

Expert Group Meeting on Revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses for 2030 Round
23-25 May 2023

Summary of feedback received from Expert Group members

Key concepts and definitions

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General comments

- Is there a need to revise/update the definitions of "pop census" & "housing census"?

Yes – 23 % (9 persons out of 39)

- Is there a need to revise/update these essential features of the census?

Yes – 34 % (13 persons out of 38)

- Is there a need to revise the strategic objectives of the census?

Yes – 21 % (8 out of 39)

- Is there a need to revise/update the criteria associated with the definition of the place of usual residence?

Yes – 36 % (13 out of 36)



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why the definition of ‘ **population and housing census**’ should be revised?

- If a census collects information **only for population count**, how it should be called?
- The word "**analyzing**" **can be removed** –outside the scope of the census and many NSOs do not engage in data analysis
- **“Assessment of the quality” maybe added** to both definitions
- **Inclusion of socioeconomic infrastructure** data, such as schools, health facilities in the definition
- Adding additional component **“environment”** to the definition of the housing census
 - some environment statistics should also be collected

The P&R defines the population census as
"the total process of planning, collecting, compiling, evaluating, disseminating and analysing demographic, economic and social data at the smallest geographic level pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of a country" [Part One, para 1.4]
and, the housing census as
"the total process of planning, collecting, compiling, evaluating, disseminating and analysing statistical data relating to the number and condition of housing units and facilities as available to the households pertaining, at a specified time, to all living quarters and occupants thereof in a country or in a well-delimited part of a country" [Part One, para 1.6].



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Why the ‘essential features’ should be revised?

➤ Individual enumeration

- too ambitious due to increasing non-response
- not fully reflecting the practice of register-based censuses

➤ Simultaneity

- Not relevant for some of the population characteristics which are generated from different registers or collected from different data sources in a different time frame
- Not fully respected for censuses which enumerate population over months
 - Was a big challenge for many countries in the 2020 round which had to extend enumeration
 - Not relevant for rolling census

➤ Defined periodicity

- no longer relevant in case more frequent census outputs are delivered
- Some discussions/guidelines/suggestions may be needed relative to the timing of censuses which have to be postponed, such as for the Covid-19 conditions



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Why the ‘essential features’ should be revised?

➤ Capacity to produce small area statistics

- Discussion on how coverage might affect the ability of a census to estimate small area statistics

➤ New features

- About transparency and quality, and on openness of access to census data products
 - Census output must be a global public good
- Connectivity/integration
 - In the future, census data must be able to be connected/linked with other data sources (various administrative data sources) for maximum utility of the census result



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Why the ‘strategic objectives’ should be revised?

- **Impact on the public and on census staff**
 - Title should be “impact on the public, **stakeholders** and on census staff
 - ensure collection operations and dissemination of results are acceptable to the public **and stakeholders** and comply with legal and ethical standards for protecting confidentiality
- **Production of census results**
 - deliver **quality** census products and services that meet legal obligations and user needs with stated **high-quality** standards and a predetermined and **predictable** timelines
- **Cost-benefit**
 - The balance between costs and benefits should be added

The P&R identifies the following as the strategic objectives of the census [Part Two, paras 2.7-2.14]:

- i) **Census content** – ensure census topics meet the demonstrated requirements of users
- ii) **Impact on the public and on census staff** - ensure collection operations and dissemination of results are acceptable to the public and comply with legal and ethical standards for protecting confidentiality
- iii) **Production of census results** - deliver census products and services that meet legal obligations and user needs with stated quality standards and a predetermined timetable
- iv) **Cost-effectiveness** - carry out a census as inexpensively as possible without compromising other strategic objectives
- v) **Cost-benefit** - increase the value/benefit generated from the census while also managing the overall cost



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Why the 'strategic objectives' should be revised?

➤ Add new objectives:

- "considering the use and impact of data for the public good"
- "transparent and acceptable to the public",.....
- "protecting confidentiality and privacy"
- "reducing the possibility of data abuse and misuse"
- "through open and responsive systems"
- a human rights component to ensure statistical visibility through inclusion and disaggregation

➤ Changes in the terminology used

- replacing the idea of 'users' with 'beneficiaries'
 - be more about providing value to society as a whole, whether or not a person uses census information themselves
- the term "acceptable to the public" should be changed
 - Some of census results may be not accepted by some population groups, but it does not mean that data is not reliable



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Why the definition ‘**place of usual residence**’ should be revised?

- Difficult to understand- **too complex** for both enumerators and respondents
- Appropriate for traditional censuses but **not for register-based censuses**
- The register-based approach should be included more explicitly
- consolidate and rephrase with a less confusing the criteria
- Revisit to analyze whether the 12-month threshold is the most appropriate. 12 months is a long period, considering internal migrations, address changes
- Need to better account for situations of multiple residences
- Review and **clarify the use of the de-jure vs. usual resident concepts** often used interchangeably

In identifying the usual resident population [Part Two, para 2.50], the P&R recommends that countries apply a threshold of 12 months when considering place of usual residence according to one of the following two criteria:

(a) The place at which the person has lived continuously for most of the last 12 months (that is, for at least six months and one day), not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months;

(b) The place at which the person has lived continuously for at least the last 12 months, not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least 12 months.



