9. Ethnicity

1. Sinhala
2. Sri Lanka Tamil
3. Indian Tamil
4. Sri Lanka Moor
5. Other

C1.10. Religion

1. Buddhist
2. Hindu
3. Islam
4. Roman Catholic/ Christian
5. Other

C1.11. Activity engaged in

1. Government/ Semi Government employee
2. Private sector employee
3. Self/Family income generating activity
4. Educational activity
5. Household activities
6. Pension/ Other income generating

7. Unemployed/ Not generating income

C1.12 Highest educational qualification

1. Never attended school
2. Currently studying in Grade 1/ Passed Grade 1-5
3. Passed Grade 6 – 10
4. Passed Ordinary Level (O/L)
5. Passed Advanced Level (A/L)
6. Degree
7. Post Graduate degree or higher

C1.13 Date when they came to live at current location (for the last time)
(Born here/ Year and month)

C2. Details of family members of units displaced by the conflict

(For those whose family member/s were displaced due to the internal conflict since 1982)

C2.1 Number (Same number given in C1.1)

C2.2 Name (State the names of all members who were displaced due to the conflict from the list given in Section C1)

C2.3 Reason for coming to live at this location

1. Displaced due to conflict
2. Resettled from a displacement camp
3. Displaced and resettled from another location
4. Other

C2.4 Place of residence prior to this location

(This GN division/ Different GN division – District, DS Division, GN Division / Different country – country name)

C2.5. Location of permanent residence prior to being displaced due to conflict for the first time

(Same location mentioned in C2.4 / This location / This DS Division but different location / Different place in the country – District, DS Division / Different country – country name)

C2.6. Date of first displacement due to conflict

(Year and month)

C2.7. Place of residence after first displacement due to conflict

1. Place of religious worship
2. School
3. Relative's/Friends' residence
4. Temporary camp
5. Other

C2.8. Number of locations lived in with the idea of it being a permanent residence (including permanent residence mentioned in C2.5)

C2.9. Number of times displaced while living in locations mentioned in C2.8

C2.10 Would you like to live in the permanent residence (mentioned in C2.5) you lived in prior to being displaced?

Section D – Details of those who died/disappeared due to the conflict

(For those whose family member/s died/disappeared due to the internal conflict since 1982)

D1. Number

D2. Name of person who died or disappeared in 1982 and after

D3. His/her National Identity Card number

D4. Relationship to Head of Household

1. Husband/Wife
2. Son/ Daughter
3. Son in law/Daughter in law
4. Mother/ Father
5. Brother/ Sister
6. Other relative
7. Other

D5. Sex

D6. Birth date

D7. Ethnicity

1. Sinhala
2. Sri Lanka Tamil
3. Indian Tamil
4. Sri Lanka Moor
5. Other

D8. Religion

1. Buddhist
2. Hindu
3. Islam
4. Roman Catholic/ Christian
5. Other

D9. Activity engaged in at the time of death/disappearance

1. Served in security forces
2. Other Government/Semi Government employee
3. Private sector employee

4. Self/Family income generating activity
5. Receiving education
6. Not engaged in any activity

D10. Status

1. Dead
2. Disappeared

D11. Date of death/ disappearance (Year, month and date)

D12. Age at death/disappearance

D13. If disappeared, have the police/ security divisions been notified? (Yes/ No)

D14. Has the death been registered? (Yes/ No)

D15. Death registration number and DS division it was registered

D16. Cause of death

1. Gun shot
2. Mine
3. Shelling
4. Other bomb attack
5. Attacked/ Hacked to death
6. Abducted and killed
7. Set fire to/ Burnt/ Acid attack
8. Other

D17. Those responsible for death/ disappearance

1. Terrorist Tigers
2. Other illegal groups
3. Groups suspected to be security forces
4. Other
5. Don't know

D18. District and DS Division that death/ disappearance took place

D19. Was any compensation money given for the death? (Yes/ No, If yes how much was the compensation in LKR)

Section E – Details of those who were injured/ disabled due to the conflict

(For those whose family member/s were injured/ disabled due to the internal conflict since 1982)

