

Lessons from the 2020 Round and Planning for the 2030 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa

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Road Map: 2020 Census Round (2015–2024) in Africa

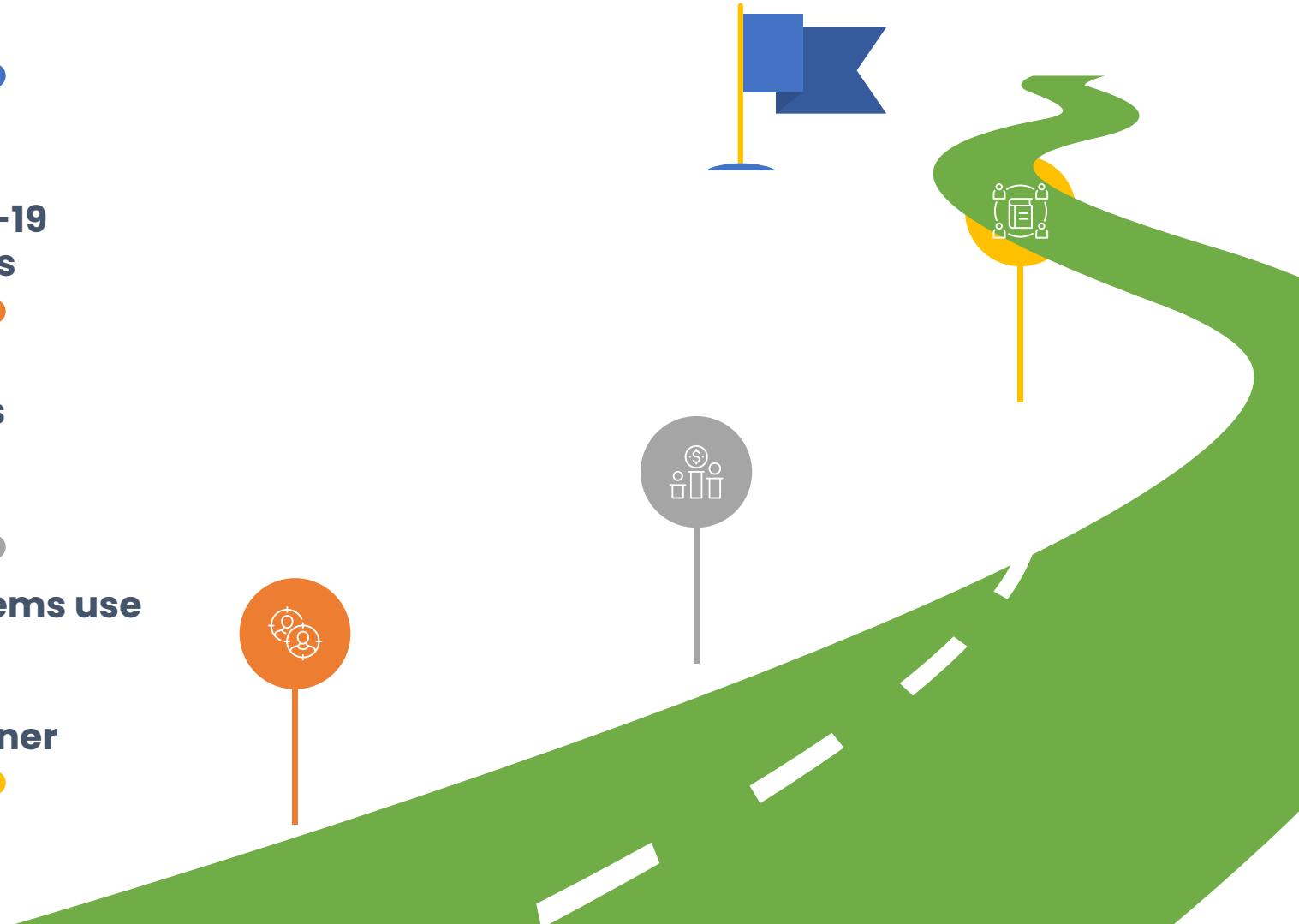
Every African Country to conduct a census during the period 2015–2024

