



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

# UNSD activities in support of 2020 round population and housing censuses

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## Resolution

- ❑ UN Statistical Commission endorsed the draft Resolution on 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme and submitted it to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations for adoption
- ❑ On 10 June 2015 ECOSOC adopted the Resolution
  - Urges each member state to conduct at least one population and housing censuses in the period 2015-2024
    - Based on international recommendations
    - Advance planning
    - Cost efficiency
    - Coverage
    - Timely dissemination
  - Underscores the need for quality standards and assurance and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics



## Resolution

- ❑ Emphasizes the importance of the 2020 Programme for implementing and monitoring the sustainable development agenda
  
- ❑ Requests the United Nations to:
  - Prepare international standards, methods and guidelines
  - Ensure coordination of activities among stakeholders in assisting Member States in the implementation of the 2020 Programme
  - Monitor and regularly report on the implementation of the 2020 World Programme

## UNSD Methodological framework

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

Handbook on Census Management,  
Rev 2. (2016)

Technical  
Report on  
Post  
Enumeration  
Surveys  
(2010)

Handbook  
on GIS in  
support of  
Census  
Activities  
(2009)  
Under  
review

Handbook on  
Measuring  
International  
Migration  
through  
censuses  
(2017)

Guidelines on  
the use of  
registers and  
administrative  
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 Rev  
2  
(2019)

Handbook on  
Measuring  
Economic  
Activity  
(2010)  
Revised under  
E-learning  
course



## UNSD Methodological framework

### □ New releases

- **French translation of two census guidelines** –UNFPA provided funds for translation, editing and printing of :
  - Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Rev 3
  - Handbook on Census Management Rev 2
- **Technical Report on Measuring SDG Indicators through Population and Housing Censuses and Civil Registration Data**
  - As direct sources for measuring 40 indicators
  - As a source for denominators of about 100 indicators
  - Georeferencing census data for measuring 4 indicators, visualization and disaggregation of all SDG indicators

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/index.cshtml#methods>





## Online regional training workshops

### ❑ Measuring SDG indicators through censuses and civil registration data

- ECLAC workshop in May 2020
- ESCAP workshop in October 2020
- ESCWA workshop in November 2020
  - Total of about 192 participants from 75 countries
- ECA workshop – upcoming

### Main topics covered:

- SDG indicators that can be fully or partly estimated from PHC and CRVS data –small geographic areas
- Disaggregation of data by sex, age, youth, elderly, education status, labour force status, migration status, disability status and poverty (multidimensional poverty index)
- Use of GIS and geospatial information for generating, disaggregation and visualization of SDG indicators
- Designing census questionnaire for making best use of censuses with the point of view of producing statistics for SDG monitoring



## Monitoring the implementation of the 2020 census programme during the Covid-19 pandemic

- ❑ After the declaration of the Covid-19 as a pandemic by WHO, UNSD has conducted three surveys on the impact of the pandemic on census-taking
  - **First survey in March-April 2020** –collected information from countries that have conducted or were planning to conduct their census in 2020
  - Response rate 78 percent (43 countries out of 56)
  - **Second survey in collaboration with WB in September 2020-** administrated to all NSOs scheduled a census in 2020 or 2021
  - **Third survey in December 2020-January 2021-** collected information from countries that have conducted or planning to conduct their census in 2020 and 2021
  - Response rate 86 percent (104 countries out of 121)



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# World Population and Housing Census Programme Website-New topics



**2020 World Population and Housing  
Census Programme**

Impact of COVID-19

PPE in Censuses

Vient de paraître en français

1. Principes et recommandations concernant les recensements de la population et des logements,  
Troisième révision
2. Manuel d'organisation et de gestion des recensements de la population et de l'habitation,  
Deuxième révision

Veuillez noter qu'il s'agit de versions finales sujettes à vérification et préparation en vue de publication

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/index.cshtml>

*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 in resolution E/RES/2015/10](#). The Programme recognizes population and housing censuses as one of the primary sources of data needed for formulating, implementing and monitoring policies and programmes aimed at inclusive socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability. It further recognizes population and housing censuses as an important source for supplying disaggregated data needed for the measurement of progress of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), especially in the context of assessing the situation of people by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics.*

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# World Population and Housing Census Programme Website-New topics



## Countries with a census in 2020 and the impact of COVID-19

The United Nations Statistics Division, mandated to deliver the responsibilities of the Secretariat of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme in terms of monitoring its implementation, and in the context of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, is launching this website to provide an overview of the pandemic's consequences in terms of census-taking in the year 2020. The information presented here has been provided by census managers from respective countries. This website will be updated daily as replies and updates from national statistical offices are received and processed. Furthermore, UNSD intends to complement the existing information with additional components that will provide an opportunity for census-takers to exchange their experiences directly.

*Last update: 11 May 2020*

Country or area	Census Reference Date	Main Census Method	Impact of COVID-19 on the Census	Information as of
Greenland	January 1, 2020	2 Fully register based census	Almost all statistical information from Statistics Greenland are based on content in administrative registers. The registers are vital to public administration. COVID-19 is not expected to impact our data collecting plan. Population statistics are published on <a href="http://bank.stat.gl">http://bank.stat.gl</a>	March 25, 2020
Zambia	January 1, 2020	1 Traditional census	Unfortunately, Zambia has not been spared from the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. As such our 2020 Census schedule has been affected and we plan to re-schedule a number of activities. We should have been concluding our mapping and listing exercise in May 2020. However, this exercise has been suspended until the situation normalizes. We have very limited options in terms of field operations, it is not easy to substitute	April 1, 2020

## World Population and Housing Census Programme Website-New topics



### Technical Guidance Note



**Date:** September 2020

**Keywords:** Population and Housing Census, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

#### Guidance Note on Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Recommendations for Census

This note is jointly issued by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about an unprecedented global climate of uncertainty, with each nation having to respond to the pandemic and revise planned programmes and activities. With the 2020 census round well underway, the pandemic has caused many Governments to postpone the conduct of their census. It is critical to emphasize that as countries proceed with the population and housing census during the COVID-19 pandemic, **a priority goal is to reduce the risk of transmission for all census personnel, and for the general public.**

#### Key recommendations:

- Develop national guidance on recommended PPE requirements for census in consultation with national health authorities
- Refer to the latest WHO guidelines on PPE in national decision-making
- Review census operational and logistical planning
  - Implement social distancing measures
  - Use PPE (face masks, sanitizers, others)



## Online Expert Group Meeting on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on conducting population and housing censuses and on census data quality concerns

- ❑ Four-day event in 9-12 February 2021
- ❑ Brought together census experts from NSOs, census agencies, international organizations and regional offices to discuss following three topics:
  - Major changes in the design of population and housing censuses due to the Covid-19 pandemic
  - Assessment of data quality for censuses conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic
  - Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on data analysis and comparability overtime
- ❑ Over one hundred experts from 24 national statistical offices and regional and international organizations participated

All presentations and recordings are available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2021/egm-covid19-census.cshtml>



## UNSD focus

- ☐ Continue monitoring and documenting the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on census-taking and its effects on the quality of census data
- ☐ An expert group meeting dedicated to census methodologies conducted with the use of administrative registers, focusing on register-based censuses
- ☐ Organizing training census workshop for francophone countries in Africa on principles and recommendations for censuses and management of census operations
- ☐ Regular activities in providing technical assistance to countries
- ☐ Continue coordination of census-related activities together with UNFPA, the United States Bureau of the Census and the World Bank through the International Committee on Census Coordination (ICCC)
- ☐ Reporting to the UN Statistical Commission