

Third Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses

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New York

Lessons from the 2020 census round and planning for the 2030 round

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Outline

- ❑ 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses
- ❑ Findings from UNSD surveys on 2020 round PHCs
- ❑ Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on 2020 round PHCs
- ❑ Anticipated trends for the 2030 census round
- ❑ Revision of global recommendations for the 2030 census round
- ❑ UNSD methodological framework
- ❑ Resolution on 2030 World Programme on PHCs



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2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

- The 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme was approved by the Statistical Commission at its 46th session and adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 10 June 2015 (in resolution E/RES/2015/10)

- The 2020 Word Programme:
 - ❖ Urges Member States:
 - conduct at least one PHC in the period from 2015 to 2024
 - take into account international and regional recommendations relating to PHC
 - give attention to advance planning, cost efficiency, timely dissemination & easy access to census results
 - set quality standards for PHC to uphold the integrity, reliability, accuracy & value of PHC results
 - take into account the importance of PHC for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - ❖ Mandates UNSD:
 - prepare international statistical standards, methods and guidelines for the conduct of PHCs
 - coordinate activities among stakeholders in assisting Member States to plan and carry out PHCs
 - monitor and regularly report to the Statistical Commission on implementation of the Programme
 - provide technical assistance to countries in conducting PHCs



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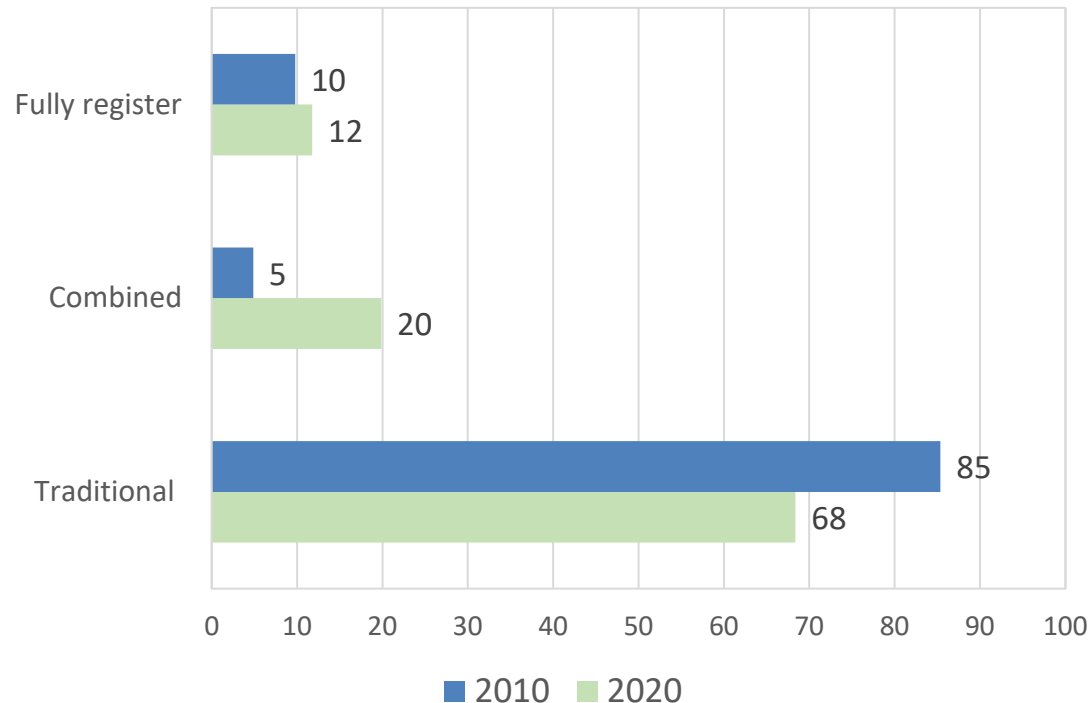
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Findings from UNSD survey on 2020 round censuses

Proportion of countries by census methodology (%)
(2010 and 2020 census rounds)



- A growing number of countries plan to change census methodology from the traditional to other approaches involving the use of administrative data sources, mainly because of:
 - high costs
 - increasing non-response
 - request for more timely information
- Significant progress observed in terms of:
 - coverage of birth and death registers
 - providing legal identity for all
- These developments create opportunities for planning to change census methodology from the traditional to other approaches using registers

