



Implementing the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme: Current Overview

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The 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

- ❑ 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
 - ❑ Endorses the 2020 World Programme
 - ❑ 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
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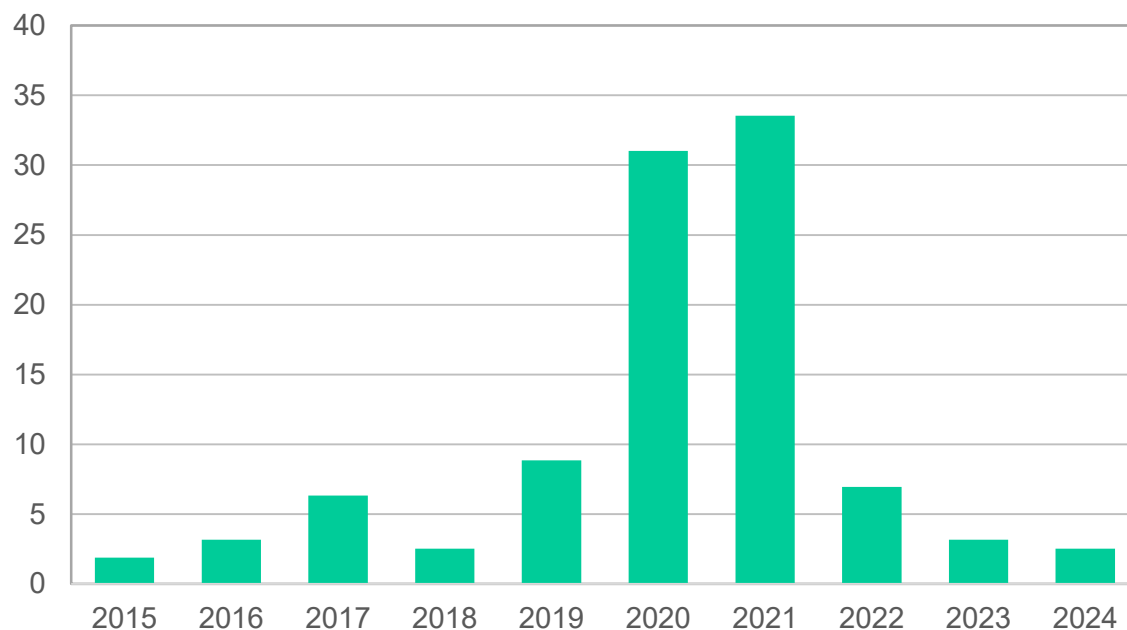
Resolution

- ❑ 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 mandate
 - ❑ Developing and promoting methodological framework
 - ❑ Monitoring the implementation of the 2020 Programme
 - ❑ Reporting on the implementation
 - ❑ Provide support to national capacities



COVID-19 Pandemic impact on censuses

Figure 1: Distribution of population and housing censuses over the 2020 census round spanning the period 2015-2024



Based on the Survey on the implementation of the 2020 World Programme 49 countries/areas planned to conduct the census in 2020, and another 53 in 2021, i.e. 65 per cent of all replying countries



Mid 2020 round survey – concluding remarks

- ❑ Majority of countries (69% of total) – traditional census – approaching each household in the country with request for information
 - ❑ However, the number of countries using registers is visibly increasing (30% of total)
- ❑ Majority – combination of enumeration methods – tablets, internet self-enumeration, paper questionnaires
 - ❑ Significant challenge – developing in parallel applications for different media, costs
- ❑ Use of GPS
- ❑ Geo-referencing (65% of total geo-referencing buildings/housing units)
- ❑ Overall, censuses are acquiring a modern and contemporary look



COVID-19 Pandemic

- Focusing on the countries that scheduled the census in 2020, UNSD launched a survey, end of March/beginning of April 2020 soliciting answers to the following questions:
 - Is the COVID-19 pandemic impacting the conduct of the population and housing census?
 - If yes, what are the most recent consequences to the census?
 - What are the possible actions that will be undertaken as a result of these adverse impacts (for example: rescheduling or suspending enumeration phase, modifying procedures for enumeration of population, modifying timetable for enumeration phases, or any other action)?
 - Any other relevant comment



COVID-19 Pandemic

- ❑ The survey was dispatched to 56 national statistical offices
 - ❑ We have received 43 replies (78%)
 - ❑ Available in full at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/COVID-19>
 - ❑ Updates were asked for and incorporated
 - ❑ The most recent request for updates dispatched mid-September, still being processed
 - ❑ Out of initial replies, 30 countries/areas indicated that they are postponing or extending census activities
 - ❑ Thirteen countries indicated that they either already conducted the census data collection, or do not expect delays at the time of replying (April 2020) or rely on registers for producing census statistics
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COVID-19 Pandemic

- ❑ Recommendation issued in May 2020: At this stage of census taking in these countries UNFPA and UNDESA do not recommend to attempt switching the initially adopted census enumeration methodology – for example, moving from face-to-face enumeration with tablet computers to internet self-enumeration.
- ❑ In September 2020 another set of recommendations: *Guidance Note on Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Recommendations for Census -*
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/>



Concluding remarks and the way forward

- ❑ Will all the Member States be in a position to conduct at least one population and housing census, or otherwise produce census-like small areas statistics, in the period 2015-2024, as required by the ECOSOC Resolution?
 - ❑ Increasingly clear that countries/areas are facing substantial difficulties in conducting the census
 - ❑ What will be the quality of census data in the 2020 Round?
 - ❑ One of the perceived consequences of this pandemic in terms of future census taking activities points to the drastic shift from canvassing the country door-to-door to the use of registers and internet self-enumeration
 - ❑ An already quite complex undertaking – combining different data collection techniques – CAPI, CAVI, PAPI – requiring development of parallel applications, became even more complicated
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UNSD focus

Short term

- An expert group meeting dedicated to the use of administrative registers and sources of data for producing census-like small area statistics
- Another expert group meeting on the quality evaluation and assessment of censuses in the 2020 round
- Continue monitoring and documenting the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on census-taking worldwide
- Reporting to the UN Statistical Commission

Long term

- Prepare the revision of principles and recommendations for the 2030 round in the light of current experiences
- Start developing methodological framework for guidelines for census-taking in emergencies, including contingency planning
- Maintain cooperation bodies such as the International Census Coordination Committee