2.5   FIELDWORK AND DATA PROCESSING

Data collection for the 2021 Census was conducted from 10th October 2021 to 25th January 2022. The fieldwork comprised completing visitation records (VRs) and interviewing households. The VRs recorded the number of buildings, dwelling units and households in each enumeration area and the number of members in each household by sex. Household interviews were conducted using the census questionnaire (see Appendix 1).

There were 351 enumeration areas across the six (6) districts of the Cayman Islands, with each enumeration area consisting of approximately 100 households.

Fieldwork was managed by the ESO and involved a team of 354 enumerators, 68 field supervisors and 11 area coordinators. Area coordinators were assigned to each district, with George Town having five (5) while West Bay and Bodden Town had two (2) each. A field supervisor was assigned to an average of five (5) enumerators, while an enumerator was assigned one (1) enumeration area with few exceptions.

Each census worker undertook training sessions and evaluations before signing a service agreement with the ESO with strict confidentiality clauses. The one-week training sessions for area coordinators were conducted in the first week of August 2021. The enumerators had 10-day training sessions conducted for all districts beginning in the second week of August 2021. Field supervisors were selected from those who attended the enumerators' training and had two additional training sessions. All training sessions were based on the approved Census Manuals.

Census enumerators visited approximately 42,130 addresses during the enumeration period. Of these, 3,946 units were vacant; 434 units with verified (confirmed by neighbours) no contact after at least four attempts were made by enumerators, and 2,349 were temporary second homes/short-term rentals. The population count in this final report was tabulated from the responses of 29,699 households.

The summation of fully and partially completed household questionnaires as a ratio of total in-scope households (fully and partially completed, refusals and verified no contacts) resulted in a response rate of 96.7 percent for Census 2021.

After completing fieldwork, the significant activities comprised editing, coding, data capture and processing. Trained ESO staff and census workers worked on industry coding using the International Standard Industrial Classification (Revision 4). For occupations, a 6-digits Cayman Islands Classification of Occupations was used for a more detailed classification of occupations.
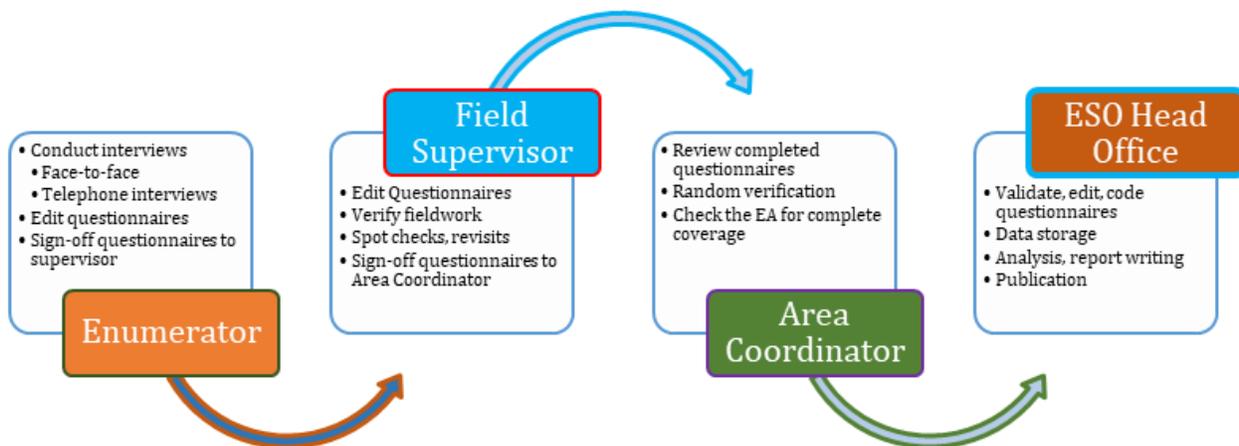
Census 2021 was conducted using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI)[6]. This was used to minimise human errors and improve the accuracy of data capture. These

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[6] A customized data capture software was designed by consultant Howard Hamilton.

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methods resulted in significant reductions in processing time and improved the reliability and timeliness of census results. Compared to traditional practices related to monitoring questionnaires, data entry, part of the computer editing and coding, and transmission of questionnaires are undertaken during the enumeration. This resulted in significant efficiencies and drastically reduced the time lag between data collection and analysis. CAPI electronic questionnaires allowed checkboxes for quickly selecting responses, pre-programmed automatic skips, and consistency checking during the interview. In addition, it enhanced information security and facilitated efficient data processing, timely release of results and ease of electronic data storage. Finally, the technology allowed easy data transmission between enumerators, field supervisors, area coordinators and the ESO.

Further data processing was also conducted in-house by ESO staff using Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Figure 2.5A: Census Fieldwork Process

2.6   CENSUS EXPENDITURE

The Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly approved the census budgetary appropriation as part of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development budget. The total budgeted expenditure for all census activities was estimated at $2,231,384, of which approximately 74 percent was for fieldwork and post-field work data processing. The rest of the expenses were for training, supplies, logistics and publicity. The estimated budget was based on 28,000 households; therefore, the estimated cost per covered household was $79.69. The actual expenditure outlay for the census was $2,196,325, and with the household count at 29,699, the actual cost per covered household was $73.95, of which approximately 78 percent was for fieldwork and post-field work data processing.