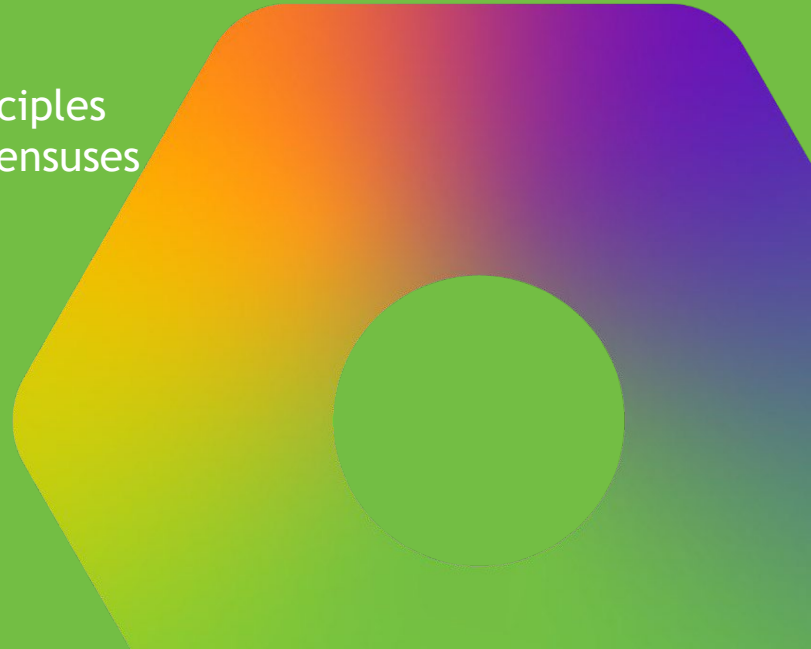


UNFPA Technical and Operational Support to 2020-round Censuses: Key Challenges

1st Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Principles
and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses
23-25 May 2023



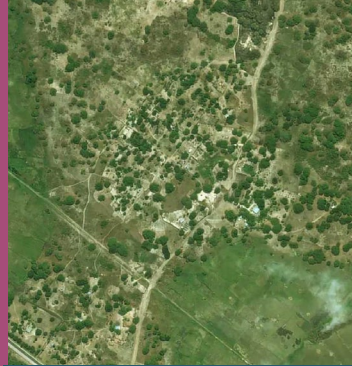
UNFPA's support to 2020-round PHCs

Handheld devices

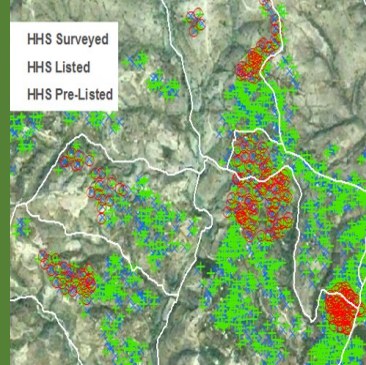


Digital cartography & use of satellite imagery

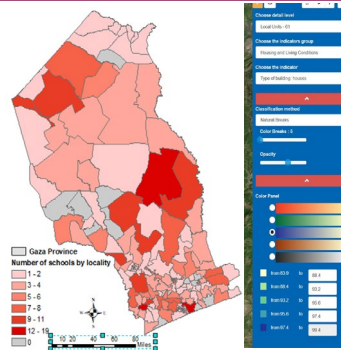
Mixed methods



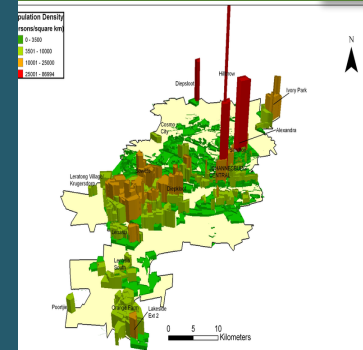
GIS to improve census quality - Real-time monitoring



