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Statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa: statutory issues

Status of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa

I. Introduction

1. The 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme recognizes population and housing censuses as one of the primary sources of data needed to formulate, implement and monitor policies and programmes aimed at inclusive social and economic development and environmental sustainability. Population and housing censuses are an important source of disaggregated data needed to measure progress towards attainment of national development plans, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. At its seventh meeting, the Statistical Commission recommended a transition to digital systems and the use of improved methods and new technologies to increase the reliability and accessibility of census products and other statistics. In line with this recommendation, many African countries have embraced technology during the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, especially during cartographic mapping and actual census enumeration. Specifically, they have used mobile devices for enumeration and data transmission, census dashboards to monitor the coverage and quality of enumeration, census toolkits as management tools for all census operations, and issue trackers to allow help desks to track issues in the field and assign a team to address them.

II. Status of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa

3. The aspiration of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa is for all African countries to conduct at least one digital population and housing census between 2015 and 2024 and to disseminate census results in a timely manner, as recommended in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 3 of the Statistics Division. The remaining two years are critical, with the added pressure that the 2020 round (2015–2024) is the last round before the 2030 deadline for the Global Sustainable Development Goals in 2030. The 2020 round has been taking place in a changing global landscape, as countries around the world pursue a range

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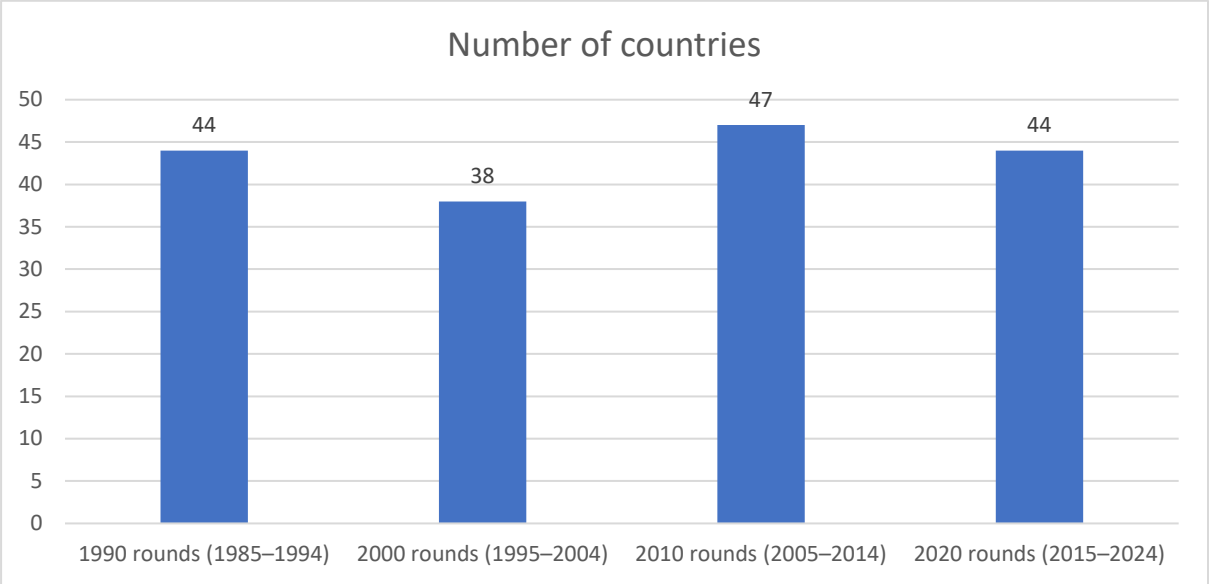
of new global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. At the beginning of the 2020 round, some 50 African countries were expected to conduct at least one population and housing census during the period from 2015 to 2024, but now, only 44 of them are expected to conduct a population and housing census before December 2024.

Figure I
Population and housing censuses undertaken in Africa, by round



Source: Administrative information compiled by the Economic Commission for Africa, September 2022.

4. At the start of 2020 (the midway point of the 2020 round), 11 of the 13 countries in Africa that had planned to conduct a population and housing census before 2020 had done so. A further 13 countries had scheduled to conduct their census in 2020, but none of them did so. Eight countries had scheduled to conduct their census in 2021, but only Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana did so, both of which had initially scheduled their census for 2020. Eight countries had initially scheduled to conduct their census in 2022 of which Burundi and Nigeria postponed their census to 2023. A total of 14 countries are set to conduct their census in 2022. Eight of the 14 countries had initially planned to conduct a census before 2022, with Liberia having postponed a 2018 census, Seychelles, Mali and Togo a 2020 census and Botswana, Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia a 2021 census. Most of the censuses that were postponed in 2020 and 2021 were rescheduled for 2022 or 2023, but 10 countries have still not rescheduled their census.