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Why the definition ‘**place of usual residence**’ should be revised?

- **Only one criterion should be used**, to encourage consistency and data comparability between countries
- Rephrase it to "where the person lived most of the time over the last 12 months"
- The definition **should not include the threshold of 12 months** (or any threshold) when considering place of usual residence.
 - This is too restrictive-the concept of usual place of residence as of census day (not in the last 12 months) is more fluid and refers to the place the respondent calls ‘home’ on census day
 - It needs to be made independent of time period



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Recommended Population Topics

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Four questions were asked

1. Is there a need to revise/update the list of core- and non-core topics pertaining to population characteristics?

If yes,

2. Explain why and how the list of topics should be revised
3. Which topics need to be revised in terms of their definitions and/or classifications?
4. Which topics need to be removed?
5. What topics need to be newly added?



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1. Is there a need revise/update core and non-core topics?

- Yes – 54% (19 out of 35)

2. Explain why the list of topics should be revised

- Changes in social norms, inequalities driving demographic changes
- Recommended topics for short and long forms- **key questions for short form**
- Additional guidance on what the core topics are for **collective households**
- Topics related to **migration** need to capture recent migration
- Options for sex variations as well as **gender identify**
- **Disability** questions tend to be difficult to analyze
- Household deaths could be made an optional topic

- Collecting data on **socioeconomic structure** (schools, health facilities) at least in the Africa region
- Link with **Legal Identity Agenda**



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3. Which topics need to be revised in terms of their definitions and/or classifications?

- **Geographic and internal migration**
 - Urban/rural to reflect recent works
 - Place of usual residence
- **International migration**
 - International migration to incorporate the revised conceptual framework and definitions (UN Statistical Commission)
 - Stateless or refugees (incorporate EGRISS)
- **Household and family characteristics**
 - Definition of family
 - Clarification for household-dwelling concept
- **Demographic and social characteristics**
 - Inclusive gender identities
 - Ethnicity, indigenous
 - Disability classification -the WG or the WHO (ICF), clarify age group for which to measure the main domains



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3. Which topics need to be revised in terms of their definitions and/or classifications?

➤ **Fertility and mortality**

- Extension of the reference period for the collection of births/deaths to improve the measurement of the timing of births and deaths
- Pregnancy-related mortality into 3 categories –while she was a) pregnant, b) during childbirth or c) during six weeks after the end of pregnancy

➤ **Educational characteristics**

- Literacy is not properly measured as per text in the P&R. More concrete recommendations for operationalization of this concept is needed.

▪ **Others**

- Classification of industry
- Agriculture section
- Expand on the definition of homelessness



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4. Which topics need to be removed?

- Place of previous residence- This question is not very useful without a time reference for the place of previous residence
- Recommendations on labour force should be revisited



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5. What topics need to be newly added?

- Multi-residence
- Sexual orientation/gender identity
- Refugees, forced mobility
- Reason for international migration
- Ever-lived abroad
- Irregular international migration
- Under five-years birth registration
- Digital literacy
- Internet access at person level
- Knowledge of languages
- Means of travel to the place of work/study
- Access and use of health services
- Use of social media
- Long-term health conditions
- Service in the defense service



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1. Is there a need revise/update core and non-core topics?

- Yes – 29 % (10 out of 34)

2. Explain why the list of topics should be revised

- Environmental threats on the population, related to climate change could be added in view of the current context (marine erosion, flooding, wind erosion, etc.)
- Include all information needed for calculation of non-monetary wealth index
- Assets and amenities should be revisited



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3. Which topics need to be revised in terms of their definitions and/or classifications?

- Classification of buildings
- Useful floor space

4. Which topics need to be removed?

- Elevator-availability of
- Furnished/unfurnished
- Core housing topics like water supply system, type of toilet, sewage disposal, main type of solid waste disposal, bathing facilities, availability of kitchen, fuel used for cooking and type of lighting and/or electricity



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5. What topics need to be newly added?

- Geospatial referencing (GPS)
- Availability and location of secondary dwellings

- Information about recycling
- Problems around the dwelling: noise, bad smells, cleanliness, crime, etc
- Availability of services around the dwelling: school, pharmacy, supermarket, etc



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5. What topics need to be newly added?

➤ Environmental topics –Non-core topics

- Climate change
 - A question on food security to capture the impact of climate change in many countries
 - Access to electric vehicles (cars/scooters/bikes) in the interest of climate change
- Use of sustainable/renewable energies (such as solar panels) in the housing unit
- whether the residential building has undergone adaptation works in order to improve the energy performance



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