



Papua New Guinea 2024 Population Census: Innovations & Challenges

Subregional Workshop on International Recommendations in Preparation for the 2030
Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the Pacific

Nadi, Fiji
13 – 17 October 2025

PNG National Statistical Office



"Be Counted,
No one left behind"



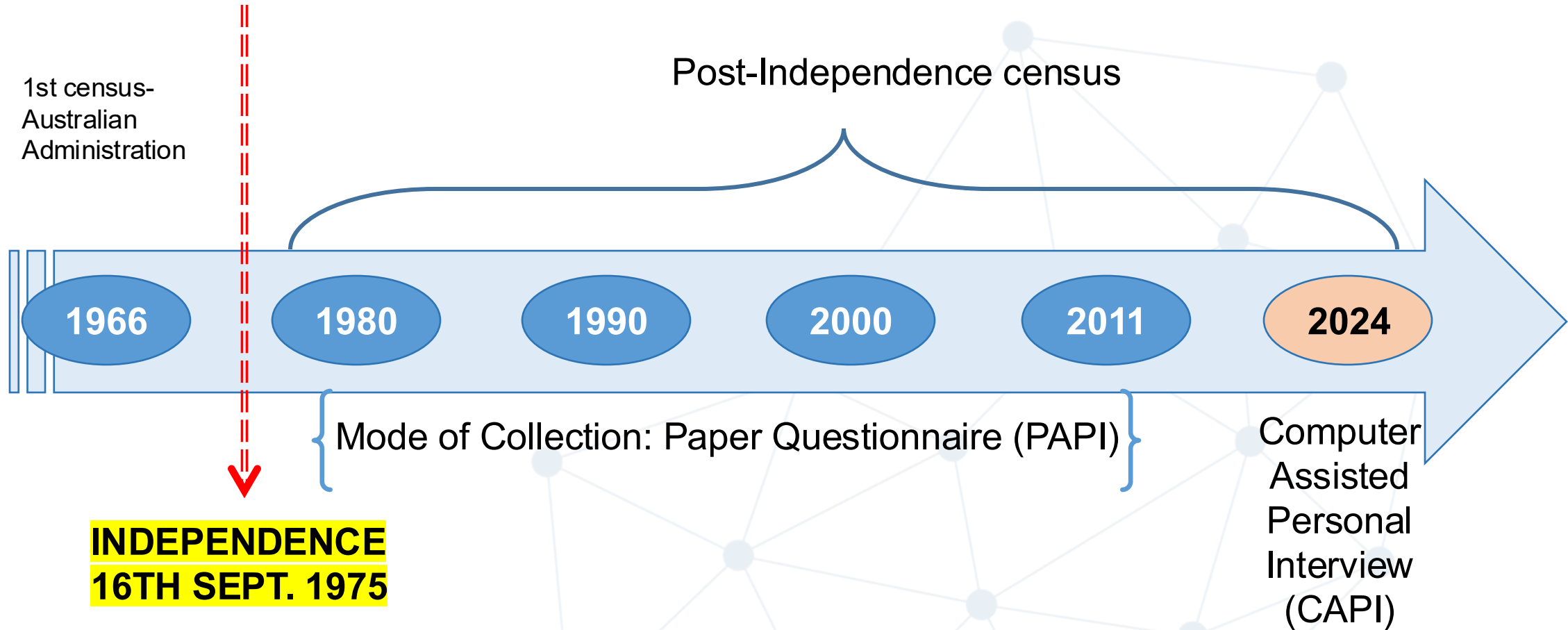
Presentation Outline

- Census Taking in Papua New Guinea
- 2024 Census – Background & Method
- Key Benefits
- Major Challenges
- Lessons Learnt
- Next Steps 2025-2026





