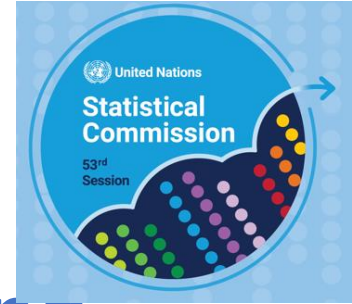




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UNSD activities in support of 2020 round population and housing censuses:

The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Conducting Censuses

Meryem Demirci

UN Statistics Division

2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

□ The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations endorsed the draft Resolution on 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme on 10 June 2015 ECOSOC

❖ 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 censuses

UNSD Methodological framework

Principles and
Recommendations
for Population
and Registration,
Revision 3
(2015)
ENG and FR

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

Handbook on Measuring International Migration through censuses (2017) **New**

Guidelines on the Use of Electronic Data Collection Technologies in PHC (2019) **New**

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

Technical report on Measuring SDG Indicators through PHC and CRVS Data (2021) **New**

Technical Report on Post Enumeration Surveys (2010)

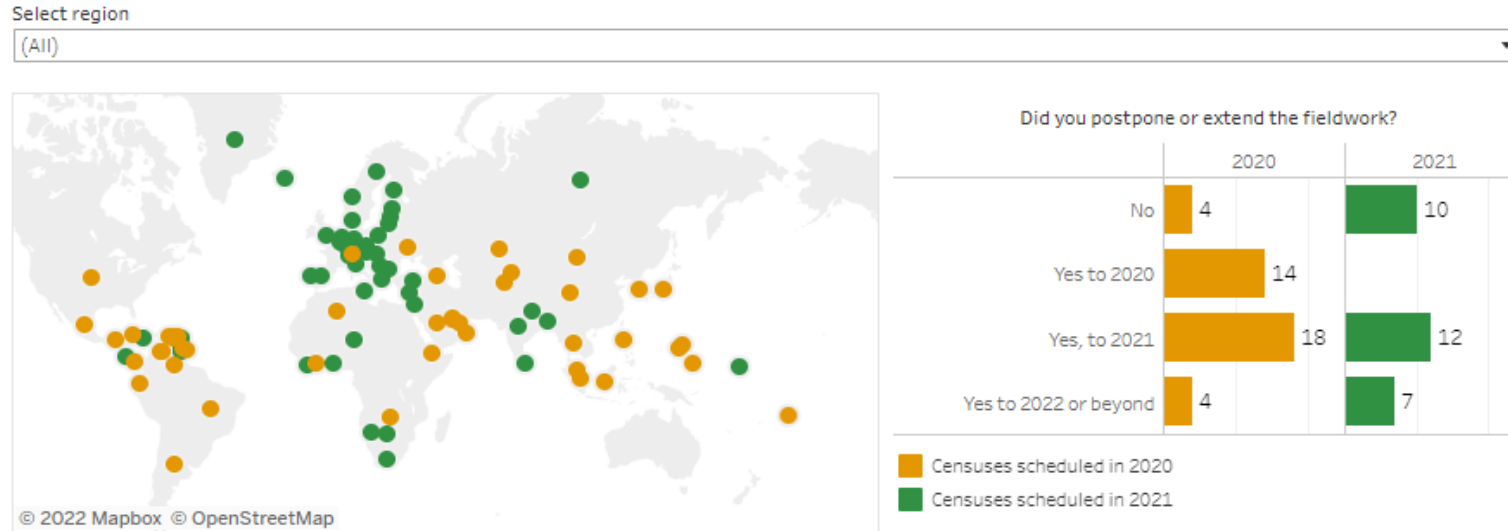
Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses (Upcoming) **New**

