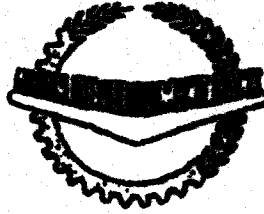


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ADB



UNFPA

**REPORT ON  
THE MULTI-SUBJECT HOUSEHOLD SURVEY  
IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
1994**

**UNFPA Project MAS/92/P01 : Establishment of a Population Focal Point  
at the Office of Planning and Statistics**

**ADB T.A. Project 1671-MAR : Institutional Strengthening of the Office of  
Planning and Statistics**

## Preface

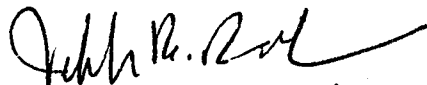
This report presents the results of the 1994 Multisubject Household Survey conducted by the Office of Planning and Statistics. The Survey was the joint effort of the government of the Marshall Islands, the United Nations Fund For Population Activities, South Pacific Office in Suva and the Asian Development Bank. The cost of the Survey was shared between the government of the Marshall Islands and UNFPA. The Asian Development Bank provided the services of Dr. H.M. Gunasekera, Project Manager of ADB Technical Assistance Project 1671-MAR, Institutional Strengthening of the Office of Planning and Statistics who acted as the overall Manager of the Survey and of Mr. Myint Thann UNV Statistician in the ADB Project, who carried out the Survey and analyzed the results which are presented in this report. UNFPA also provided the services of Mr. Mohamoud S. Mohamoud, UNV Demographer and advisory services from two of its Advisors in the Country Support Team. The tables presented in this report as well as the original data gathered are being analyzed by the UNFPA Country Support Team in Suva, Fiji. A preliminary presentation based on this analysis was presented at the National Seminar on Population and Development in Majuro during 10-12 July 1995. An estimation of population parameters based on the tables given in this report has been prepared by Mr. Mohamoud Said Mohamoud UNV Demographer attached to the UNFPA assisted Population Focal Point at the Office of Planning and Statistics and is published separately.

The tables presented in this report must be interpreted cautiously since they come from a sample survey on a small population of about 50,000 people. Needless to say, when in doubt experts will use these results in conjunction with other available data such as the 1988 census on Population and Housing.

The successful completion of this survey has been the common result of the efforts of many individuals and organizations. We would like to thank His Excellency President Amata Kabua, his Cabinet and Nitijela for providing part of a funding for the survey, the Public Service Commission and Heads of Ministries for releasing some of their officers to serve as supervisors and interviewers.

We would like to thank Dr. H.M. Gunasekera for his contribution as the Manager of this project, Mr. Myint Thann for conducting the survey and analyzing the results, Mr. Mohamoud Said Mohamoud for jointly Co-ordinating the Survey and providing technical inputs from the demographic point of view, Mr. Takaji Abo, Officer-in-Charge of OPS for translating the questionnaire into Marshallese and managing the budget for the Survey, Mr. Jesse Riketa for collecting data for the sampling frame, Mr. Thomas Lokot for

translating the interviewer's manual into Marshallese. We also thank all the supervisors and interviewers whose names are given in the text of the report. We would like to thank the UNFPA for providing part of the funding needed for the project. The technical assistance given by Mr. Laurie Lewis UNFPA/CST Advisor on Census and Surveys and by Dr. William House Advisor on Population and Development Planning and Policy is gratefully acknowledged.



Jefferson B. Butuna  
Director/Chief Planner  
OPS



Phillip K. Kabua  
Chief Secretary

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the 1994 Multi-purpose Household Survey conducted by the Office of Planning and Statistics under the UNFPA assisted project MAS/92/PO1: "Establishing a National Focal Point at OPS for Improving Integrated Population and Development Planning and Policy Co-ordination". The survey was conducted by Mr. Myint Thann UNV Statistical Specialist in the Asian Development Bank Technical Assistance Project 1671-MAR: "Institutional Strengthening of the Office of Planning and Statistics". He was assisted by Mr. Mohamoud Said Mohamoud UNV Demographer in the UNFPA project.

