



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

New York from 12 to 14 December 2022

Conference Room 8, UNHQ

Draft Work Programme

The three-day in-person meeting will be held from 12 to 14 December 2022, from 9:15 AM to 5:00 PM New York time on day 1 and 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM on day 2 and 3.

Monday, 12 December 2022

Time	Topic
9:15 – 10:00	<p>Pass pick up</p> <p>Meet UNSD staff in the lobby of the DC-2 Building (2 UN Plaza) at 323 E. 44th St. (between 1st/2nd Ave.) at 9:15 am on Monday, 12 December 2022 to obtain your UNHQ grounds pass. See the NY resource guide for a map of the location, please bring your passport for verification purposes.</p> <p>UNSD staff will direct participants to the meeting venue in Conference Room 8.</p>

<p>10:00 – 11:00</p>	<p>Opening and administrative matters</p> <p>Opening remarks by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Round table Introduction of participants Logistical matters.</p> <p>Session 1: Monitoring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the implementation of population and housing censuses</p> <p>UNSD will present its activities on the impacts of the pandemic on the implementation of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses and briefly summarize the results of the UNSD survey(s) on the impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 round of population and housing censuses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by UNSD • Discussion
<p>11:00 – 11:15</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>11:15 – 12:30</p>	<p>Session 2: The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on census operations - Innovations, adjustments, and operational challenges</p> <p>This session aims to discuss innovative approaches in conducting population and housing censuses to reduce the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the implementation of censuses and major operational challenges.</p> <p>Presentations from countries on the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on census operations will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative approaches in conducting census operations during the pandemic, including adoption of new technology, using multi-mode data collection modes, online training and data collection, management, and monitoring. • Potential adjustments in the census questionnaires for some topics to obtain data that could allow better analysis of the effects of Covid-19 on census measurements or adding new questions related to the pandemic. • Operational challenges, mitigation strategies and contingency planning undertaken by countries during the pandemic. <p>Countries that conducted their census under the pressure of the pandemic conditions, have faced challenges to enumerate population with face-to-face interview and used more than one data collection mode including online questionnaire for self-enumeration to reduce direct contact with respondents as well as for improving the coverage of population.</p> <p>Census-taking during the pandemic resulted in the introduction of other actions to minimize the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the conduct of their population and housing censuses, such as the use of personal protective equipment</p>

	<p>(PPEs) for field staff; enhanced publicity campaigns to inform the public and increase awareness and safety about COVID-19, education campaigns to inform the population about new modes of data collection, as well as online training for field staff.</p> <p>Furthermore, some countries had to modify census questionnaire include new questions and/or response categories related to the Covid-19 pandemic and provide additional guidance to support respondents in answering questions in the context of the pandemic.</p> <p>Country Presentations and Discussion</p>
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch
2:00 – 3:15	<p>Session 2 (continued): The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on census operations - Innovations, adjustments, and operational challenges</p> <p>Country Presentations and Discussion</p>
3:15 – 3:45	Coffee Break
3:45 – 5:00	<p>Session 2 (continued): The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on census operations - Innovations, adjustments, and operational challenges</p> <p>Country Presentations and Discussion</p>

Tuesday, 13 December 2022

Time	Topic
10:00 -10:10	Introduction to day 2: Recap of the presentations from day 1 and introduction of the topics for discussion on day 2 (UNSD)
10:10 – 11:00	<p>Session 3: Addressing data quality concerns</p> <p>Data quality is a major concern regarding censuses conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, implementation of social distancing rules could discourage people from participating in the census, particularly if face-to-face interview is the only option available to them. Recent modifications in census procedures, such as introducing multi-mode data collection or extending the duration of the enumeration period may increase the risk of under-coverage of certain population groups.</p> <p>This session will discuss overall quality issues involving censuses conducted during the pandemic, addressing all dimensions of quality (relevance, accuracy, timeliness, comparability, accessibility, interpretability). The session will also discuss methods and indicators that have been used or planned to be used for assessing the quality of census processes as well as census results in terms of coverage and content errors.</p>