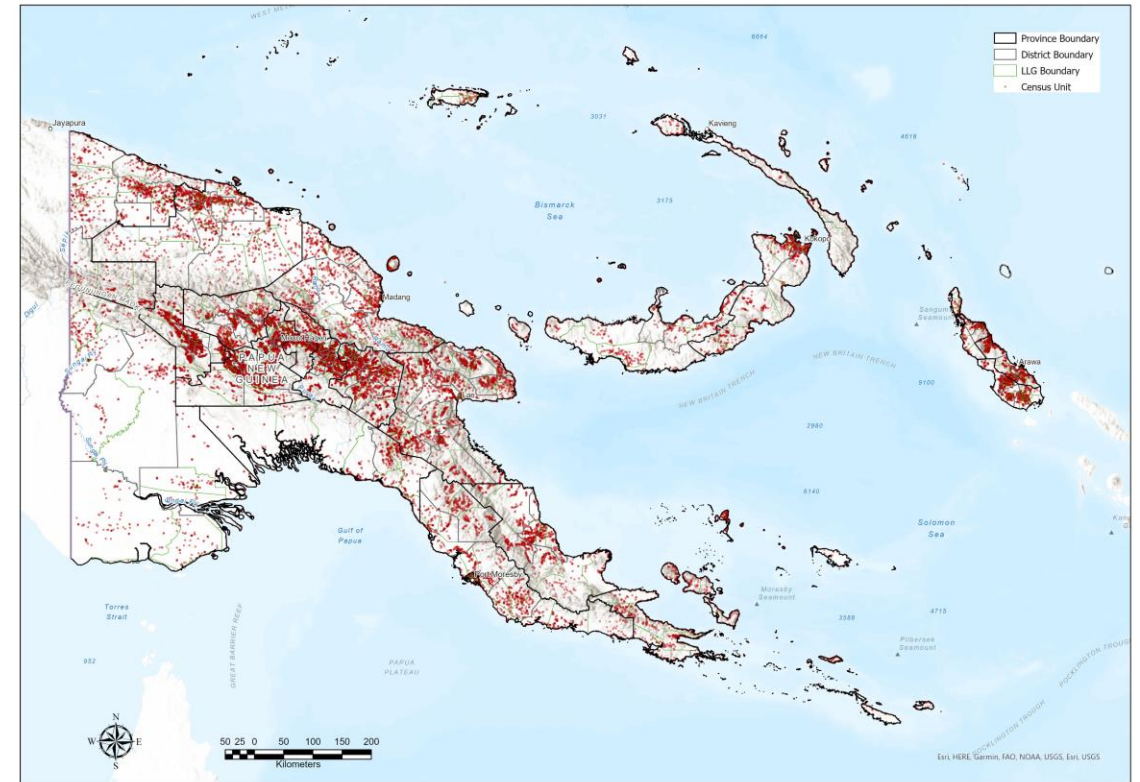
Census Taking in Papua New Guinea





2024 Census- Method & Background

- **Census Date & Population Basis**
 - **De facto population**, reference night: **Sunday 16th June 2024**
- **Method of Data Collection**
 - **Primary method:** Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) using 22,000 tablets across 22 provinces
 - **Supplementary method:** Paper-and-Pencil Interview (PAPI) used in areas where digital collection was not feasible (e.g., remote, security, or technical constraints)
- **Mode of Enumeration**
 - **Face-to-face interviews** with households using CAPI or PAPI
- **Other Features**
 - Six core questions: name, relationship, sex, age, marital status, citizenship
 - Three-tier training strategy for supervisors & interviewers
 - Technical assistance (UNFPA, USCB, UNECA)



- **Coverage**
 - **30,000+ census units (villages, communities)**
 - **22 provinces, 98 districts, 369 LLGs, and 6,487 wards**