Mitigate the adverse impact of budget deficits conflict, insecurity (wars) COVID-19 so that countries can undertake censuses within the 2020 round time frame

Adopt carefully planned, mixed methods for censuses, including combinations of traditional and Internet-based data collection and registry-based censuses

To transition from manual to digital systems use of better methods and new technologies, which will increase the reliability and accessibility of statistics in a timely manner

To consider new census methods for the 2030 round, including online, register-based, electronic and hybrid censuses



Background to the 2020 Round (2015 – 2024)

Key Resolutions

- ECA in collaboration with UNFPA & AfDB developed the 2020 Africa Programme on Population and Housing Censuses Decade (2015 – 2024) based on modernizing and digitalizing census processes.
- Pan-African institutions - ECA, AfDB and AUC with support from development partners – develop and implement the Africa Regional Program on Population and Housing Census;
- Re-emphasis at every bi-annual StatCom-Africa (between 2015 and 2024) for every African country to undertake a census during the Round
- Transforming and modernizing census process – moving from paper-based to digital systems

Achievements of the 2020 Round

41 out of 54 Countries conducted PHC

All these 41 countries managed to move to Digital Censuses

Demonstration of possibility to undertake censuses in emergencies through digitalization

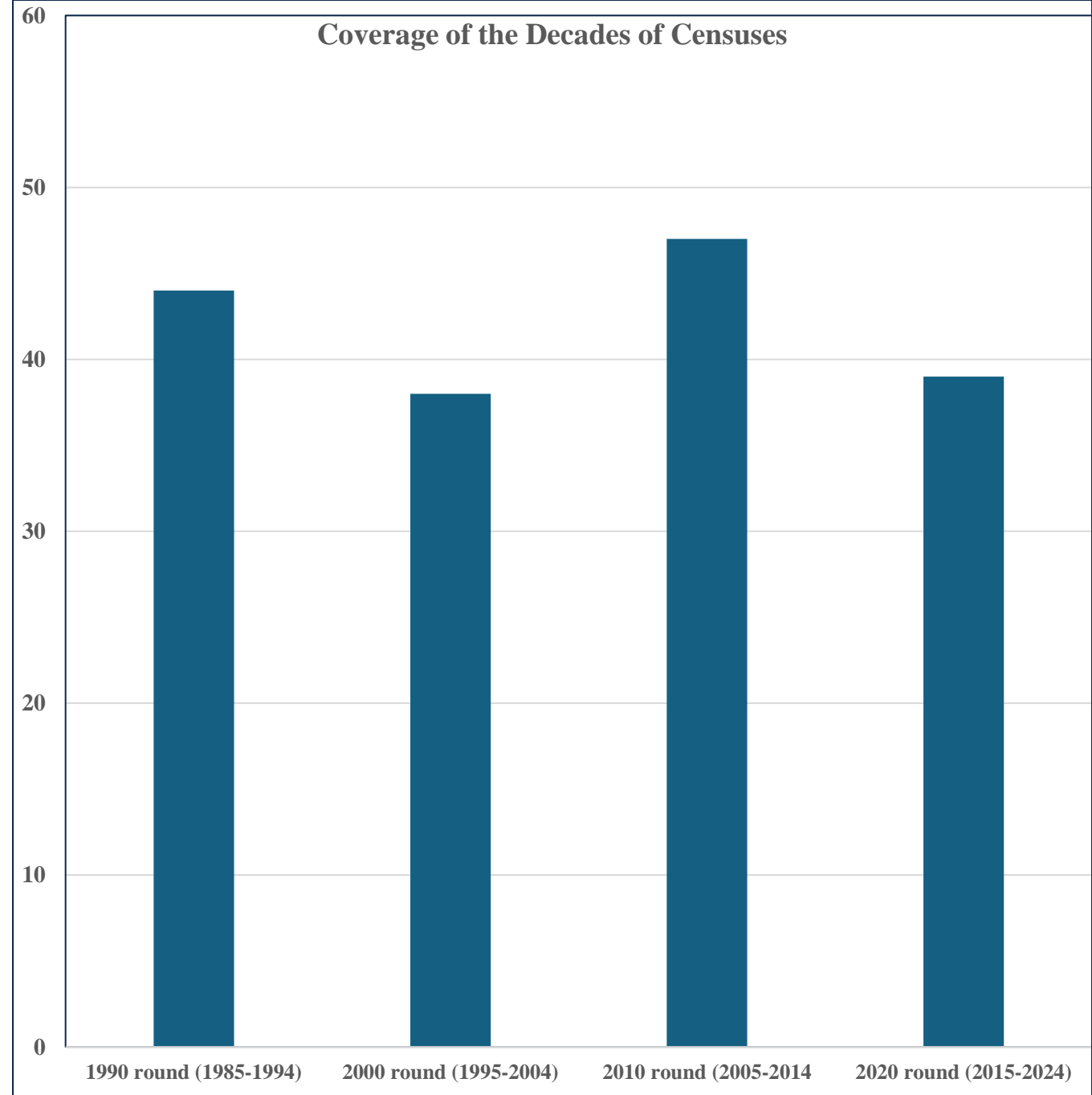
Tablet loaning and sharing scheme established