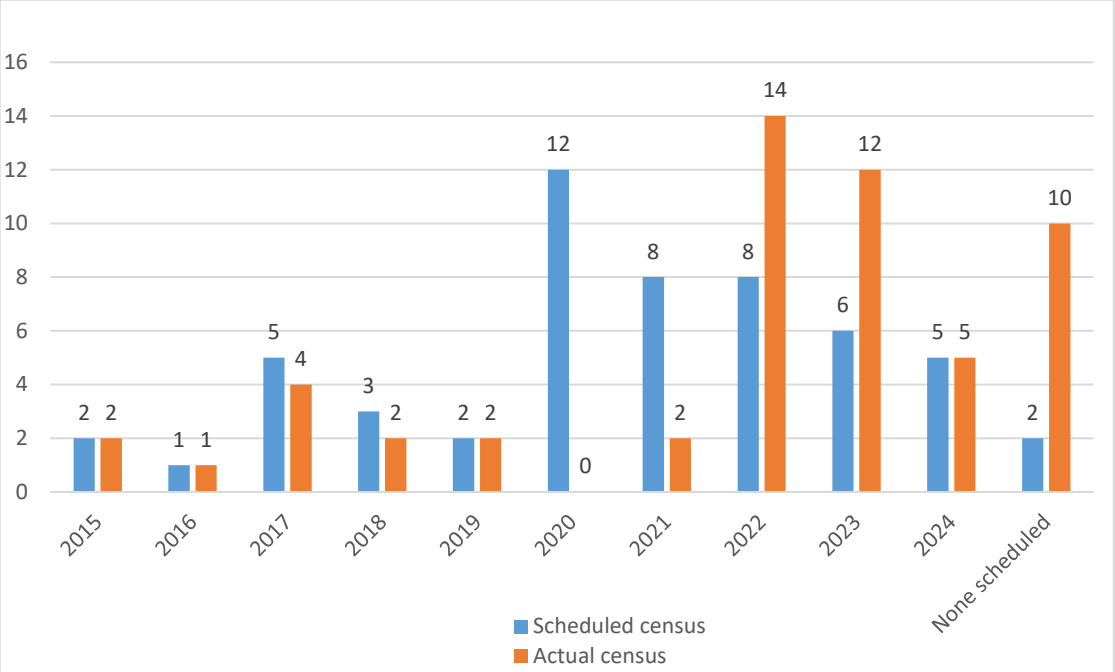
5. At the beginning of the 2020 round, Eritrea and South Sudan had not yet scheduled their census, though South Sudan did conduct a population estimation survey in 2020 to provide an up-to-date estimate of the country's population for planning purposes.

6. Sierra Leone conducted a midterm population and housing census in 2021 for several reasons: to evaluate the progress made since the previous primary census, in 2015; to review the previous census exercise, analyse the challenges reported and take action to address them; to test the use of computer-assisted data collection for the first time; to provide data for monitoring the prioritized Sustainable Development Goals in Sierra Leone (especially Goal 4, on education); and to rehearse for the next primary census, scheduled for 2025.

7. Some of the countries that completed enumeration before 2020 had delays in completing post-enumeration activities, such as the post-enumeration

survey, data analysis and dissemination, due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Figure II
Number of countries by originally scheduled census year and actual census year



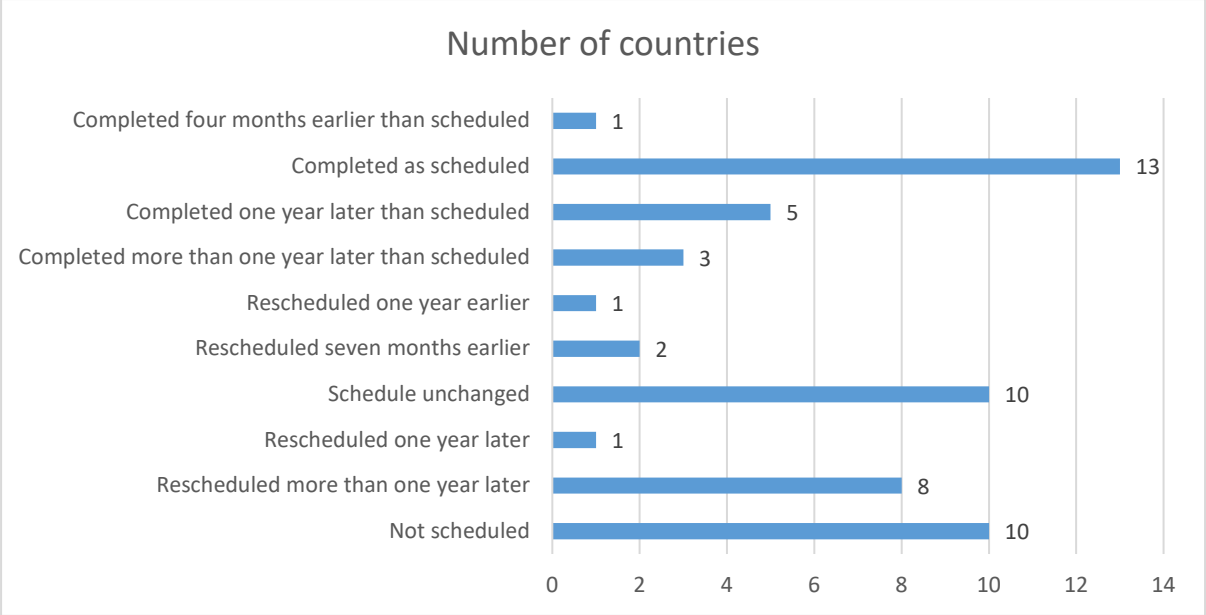
Source: Administrative information compiled by the Economic Commission for Africa, September 2022.