Sources: UNSD surveys conducted in 2013 (126 responses) and 2022 (137 responses)



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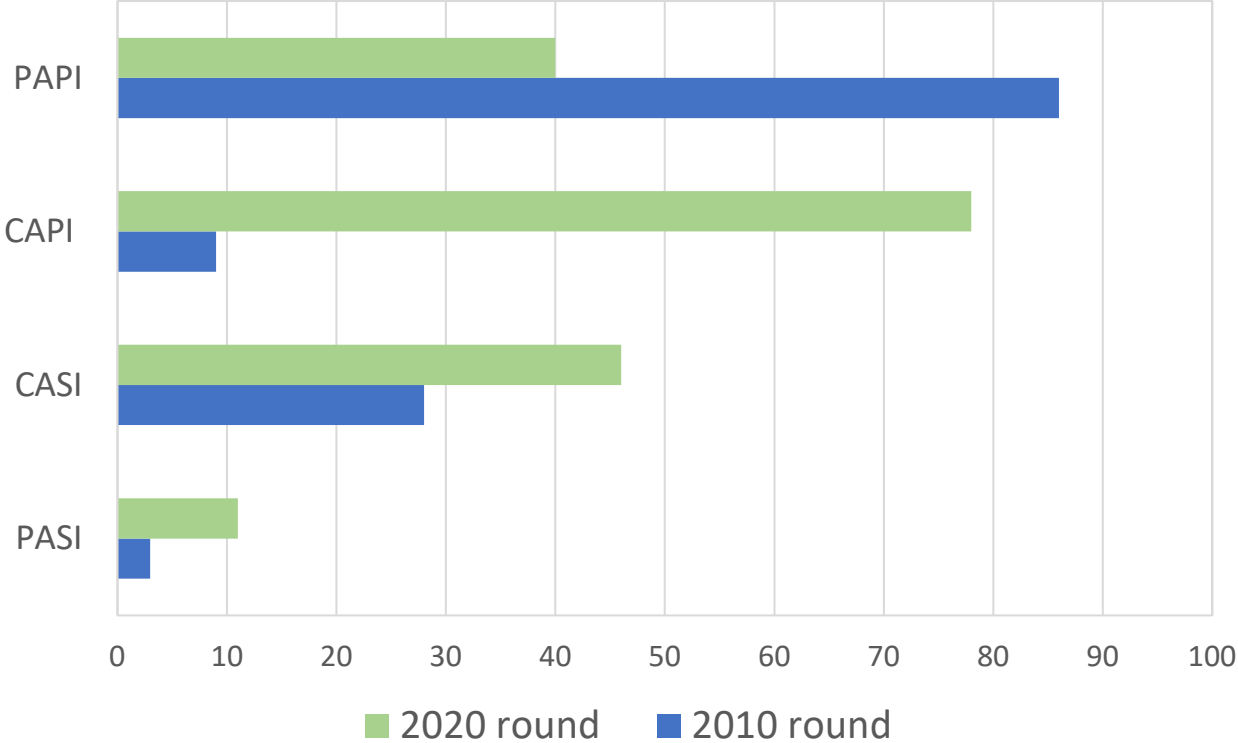
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Findings from UNSD survey on 2020 round censuses

Proportion of countries by mode of data collection (%)
(2010 and 2020 census rounds)



In 2020 round:

- Nearly 80% of countries used tablets or smart phones (CAPI) for data collection
- Almost half of countries adopted online questionnaire (CASI)
- In most countries, multi-mode data collection is used, whereby electronic questionnaires (CAPI or CASI) are used in combination with paper questionnaires (PAPI or PASI)

PAPI - Paper questionnaire with face-to-face interview
 CAPI - Computer-assisted personal interview
 CASI - Computer- assisted self-interview
 PASI - Paper questionnaire with self-interview

Source: UNSD surveys conducted in 2013 (126 responses) and 2022 (137 responses)