Developed IT applications to improve efficiency and quality of data

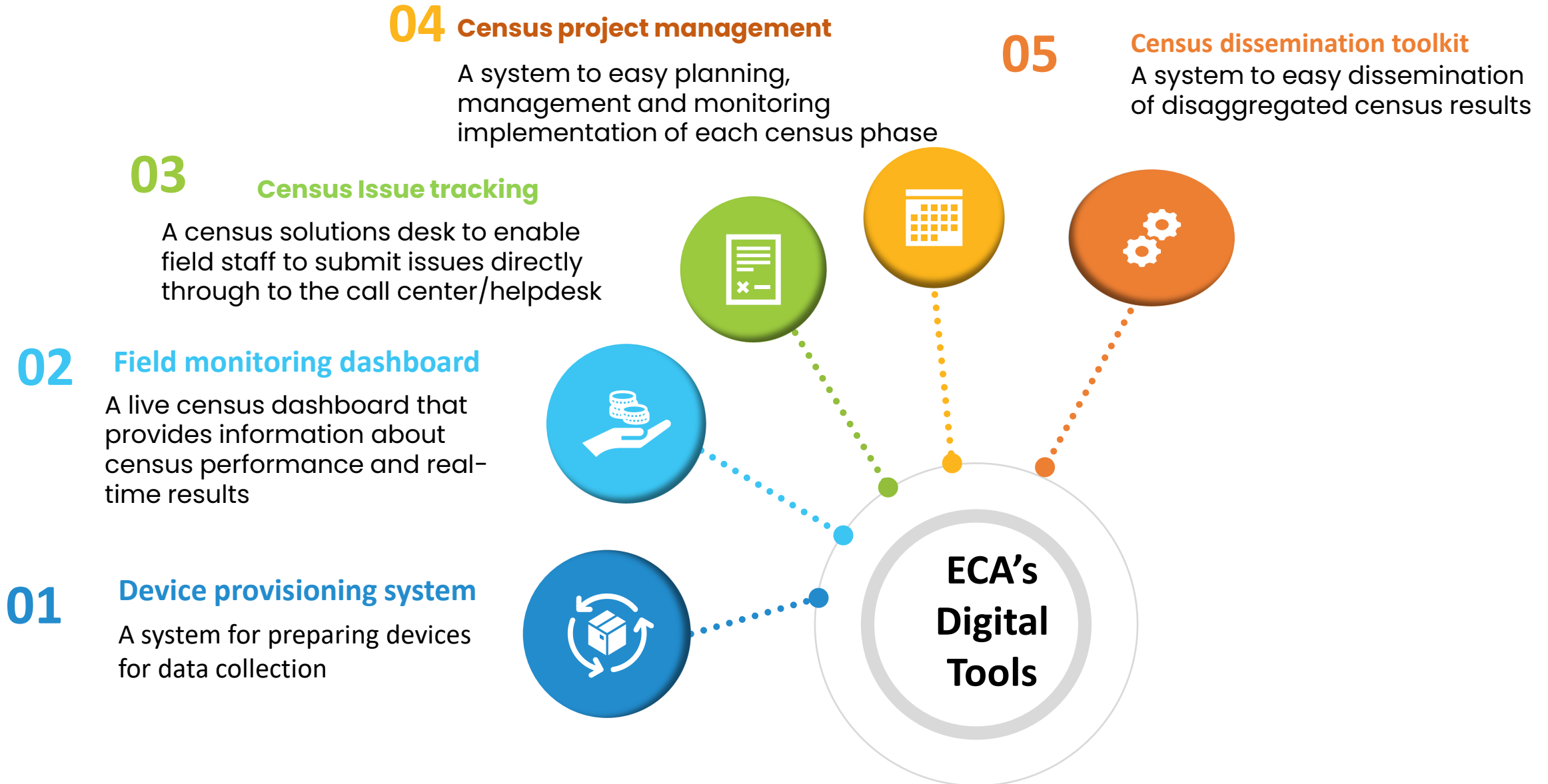
South to South Cooperation as a modality of technical assistance.

