

Challenges and Opportunities: Supporting the 2020 Global Round of Censuses Through the COVID-19 Pandemic

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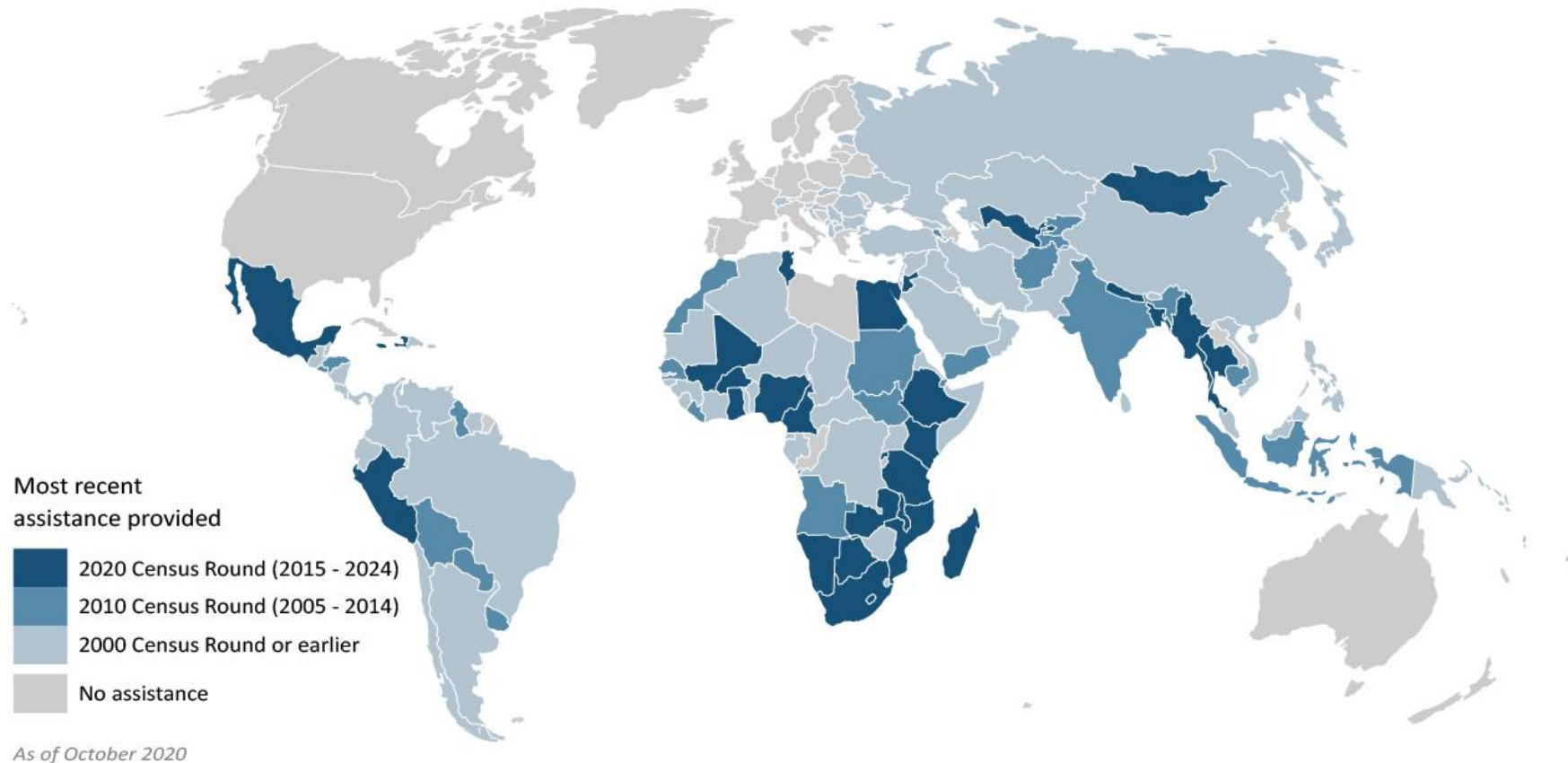
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Outline

