

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

**LAO CENSUS 2005**

# **ENUMERATOR MANUAL**

CENSUS STEERING COMMITTEE  
NATIONAL STATISTICAL CENTRE (SECRETARIATE)

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<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>		<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
1	Why a Population Census is taken	2	Section C: For persons aged 6 years and above	22
2	The enumerator's task	2	Question 11:	22
2.1	Tasks before the start of the enumeration	3	Question 12:	22
2.2	Tasks during the enumeration	3	Question 13:	22
2.3	Tasks after the enumeration	3		
2.4	Place of work	4	Section D: For persons aged 10 years and above	23
2.5	Training of enumerators	4	Question 14:	23
2.6	Supervision and support	4	Question 15:	25
			Question 16:	25
3	General guidelines	5		
3.1	How to establish contact with the respondent	5	Section E: For women aged 15 - 49 years	26
3.2	Hints on conducting the interview	5	Question 17:	26
			Question 18:	27
4	Field procedures	7		
4.1	Material and equipment	7	Section F: Deaths in the household	27
4.2	The duration of the enumeration	7	Question 19:	28
4.3	How to schedule the enumeration	7	Question 20:	29
4.4	Confusion over boundaries	7	Question 21:	29
			Question 22:	31
5	General procedures for completing the questionnaire	8	Question 23:	31
5.1	Asking questions and probing	8	Question 24:	32
5.2	Recording responses	8	Question 25:	32
5.3	How to correct mistakes	9	Question 26:	32
5.4	Irrelevant questions	9		
5.5	Action in case of non-response	9	Section H: Total number of persons	33
5.6	Do not re-copy	9	Booklet Cover	xx
			Census Code-list	xx
			Census Questionnaire	xx
6	How to fill in the booklet cover	9		
6.1	Geo-codes and other codes	10		
6.2	Information for urban/rural classification	10		
6.3	Summary table	10		
6.4	Box for comments	11		
7	Key concepts and definitions	12		
7.1	Household and family - two different concepts	12		
7.2	Who is to be enumerated and in which household?	12		
7.3	Two household types: Private and collective households	13		
7.4	The head of household	13		
8	How to fill in the questionnaire	15		
	Section A: Identification	15		
	Section B: For all persons	16		
	Question 1:	17		
	Question 2:	19		
	Question 3:	19		
	Question 4:	19		
	Question 5:	20		
	Question 6:	20		
	Question 7:	20		
	Question 8:	21		
	Question 9:	21		
	Question 10:	21		

## 1 Why a Population Census is taken

Detailed and up-to-date information is vital for the development of a society and the welfare of its population. The scope and objectives of the 2005 Population Census has been settled after thorough discussions with main users of census information. The purpose is to provide information on the population and its living conditions, which will be used for planning purposes in most sectors of our society, e.g. education, labour market, housing and construction, water and electricity supply, etc.

In the first Population Census in Laos, taken in 1985, the population was found to be approximately 3.5 million people. A population head count in 1990 showed a population growth to ..... million persons. [The second Population and Housing Census in Lao P.D.R. was taken 1995 with March 1 as the reference date. The population was found to be 4.6 million people. After that a head count was carried out in 2000 giving a population of 5.1 million inhabitants.](#)

## 2 The enumerator's task

The quality of work of enumerators largely decides the quality of the census results. It is therefore important that you follow the instructions in the manual and closely observe and apply the definitions of various concepts used in the census.

Some of the key concepts in the census are:

- **the de jure approach – who is to be enumerated**
- **the private household**
- **the collective household**
- **the head of household**

The definitions of those concepts are found on page 12 in this manual. Study those concepts carefully.

Enumerators will be assigned so called *Enumeration Areas (EAs)*, which are small areas exclusively created for census data collection purposes. One enumerator might be assigned one or more EAs, depending on the size and the population of the areas. One EA has normally about **500 inhabitants**.

The enumerator has various tasks and obligations before, during and after the enumeration. The enumerator is reporting to the supervisor in all the three stages. A summary of the tasks is presented in [Section 2.1 -2.3](#) in this manual.

## 2.1 Tasks *before* the start of the enumeration

- To contact the village chief and together with him check the household list if any changes have taken place
- To identify the enumeration area (EA) and if the village has been divided into more than one EA clearly identify the borders between the EAs together with the village chief and the other enumerator(s) involved (take a walk along the borders)
- To widely publicise the census and its objectives among the population in order to create good-will and ensure good cooperation from the public
- To handle and care for documents and supplies
- To take care of your own travel arrangements
- To present yourself at the enumeration where interviews are to be conducted
- To make appointments with the households in the EA
- To enter identification data on the booklet covers

Among these activities maybe the most important ones are to ensure that you know the EA boundaries and to make sure that you have an updated household list.

## 2.2 Tasks *during* the enumeration

- To ask questions and to record the answers
- To check each questionnaire for completeness, correctness and consistency between various questions
- To make sure that you cover all the households in your EA! You should be aware of that there might be households to enumerate which are not in the household list.
- To mark absent households in the household list and to revisit them.
- To mark the house after enumeration has been completed

Among these activities the most important one for the enumeration is to carry out careful interviews and properly record the responses. *Every effort must be made to obtain complete and accurate responses and to record them correctly.*

## 2.3 Tasks *after* the enumeration

- To deliver used and unused booklets to designated officers/supervisor
- To convey information on any relevant issues or observations to the supervisor that are not reported in writing

## **2.4 Place of work**

Provincial Census Offices, headed by Provincial Census Officers (PCOs), have been established in the provinces. Districts Census Offices have likewise been established in the Districts. These are headed by the District Census Officer (DCO), who will be in charge of several supervisors. A supervisor will be in charge of six enumeration areas or more.

The enumerators will spend most of their time in the field. Each enumerator will be assigned one or more EAs and your responsibility will be to visit every household in your assigned area and record, as accurately and neatly as possible, all the particulars required of every person and household.

## **2.5 Training of enumerators**

One can only become a good enumerator through experience. The training will consist of class room training and field work (practical exercises). Before each lesson, you must carefully read the manual along with the questionnaire and note down the questions that you might want to ask. You can ask questions at any time so as to avoid errors in the actual practice.

Your supervisor will be present during training and it is important that you get to know him/her.

During the training you will be informed how to conduct an interview and observe a simulation of interviews. There will be explanations of each section and question in the questionnaire. The class session will be followed by a series of workshops. You will also do some field practice interviews. Mock questionnaires will be used for practice interviews, these questionnaires must *not* be mixed up with actual census questionnaires.