GIS in census, analysis & dissemination



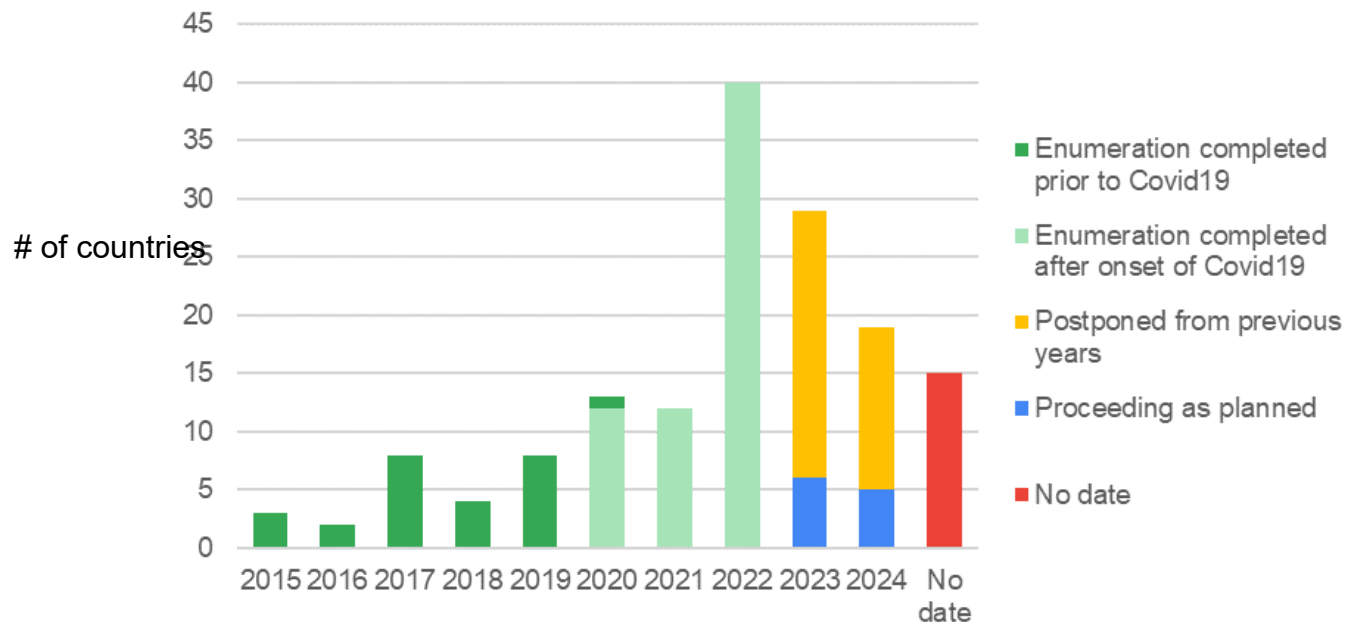
Wider use of census data- e.g. to generate SDG data



