CHAPTER 1

#### POPULATION

This chapter presents statistics on the basic attributes of population such as the size and the growth of population, geographical distribution, sex and age composition and other related indicators. It also presents the population projection for the country by dzongkhag, sex, age group and area using 2017 population and housing census as the base population. The data on population is essential for formulation of plans and programs and resource allocation of the government.

The primary source of data on population is the population and housing census, which is conducted periodically. The Population and Housing Census in Bhutan was first conducted in May 2005 and the second round was conducted in May 2017 as per the UN standards. The Population and Housing Census provides a complete count of the population according to a range of characteristics such as demography, health, education and other social aspects.

**Concepts and Definitions**

**Crude Birth Rate:** Number of live births in a year per thousand population.

**General Fertility Rate:** Number of live births in a year per thousand women in the childbearing age (15 to 49).

**General Marital Fertility Rate:** A ratio of number of births to 1000 married women in the reproductive ages.

**Total Fertility Rate:** Average number of children born by women during their reproductive span of life.

**Gross Reproductive Rate:** Measures the extent to which a cohort of newly born girls will replace their mothers under pre-determined schedules of fertility and mortality.

**Crude Death Rate:** Number of deaths in a year per thousand population.

**Infant Mortality Rate:** Number of deaths during first year of life per thousand live births.

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** The annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births.

**Rate of Natural Increase:** The difference between the crude birth rate and the crude death rate.

**Dependency Ratio:** Measures the number of dependents as a percentage of population aged 15 to 64. Child dependency refers to children aged 0 to 14 years, while old age dependency refers to persons aged 65 and over.

**Index of Aging:** It is the number of persons aged 65 and over as a percentage of the number of persons aged 0 to 14.