## **2.6 Supervision and support**

Next step will be the actual field work in which you will carry out the actual enumeration for the Population Census. You will be working together with supervisors who will again check your completed questionnaires, make corrections and help you during the enumeration period of the Census.

### 3 General guidelines

Successful interviewing is an art and not a mechanical process. Although the art of interviewing develops with practice, below are some basic principles on how to conduct an interview.

#### 3.1 How to establish contact with the respondent

You must contact the Village Chief and the Village Committee before approaching the households.

You should also make appointments with the households before the actual enumeration.

The following may be helpful in establishing contact:

- **Approaching the dwelling unit**  
Use a direction that appears to be well used as an entrance. Do not straddle fences or any other property boundaries.
- **Language of interview**  
When you approach the household, establish the language or languages spoken there. Find a language both of you could understand (to be added: what to do if no common language can be found)
- **Make a good first impression**
- **Always have a positive approach**
- **Stress the confidentiality of responses when necessary**
- **Answer any question from the respondent frankly**
- **Avoid the presence of other persons other than members of the household during the interview**

#### 3.2 Hints on conducting the interview

- **Be neutral throughout the interview**

People are polite and may give answers they think you want to hear. Never allow the respondent to think that s/he has given the "right" or "wrong" answer by expression on your face or tone of your voice and never appear to approve or disapprove of any of the respondent's answers. Note that the questions in the questionnaire are carefully worded to be neutral and do not suggest that one answer is more likely or preferable to another. Failing to read the complete question may destroy that neutrality. If an ambiguous answer is given, try to probe in a neutral way by asking like this:

"Can you explain a little more";

"I did not quite hear you, could you please tell me again".

- **Never suggest answers to the respondents**

If a given answer is not relevant to the question, do **not** prompt by saying something like "I suppose you mean that... Is that right?". Probe in such a way that the respondent comes with a relevant answer on his/her own. You should *never read out the list of response alternatives*.

- **Do not change the wording or the sequence of questions**
- **Handle hesitant respondents tactfully**
- **Do not hurry the interview**

Ask questions clearly to ensure understanding by the respondent, pause after each question. Work steadily and make sure answers are complete and correct before you write anything down. Do not accept at once any statement you believe to be mistaken, but tactfully probe in a neutral way to obtain the correct answers.



## 4 Field procedures

### 4.1 Material and equipment

Each enumerator must ensure that s/he has sufficient materials and equipment and is aware of the role to be performed.

Each enumerator will be provided with the following documents and equipment:

- Questionnaire booklets with serial number
- Enumerator manual
- Sketch map of EA
- Equipment for writing
- ID-card

### 4.2 The duration of the enumeration

The enumeration will last for about five (5) days; this is the time limit within which interviewing of households in the EA assigned to you must be completed. If, for any reason, you think it will take longer, inform your supervisor early, so arrangements for help are made. Also, if you catch ill or cannot continue for other reasons, you must let your supervisor know at once, *(how? - to be discussed, send an e-mail)*

### 4.3 How to schedule the enumeration

To be able to enumerate efficiently, planning ahead is necessary. Bear in mind that the best times of interviewing households vary with the economic activity of the household members. The best time for interviews is often in the early morning, before people start work, and in the evenings when they return for the day. There will however be households that are present during daytime. You must plan accordingly to create an even workload during the day.

### 4.4 Confusion over boundaries

Confusion over boundaries may occasionally arise. If you or your colleague in another EA has mistakenly enumerated a household in another EA, take careful note of the identities of the households mistakenly enumerated and inform your supervisor. Do not enumerate the households a second time but continue with the other households in the area.

## 5 General procedures for completing the questionnaire

To be able to undertake the duties of an enumerator, you must know

- how to fill in the questionnaire;
- how to ask the questions;
- what information the question is attempting to collect;
- how to handle problems which might arise during the interview;
- correctly record the answers given by the respondent;
- follow any special instructions in the questionnaire

### 5.1 Asking questions and probing

When asking questions, follow the order on the questionnaire and ask them exactly as in the questionnaire. Speak clearly for the respondent to have no difficulty in hearing and understanding; at times you may have to repeat the question. You should rephrase the question only as a last resort, *(to be discussed)*

### 5.2 Recording responses

The recording of answers on the questionnaire should be done using blue ballpoint pens. The types of questions to be encountered on the questionnaire include those with:

- pre-coded responses to be recorded by marking one of a set of tick-boxes. To record the answer, you write a tick-mark in the box that corresponds to the reply, e.g. gender;
- pre-coded responses where the responses are listed on the questionnaire. To record the answer, you *either* mark the tick-box representing the most common response *or* enter the number (code) corresponding to the reply, e.g. district codes;
- open-ended numeric responses where you write the respondent's answer in the space provided, e.g. age, number of children;
- open-ended responses with pre-coded standard alternatives where you *either* mark the tick-box representing one of the pre-coded responses *or* mark the tick-box representing the “other” alternative and write the respondent's answer in the space provided, e.g. occupation.

It is important to record answers neatly. Write legibly where you are required to write. The tick-mark must be clearly visible in the box; it should not be far outside the box; no marks must be allowed to “spill over” into another box.

Some questions may not be applicable to some persons or a response may not be known. There is always a tick-box, or a numeric code available to record those situations. They are described under each question in chapter 8. Never strike out, or cross over individual questions or entire persons, since that would obstruct the scanning procedure.

### 5.3 How to correct mistakes

If you make a mistake in entering an answer or the respondent changes response, *you must never erase or obliterate the wrong entry.*

- If the response was recorded using a tick-box, fill out the incorrect box neatly and completely and enter a tick-mark in the correct one.
- If the response was recorded as a number or as text, make a single horizontal line through the incorrect response and enter the correct one immediately above.

If you make several mistakes for one person in the household, cross out the whole line neatly with a single stroke and record the entire information using a new line.

If you make a mistake involving a whole household, draw a diagonal line across the questionnaire and write "SPOILT" along it. The spoilt questionnaire should *not* be removed from the booklet but handed in together with the rest of the correctly completed questionnaires.

None of the questionnaires are to be destroyed, as you will have to account for all the questionnaires issued to you, *whether they are filled in or not.*

### 5.4 Irrelevant questions

Care must be taken not to ask questions which have become irrelevant. In cases where a particular response makes subsequent questions irrelevant, an instruction is written on the questionnaire. In most cases there is a tick-box to indicate that one or more questions are irrelevant.