- International Programs Center's portfolio of countries
- Census challenges with COVID-19
- Type of assistance provided
- Challenges encountered, lessons learned
- Opportunities
- Upcoming challenges
- Conclusion

Where International Programs Center has Worked



Countries in our 2020 Census Portfolio

- Botswana
- Djibouti
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- Somalia
- Tanzania
- Uzbekistan
- Zambia



Census Challenges with COVID-19 Pandemic

- Disrupted census timelines
- Supply chain issues
- New fieldwork protocols
- Coverage and content errors
- Office closings and remote work
- Unstable internet connectivity
- Resource diversion for the pandemic
- Increased data demands from NSO
- Staff attrition due to illness/death

Type of Support Provided

- Remote census planning and budgeting assistance
- Remote CPro application development assistance
- Remote field manual assistance
- Remote assessments of statistical capacity
- Virtual training of trainer workshops for tool administration
- Remote population projection workshops
- In-person, more recently -
 - Pilot Observation in Uzbekistan
 - PUMS file in Mozambique
 - Edits workshop in Namibia



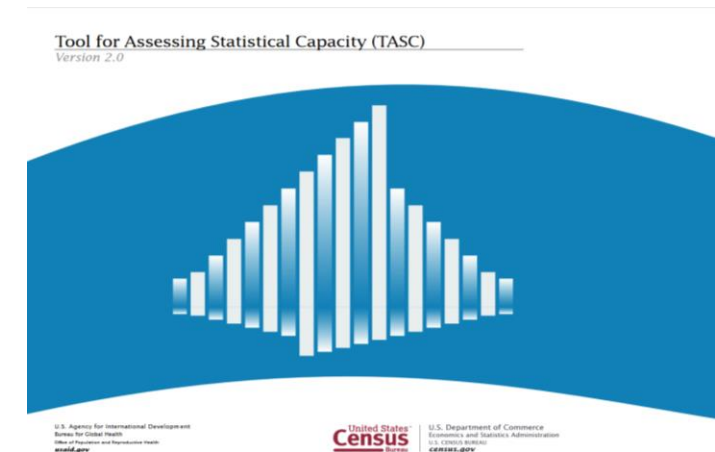


Challenges Encountered, Lessons Learned

- Minimum set of requirements to be effective -
 - Redesigned learning materials and use of tools/portals/hubs for virtual interaction
 - Stable, broadband internet connectivity
 - Enough overlapping work hours (time zone differences)
 - Small number of participants (under 10)
 - Excellent communication between the team leads
 - Dedicated participants with few competing work priorities
- Some census operations are difficult to teach remotely -
 - We provided minimal support in mapping

Opportunities: Time to Develop Tools and Products

- Tool for Assessing Statistical Capacity (TASC 2.1)
- Census and Survey Processing Software (CSPro 7.7)
- Select Topics in International Censuses (STIC)
- Demographic and Population Projections System (DAPPS)
- Tool for Assessing Pilot Electronic Censuses (TAPEC)
- Open-Source Dissemination Strategy (OSDS)



