



United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Conducting Population and Housing Censuses and on Census Data Quality Concerns

9-12 February 2021
8:00 am – 10:30 am New York time

Work Programme

Time	Topic
	9 February 2021
07:45-08:00	<i>Connection to the meeting link</i>
08:00-08:15	<p>Session 1 – Opening and administrative matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) • Introduction of participants • Logistical matters, including instructions on asking for the floor, mute mode, video use, etc. • Introduction of the programme of work
<i>Day 1 - The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on conducting population and housing censuses</i>	
08:15-08:35	<p>Session 2 – The results of the UNSD global surveys on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the implementation of population and housing censuses</p> <p>The results of the UNSD global surveys—conducted in 2020 to compile information on the impact of the pandemic on census activities—will be presented. The surveys asked questions on whether countries conducted or will conduct the current round of censuses as scheduled or delay the field enumeration. The surveys also collected information on the main challenges that countries are facing and how original census designs have been modified or are planned to be modified in response to the impact of the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by UNSD • Discussion
08:35-09:15	<p>Session 3 – Major changes in the design of population and housing censuses due to the Covid-19 pandemic</p> <p>This session aims to discuss the main difficulties in conducting censuses during the pandemic and the modifications countries have made to the originally planned activities/operations, focusing on census methodologies which require field work and data processing. The session will discuss the technologies or procedures used for reducing face-to-face interview and improving population coverage, such as: telephone interview and self-interview methods with online or paper questionnaire; use of administrative records; extension of the duration of enumeration; changes to census questionnaires; and, collection of information from proxy respondents for households that are not reached during the field enumeration. The session will extensively discuss the benefits and challenges of redesigning census activities in response to the impact of the pandemic.</p>

Time	Topic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Discussions
15 min	<i>Coffee break</i>
9:30-10:30	Session 3 – Major changes in the design of population and housing censuses due to the Covid-19 pandemic (continued)
	10 February 2021
<i>Day 2 - Census data quality concerns</i>	
08:00-09:15	<p>Session 4 – Assessment of data quality for censuses conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic</p> <p>This session will discuss the potential errors in census data caused as a result of modifications in census procedures and the pandemic protocols. The session will discuss the actions or procedures implemented by countries—particularly in the phases of field enumeration and data processing—in order to improve the quality of the count and characteristics of the population.</p> <p>The session will address the following questions: what methods are used for measuring under/over-coverage; what population groups are at high risk for under/over-coverage; how countries benefitted from use of administrative records in improving the quality of the population count; how data collected partly from field work and partly from administrative records are merged; what methods are used for imputing non-responses; and, when the duration of enumeration has been extended for several months, how census reference time can be addressed in quality assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Discussions
15 min	<i>Coffee break</i>
9:30-10:30	Session 4 – Assessment of data quality for censuses conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic (continued)
	11 February 2021
<i>Day 3 - Considerations for Data Analysis and Communication with Users</i>	
08:00-09:15	<p>Session 5 – Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on data analysis and comparability over time</p> <p>This session will discuss the potential challenges in comparing the results of 2020 round of censuses conducted in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic with those from previous censuses. The pandemic is expected to potentially affect some census measures such as fertility and mortality, international and internal migration, and labor force and schooling activities. The impact of the pandemic may create census results that significantly deviate from those of previous censuses, and that could negatively affect data comparability over time. Hence, analysis of census results will be critical for informing data users about the impacts of the pandemic on census results. The session will address</p>

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	<p>the importance of metadata and communication strategies to inform data users about the effects of the pandemic on census results and their interpretation.</p> <p>Furthermore, the session will also discuss the advantages and challenges of using 2020 round census results in exploring changes in demographic, social and economic characteristics before and after the arrival of the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Discussions
15 min	<i>Coffee break</i>
09:30-10:30	Session 5 – Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on data analysis and comparability overtime (continued)
12 February 2021	12 February 2021
Day 4 - Lessons Learned and Recommendations	<i>Day 4 - Lessons Learned and Recommendations</i>
08:00-09:15	<p>Session 6 – Conclusions and recommendations</p> <p>This session will summarize the outcome of the discussions in the form of a set of conclusions and recommendations. The conclusions and recommendations—which will be drafted by UNSD—will be reviewed and enhanced through discussion. The outcomes of this meeting will be shared with all national organizations responsible for conducting 2020 round of censuses.</p>
15 min	<i>Coffee break</i>
09:30-10:30	<p>Session 7 – Way forward and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNSD is planning to conduct a series of meetings over the year to discuss the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the implementation of census activities. Participants are welcomed to make suggestions for future activities. • Closing remarks