### 5.5 Action in case of non-response

Report to supervisor and/or the village chief, (to be discussed, reasons can vary)

### 5.6 Do not re-copy

Do not re-copy a questionnaire as long as it is readable. Re-copying increases the risk of errors and the quantity of questionnaires produced is not enough for other than very occasional re-copying.

## 6 How to fill in the booklet cover

The questionnaire is a one-page questionnaire bound in booklets of 36 questionnaires. Every booklet has a unique control-number printed on the cover. This number will help to keep track of the booklets during the whole enumeration process. Some information on the cover is to be filled in before enumeration, while some information must be filled in when the booklet is finalised.

## 6.1 Geo-codes and other codes

First of all, geo-codes should be filled in the box at the upper left corner of the cover sheet of the booklet. Geo-codes give the geographical situation of your enumeration area.

- *Provincial and district codes* are provided in this manual and on the back of the questionnaires. The code for *province* ranges from 01 to 19. The code for *district* follows the official two-digit district code, ranging from 01 to 11. *Village code* is the code assigned as on the sketch map. **Enter the codes and names for province, district and village when you start working in an EA.**
- *Enumeration area number* is the sequence number of the EA in a village. If the village is comprised of only one EA, enter "1". If the village is partitioned into several EAs, enter "1", "2", "3", or "4" and so on according to in which EA number this booklet is being used. The sequence number is assigned.. **Enter the code for the enumeration area when you start working in an EA.**
- *Booklet number* is the sequence number of a booklet in one EA. If the EA uses only one booklet, enter "1". If the EA needs more than one booklet, enter "1", "2", "3" and so on according to the actual booklet you are working on. **Enter the code for booklet number when you start on a new booklet.**
- *Booklet control-number* is a pre-printed number giving the booklet identification mainly used during despatch collection and later data-processing. **This number is unique and must not be changed or deleted.**
- *You must never split or remove a questionnaire from a booklet.*

## 6.2 Information for urban/rural classification

In order to be able to classify villages as urban or rural at a later stage during the census, you must fill in the information regarding *marketplace* and *access road* to the village to which your EA belongs.

- Check if the village has a permanent marketplace and tick the relevant box on the booklet cover
- Check if at least one access road to the village is good enough to be used by a sedan car during the dry season and tick the relevant box on the booklet cover

COMMENT: information regarding urban/rural has been collected during hh-listing and has been stored in the EA database → not necessary for the enumerator to collect this information. Remove 6.2 !??? **Something about the Village location, according to the booklet cover in the Pilot should be included instead**

## 6.3 Summary table

When an interview with a household is finished, the number of males/females/total should be entered into the summary table on the cover; see also under *section H* on page 33 in this manual.

## **6.4 Box for comments**

The box for comments should be completed by writing observation about the census, for instance problems encountered, cooperation of the local authorities and people, understanding of the questions by respondents and any other irregularities occurred, ethnic groups not found as pre-coded alternatives, etc. The box at the lower left corner of the cover sheet is for use by the data processing section at NSC and should not be filled in.

## 7 Key concepts and definitions

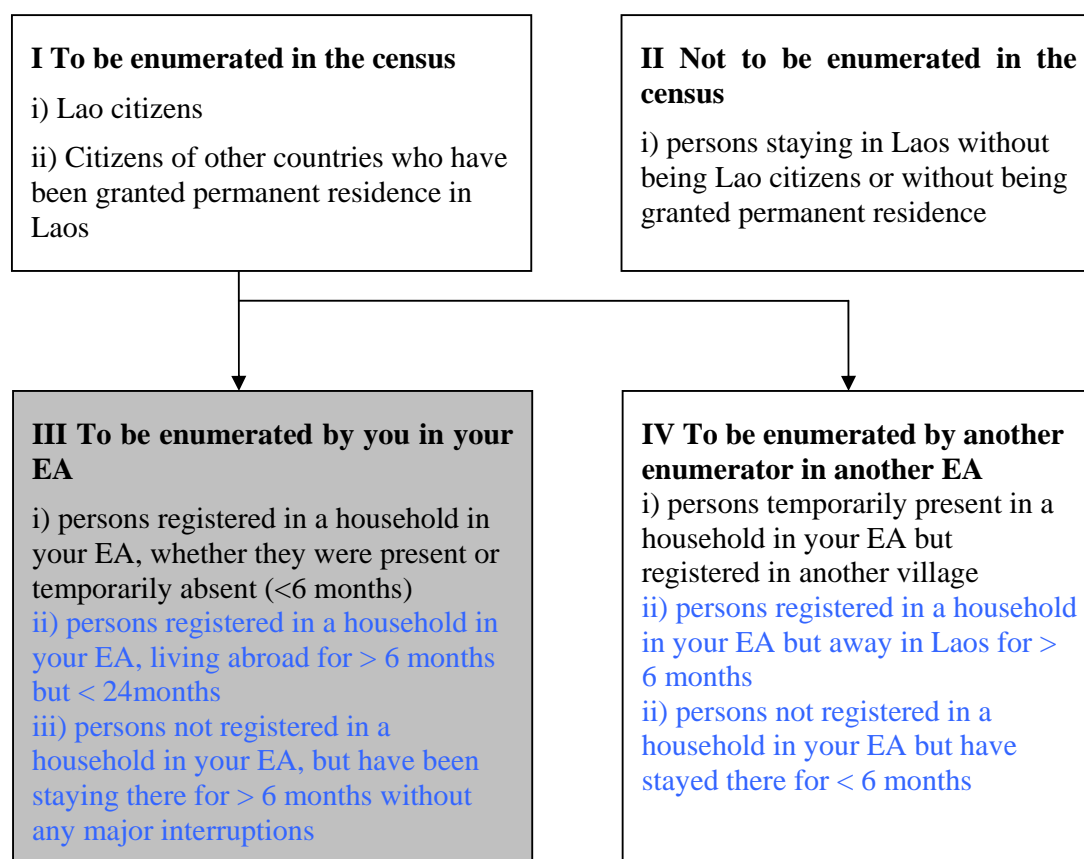
Before going into how to fill in the questionnaire, some key concepts and definitions must be explained.

### 7.1 Household and family - two different concepts

The population census is focusing on *registration of persons in households*, which means that household is not identical to the *concept family*; the latter concept is not used at all in the census.

### 7.2 Who is to be enumerated and in which household?

The 1995 Population Census is a so called *de jure* census. This means that persons are to be enumerated as belonging to *their usual place of residence*, not to the place where they are actually interviewed in the census. Consequently, you must at first decide whether each person is to be *enumerated at all* in the Laotian census, I and II, and next *whether it is your task* to enumerate or if enumeration will be done by another enumerator, III and IV..