Population estimates, where needed

Major delays in census implementation

2020-round census implementation schedule in UNFPA Program Countries

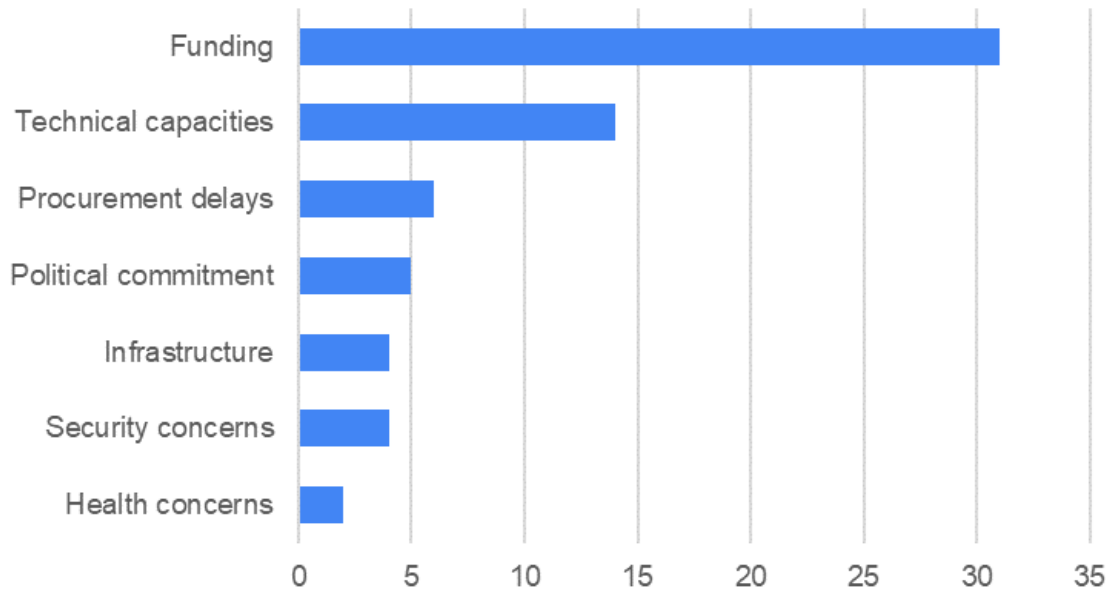


(n=153)

Source: UNFPA Global Census Tracker

Availability of funding remains a major challenge

Key challenges reported by UNFPA Program Countries (# of countries)

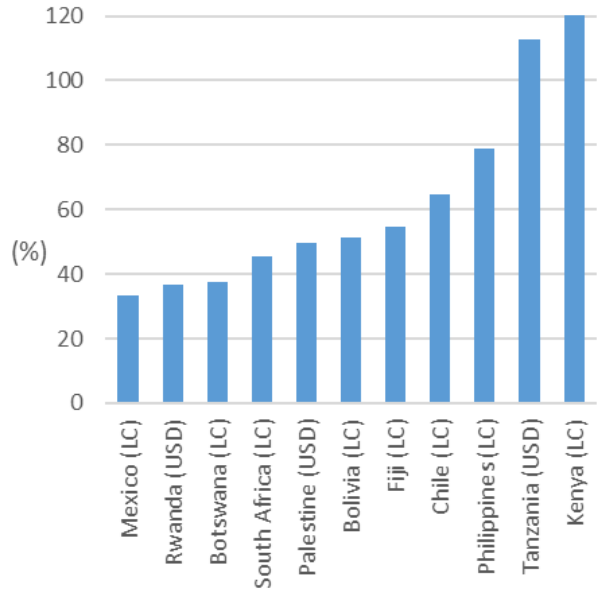


(n=63)

Source: UNFPA Global Census Tracker

Rising census costs

Change in nominal census cost between 2010- and 2020-round census (%)



- Increasing census costs in many countries
- Population growth pushing up the cost of census enumeration

Note: LC=Local Currency; USD=US Dollars

Source: Own calculations on nationally reported data



Technical challenges

- Multi-mode data collection methodologies, especially with regards to consolidation of responses from different methodologies
- Limited capabilities to adopt new ICT & GIS technologies
- Inter-operability of census and administrative data sources
- Staff turnover
- Significant impact of Covid of population distribution
- High non-response rates requiring extension of enumeration periods
- Difficulty of comparing results with previous censuses (e.g. change from de facto to de jure)
- Limited use of georeferenced data in analysis and dissemination

Other challenges

Operational

- Uncertainty and delays in budget availability
- Disruption in global supply chains delaying census procurements
- Covid-19 limiting access and deployment of enumerators

Political / Institutional

- Political instability (e.g. Haiti, Sahel & Horn of Africa)
- Politicization of census results
- Use of social media (fake news)
- Mistrust of external software applications



Looking ahead: some lessons for the 2030 census round

- Deteriorating global financing landscape for official statistics: need to identify cost-efficient approaches for census processes
- Opportunities to leverage administrative data in census processes
- Importance to maximize the use of census data, including georeference data, in census dissemination
- Positioning the census as a source of climate and humanitarian data in crises-affected countries

Thank you!