2024 Census- Key Benefits

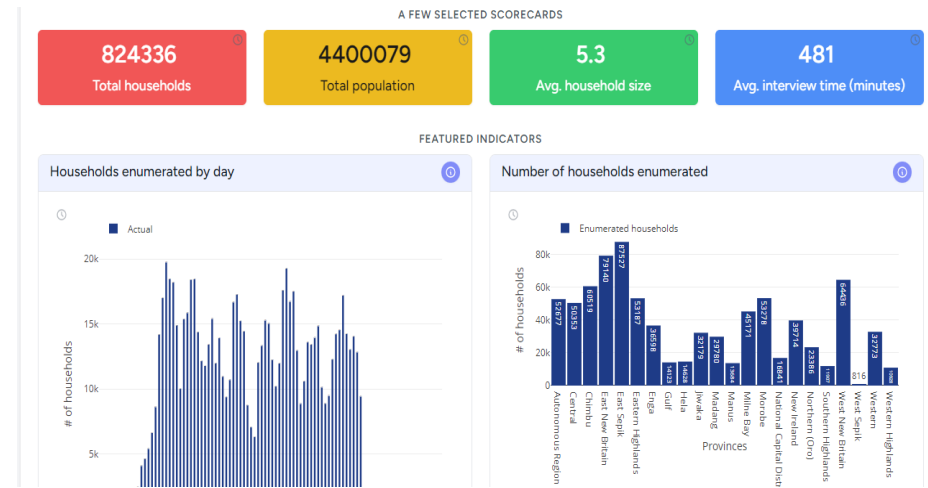
• Data Quality

- Data quality assured in field level
- Coverage tracking made easier with dashboard and live data
- Raw Data readily available for review and quality checks
- Shorter processing timeframe

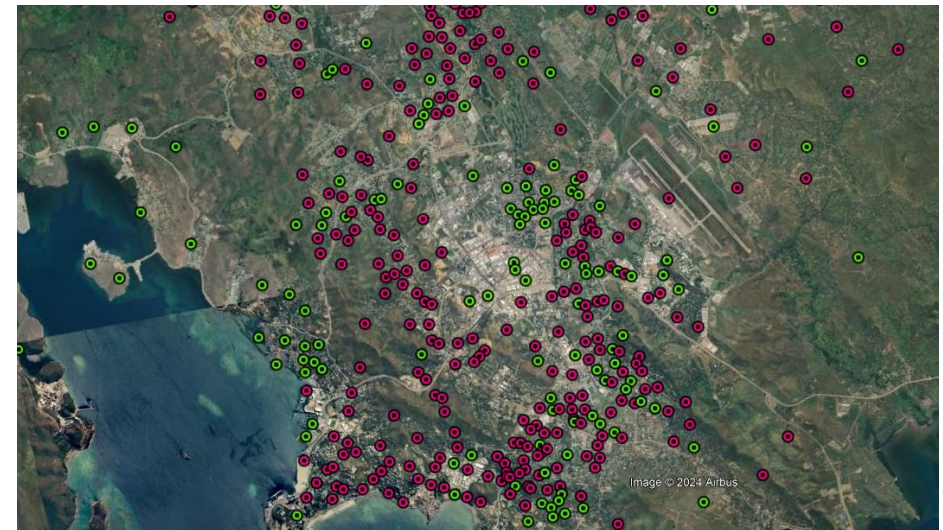
• Capacity Building

- Enhance capacity and capability of NSO (CAPI Business Process)
- Exposure of NSO and Data collectors to digital data collection methods