These are the guidelines to follow when deciding who are to be enumerated by you. Apply them when you address the head of household at arrival in the household.

### **7.3 Two household types: Private and collective households**

The distinction between a private and a collective household is sometimes very difficult to make. Private households can sometimes also be found at the premises of an otherwise collective household.

#### **Private households**

The households in your enumeration area will mostly be *private households*. They can be single person or multi-person households.

A *single-person household* comprises of one person living in a part or the whole of the dwelling unit, arranging for food and other life necessities on his own without joining other persons and possessing his own civil registration book.

A *multi-person household* comprises of two or more persons living in a part or the whole dwelling unit, and who together arrange for food and other life necessities and share a common registration book.

#### **Collective households**

Occasionally, a *collective household* will however be found. Collective households would consist of accommodation units of an enterprise, factory, school, temple, hospital, etc. Examples of collective households are KM 62 Orphanage House, Middle Level Medical School hostel, Dongdok University hostel, a temple where the monks live. The pre-conditions for being enumerated in the collective household are;

- that s/he is to be registered in your enumeration area (see also page 13)
- that the persons must be registered under the common registration book for the collective household;

Otherwise, the persons found in the collective household are to be enumerated in their respective private households.

Although *tied accommodation and collective households* might look similar, a clear distinction must be made between the two. In tied accommodation occupants usually live in *private* households and maintain *separate* registration books, which is not the case in a collective household.

### **7.4 The head of household**

The *head of household* will be the chief respondent to most of your questions.

In the Lao society, the husband will often be the head of household. In case of his absence, someone else must speak for the household and assume the head of household role. Therefore, interview another knowledgeable senior member of the household who lives up to the definition, (i.e. the wife, a grown-up son or daughter, etc.) and who is selected by the household.

Questions on children born should, as far as possible, be addressed to the mother of the children.



## 8 How to fill in the questionnaire

The sections of the questionnaire are the following:

- Section A:** Identification particulars of enumeration area and household
- Section B:** Information on all members of the household
- Section C:** Education questions for those aged 6 years and above
- Section D:** Labour force questions for those aged 10 years and above
- Section E:** Fertility information for women aged 15 - 49 years
- Section F:** Deaths in the household
- Section G:** Housing characteristics
- Section H:** [Persons moving in or out from the household during the last 12 months](#)
- Section I:** [Disabled persons in the household](#)
- Section J:** Number of persons in the household by sex

Completion of the questionnaire, that is sections A to H, should follow the above order.

### Section A: Identification

Before beginning an interview, fill in the identification in the upper left hand corner of the questionnaire. The identification numbers for province, district, village, and enumeration area shall be the same as the one on the cover of the questionnaire booklet and [in the household list](#). In addition, a *household serial number* is to be entered by the enumerator as work is progressing.

The household number within the enumeration area must always have three digits. It must be entered by the enumerator in a sequence (001, 002, 003 etc.) within the EA.

Special numbers are allocated to collective households. The first collective household in your enumeration area should be given household number 801; the second should be given 802, etc.

[Picture/ example from the questionnaire like in the 95 manual](#)

The “Household’s form number”, and the continuation tick-box should both be left blank for households that have less than 10 members, i.e. households that use only one questionnaire. If a household has more than 10 members make sure that:

- the “Household’s form number” is entered on all questionnaires, starting with “001” on the questionnaire containing the first 10 members, then “002” on the one that contains household member 11 and upwards, etc. **zero suppression??**
- the continuation tick-box is marked on all the household’s questionnaires, but the last one

## Section B: For all persons

### Question 1: "Who was the member of this household on March 1, 2005?"

The purpose of this question is i) to identify the household and to give the structure for the interview, ii) to identify the head of each household and iii) to list all members of the household.

- The first step is to list all the members of the household. **Enter their names, working downwards.** All persons who, according to the definitions in Section 7, were members of the household on March 1, whether they were present or temporarily absent, are to be recorded. *"Temporarily"* means in this case less than six months. *If my suggestion to include/exclude persons, see picture in 7.2, is accepted then it must be reflected here*
- **Always enter the head of household as person number one.**  
The order of the listing should be as follows:
  - o head of household;
  - o spouse;
  - o unmarried children to head of household;
  - o married children to head of household, then their spouses and children;
  - o other relatives to the head of household;
  - o persons not related to the head of household;
- In situations where a man has more than one wife, list the first wife with her children, followed by the second wife and her children, etc.;
- For babies who have not yet been named, write "Baby of (mother's or fathers name)" in the space for name;
- Where members of the household have the same surname, the first name and the first letter of the surname can be used for the members other than the head. When surnames differ, write full surname;
- In cases where a respondent refuses to give his name, explain that the name is used only in relation to subsequent information. State that publication of information will only be in statistical form and at no time will names be published. The names are entered on the questionnaires but will not be data captured;
- When you have entered all the names: Check the above information by reading out the names you have written down and then by asking the head of household if the list is correct and complete. At this stage probing and observation is essential, especially where you feel someone who is physically present at the time of interview has been left out. *Use the scheme in 7.2 when probing;*

Picture/  
example from  
the  
questionnaire  
like in the 95  
manual

- Complete a separate questionnaire for each household. **If a household has more than 10 members**, continue listing the members on the next questionnaire making certain that:
  - o the identifications on all questionnaires relating to a single household are the same;
  - o the “Household’s form number” in section A is filled in correctly on every questionnaire for the household;
  - o the continuation box in section A is ticked on all questionnaires for the household but the last one;
  - o information relating to Sections F to J is left blank on the *all but the last* questionnaire for the household. Section F to H should be completed *on the last questionnaire* for the household.

Example  
from the  
questionnaire  
If  
need be

### How to list and enumerate a collective household

Persons staying in collective households in your enumeration area will basically be enumerated by you according to the same procedures that you enumerate a private household. Some differences should however be observed:

- The would-be collective household(s) identified during the census listing is/are shown in the household list for your enumeration area; (to be discussed)
- To enumerate collective households, the ordinary questionnaire is used but with some special instructions, see below;
- When encountering a collective household, your first step is to find out if there are any *private* households registered there. It can for example be a doctor and his family staying in their private household on hospital premises, eating from a common pot in the family and not with the patients and have a common registration-book there. Such households should be enumerated as private households;
- The next step is to investigate who is actually to be part of the collective household and who is to be enumerated in their respective private households in the same EA or in other EAs. Use the definitions and guidelines in Section 7;
- The head of a collective household will not know the particulars of each individual. Every present member of the collective household must therefore be addressed, while the head of the household must be addressed for those absent during enumeration;
- In some special cases of large collective households, special arrangements may be made by the supervisor and you may be asked to assist in this work;
- The household number series for collective households starts at 801, i.e. the first collective household enumerated by you should have household number 801, the second 802, etc.
- Note that if it is a big collective household, you must use several questionnaires.
- Question 2 and Question 21 to 34 should *not* be answered by collective households. Leave them blank.