E1. Number

E2. Name of person who was injured/ disabled

E3. Type of disability

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Left arm - | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Arm lost/ not functioning2. Above elbow lost/ not functioning3. Below elbow lost/ not functioning4. Below wrist not functioning5. Other disability |
| Right arm - | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Arm lost/ not functioning2. Above elbow lost/ not functioning3. Below elbow lost/ not functioning4. Below wrist not functioning5. Other disability |
| Left leg - | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Leg lost/ not functioning2. Above knee lost/ not functioning3. Below knee lost/ not functioning4. Below ankle not functioning5. Other disability |
| Right leg - | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Leg lost/ not functioning2. Above knee lost/ not functioning3. Below knee lost/ not functioning4. Below ankle not functioning5. Other disability |
| Sight - | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Blind in both eyes2. Blind in one eye3. Other weakness |
| Hearing - | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Deaf in both ears2. Deaf in one ear |
| Cannot speak | |
| Other physical disabilities | |
| Mental disability - | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. High mental disability2. Moderate disability3. Low mental disability |

E4. Cause of injury/ disability

1. Gun shot
2. Mine
3. Shelling
4. Other bomb attack
5. Attacked/ Hacked
6. Set fire to/ Burnt/ Acid attack
7. Other

E5. Those responsible for injury/ disability

1. Terrorist Tigers
2. Other illegal groups
3. Groups suspected to be security forces
4. Other
5. Don't know

E6. District and DS Division that death/ disappearance took place

E7. Date of injury/ disability – if injured more than once, details of gravest injury (Year, month and date)

E8. Activity engaged in before disability

1. Served in security forces
2. Other Government/Semi Government employee
3. Private sector employee
4. Self/Family income generating activity
5. Receiving education
6. Not engaged in any activity

Section F – Details of damages to property due to conflict

(For damaged caused to property owned by family members due to the internal conflict since 1982)

Applicable to the family's house before displacement and/or other property

F1. Number.

F2. Property

1. Damaged
2. Lost

F3. Details of damaged/ lost property

1. Building
2. Land with building
3. Land

F4. Location of damaged/ lost property (District, DS Division and GN Division)

F5. Date that property was damaged/ lost – if property was damaged after it was abandoned, then the date the property was abandoned. (Year and Month)

F6. Ownership of this family of the damaged/ lost property

1. Deed – private land
2. Deed – Government land
3. Authorised Government land
4. None of the above

F7. Only for damaged/ lost building

Applicable to the family's house before displacement and/or other property

Use of building at the time of damage/loss	1. People residing 2. Commercial use 3. Residence & commercial 4. Was not being used
--	---

Damage to property	1. Completely damaged 2. Completely damaged and rebuilt 3. Partially damaged & reconstructed 4. Partially damaged & not reconstructed 5. Not damaged
--------------------	--

Size (square feet) of building at the time it was damaged/ lost.

State of building at the time it was damaged/ lost

Number of floors
Walls* - permanent or temporary
Roof** - permanent or temporary
Floor*** - permanent or temporary

*Walls permanent - brick, cement, stone, cabook, pressed soil bricks
Walls temporary - cadjan, palmyrah, mud, plank, metal sheet

** Roof permanent - tile, asbestos, concrete, zink aluminium sheet

** Roof temporary - metal sheet, cadjan, palmyrah, straw, tarpaulin

*** Floor permanent - cement, terrazzo, tile, granite, wood, concrete

*** Floor temporary - sand, mud

Age of building at the time it was damaged/ lost.

Applicable to the family's house before displacement and/or other property

F8. Current tenure of lost property	1. Used for public activity 2. Security forces 3. Other people 4. No one 5. Don't know
-------------------------------------	--

F9. Agriculture cultivation at the time land was damaged/ lost
(No cultivation / If cultivated, name of main crop)

F10. Size of land

F11. Value of damage to the property (in LKR)

F12. Was compensation received?

F13. Type of compensation (Monetary - in LKR / Property - permanent house, semi permanent house, temporary house, land)

F14. Who did you receive the compensation from? (Government, NGO/INGO, foreign aid, group/private aid, other)

Section G - If the home the family was residing in was damaged/ lost due to the conflict,

G1. Does any member of the family own a house at present? (If yes, the questions below to be answered in relation to that house. If no, the questions below to be answered in relation to the house currently living in)

G2. Principal source of drinking water

Well - protected well within premises, protected well outside premises, unprotected well

Pipe borne water (main line) - tap within unit, tap within premises but outside unit, tap outside premises

Other sources - rural water supply project, tube well, bowser, river/tank/ streams/spring, rain water, bottled water, other

G3. Principal type of lighting - electricity from national grid, electricity from rural hydro power projects, kerosene, solar power, bio gas, other

