**Measuring SDG Indicators through Population and Housing Censuses[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Introduction**

Population and housing censuses play a vital role in the production of official statistics. They provide information on a wide range of demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population allowing detailed data disaggregation by small geographic areas and small population groups. They are also a fundamental data source for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Development Agenda requires reliable, robust, accessible and timely population and demographic data. Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals will depend on the availability of fundamental data on population size, growth, distribution and characteristics of populations, at all levels – local, national, regional and international level.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Agenda for Sustainable Development—the document promulgating the SDGs—on September 25, 2015. The global indicator framework for the monitoring of the new Agenda currently contains the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 accompanying targets and over 230 indicators, with many subject to full disaggregation. The data for these indicators will be based to a large degree on data from National Statistical Offices.

This draft document on *Measuring SDG Indicators through Population and Housing Censuses* aims to assist countries in structuring census questionnaires for the production of statistics for SDG monitoring. The UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3 and other UN guidelines emphasized the importance of integrating the 2020 round of censuses with the data gathering requirements for SDGs indicators.

The UN Statistics Division maintains a website to disseminate metadata for each SDGs indicator. The metadata include concepts and definitions, methodologies and data sources. The site is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/> .

To facilitate the implementation of the global indicator framework, all indicators are classified into three tiers on the basis of their level of methodological development and the availability of data at the global level, as follows:

* **Tier 1**: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.
* **Tier 2**: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.
* **Tier 3**: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

Metadata for Tier I and II indicators are available in the [metadata repository](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/). Tier III indicators require work plans to be developed outlining the methodological development of the indicators for approval by the IAEG-SDGs.

**List of SDG Indicators that can be measured through censuses**

The following table provides the list of SDG indicators which can be measured with population and housing statistics. For each indicator, this list also provides the relevant corresponding paragraph numbers in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3.

Please review each indicator and make an assessment as to whether the data needed for measuring it can be collected through a population and housing census.

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| SDGs and Indicators  | Tier | Paragraph Number in the P&R | Census Topics*C - Core topic**A – Additional topic**D - Derived topic* | Possibility to generate from censuses*V - Very likely**L - Likely**U - Unlikely* | GROUP 1 Comment |
| **Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere** |  |
| 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural) | I | 4.382-4.386 | A | U - 8 | All indicators are unlikely. There are other surveys conducted to collect this information. |
| 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age | I | 4.382-4.386 | A | U- 8 | All indicators are unlikely. There are other surveys conducted to collect this information. |
| 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in all its dimensions according to national definitions | II | 4.382-4.386 | A | U - 8 | All indicators are unlikely. There are other surveys conducted to collect this information. |
| 1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services (\*) | III |  | D | U - 8 | All indicators are unlikely. There are other surveys conducted to collect this information. |
| **Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages** |  |
| 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio | II | 4.255-4.257 | A | L- 2U- 6 | Unlikely as this information is available through Civil Registration. And does not want to burden the respondent further |
| 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate | I | 4.250-4.254 | C | L- 2U- 6 | Unlikely as this information is available through Civil Registration. And does not want to burden the respondent further |
| 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group  | I | 4.237-4.240 | C | L- 4U- 4 | Unlikely as this information is available through Civil Registration.Unlikely to lower the age due to sensitivity, non- response. |
| 3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution  | I | 4.352-4.355(ISCO-2008, Sub-major group 22 and 32) | C | L - 8 |  |
| **Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all** |  |
| 4.1.1 Proportion of children/young people (a) in grades 2/3, (b)at the end of primary, (c) at the end of lower secondary-minimum proficiency level in reading/mathematics | III | 4.271 and 4.276 | C | L- 7U- 1 | a, b can be collected. But difficult to measure c (this might come with additional questions) |
| 4.2.2 Participation in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age)*Definition: The participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex as defined as the percentage of children in the given age range who participate in one or more organized learning programme, including programmes which offer a combination of education and care. Participation in early childhood and in primary education are both included. The age range will vary by country depending on the official age for entry to primary education.* | II | 4.271ISCED level 0 | C | L- 4U- 4 |  |
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| 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum  organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country.  |

 | I | 4.352-4.355ISCO-2008 | C | L-8 | Difficult to measure (d) in census. Possible through survey |
| 4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex*Definition: The proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) and of adults (aged 15 years and above) have achieved or exceeded a given level of proficiency in (a) literacy and (b) numeracy. The minimum proficiency level will be measured relative to new common literacy and numeracy scales currently in development*.*Concepts: The fixed level of proficiency is the benchmark of basic knowledge in a domain (literacy or numeracy) measured through learning assessments. Currently, there are no common standards validated by the international community or countries. The indicator shows data published by each of the agencies and organizations specialised in cross-national learning assessments.* | II | 4.258-4.264 | C | L- 8 | Difficult to measure (b) in census. Possible through survey |
| **Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls** |  |
| 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 | II | 4.163 and 4.172 | C | V- 8 | Only for married women |
| 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions  | I | 4.352-4.355ISCO-2008 | C | V- 8 |  |
| **Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all** |  |
| 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services | I | 4.490-4.493 | C | V- 8 |  |
| 6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water*Definition: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water is currently being measured by the proportion of the population using a basic sanitation facility which is not shared with other households and where excreta is safely disposed in situ or treated off-site. ‘Improved’ sanitation facilities include: flush or pour flush toilets to sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines, ventilated improved pit latrines, pit latrines with a slab, and composting toilets. Population with a basic handwashing facility: a device to contain, transport or regulate the flow of water to facilitate handwashing with soap and water in the household.* | I | 4.498-4.500 | C | V- 8 | V given for ‘ using safely managed sanitation services’U given for ‘including a hand-washing facility with soap and water’ |
| **Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all** |  |
| 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity | I | 4.511-4.512 | C | V- 8 |  |
| 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology | I | 4.510 | C | V-6L- 2 |  |
| **Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all** |  |
| 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities | I | 4.321-4.322 | C | V- 5L- 3 |  |
| 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training | I | 4.312-4.320 and 4.265 | C | V- 8 |  |
| 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5‑17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age | I | 4.312-4.320 | A | L- 8 | Household based survey could be a better option |
| **Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation** |  |
| 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment | I | 4.356-4.359ISIC Rev4 | C | V- 8 |  |
| **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable** |  |
| 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing*Definition of a slum by Habitat: A household that lacks one or more of followings:*1. *Durable housing of a permanent nature*
2. *Sufficient living space-not more than three people share the same room*
3. *Easy access to safe water*
4. *Access to adequate sanitation*
5. *Security of tenure that prevents forced evictions*
 | I | 4.421-4.512 | C | V- 8 |  |
| **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development** |  |
| 17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration | I | NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES/CIVIL REGISTRATION AUTHORITIES  |  |
| **SDG Indicators which are not included in Core Topics or Additional Census Topics** |  |
| 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate | I | Census topic: Deaths among children born in the last 12 months **Additional question** for collecting data on date of death of last child born alive? |  |
| 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex  | II | **Additional question** to all individuals for determining who own a mobile telephone? |  |

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|  | Detail | Total Indicators |
|  | Number of indicators for which **Very likely** was given | 7 |
|  | Number of indicators for which **unlikely** was given  | 4 |
|  | Number of indicators for which **likely** was given | 3 |
|  | Number of indicators for which **mixed answers** was given | 12 |

1. Draft UNSD document for discussion. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)