Example  
from Q

**Remember:**

**One questionnaire can only be used in one household**

***but***

**one household can use several questionnaires**

**Question 2: What is (name)'s relationship to the head of household?**

The purpose of this question is to collect information on the composition of the household.

Tick the appropriate box. Adopted children and step-children to the head of household will be recorded under "*Son/Daughter*". Nieces, nephews, grandsons will be included under the "*Other relative*" category.

Those not related to the head of household by blood or marriage will be recorded as "*Not related*". Where several persons who are not related by blood or marriage constitute a private household, code one of them as a head and the rest as "*not related*".

Example  
from Q

**Question 3: Is (name) male or female?**

Sex is one of the most important questions as much analysis of data depends on respondent's sex. It also determines whether certain questions are to be answered or not. Tick the correct response box, i.e. either "*1*" for male or "*2*" for female.

If the person is around, you can observe the gender without necessarily asking the question, but avoid inferring the gender of the person from names as there are names used by both genders. In case the name is preceded by title, namely "Thao" and "Nang", sex of respondent can readily be determined.

Example  
from Q

**Question 4: How old was (name) at his/her last birthday?**

Age is one of the most important questions as much analysis of data depends on respondent's age, for example, fertility rates are calculated by age of woman etc. Age also determines whether certain questions are to be answered or not. Be careful *not* to round ages up to the next birthday.

Entries should be made in completed years as follows:

- "**0**" for children aged less than a year
- actual age in completed years for other respondents, e.g., 8 years and three months is recorded as "**8**"
- "**999**" for not known (very limited cases) *Is 999 still correct for age unknown???*

Example  
from Q

If the age is not known, probe to try to estimate age. This is time-consuming and sometimes tedious. But it is important to take time to try to get the best possible information. There are several ways which can be used to probe for age:

You may use the calendar of events found in *Appendix 3* to improve the reporting of age data. A person's age can sometimes be better assessed in relation to events which he/she can recall or which occurred near to his/her birthday. The age of the person's relatives is sometimes a useful indicator.'

If probing does not help, you may have to estimate the age as a last resort when all other efforts failed. The use of the code "999" (viz. *not known*) is for rare cases.

In case the respondent knows the year when he/she was born only in Lao year or lunar calendar, or he/she gives date of birth in solar calendar, you must refer to tables for age conversion in the *Appendix 4* of this manual.

### **Question 5: Where was (name) born?**

The purpose of this question is to get a measure of "life-time" migration.

Birth place refers to the place where the birth actually occurred. For those born in the same district as where the interview is taking place, tick the box "this district". For those born in Lao P.D.R, but in another district, enter the code referring to the relevant province/district and for those born outside Lao P.D.R, the code of country of birth.

A list of the districts and countries is shown in *Appendix 2* and **at the back of each questionnaire**. For *not known* use code "9999".

Example  
from Q

### **Question 6: Where was (name) living at last census in March 1995?**

The purpose of this question is to get a measure of "inter-censal" migration.

If the person was living in the same district as today, tick the box "this district". If not, enter Province/District code if the person was living in Lao P.D.R. in March 1995, otherwise the country code. A list of the districts and countries is shown in *Appendix 2* **and at the back of each questionnaire**.

For children below the age of ten, record "9998". For *not known*, use code "9999".

Example  
from Q

### **Question 7: What is (name)'s citizenship?**

Do not deduce someone's citizenship from the language an individual speaks or his/her country of birth. Record what the respondent tells you.

A list of the country codes for citizenship is shown in *Appendix 2* and at the back of each questionnaire. If the person is a Lao citizen, tick the box "Lao"; if not enter the relevant code. For *not known*, use code "99".

Example  
from Q

### Question 8: What is (name)'s ethnic origin?

The purpose of this question is to establish the respondent's ethnic origin if a Laotian citizen. Ethnic origin for persons from other countries is of little interest and is not to be collected at all.

This question is just for Lao citizens, that is when the tick box for question 7 is marked, or the code is "00". For all other citizenships in question 7, record "98" in question 8.

A list of the codes for ethnicity (47 different codes) for Lao citizens is shown in *Appendix X* and at the back of each questionnaire. For "not known", use code "99".

Record what the respondent tells you. In some cases you may have to probe culture, religion, and traditions. If the respondent comes up with an ethnic origin that cannot be coded with one of the 47 codes, probe if the answer is a sub-group to one of the pre-coded alternatives. If there is a local "ethnic representative", contact him/her. If ethnic origin remains unclear after probing, enter code "48" and take down the response in the comments box on the questionnaire.

Example  
from Q

### Question 9: What is (name)'s marital status? May change place in the Q with Religion

People who live together as husband and wife or who so regard themselves without being formally married, should be recorded as married. Thus in the main, the answer must be accepted as given by the respondent and the legal aspect of the marital status should not be questioned. It is the respondents who define their marital status.

If a person has been widowed but has since re-married, s/he should be recorded as married.

A divorce does not have to have gone through the court or other formalities for it to be considered an actual divorce in census terms.

Please note that "never married" is not equivalent to "single" as the latter includes those who have never married and those who have been married but are currently divorced/separated or widowed. "Never married" strictly refers to those who have never entered any marital union. In the very few cases of *not known*, tick alternative "9".

Example  
from Q

### Question 10: What is (name)'s religion?

Enter relevant code from code list. The categories are: have been changed

1. Buddhism
2. Animism
3. Christianity
4. Islam
5. Other
6. Not known

Example  
from Q

The list of religion codes is also shown at the back of each questionnaire.

Note that all members of the same household might not have the same religion. If a respondent gives a branch of religion that you do not recognise, probe to find out to which main religion (of alternatives 1-4 above) the branch belongs.

If a person's answer is "no religion", enter code "5 - Other".

## Section C: For persons aged 6 years and above

Section C deals with education questions. These questions shall be asked to all who is 6 years and above. For small children, less than 6 years of age, tick alternative "6" for question 11, and leave questions 12 – 19 blank.

### Question 11: Can (name) read and write in Lao language?

The purpose of this question is to measure the literacy rate.