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

UNSD Methodological framework for Censuses

- ❑ **New Handbook - Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses**
 - ❑ The process of transitioning from the traditional census to a combined or fully register-based censuses, focusing on
 - Necessary preconditions for transformation
 - Types of administrative data sources-base registers and specialized registers
 - Transforming administrative data into census data -creating a statistical population register and constructing integrated statistical registers for census information
 - Quality assessment-source quality, input quality, process quality and output quality
 - ❑ Expert Group Meeting was conducted on 15-17 December 2021- about 75 experts from 21 countries and international and regional organizations participated and provided comments/suggestions
 - ❑ Draft handbook was submitted to the 53rd session of the SC as background document
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3e-Handbook-E.pdf>

UNSD Activities on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic Dashboard



UNSD launched this webpage in April 2021

- to provide an overview of the pandemic's consequences in terms of census-taking in the 2020 round.

2. Further information for a specific country

Select country
Thailand

Reference date: 2020


Overall impact: Yes

Impact on the preparations:
Yes, had to postpone or cancel MOST/ALL of the preparatory activities

Impact on the field work
Yes, had to postpone to 2022 or beyond

Impact on methods: Yes

Main challenges
Funding limitations/constraints,
Need to reduce face-to-face interaction,
Personnel not available/ill



<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/COVID-19/>



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UNSD Activities on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

UN/DESA Policy Brief on the 2020 World Census Programme



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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

8 October 2021

Every ten years, the United Nations launches a census decade – everywhere



UN/DESA

Increasing awareness on the impacts of the pandemic on censuses

Key messages

- National authorities to remain fully committed to conduct the censuses depending on national circumstances
- Postponing census-taking will have adverse impact on assessing the effects of national development policies due to lack of granular census statistics in the 2020's

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/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/>



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UN Expert Group Meetings on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

- More than 200 experts from over forty national statistical offices, regional and international organizations participated
 - First EGM on 9-12 February 2021
 - Second EGM on 2-5 November 2021

- Main objectives:
 - Monitor and document challenges in conducting censuses during the pandemic
 - Discuss alternative solutions in designing census operations for producing relevant, timely and reliable statistics
 - Discuss the effects of the pandemic on data quality and census measurements



- Forty-five country presentations and conclusions/recommendations at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2021/egm-covid19-census.cshtml>

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2021/egm-covid19-census2/>



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UN Expert Group Meetings on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

Main conclusions

- ❑ Majority of countries **had to modify or planning to modify census procedures** in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic -**new data collection modes**, CAWI, CATI, PASI for reducing face-to-face interviews

- ❑ **Increased costs** -modifications in census procedures and introducing new procedures to minimize the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

- ❑ Conducting censuses under the pressure of the pandemic have created **concerns in terms of data quality**
 - the concept of usual residence may prove ambiguous for certain population groups (people living in institutional places)
 - non-response might be increased (homeless, people living in compounds, remote areas)

- ❑ The pandemic circumstances (mobility restrictions) would have a **significant influence on census results**- population distribution, mortality and migration, employment
 - Censuses conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic could potentially reveal trends, changes and patterns in society not seen in previous census results- although to what extent those trends/changes would be significant are currently unclear



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Online Regional Workshop on the 2020 World Census Programme for French-speaking African Countries

- ❑ Jointly organized by UNSD and ECA on 28, 29, 31 January and 1 February 2022
- ❑ Over 150 participants from 21 countries, international organizations, regional and country offices participated
- ❑ The workshop noted that :
 - many national statistical offices had to **postpone their censuses operations**, scheduled in 2020 and 2021, at least once
 - even before the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of countries faced significant challenges due to **primarily financial constraints and political instability**
 - a number of countries have **successfully used CAPI** and many other countries are planning to conduct their 2020 round of censuses using this technology
 - almost all participating countries either used or planning to **use GIS technology and collect GPS location information** for the purpose of mapping, monitoring the field enumeration and dissemination of census results, for the 2020 round of censuses.



<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2022/ws-census-20220127/>



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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
- ❑ Update the draft Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses-Live document
- ❑ Regional training workshops on
 - ❑ transforming from traditional census to a combined or register-based censuses
 - ❑ evaluation of the quality of census data and dissemination
- ❑ 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)