G4. Toilet facilities

Within unit - exclusively for the household, sharing with another household

Outside unit - exclusively for the household, sharing with another household

Other - no toilet but sharing with another household, common/ public toilet, not using a toilet

G5. Type of toilet - water seal - connected to a pit/ septic tank, water seal - connected to a piped sewer, not water seal, direct pit, other

G6. Principal materials of construction of the housing unit - walls, roof, floor

G7. Year they came to reside in the house

G8. Square feet of house - length x width = square feet

Section H - Details of damages to vehicles due to the conflict

(For those whose family member/s had vehicles being damaged/lost due to the internal conflict since 1982)

H1. Number

H2. Type of vehicle

1. Bus/ lorry
2. Car/ van
3. Motor cycle
4. Bicycle
5. Three wheeler
6. Boat
7. Vehicle used for agriculture
8. Construction vehicle

H3. Vehicle registration number

H4. Damage to vehicle

1. Cannot be used
2. Using after repair
3. Not yet repaired
4. Lost vehicle

H5. At the time the vehicle was damaged, was it being used for any economic activity?

H6. Value to damage to vehicle (in LKR)

H7. Was compensation received?

H8. Type of compensation (Monetary - in LKR / Other compensation)

H9. Who did you receive the compensation from? (Government, NGO/INGO, foreign aid, group/private aid, other)

Section I - Details of damages to any economic activity of a family member/s since 1982 due to the internal conflict

I2. Type of economic activity -

1. Agriculture / farming
2. Fishing industry
3. Manufacturing industry
4. Sales

- 5. Tourist industry
- 6. Education/ health services
- 7. Other (please specify)

I3. Type of damage - fully / partially

I4. Number of people engaged in the economic activity at the time of damage (Number of family members and other persons)

I5. Is the economic activity taking place at present?

I6. If yes, the number of people engaged in the economic activity (Number of family members and other persons)

I7. Equipment that was used in the economic activity and was damaged (Name of equipment and value at the time of damage in LKR)

Section J - Details of family members permanently residing abroad

J1. Number

J2. Name

J3. Relationship to head of household

J4. Sex

J5. Age at last birthday

J6. Name of country currently residing in

J7. Year they migrated

Only for those living in special institutions and have family members living in a different institution -

Name of institution, institution address and name of family member.

ANNEX 2



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கொழும்பு மாவட்ட செயலகம்
Colombo District Secretariat



මගේ අංක
எனது இல
My No

Col.STN/LLRC/6/1/1

ඔබේ අංක
உமது இல
Your No

දිනය
திகதி
Date 2013.12.13

Dear sir/ Madam,

**Census On Deaths/ Injured Persons And Property Damages Occurred Due To The
Internal Conflicts - 2013**

An island-wide Census on deaths, missing persons, injured/disabled persons and property damages occurred due to the internal conflicts in the year 1982 and afterwards is currently being carried out by the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs and the Department of Census and Statistics.

An enumerator will visit all dwellings in order to identify the families that have been affected by the conflict. It is a mandatory requirement that this declaration is signed by a responsible member of the family. Detailed information will be collected only from the families that have been affected.

An enumerator visited your residence on 12/19 to collect this information.

This Census is planned to be concluded by 20th December of 2013. Since it is essential to record your information it could be arranged for the enumerator to visit your residence by prior appointment.

Please be kind enough to contact the supervising officer/enumerator on the following contact numbers to make an appointment.

Supervising officer :

Enumerator :

Your cooperation for the success of this national endeavor is highly appreciated.

Yours Faithfully,

H. T. Padmasiri

District Secretary/ Government Agent

Colombo District

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டாம் வீதி, கொழும்பு-12

Dam Street, Colombo - 12

IdrAhd,h
அலுவலம்
Office } 2325511

දිස්ත්‍රික් ලේකම්
மா.செயலாளர்
District Secretary } 2433093

ෆැක්ස්
பெக்ஸ்
Fax } 2437242

ඉ-මේල්
ஈமெயில்
Email } ds@colombo.dist.gov.lk



ජනසෞඛ්‍ය උදෙසා අභියෝග ජයගනිමින් කොළොම්පුර ඉදිරියට
பொது மக்களின் நலனுக்காக சவால்களை வென்று கொழும்பு நகரம் முன்னணியில்
Colombo city to forward by conquering challenges for the benefits of people

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வெப் தளம்
Web Site } www.colombo.dist.gov.lk