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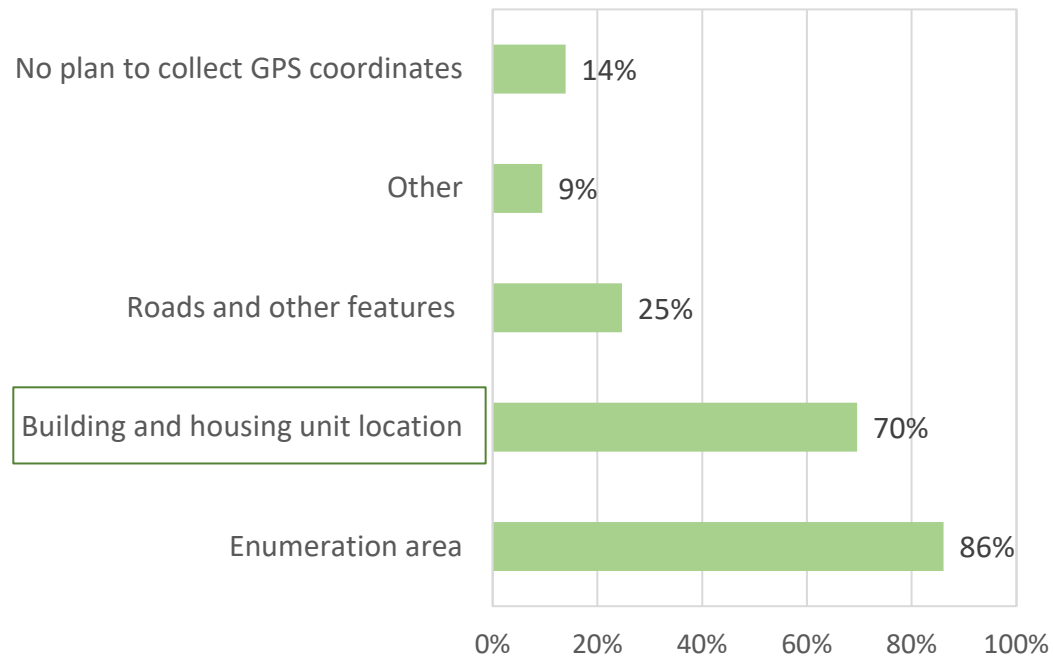
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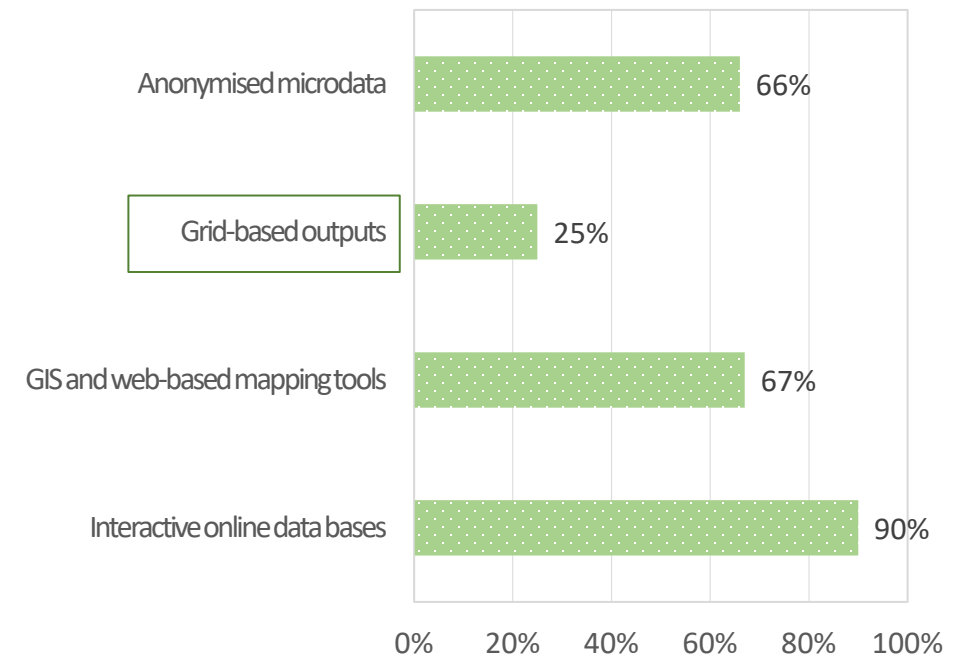