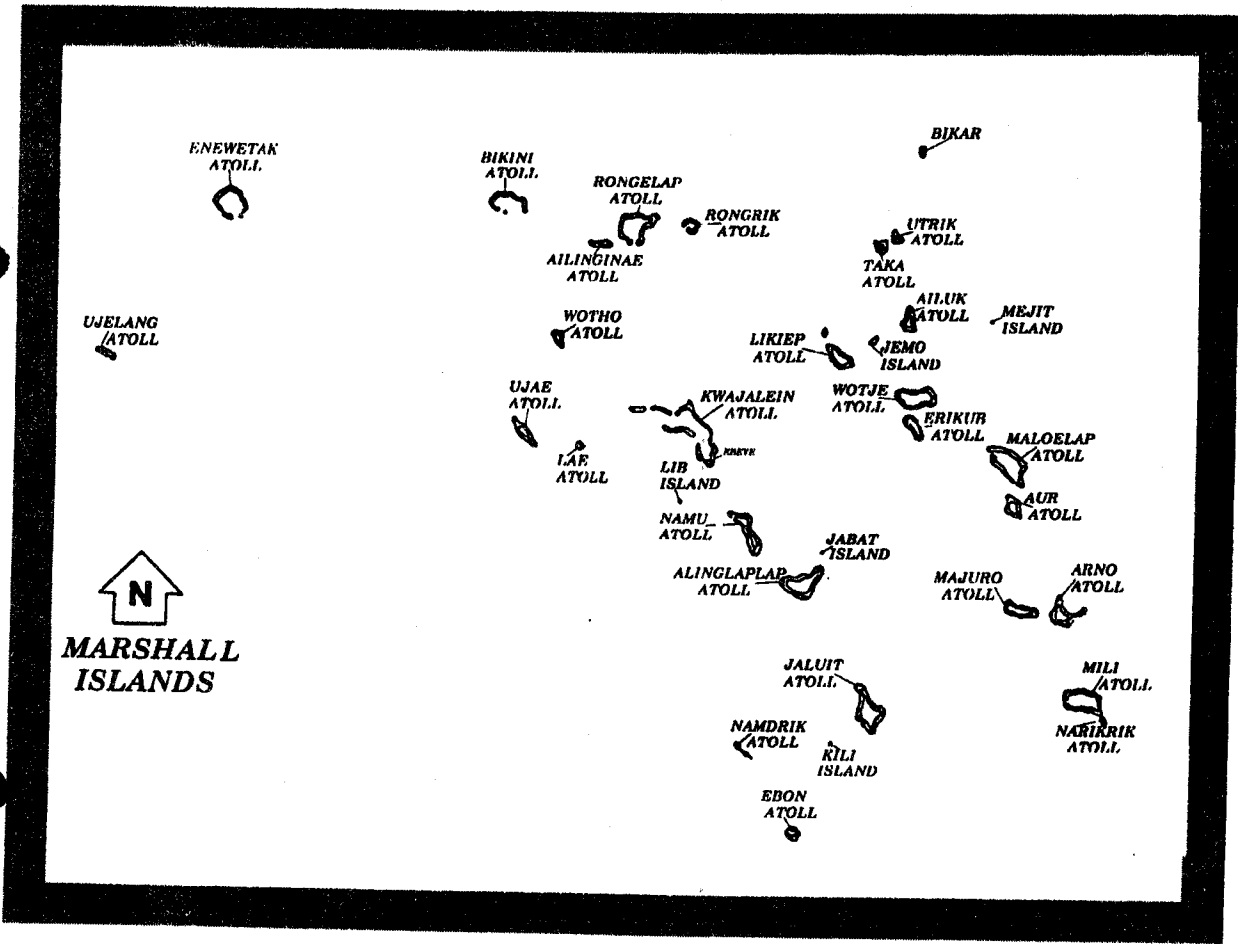
In this survey, the government of the Marshall islands has been able to successfully interface two technical assistance projects implemented through the Office of Planning and Statistics, namely, the above mentioned Asian Development Bank technical assistance project and the UNFPA project. The ADB technical assistance project's terms of reference included, inter alia, the following activity: "establishing a population policy unit within OPS to coordinate activities relating to the implementation of population policy as an integral part of the development planning process". The objective of the UNFPA Project was similar, as illustrated by its title given above. Hence, the Manager of the ADB project at OPS was able to function, in addition, as the Co-ordinator of the UNFPA project. Mr. Myint Thann was selected, over other candidates, as the UNV Statistical Specialist in the ADB project because of his experience in conducting surveys and his computer skills specifically to conduct this survey and to analyze its results. In view of the availability of Mr. Thann, the project's original plan to engage the services of a short term Consultant to design the survey was changed and it was mutually agreed between UNFPA and RMI government to use the resources thus saved to field a UNV population economist for the project.