Census results released within 3 to 4 months

Population Projections based on 2020 Round as bases: Johannesburg and Dakar workshops



Innovative digital census tools developed for 2020 Round



Challenges in the 2020 Round

Significant impact of COVID19 on planning and operational issues

Limited and uncertain financial resources, increasing census costs

Procurement delays affecting timeliness

High non-response rates requiring extension of enumeration periods - managing public trust, perceptions about the census, political instability etc.

Recruiting, staff turnover and training of field staff

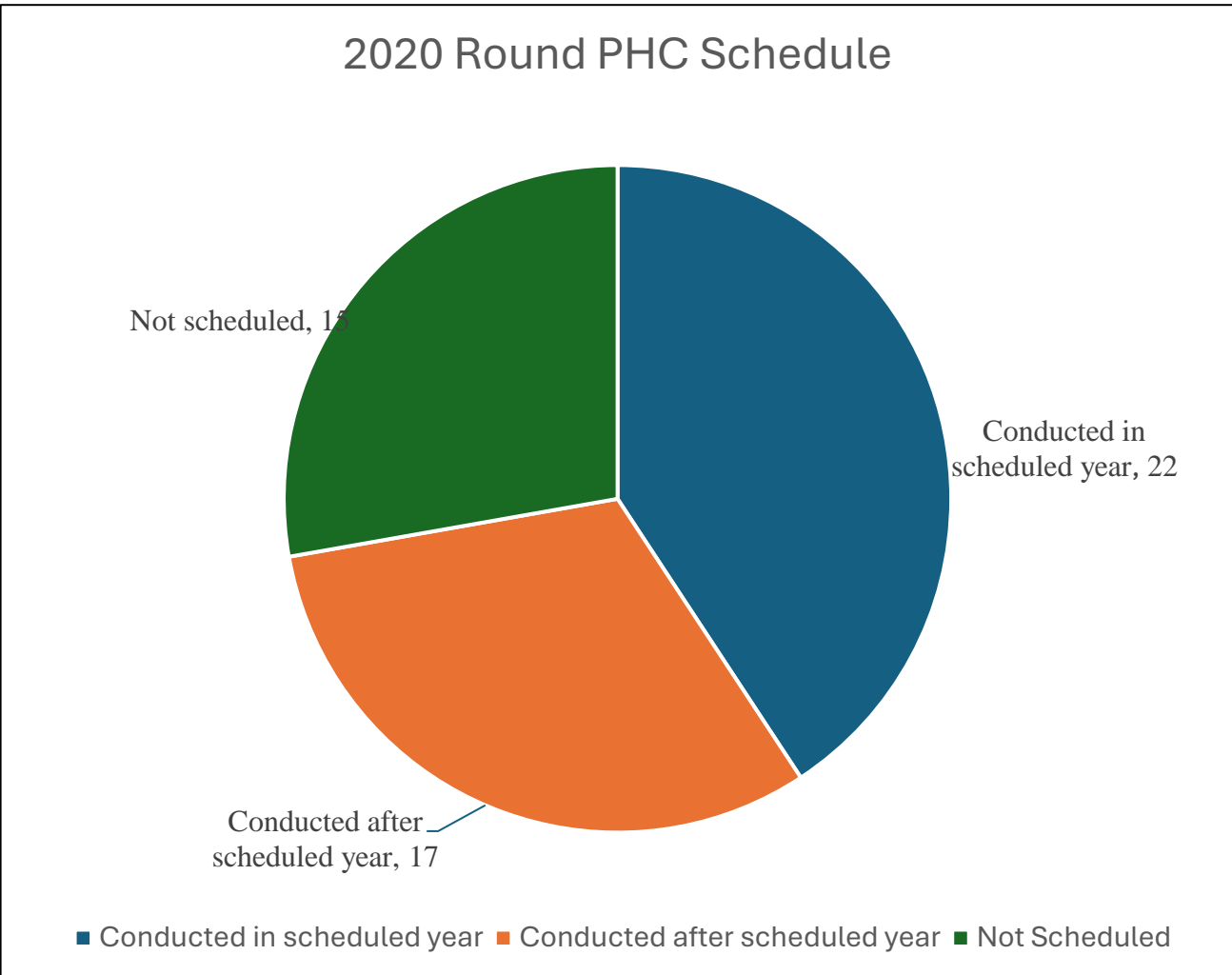
Improving coverage and data quality especially in hard-to-reach, slums, nomadic populations, disaster and crisis times etc.