For a person to be considered literate (able to read and write) he/she must at least be able to read a newspaper or a bill-board *and also* at least be able to write a simple letter in official Lao. Note that both conditions (read *and* write) must be fulfilled for a positive response to be entered and also that the question refers to *Lao official language*.

Indicate the response by ticking the appropriate box.

Example  
from Q

### Question 12: Has (name) ever attended school?

The purpose of this question is to establish the degree of school enrolment.

"*School*" refers to participation in full-time education in an institution like primary and secondary schools, university, etc.

The category "*never been*" includes those who have not attended school at all.

"*At school*" refers to all persons who are attending formal educational institutions and include those who are temporarily absent from school or those on holiday.

"*Left school*" refers to those who once attended formal school but have left or completed their cycle and are no longer attending.

Indicate the response by ticking the appropriate box.

Example  
from Q

### Question 13: What is (name)'s highest level of education completed?

The purpose of this question is to establish the respondent's highest level of education *completed*. Make sure that all respondents understand that the question refers to *completed* education.



Enter code from code list. A list of the codes for highest level of education completed is shown in *Appendix 3*. The list of codes is also shown at the back of each questionnaire. For *not known* use code "99".

Check with *question 4* for consistency, particularly for children. Probe, if discrepancies between the answers are found.

Example  
from Q

### **Question 14: What is (name)'s highest level of vocational education completed?**

The purpose of this question is to establish the respondent's highest level of education *completed*. Make sure that all respondents understand that the question refers to *completed* education.

Enter code from code list. A list of the codes for highest level of education completed is shown in *Appendix 3*. The list of codes is also shown at the back of each questionnaire. For *not known* use code "99".

Check with *question 4* for consistency, particularly for children. Probe, if discrepancies between the answers are found.

Example  
from Q

**Must be checked how formulate the rules/examples**

### **Section D: For persons aged 10 years and above**

Section D deals with employment questions. These questions shall be asked to all who is 10 years and above. For children, less than 10 years of age, tick the box "under 10" in question 14, and leave questions 15 – 19 blank.

Three different questions are asked to collect labour market information. The questions are interrelated and the purpose of each question must be clearly understood. Explain to the respondent that you will start by asking information on his/her *employment status*, then his/her *profession* and lastly about the *sector* s/he was working in.

### **Question 15: What was (name)'s main activity the last twelve months?**

The purpose of this question is to collect information on whether s/he was working or not, studying, retired, etc.

**Enter code from code list** You may need to probe to reassure that the respondent understands the concept of economic activity. **For persons under 10 tick the "under ten box"**

**It should be checked if given response alternatives are OK** The response categories are:

01 *Paid employee (Government)*

Here is included those who work for and are paid from the government (*not* state enterprise or joint enterprise).

02 *Paid employee (State Enterprise)*

Here is included those who work for and are paid from state enterprises *{not government or joint venture}*).

*03 Paid employee (Private)*

Paid employee includes those who work for a private employer and are paid either wages, salary, commission, tips, contract or in kind by the employer. Paid family workers are also to be included here.

*04 Paid employee (Joint venture)*

Here is included those who work for and are paid from joint venture enterprises (partly government, partly private).

*05 Employer*

A person who operates his or her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.

*06 Own account worker*

Own account workers are those who operate their own enterprise, e.g. farmer, petty trader, carpenter *without paid employees* and work for own consumption or profit.

*07 Unpaid family worker*

Unpaid family workers refer to those members of the household who worked in the enterprise operated by the household without pay or profit.

*08 Looking for work/unemployed*

These are persons who were either without a job or were available for work or were seeking work.

*09 Student*

A person who attends a regular formal educational institution, public or private. S/he should be full-time or part-time student not usually engaged in an economic activity.

*10 Homemaker*

Homemaker is a person of either gender involved in household chores in their own households and who do not work for pay or for profit. If the person worked in the household business, s/he should be recorded as self employed or unpaid family worker. Domestic workers engaged for pay should not be included in this category but under paid employee.

*11 Retired person /sick/too old*

A retired person is one who reports that for most of the last twelve months s/he was not engaged in any economic activity because s/he had retired either due to age, sickness or voluntarily

*12 Others*

Prisoners are one of the categories to be included here.

For rare cases of "not known", enter "99".

### Question 16: What was (name)'s main occupation during the last twelve months?

The purpose of this question is to collect information on *the occupation of the respondent*.

This question is put to persons coded 01 to 07 in question 15, i.e. paid employees, employers, own account workers and unpaid family workers. Tick alternative “9” for all others.

Occupation refers to the type of work, trade or profession performed by an individual during the last 12 months, irrespective of the industry or status in employment of the individual. Where multiple occupations are common, the main or usual occupation should be determined. This is done by determining the duration of work in each occupation during the last 12 months.

For persons with more than one occupation at the same time, record the person’s main occupation - where s/he spends most of the time.

The [four](#) most common occupations (1. xxx, 2. yyy, 3. zzz and 4. aaa) are available as tick-box alternatives. If a person has one of those occupations, tick the appropriate box. If a person has another occupation, tick alternative “4 other” and write a short description of the type of work the person performed for most of the last twelve months preceding the census night. The type of work should be recorded as fully as possible, e.g. grocery retailer, seller, wood carpenter, key punch operator, motor vehicle mechanic, panel beating foreman etc. Avoid unclear descriptions as operator, foreman etc. If the occupation in very rare cases is *not known*, tick alternative “9”, and write “not known”.

Example  
from Q

### Question 17: In which industrial sector was (name) mainly working during the last twelve months?

The purpose of this question is to collect information on *the industrial sector the respondent was working in*.

This question is put to persons coded 01 to 07 in question 15, i.e. paid employees, employers, own account workers and unpaid family workers. Use the tick-box “N/A” to indicate that the question is not applicable for all others.

Industrial sector refers to the activity performed that is what is made or done at the *work place* (by the establishment) where the person mainly worked during the last 12 months, irrespective of the occupation of the person. Where a company has multiple activities (makes or does many things), the *main* activity should be determined. This is done by determining the activity which occupies most persons at that workplace.

For persons working at more than one place during this period, record the industrial sector where s/he spends most of the time.

For persons working in the Farming sector, use the tick-box to indicate this. For all others, tick the “other” alternative, and write a short description of what is made or done at the workplace where the person worked for most of the last

Example  
from Q

twelve months preceding the census night. The activity should be recorded as fully as possible, e.g. primary school teaching, retail trade of clothes, motor car repair, rice growing. Avoid unclear descriptions as teaching, trading etc. If the industrial sector in very rare cases is *not known*, tick the “other” alternative and write "not known".

