United Nations Regional Workshop on the 2020 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses for Arabic-speaking Countries

5-8 December 2022

Algiers, Algeria

PROVISIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

Time	Topic
	DAY 1 **5 December 2022**
09:00 - 09:45	**Session 1 – Opening and administrative matters** - Opening remarks by: Minister of Digitization and Statistics of Algeria, UNSD, UNESCWA, UNFPA, AITRS - Introduction of participants - Administrative and logistical matters - Security brief - Introduction of the programme of work
09:45 - 10:30	**Session 2 – Global and regional programmes in support of 2020 round population and housing censuses** The session will introduce the objectives of the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and UNSD's activities to strengthen the capacity of National Statistical Offices and Census Agencies in conducting population and housing censuses. This session will also provide an overview of the programmes and activities of UNESCWA, UNFPA and AITRS in support of census-taking in the 2020 round. - Presentations by UNSD, UNESCWA, UNFPA, AITRS - Discussion
10:30 - 10:45	*Coffee break*
10:45 - 12:30	**Session 3 – Status of census-taking in Arabic-speaking countries** The session gives opportunity for Arabic-speaking countries to present their plans and/or implementation of their 2020 round censuses. Each country will be given five (5) minutes to brief and discuss any aspect of their 2020 round census, while highlighting successes achieved and challenges encountered. - Country presentations: ALL COUNTRIES - Discussion
12:30 - 01:30	*Lunch break*
	Quality assurance in all phases of the census
01:30 - 03:30	**Session 4 – Quality assurance in population and housing censuses** The session provides an overview of international recommendations and standards on quality assurance in population and housing censuses. The session stresses on the importance of a comprehensive quality assurance programme incorporated in all phases of the census. It reviews the objectives and planning aspects of monitoring the quality of census processes and the evaluation of data quality. The session gives opportunity for the presentation of 2020 round national plans for quality assurance of main census processes and data quality as well as discussion of challenges in undertaking quality assurance programmes. - Presentation by UNSD

	- Country presentations: Algeria, Djibouti, Mauritania, Palestine, Tunisia - Discussion
03:30 - 03:45	*Coffee break*
03:45 - 05:00	**Session 5 – Evaluation of the quality of census processes and census data** The session emphasizes the importance of evaluating census processes and census data, taking into consideration various dimensions of quality. Census data quality is the outcome of census processes, and deficiencies in census processes usually result in deficiencies in data quality. The session will underscore the importance of sound institutional arrangements and establishing systems to monitor the outcomes of census processes. The session will give focus to assuring quality in the following main census processes: mapping, topic selection and questionnaire design, field operation, data processing, dissemination, evaluation, and documentation. The session will also review methods for evaluating data quality (in terms of census coverage and content errors) such as the post-enumeration survey (PES), demographic methods and other methods based on the comparison of census data with data from other sources. - Presentation by UNSD, UNFPA - Country presentations: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine - Discussion
	DAY 2 **6 December 2022**
	Impact of COVID-19 on population and housing censuses and on data quality
09:00 - 09:45	**Session 6 – Monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of population and housing censuses** UNSD will present its ongoing activities on monitoring the impacts of the pandemic on the implementation of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses. The results of the UNSD global surveys will be presented. Furthermore, highlights of the conclusions and recommendations from two expert group meetings convened by UNSD on the impact of COVID-19 on census-taking will be shared. - Presentation by UNSD - Discussion
09:45 - 10:45	**Session 7 – Potential adjustments in census questionnaires and census procedures to reduce the impacts of Covid-19** The session aims to discuss changes in census questionnaires (including additional instructions and guidance to support enumerators and respondents) and modifications to original census procedures made in order to mitigate the impact of COIVD-19. The session will discuss the potential need to make adjustments in census questionnaires (in reference to certain topics deemed susceptible to the impact of COVID-19 such as those topics related to internal and international migration, labor force participation, school attendance, and mortality) in order to collect data that could allow better analysis of the effects of COVID-19. The session will also discuss modifications made to census methodologies, technologies and census procedures in order to reduce face-to-face interviews and to improve population coverage. The session will extensively discuss the benefits and challenges of redesigning census activities in the context of the COIVD-19 pandemic. - Country presentations: Algeria, Morocco - Discussion
10:45 - 11:00	*Coffee break*
11:00 - 12:30	**Session 8 – Assessment of quality of censuses conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic** This session will discuss quality issues involving censuses conducted during the pandemic. Census coverage and quality could be impacted by social distancing rules that could discourage some people from participating in the census, particularly if face-to-face interview is the only option available to them. The introduction of new data collection modes to reduce direct contact with respondents or extensions to the duration of the enumeration period may also affect census data quality. The pandemic could also affect census results related to topics such as international and internal migration, labor