Limited capability to implement new ICT & GIS technologies

Inadequate planning on the kind of technology to be used affected training and supply chains for equipment.

Limited use of georeferenced data in analysis and dissemination

Unfortunately, it is estimated that 1 in 3 Africans remain uncounted in the 2020 Round



Planning for the 2030 Census Programme

- UNFPA, AUC and ECA to support documentation of experiences in current census round to contribute to 2030 census round
- Within the context of 'building back better' from the disruptions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, African countries should transition to full digital systems for census undertaking in order to improve the reliability and accessibility of statistics in a timely manner
- Even though the use of population registers complemented by enumeration or sample surveys is untested in the continent, African countries should make investments to strengthen administrative records, including Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, in order to reduce disruptions to census undertaking in times of emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic
- There is need to focus on types of results that make a difference, on disaggregation, SDG reporting requirements... measure achievement of SDGs

Use of new technologies in the 2030 Round

African countries to adopt innovative approaches and strategies in every phase of the census – mapping, recruitment, training, data collection, analysis, dissemination, and use

Digital censuses enhance the timeliness of census data, hence their utility

Use of new technology also significantly improves quality of results and enhances potential for geospatial analysis

Moving to digital census requires careful consideration of design, planning and resourcing to maximize the value and mitigate risks such as sourcing

Recommendations

for

2030

1. African member states will integrate geospatial technology and artificial intelligence in census operations for improved data accuracy and coverage;
2. Development partners to support countries in post-census data analysis and dissemination to inform policy decisions.
3. StatCOM Africa and UNSC 56 acknowledge and declare the start of the 2030 Round in January 2025 and commit to every African country to undertake a Population and Housing Census in the round.
4. **Fully** transition from manual to digital systems that use better methods and new technologies, which will increase the reliability and accessibility of statistics in a timely manner
5. Mitigating the adverse impacts of pandemics and conflicts so that countries can undertake their censuses during the 2030 round
6. ECA, AUC, AfDB and UNFPA to jointly develop the 2030 Africa Programme on Population and Housing Censuses Decade (2025 – 2034).
7. Pan-African Institutions and the development partners to establish the African Committee on Census Coordination (ACCC) to coordinate their activities in providing technical assistance to Member States in conduction the censuses.
8. Development partners to support all countries to use the 2030 Round to prepare for the transitioning into administrative-based censuses in the 2040 Round – **Establishment of National Population Registers and Administrative Registers**