## Section E: For women aged 15 - 49 years

The purpose of questions 18 – 20 is to collect information for estimating fertility and infant and child mortality, preferably directly from the woman concerned.

Information on live births (fertility) should be obtained for all women aged 15 to 49 years. For all others, i.e. for women less than 15 years and those more than 49 years and all males, use the tick-box for alternative “9” in question 18, and leave the rest blank.

Information should be requested of all women 15-49 years, irrespective of their marital status or whether you think they have borne children or not. Efforts should be made to get responses from the women themselves and permission to do so should be obtained from the head of household. If the woman concerned is not present, someone else - preferably the head of household - should be used to answer the questions.

### *Definition of live birth*

*A child born alive is one who cries after being born. Thus, a live birth is a birth which results in a child that shows any sign of life irrespective of the time of period within which these signs are manifest.*

## Question 18: Children ever born

Identify all eligible women using the age of the woman. Check with question 2 for consistency; the number of children in question 2 must be *equal or higher* than the number in question 17 (the higher number in question 2 accepted because foster children also are eligible in that question).

There are four parts to this question and the order of asking them is as follows:

Example  
from Q

### **a. Have you (or name) given any live birth?**

If the answer is "no", tick box “2” and leave the rest blank.

If the answer is "yes", tick box “1” and complete the remaining questions.

It should be noted again that the children referred to in question 17 are the respondent's own children in the biological sense and *not* foster children, e. g. children of the husband by another woman or children of another relative.

Example  
from Q

### **b. How many children born alive to you (or name) were with you (or her) on the census night?**

Record the number (incl. "0") of males and females.

Example  
from Q

**c. How many children born alive to you (or name) were elsewhere on the census night?**

Record the number (incl. "0") of males and females. These are children still alive but who were not at home on census night, e.g. they may be staying with some relative, be at a boarding school, have been given up for adoption or are grown-up children who have left the household.

Further probing may be necessary as *all these children are to be entered whether they e members of the household or not.*

Example  
from Q

**d. How many children born alive to you (or name) have died?**

Make the appropriate entries under columns for males and females.

This information is extremely important and it is difficult to obtain accurate data, because some respondents may fail to mention children who died very young or a long time ago. Probe by asking *"Any male or female child who was born alive but only survived a few days or hours?"*

Many respondents will be reluctant to talk about child deaths and become sad or upset that you are asking such questions. Be very tactful in such situations. Explain that you know the subject is painful but that the information is very important for calculation of death rates (mortality).

Example  
from Q

**Question 19: How old were you/name when you/she had your/her first live birth?**

The question refers to the age of the mother at the time of the first live birth (*not* first pregnancy), and to be recorded in completed years:

- actual age in completed years
- "99" for not known (very limited cases)

Check the consistency with question 4 and 18.

Example  
from Q

**Question 20: How many live births have you/name had during the last 12 months?**

Make the appropriate entries under columns for males and females.

Write "9" for not known (very rare cases)

Check the consistency with question 18.

Example  
from Q

**Section F: Deaths in the household**

The data on deaths required here refers to deaths in the last twelve months of members of the household. Deaths which occur after the census night are not to be recorded. Remember that respondents will be reluctant to talk about deaths and become sad or upset that you are asking such questions. Be very tactful in such situations.

**Question 21: Did any deaths occur in the household in the last twelve months?**

Tick the appropriate answer.

If the answer to this question is "no" leave the rest of the section blank. If the answer is "yes", obtain, for each death, the following details:

**a. Was the deceased male or female?**

Tick the box for the appropriate response, i.e. "1" for male; 2" for female.

**b. How old was the deceased?**

This refers to age at last birthday of the deceased and entries, in completed years, should be made as follows:

- "0" for children less than a year
- actual age in completed years for other deaths,
- "99" for not known (very limited cases)

**c. For women aged 15 to 49 years and for deaths other than from an accident:**

**Did she die because of pregnancy, while giving birth or within 42 days after giving birth?**

This question intends to measure maternal mortality. It is therefore essential that you identify the *actual reason of death and that the death actually occurred during the last twelve months*. Remember that respondents will be reluctant to talk about deaths and become sad or upset that you are asking such questions. Be very tactful in such situations.

- "Yes" should be recorded using the tick-box if death was caused by pregnancy, birth-giving or pregnancy- or birth-related disease causing death within 42 days after giving birth
- "No" should be recorded using the tick-box for all women who i) were not pregnant and for ii) a pregnant woman who, for example, was killed in a car accident or died from malaria; these are deaths that are not *not* related to pregnancy or birth.

Example  
from Q

If more than four deaths occurred in the household in the last twelve months, then proceed to the next questionnaire to complete the information. Remember to fill in *Section A: Identification* in such cases.

**Section G: Housing characteristics**

Responses to questions 21 to 25 and 27 to 29 are pre-coded. Tick the box for the correct response.

## Question 22: What is the tenure status of the household?

This refers to the arrangements under which the household occupies its living quarters in the nature of its right to be there. Use the tick-box to indicate the appropriate one:

*1 Owner/purchaser*

An owner or purchaser is one who owns the house or is in the process of buying it.

Some people may own their house in terms of customary law and should be recorded as owners.

*2 Tenant*

A tenant rents and occupies the whole dwelling unit and generally pays electricity and water charges to the urban authority.

*3 Lodger*

A lodger rents part of a dwelling unit which is normally occupied by the owner/purchaser.

*4 Tied accommodation*

A person living in tied accommodation occupies it by virtue of his or her job. The accommodation belongs to the employer and is made available as parts of terms of employment. If the person leaves the job, s/he is required to move out of the dwelling unit. An example are domestic workers quarters.

*5 Other*

This category includes those staying free in a dwelling unit but constituting a separate household

## Questions regarding building material, question 23 - 25

The purpose of these questions is to collect information on the type of housing occupied by the household, defined by the type of material used for the construction of roof, walls and floor for the household's dwelling unit. Tick the appropriate box, only one alternative is allowed per question

### Question 23: Roof material

1. **Tile/Sipax**
2. **Zinks**
3. **Wood**
4. **Bambo**
5. **Grass**
6. **Other**

Example from Q

May be one big example  
including all 3 questions

### Question 24: Wall material

1. **Brick**

2. Concrete

3. Wood

4. Bamboo

5. Other

### Question 25: Floor material

If the house comprises more than one floor the answer to this question should refer to the material in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. I don't know if this is correct, but an advice must be given

1. Ceramic

2. Tile

3. Concrete

4. Wood

5. Bamboo

6. Other

Alternative question mix on housing:

### Type of dwelling unit

The purpose of these questions is to collect information on the type of housing occupied by the household, defined by type of house, question 23, and type of building material, question 24.