Geospatial information in PHCs: collection and dissemination

Proportion of countries that collected or planned to collect geographic coordinates (%)



Proportion of countries that developed or planned to develop specific dissemination tools (%)



Source: UNSD survey conducted in 2019 (138 responses)



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Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on 2020 round PHCs

- ❖ On 11 March 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic
- ❖ UNSD, as secretariat of the 2020 World Programme recognized the need to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on PHCs and conducted a series of activities:
 - Conducted EGMs:
 - ✓ 1st EGM (virtual) on the impact of Covid-19 on conducting censuses and on census data quality concerns (9-12 Feb 2021)
 - ✓ 2nd EGM (virtual) on the impact of Covid-19 on conducting PHCs and on census data quality concerns (2-5 Nov 2021)
 - ✓ 3rd (final) EGM on the impact of Covid-19 on PHCs and data quality (planned for 12-14 Dec 2022)
 - Conducted surveys to monitor the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic:
 - ✓ March 2020; September 2020; December 2020-January 2021; Sept-Dec 2022; Nov 2023 - ongoing
 - Issued a technical guidance notes on Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for Census (UFPA and UNSD) (September 2020)
 - UN/DESA Policy Brief #118 - Policy implications of the disruption of the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme due to the COVID-19 pandemic (October 2021)



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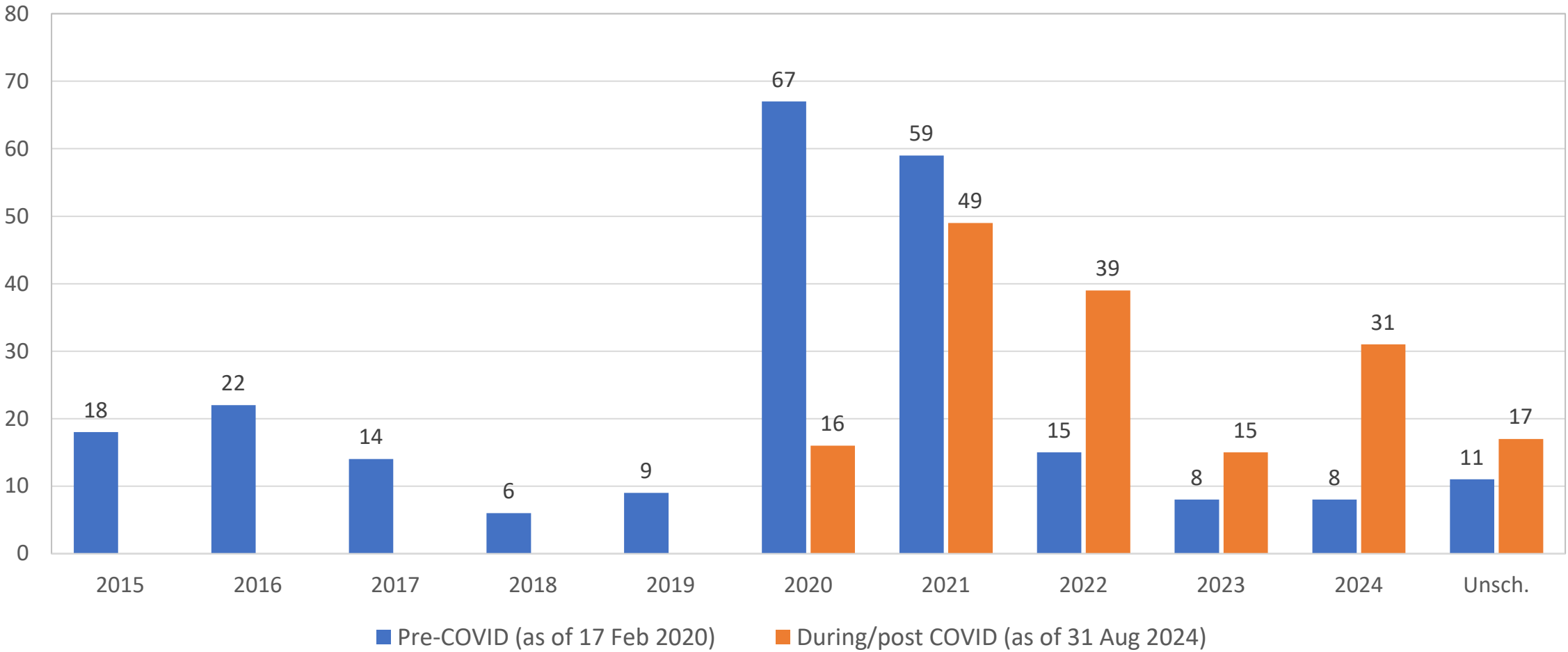
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Impact of COVID-19 on schedule of 2020 round PHCs (2015-2024)