Opportunities: Regional Trainings

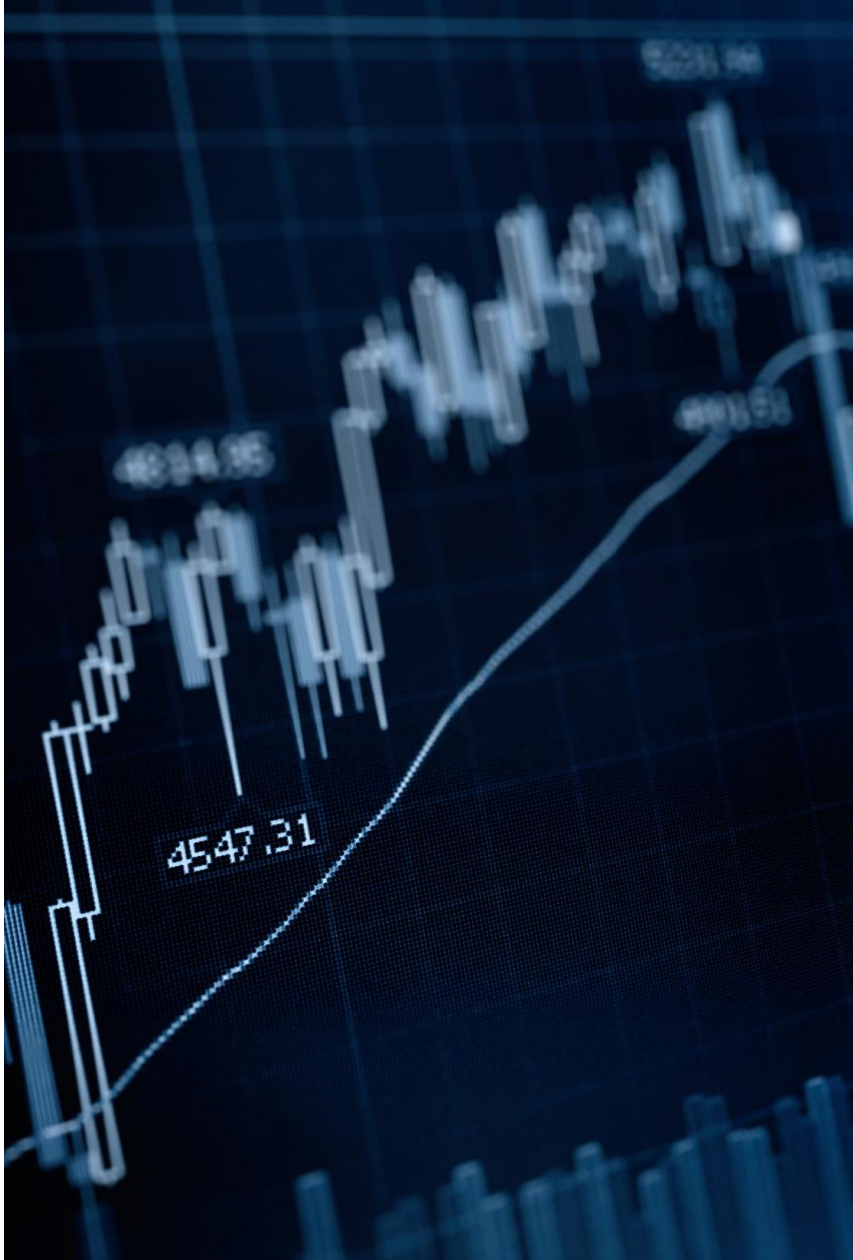
- Savings on travel costs, time, and inconvenience allowed for –
 - More regional trainings
 - Drawing from a wider pool of expertise at the U.S. Census Bureau for instructors/presenters
 - More countries could participate in workshops/webinars/seminars
 - More women could attend workshops
- Time zone differences allowed for assistance to two countries in one day
 - Work with African countries in the morning and South and Central American countries in the afternoon

Upcoming Challenges: Census Data Edit Support

- Countries that did their enumeration during the pandemic may need to use more sophisticated methods to resolve data issues
 - If population temporarily migrated/rooted during the pandemic it may have implications for de jure counts or census coverage
 - Census provides denominators for many development indicators
 - Population projections may be inaccurate
 - Master sampling frame may be impacted
 - Other content issues based on unique pandemic conditions – employment, education, migration, and more
- Building capacity to use administrative sources of data
- Building capacity to use population estimates in some areas

Upcoming Challenges: Other Support

- Increased workload as the pandemic declines
 - Support needed for a host of countries simultaneously
- More sophisticated capacity building to resolve census issues
- International standards and guidelines on how to resolve data issues and adjustments
- International standards and guidelines on how to compare this census data with past and future censuses



Conclusion

- On the balance, a lot of challenges to address
- Future support will involve -
 - Coordination among international partners so we can address these challenges in an efficient and effective manner
 - Building the capacity of NSOs to handle discovery, prioritization and action on data issues
 - Developing communities of practice and mentorship programs
- Tools and online courses built during this time are part of the solution
- Require robust metadata in dissemination products