### Question 23

Which type of house is the dwelling unit? Tick one box

1. ☐ Stilt house

2. Ordinary house

☐ 1 storey building

☐ Multi storey building

### Question 24

Which type of building material is used for the house? Tick one box

1. ☐ Concrete house (of either of three types)

- Concrete structure, concrete wall, concrete roofing, each floor is made of concrete
- Concrete structure, .... See E-manual 95



- Concrete structure, ....
- 2. ☐ **Wooden house** (of either two types)
  - Wooden structure, concrete ground floor, ....
  - Wooden structure, wooden ground floor, ...
- 3. ☐ **Concrete/wood house**
  - Ground structure and wall made from concrete, ....
- 4. ☐ **Semi-permanent housing or other general type of housing**
  - All other semi permanent structures of bamboo, plywood, grass etc
- 5. ☐ **Other types of housing**

Example  
from Q

### Question 26: Is this dwelling unit electrified?

The response alternatives are:

1. Yes - own meter
2. Yes - shared meter
3. Yes - own generated (diesel/hydro-power)
4. Yes - car battery
5. No

Example  
from Q

Alternative 1 and 2 above refers to public utility procurement of electricity, while alternative 3 refers to electricity produced locally by a co-operative or a household.

Tick the appropriate box.

### Question 27: What is the living area of the dwelling unit?

The purpose of this question is to capture the living area of the dwelling unit and to enable calculations on living area averages. The living area is *not* identical to building area, but comprises rooms, kitchen *(remains to be defined)*

- If the household occupies a two-storey building, the living area is the sum of the living areas in each floor.
- If the household occupies two or more houses, the living area is the sum of the living areas in the two houses.
- If two or more households share a house, each household should state the living area they occupy in the house.
- Enter the living area in square meters, e.g.:

7 m<sup>2</sup> = "7"

$$65 \text{ m}^2 = \text{"65"}$$

$$98 \text{ m}^2 = \text{"98"}$$

Example  
from Q

At most 3 digits are allowed, **"998"** is to be recorded for living area of  $998 \text{ m}^2$  or more. If the living area is not exactly known, make an estimate.

For *not known*, use **"999"**.

### Question 28: Water for drinking and cooking

The question asks for information on:

- main water source
- distance to that water source
- indirectly also whether water source is safe or not

The response alternatives are:

1. Piped water, inside or outside
2. Well/borehole, protected
3. Well/borehole, unprotected
4. River/stream/dam
5. Rain water from tank/jar
6. Other

Example  
from Q

If the main source of water varies during the year, record the source that supplies the largest quantity of water.

### Question 29: What type of toilet facility is mainly used by this household?

This information can be used in obtaining a measure of sanitation level of the household since these facilities are important for disease control and health improvement. Please note that it is access to a toilet facility which is referred to here and *not* the ownership. **If both modern and normal toilets are available: tick alternative 1**

The response alternatives are:

1. Modern toilet: constructed according to the standards of toilet construction and has a filter system (better definition needed?)
2. Normal toilet: a tank inserted into a pit, with a toilet seat
3. Other types
4. None

Example  
from Q

### Question 30: What is the household's main source of energy and cooking?

This refers to type of energy most often used during the year.

If the household uses electricity, check if the dwelling is electrified.

**Question 31: Does the household operate any agriculture land**

Tick the appropriate yes or no box. If the household operates agriculture land, then specify the size in hectares with 1 decimal

Example  
from Q

**Section H: Persons who have moved into or out from the household during the last 12 months**

These questions will give information on migration bla, bla, ....

**Question 32: Has any person moved into the household during the last 12 months?**

Tick the appropriate Yes/No alternative. If persons have moved into the household enter for each person the person number from Section B and tick one of the four boxes telling from where the person has moved in

- from the same province
- from another province
- from the Vientiane City
- from another country

Example  
from Q

**Question 33: Has any person moved out from the household during the last 12 months?**

Tick the appropriate Yes/No alternative. If persons have moved out from the household tick one of the appropriate box regarding “Sex” and enter the age for each person and tick one of the four boxes telling to where the person has moved out

- to the same province
- to another province
- to the Vientiane City
- to another country

Example  
from Q

## Section I: Disabled persons in the household

In order to learn the number of disabled person in Lao PDR depending on different reasons question 34 must be answered.

### Question 34: Is there any disabled person in the household?

Tick the appropriate Yes/No box. If there are disabled persons in the household identify the person by using the person number from Section B. Specify type of disability, by ticking one of the six alternative boxes and then specify the reason by ticking one of the other six alternative boxes. This should be repeated for all the disabled persons in the household

Example  
from Q

Har ska det val in nagon harang om att det ar en kanslig fraga etc

## Section J: Total number of persons

Check the totals for males, females and grand total for the household and record these in the appropriate boxes in section H.

Fill in the totals for the household on the first empty line of the summary sheet on the cover of the booklet. The households are to be filled in on the cover in the order they appear in the booklet. In the case a booklet contains less than 36 households there will obviously be empty positions in the summary section on the booklet cover.

## 9 Control of completed questionnaires

### 9.1 Check your work

Check your work for completeness in order to avoid a renewed visit to the household and ensure that:

- all answers are legible;
- skip instructions have been followed correctly;
- identification has been entered in section A;
- household members' relationship and ages are consistent, e.g. children are not shown as being older than their parents; men are not shown as having borne children; babies are not shown as having university education, etc.;
- for females aged 15-49, appropriate entries have been made as required in section E;

- questions on education in section C have been asked to all persons aged 6 years and above;
- employment questions in section D have been asked to all persons aged 10 years and above;
- the totals for males, females and grand total have been entered in appropriate boxes in section H; and transferred to the cover of the questionnaire booklet;
- all relevant sections have been filled in and nothing has been overlooked;

Record the physical address of the household, enter the date of the interview on the space provided and sign the questionnaire. Your name is your certification that the information on the questionnaire is complete and accurate.

## **9.2 Census wall-mark**

When the check shows that the interview with the household is complete, use the piece of chalk to mark the wall at the main entrance to the house with a cross as information for the supervisor or other officials that the household has been enumerated. Explain to the household that this cross must not be removed until the census period is over.

Thank the household for their participation.

## **10 When enumeration is terminating**

The village headman will certify that the workload has been completed before you are allowed to leave the EA.

Once you have received this certification, you travel back to the District Centre and hand in your workload for checking by the district office staff and/or your supervisor. When the work has been accepted, your mission is completed.