Number of countries that conducted/scheduled a census by year



- 238 countries/areas monitored.
- Only the earliest census (first census in the decade) is considered for countries that conduct more than one census per decade (eg. Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, etc).
- Countries that compile census statistics from registers (ie. no field operations) were not significantly affected by COVID (which is the case for several European countries in 2021).

Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on 2020 round PHCs

❖ Cost

- Budget increase (in some cases) due to: Procurement of PPE / Enhanced publicity campaign / Enhanced training/online training / Enhanced contactless data collection / Update census maps / etc
- Budget decrease (in other cases)

❖ Methods

- Modifications in census procedures to reduce the impact of the pandemic
- Extension of duration of enumeration to improve coverage
- Efforts to reduce direct contact with respondents /Enhanced contactless data collection
- Adjustments to census questionnaires/instructions to improve quality of census data

❖ Quality - coverage and comparability

- Coverage of the enumerated population is primary concern
 - Reluctant to participate /Hard to contact /Changes in the place of usual residence during the pandemic
- Concern about quality due to:
 - extension of the duration of enumeration
 - uncertainty about the concept of “usual residence” during pandemic
 - late changes to census procedures and the design of field operations
 - topics such as internal migration and labour-force and schooling activities



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Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on 2020 round PHCs

❖ Lessons learned

- Importance of well-designed quality assessment programme (process quality, output quality, data comparability)
- Importance of developing contingency plans and risk management for improving the resilience of future censuses
- Importance of innovations
 - in some cases, the pandemic accelerated existing initiatives for building capacity and the modernization of statistical processes
 - several countries reported enhancing self-enumeration via the Internet, use of administrative data



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Anticipated trends for the 2030 census round

❖ The 2030 round is expected to witness further methodological/technological transformations:

- Modernization of census processes
- Increased adoption of digital-first, multi-mode methods (CAWI, CAPI, CATI)
- Increased role of geospatial information/tools
 - planning, field operations, analysis, dissemination
 - georeferencing of housing units
 - dissemination of geocoded census results
- Increased leveraging of administrative data sources
 - as a data source
 - to support field-based operations
- Further integration of population data systems (with PHC as pillar)
- Incorporation of lessons from COVID-19



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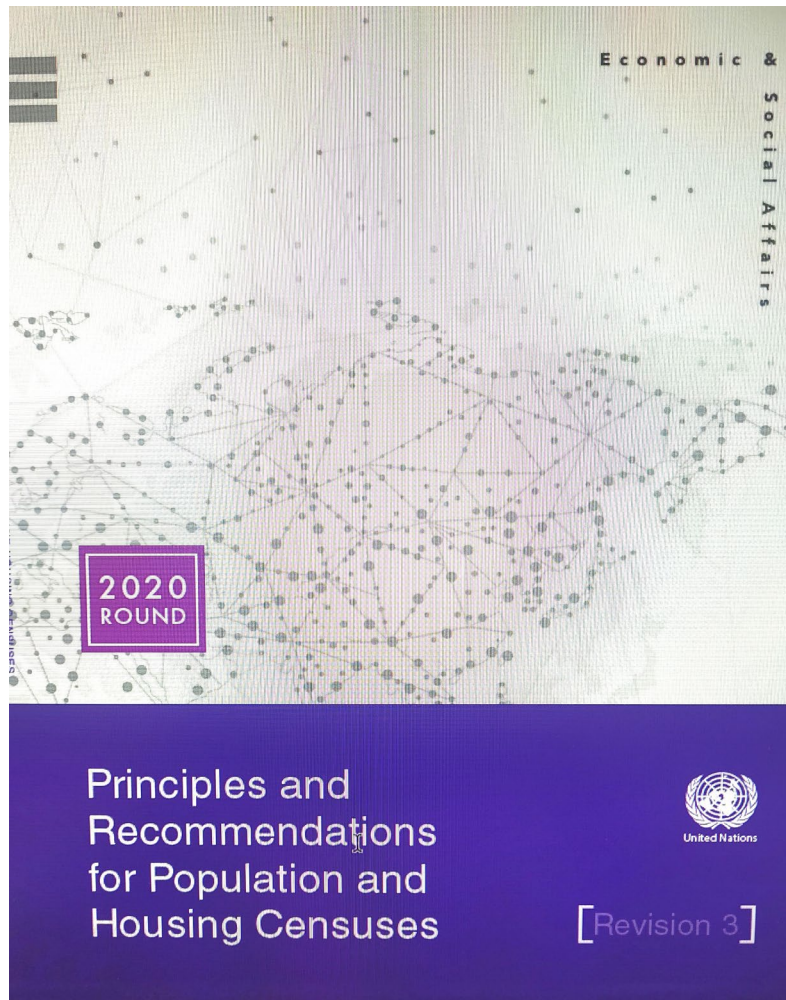
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Revision of global recommendations for the 2030 census round