Snapshot of Census Dashboard



Quick reviews on enumeration coverage



Red = Not Enumerated,
Green = Enumerated



2024 Census- Major Challenges

CAPI Requirements

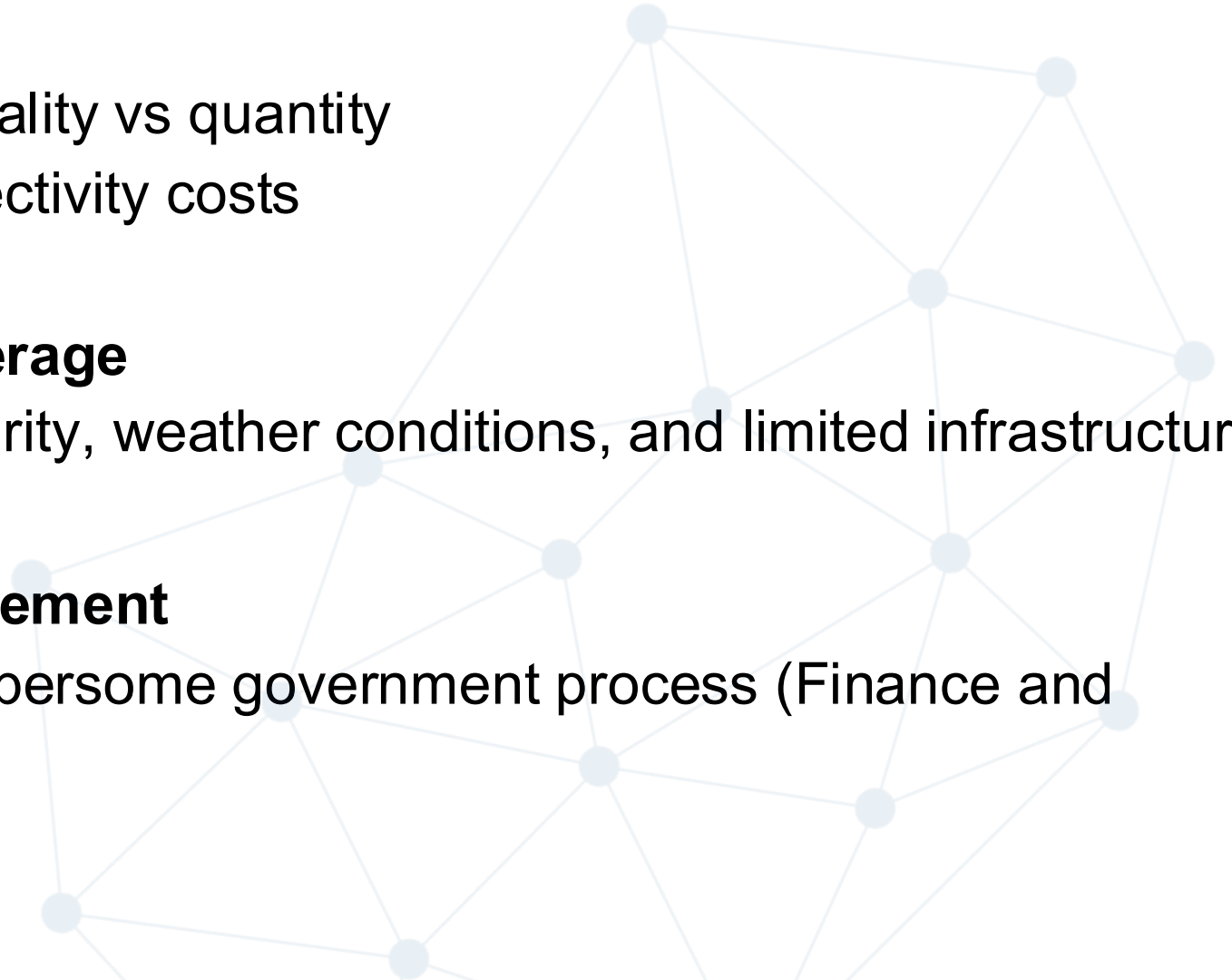
- Balancing tablet quality vs quantity
- High internet connectivity costs

Accessibility - Coverage

- Remoteness, security, weather conditions, and limited infrastructure

Finance and Procurement

- Lengthy and cumbersome government process (Finance and Procurement)





Lessons Learnt

- **Strong political commitment** – key to census success
- **Stakeholder collaboration** – improved implementation and trust
- **Technical assistance from partners** – ensured methodological compliance
- **Investment in CAPI infrastructure & manpower** – built digital capacity
- **Digital innovations (CAPI, dashboards)** – improved data quality & monitoring
- **Procurement & logistics lessons** – need for streamlined, timely processes



Next Steps 2025-2026

- **Data Processing and Cleaning:** Ongoing data validation and editing
- **Data Analysis:** NSO will analysis to produce various statistical reports.
- **Census Reports:** NSO will prepare comprehensive National report summarizing the census results
- **Dissemination of Census Results;** NSO to disseminate census results to various stakeholders, government agencies and the public.
- **Evaluation of 2024 Census;** NSO to conduct Evaluation exercise.



THANK YOU



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