Valuable inputs for the survey were received from various sources. I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency President Amata Kabua who is also the Minister responsible for the Office of Planning and Statistics for his assistance at all times during the survey including assistance in securing government funding for the project. Thanks are also due to Mr. Faysal Abdel Gadir, UNFPA Country Director South Pacific and UNFPA Program Officer Mrs. Urmila Singh for their support as well as for UNFPA funding. Support from the following organizations and persons is gratefully acknowledged. The Public Service Commission, especially its Chairman Mr. William Allen and the Chief Secretary Mr. Phillip K. Kabua kindly consented to make available the services of all government officials who took part in the survey. Working with the Project Co-ordinator, Dr. William House UNFPA/CST Advisor in Population and Development Planning and Policy and Mr. Laurie Lewis

UNFPA/CST Advisor in Census and Surveys made valuable inputs to the survey questionnaire as a result of which it became possible to give the survey its present multi-purpose character. In addition, Mr Lewis assisted in the training of supervisors.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Myint Thann, Mr. Mohamoud Said Mohamoud and all the supervisors and interviewers for the job well done. Last but not least, the support given by all OPS staff led by its Officer-in Charge Mr. Takaji Abo is gratefully acknowledged.

Dr. H.M. Gunasekera  
Manager, ADB T.A. Project 1671-MAR  
Co-ordinator, UNFPA Project MAS/92/PO1  
Office of Planning and Statistics  
Majuro, Marshall Islands MH 96960  
June 27, 1995



## About the report

This report is conceived as a technical report describing, and presenting the results of the Multi-Subject Household Survey conducted in October 1994. As such, it is not intended for the general public and therefore covers materials on design and execution of the survey than is needed for introducing results of the survey to the general user.

The report contains a comprehensive set of tables, estimates of sampling errors and background technical materials to cater to the needs of the analysts in subject-matter areas and survey statisticians. One difficulty with presenting the results of the survey, however, was foreseen from the outset. To begin with, Marshall Islands is a small country with a population of about fifty thousand living in about five thousand households. In such a situation, a sample survey of households or the population will necessarily be small, and will not meet the size necessary for looking at characteristics of households or individuals in detail. This survey was one such case.

In presenting the data the author was faced with the dilemma: whether, (i) to give tables with all the meaningful cross-classifications of various individual characteristics, or (ii) to leave out cross-tables with sparse data in many cells of the table, or to combine cross-classes as appropriate. The latter option is aimed at preventing the user of the results of the survey from misusing the tabulated results, as small number of units in a cell of the table would be associated with large sampling errors. Despite warnings of dangers of such misuse accompanying the survey reports, even the *technical* user may occasionally interpret and draw conclusions from the data in oblivion. Hence the justification for the latter practice.

Here I have chosen the first option. The reason for this is that by giving all the cross-tabulations, the user interested in designing surveys in the future will have more information at hand to base upon. On the other hand, the user interested in interpreting and using the tabulated results directly can combine the cross-classes as appropriate to come up with more reliable estimates. At all times the analyst, I hope, would be guided by the estimates of sampling errors and comments on non-sampling errors given in the report.

Myint Thann

Majuro, 27 March 1995

UNV Statistician

ADB TA Project 1671-MAR: Institutional Strengthening of the Office of Planning & Statistics

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