	force participation and schooling activities. Analysis of census results is thus critical to measure the impact of the pandemic, including on comparability of census results over time. The session will address indicators that could be used for assessing quality. Such indicators may include: response rate for each mode of data collection and percentage of unresolved cases; the number of attempts for enumerating non-response cases; and, duration of completing online questionnaire or interview. The session will also discuss what census topics will particularly be affected and require special attention for data analysis. - Country presentations: Oman, Qatar - Discussion
12:30 - 01:30	*Lunch break*
01:30 - 02:45	**Session 9 – Group discussion** Group discussions will be held on two themes: i) Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on census data analysis and comparability over time ii) Challenges of census-taking in humanitarian crisis and conflict situations
02:45 - 03:00	*Coffee break*
03:00 - 5:00	**Session 9 – Group discussion (continued)** Group discussion leaders will summarize and present the main points of discussion.
	DAY 3 **7 December 2022**
	Registers-based censuses
09:00 - 10:45	**Session 10 – Introduction to the *Handbook on Registers-based Population and Housing Censuses*, and moving to a registers-based approach** This session will introduce the recently drafted *Handbook on Registers-based Population and Housing Censuses*. It will review the structure and content of the handbook which contains useful information on transitioning from the traditional census to approaches involving the use of registers to generate census-like statistics. The session will also review and discuss the necessary preconditions for the use of administrative registers for producing census-like statistics. The session will provide an overview of the main difficulties and challenges to move to a combined or register-based census. The session will provide the opportunity for countries to share national plans and experience in transitioning to a registers-based approach. - Presentation by UNSD - Country presentations: Egypt, Jordan, Palestine - Discussion
10:45 - 11:00	*Coffee break*
11:00 - 12:30	**Session 11 – Types of administrative data sources** This session will review the requirements of the base registers and use of the other specialized registers for the purpose of deriving census information. It provides extensive discussions on population registers, its role in identity management and the importance of civil registration and vital statistical system in updating population registers. The session will provide the opportunity for countries to share national plans and experience in the utilization of various sources of administrative data sources. - Presentation by UNSD - Country presentations: Oman, Qatar - Discussion
12:30 - 01:30	*Lunch break*
01:30 - 02:45	**Session 12 – Transforming administrative data into census data** The session will discuss how the data held in the administrative registers are transformed into a statistical database, focusing on alternative approaches in building a statistical population register and the process of constructing integrated registers. The session will review issues related to data linkages, how to deal with duplications, resolve conflicts, how to update data using signs of life and editing and

	imputation for the production of census information. The session will provide the opportunity for countries to share national plans and experience in transforming administrative data into census data. - Presentation by UNSD - Country presentations: Oman, Qatar - Discussion
02:45 - 03:00	*Coffee break*
03:00 - 5:00	**Session 13 – Quality assessment** The session will discuss the assessment of the quality of data obtained from registers with the aim of producing good quality statistical outputs as measured against a number of standard quality-related dimensions. It will review key dimensions of quality and the four stages of quality assessment in the census (source quality, input quality, process quality and output quality). The session will discuss key tools and indicators that can be utilized to quantify quality at each of these stages. The session will provide the opportunity for countries to share national plans and experience in assessing the quality of data obtained from registers. - Presentation by UNSD - Country presentations: Oman, Qatar - Discussion
	DAY 4 **8 December 2022**
	Roundtable discussions
09:00 - 11:00	**Session 14 – Roundtable discussions on census topic(s) of specific interest to Arabic-speaking countries** The roundtable will discuss specific topic(s) pertinent to census-taking among Arabic-speaking countries. The participating countries will be solicited to determine which topic(s) are pertinent to successfully implement their 2020 round censuses. i) Definition of usual residence in population censuses ii) Measuring international migration in population censuses iii) Use of Internet for self-enumeration iv) Methodology for estimating population in areas difficult to enumerate due to humanitarian crisis/conflict situations
10:45 - 11:00	*Coffee break*
11:00 - 12:30	**Session 14 – Roundtable discussions on census topic(s) of specific interest to Arabic-speaking countries (continued)**
12:30 - 01:30	*Lunch break*
	Closing
01:30 - 02:45	**Session 15 – Conclusions and recommendations**
02:45 - 03:00	*Coffee break*
03:00 - 05:00	**Session 16 – The way forward and closing**