Organization of the revision work

❖ Expert Group

- Guides and oversees the work of the revision
- Composed of census experts from NSOs, regional and international agencies

❖ Task Teams

- Planning
- Methodology, use of admin data
- Geospatial info
- Quality
- Data collection and processing
- Communication, dissemination, utilization
- Population and housing topics



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Revision of global recommendations for the 2030 census round

❖ Key themes – Revision of P&R

- Lessons learned, innovations and best practices from the 2020 round of censuses
- Use of geospatial information
- Evolving census methodologies
- Increasing use of administrative data
- Contingency planning to make future censuses resilient
- Harmonization with other international recommendations

❖ Timeline – Revision of P&R

- 1st EGM (23-25 May 2023)
- 2nd EGM (13-15 Dec 2023)
- 3rd EGM (June 2024)
- Submit 4th revision of P&R for approval by Statistical Commission 56th Session March 2025



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Revision of global recommendations for the 2030 census round



- Handbook covers both managerial and operational needs
- Provides a technical guide on the contemporary methods, tools and best practices that enables census planners and personnel to deal with census-mapping operations more efficiently
- Revision will address:
 - introduce the GSGF framework with a view to providing guiding principles for the integration of geospatial information in census operations
 - discuss a new approach for delineating urban-rural areas with the degree of urbanization (DEGURBA) methodology
 - elaborate the use of geospatial information for enhancing census data analysis and dissemination:
 - calculation of some SDG indicators with spatial aspect (e.g., 9.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.7.1, etc.)
 - production of grid-base (1km) census outputs



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UNSD methodological framework for PHCs

Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3
(2015)

Handbook on Management of Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2
(2016)

Technical
Report on
Post
Enumeration
Surveys
(2010)

Handbook on
GIS in
support of
Census
Activities
(2009)

Under review

Handbook on
Measuring
Economic
Activity
(2010)

Revised
under E-
learning
course

Handbook on
Measuring
International
Migration
through
censuses
(2017)

Guidelines on
the use of
registers and
administrativ
e data for
population
and housing
censuses
(ECE 2018)

Guidelines on
the Use of
Electronic
Data
Collection
Technologies
in Population
and Housing
Censuses
(2019)

Handbook on
Editing for
Population
and Housing
Censuses,
Revision 2
(2019)

Technical
Report on
Measuring
SDG
Indicators
through
Population
and Housing
Censuses and
Civil
Registration
Data
(2021)

Handbook on
Registers-
based
Population
and Housing
Censuses

(2022)

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Resolution on 2030 World Programme on PHCs

❖ Key activities

- prepare/update international statistical standards, methods and guidelines
- provide technical assistance to national statistical offices, including through regional and subregional workshops
- develop platforms for exchanging knowledge, national experiences, practices and lessons learned
- strengthen coordination and cooperation among partners and stakeholders to assist Member States in implementing the Programme
- monitor and regularly report to the Statistical Commission on the implementation of the Programme



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Thank You



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