	<p>Country presentations will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on overall quality of population and housing censuses • Methods and indicators that can be used for measuring the quality of census processes and data. • Mitigation strategies during census processing to ensure representation of census data and build trust in the validity of census results <p>Country Presentations and Discussion</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Session 3(continued): Addressing data quality concerns</p> <p>Country Presentations and Discussion</p>
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch
2:00 – 3:15	<p>Session 4: The effects of the pandemic on census results and its comparability overtime</p> <p>This session will discuss the potential challenges when comparing the results of 2020 round of censuses with previous censuses due to the impacts of the pandemic. The pandemic could affect some census measures such as international and internal migration, mortality and fertility, labor force and schooling activities. Such impacts may create temporary deviation from previous censuses and therefore users should be informed about this situation. There is also possibility that censuses conducted during the pandemic may not be able to produce reliable data and therefore should be integrated with other data sources.</p> <p>The session will discuss what census topics will particularly be affected and require special attention for data analysis to see if there is any unexpected results or patterns in census data. The session will also discuss mitigation strategies for ensuring data comparability overtime.</p> <p>Country presentations will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) How the pandemic affected the results of census data on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International and internal migration • Mortality and fertility • Economic characteristics of population, such as employment, unemployment, place of work, other topics b) Mitigation strategies to produce reliable data allowing comparability overtime c) Main messages to users regarding comparability of census results

	<p>Presentations from the following countries: (20 minutes each)</p> <p>Country Presentations and Discussion</p>
3:15 – 3:45	Coffee Break
3:45 – 5:30	<p>Session 4: The effects of the pandemic on census results and its comparability overtime (continued)</p> <p>Presentations from the following countries/agencies: (20 minutes each)</p> <p>Country Presentations and Discussion</p>

Wednesday, 14 December 2022

Time	Topic
10:00 – 10:10	Introduction to day 2: Recap of the presentations from day 1 and introduction of the topic for day 3: (UNSD)
10:10 – 11:30	<p>Session 5: Incorporating the lessons from the pandemic into international recommendations for the 2030 round of population and housing censuses.</p> <p>Day 3 will focus on lessons which improve the resilience of the census during times of crisis, such as natural disasters or health crisis. Participants will discuss in smaller groups the lessons from the pandemic for future census planning, which will be incorporated into the development of guidance for the next round of population and housing censuses. This discussion will focus on the importance of building resilience in census operations to adapt to unforeseen events and be more responsive to emerging and unforeseen data needs during times of crisis.</p> <p>Session 5a: Discussion topic 1: Risk management and resilience</p> <p>Brief presentation/introduction on creating an enabling environment for risk management and resilience.</p> <p>Countries break into groups and share ideas and examples from their national experience that can improve census resilience including approaches to risk management in the context of census operations.</p> <p>Overall question:</p> <p><i>How can lessons learnt from the pandemic be incorporated into future census planning?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What would be the strategies to better deal with disruptions and external shocks to census operations?</i> • <i>What role can census managers have in improving responsiveness and ensuring resilience and consistency across time?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can disruptions or unseen events provide opportunities to be more responsive to urgent data needs? For example, extending the reference period for household deaths, or asking questions on vaccinations, or targeting additional questions to impacted areas.</i> • <i>What are the key lessons?</i> <p>Group discussions on the topic question (60 minutes)</p> <p>Report back of key issues/lessons (10 minutes)</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:00	Session 5a (continued)
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 5b: Discussion topic 2: Increased use of technology and administrative data sources</p> <p>Introduction on the increased use of technology and administrative data sources in the census</p> <p>Countries break into groups and share examples from their national experience. Examples could include the introduction or increased use of online questionnaires, increased use of administrative data or shifting towards a combined or fully register-based census.</p> <p><i>Overall question 1: Considering your national context, how feasible is the adoption of online questionnaires (CASI) to reduce direct contact with respondents?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What stage is your country at in adopting online questionnaires?</i> • <i>What are the barriers and challenges to adopting this approach?</i> • <i>What would be required to support this change for the next census round?</i> <p><i>Overall question 2: Considering your national context, how feasible is adopting new methods that utilize administrative data to enhance census operations and census outputs?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What stage is your country at in using administrative data in the context of the population and housing census?</i> • <i>What are the barriers to adopting administration data?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What would be required to support the increased use of administrative data in the next census round?</i> <p>Group discussions on the topic questions (60 minutes) Report back of key issues/lessons (10 minutes)</p>
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch
2:00 - 3:00	Session 5b: (continued)
3:00 – 4:00	<p>Conclusions and recommendations This session will discuss and summarize the major conclusions and recommendations of the meeting based on the presentations made and discussions held over the three days.</p> <p>The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting will be drafted by UNSD and shared with all national statistical organizations responsible for conducting 2020 round censuses.</p> <p>Report back on the conclusions and recommendations from the meeting</p>
4:00 – 4:15	Coffee Break
4:15 – 5:30	<p>Future work and closing remarks (UNSD)</p> <p>Evaluation of the meeting</p>