

# Population and Housing Censuses in Latin America: Impacts of the Pandemic, Opportunities, and Challenges – 2020 Round

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# Pre-pandemic regional context

- The region boasts a wealth of experiences, lessons learned, and methodological soundness in the field of censuses.
- In the 2010 round, countries made significant progress, introducing new topics and integrating advanced technology for data capture. There were also improvements in mechanisms for participation, as well as in technical management and control processes.
- However, the results revealed some regression in terms of coverage.
- Several notable challenges emerged, including the need for adequate budgets and suitable equipment, a comprehensive cartographic update (ideally preceding the population census), reduction of rejection rates, enhancement of training programs, improved control over coverage and data quality, strengthened communication strategies, and increased incorporation of technology to contribute to the overall improvement of census processes.



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# The Impact of the Pandemic on Census Dates: What Will Happen to Periodicity?

Census dates to March 2020			Census dates to May 2023		
Year	No. of Countries	Countries	Year	No. of Countries	Countries
2020	5	Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and Panama	2020	1	Mexico
2021	2	Costa Rica and Venezuela (Boliv. Rep. of)	2021	0	---
2022	5	Bolivia (Plur. State of), Chile, Cuba, Paraguay and Dominican Republic	2022	7	Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Dominican Republic and Venezuela (Boliv. Rep. of)*
2023	3	El Salvador, Honduras and Uruguay	2023	3	Panama and Uruguay
2024	0	---	2024	5	Bolivia (Plur. State of), Chile, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua
2025	0	---	2025	1	Cuba

\* Web self-registration since 2021

Peru taken in 2017, Colombia and Guatemala in 2018

Haiti n.d.



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# Adaptations and Innovations in the 2020 Round: Modernization of the Census Production Process and Changes in Management Approach

- Changes in Census Types: de facto to de jure (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Panama)
- Technological Innovations for Data Capture in 15 Countries: Utilizing mobile capture devices (MCD) and Mixed Methods (MCD, web, telephone, and paper).
- Implementation of Additional Tests (usability, stress, functional, system integration, etc.).
- Development of control systems (management, coverage and quality)
- Increased investment in technology and information security infrastructure
- Development of mixed training systems (virtual and face-to-face)
- Integration of geospatial information
- Redefinition of communication strategies in light of social changes.



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# Census Topics: Strengthening "Old-New" Paradigms and Incorporating New Topics

## 1. Gender:

- Identification/Sex of the homeowner(s).
- Date of birth of the first child with disaggregation by sex modulus fertility.
- Verification of economic activity (applicable to the vast majority of countries).
- College/University degree.
- Head of household/Reference Person.
- Same-sex unions/marriages.
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

## 2. Disability:

- Biosocial approach under GW recommendations (applicable to all people, with standard domains and degrees of severity).

## 3. Home and Family:

- Expansion of categories in the kinship relationship.
- Identification of secondary nuclei.

## 4. Ethnic-Racial Approach:

- Questions of self-identification of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.
- Cultural adaptation processes and variables.

## 5. Other:

- Identity card number of individuals.
- Use of ICTs in the last three months.
- Indigenous languages.
- Everyday mobility (and means of transport).
- Nationality.

**Mixed  
progress and  
some  
setbacks**



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# Challenges observed in the 2020 round: Are innovations yielding better results?

## 1. Increases in Budgets:

- Consideration of financial implications.

## 2. Extension of the Collection Period:

- Impact on concurrency.

## 3. Limited Experience in Mixed Methods of Data Capture:

- Challenges in integration and potential impacts on coverage and quality (mode-effect).

## 4. Other Difficulties Affecting Coverage and Quality:

- Recruitment challenges (shortages, high turnover, low productivity) and payment system.
- Low response to the e-census (excluding Argentina and Uruguay).
- Weaknesses in e-learning training.
- Tight schedules and insufficient time for testing and adjustments.
- Problems with DMC (Data Management and Control).
- Politicization of the census.
- Limited budgets.
- Abandonment of pre-population censuses and "insufficient" records for assessment.



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# Challenges in the Evaluation and Dissemination of Census Results - 2020 Round

- Validation of the quality of census results
- Exploration of the Use of Administrative Records for Census Support and Evaluation
- Integration of geospatial information with census data
- Data traceability and transparency (especially concerning possible imputations)

**Looking Ahead: Transitioning Towards a Gradual Registry-Based Approach?**



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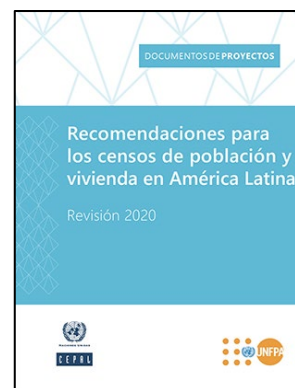
# Role of CELADE

- Production of regional standards and recommendations
- Development of tools (REDATAM, applicable to different census phases), methodologies and technical guidelines
- Technical assistance (in close coordination with UNFPA) and national capacity-building
- Promotion of South-South cooperation and exchange of experiences

## Recent Posts



<https://redatam.org>



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# Thanks

<http://www.cepal.org/es/areas-de-trabajo/poblacion-y-desarrollo>



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