8. In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had a significant and adverse effect on statistical systems in general and the implementation of the 2020 African census round in particular. Because of the direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, together with other challenges, some African countries had to postpone censuses that they had scheduled for 2020 and 2021, and some postponed those scheduled for 2022, as indicated in annexes I and III.

9. By September 2022, a total of 22 countries had completed their population and housing census enumeration process. Five countries conducted their census after a one-year delay, while one country (Zimbabwe) concluded its census four months early to allow for completion of boundary delimitation in time for scheduled general elections in 2023. Eight countries have scheduled their census for 2022 or 2023 after a delay of more than one year. Uganda is scheduled to conduct its census a year early, in 2023, owing to general elections scheduled for 2024. Gabon and Senegal have also brought their censuses forward by seven months owing to scheduled general elections.

10. Because of COVID-19, the censuses that were planned for 2020 and 2021 were postponed. A further 22 countries have scheduled a population census before the 2020 round ends in 2024, and 10 countries (Algeria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan and the Sudan) do not have a planned census date for the 2020 round. These censuses have been delayed or have not yet been confirmed owing to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, a budgetary deficit or security concerns.

Figure III
Implementation status of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa



Source: Administrative information compiled by the Economic Commission for Africa, September, 2022.

III. Support from the Economic Commission for Africa

11. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has been helping African countries to conduct censuses during the 2020 round. ECA has supported a number of countries with various tasks: provisioning of tablets, a census monitoring dashboard and a census help desk tool; reconfiguring tablets after data collection; providing technical assistance such as assessment of preparedness, and reviewing designs and questionnaires among others.

A. Capacity-building

12. In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, ECA conducted an online expert group meeting in June 2021. The meeting was attended by participants from 31 countries, including the following: directors general, statisticians general and census experts from national statistical offices all over Africa; representatives of pan-African institutions; representatives of regional economic communities; data experts at Resident Coordinator offices; the population and development focal persons of the United Nations Population Fund; and development partner experts. Participants discussed challenges, lessons learned, good practices in conducting population and housing censuses in Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the potential role of census data in strategies to mitigate the pandemic.

13. The specific objectives of the expert group meeting were as follows: to discuss practical challenges and identify possible solutions in undertaking population and housing censuses in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic; to enhance participants' understanding of the use of modern technologies and methods for census cartography, enumeration and analysis; and to provide

recommendations and guidance for undertaking the various census activities (planning, enumeration, analysis and dissemination) in the COVID-19 era.

Recognizing the need to learn and share lessons from the 2020 round, ECA is developing an e-handbook in which it will collate the lessons learned from digital censuses undertaken in Africa during the 2020 round. ECA organized three workshops to initiate this project. At the first workshop, held in Ghana in February 2022, key lessons and experiences from countries that had conducted, or were planning to conduct, digital censuses were shared to enhance participants' understanding of the use of modern technologies to improve census data collection. The purpose of the workshop was to allow participants to do the following:

(a) Openly share their positive and negative experiences of using electronic devices for censuses;

(b) Identify key lessons and issues and understand how the use of computer-assisted personal interviewing affected the census business model;

(c) Identify areas where further work was needed to support African countries seeking to use computer-assisted personal interviewing technology for their censuses;

(d) Identify areas of expertise that could be called upon in future to provide African countries with technical assistance in the implementation of their censuses;

(e) Build relationships between experienced countries and foster opportunities for collaborative work in the future.

14. The workshop was attended by 64 experts drawn from 16 countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.

15. The second workshop, held in Zambia in April 2022, served to enhance participants' understanding of methods to disseminate census results in order to expand the use, accessibility and, ultimately, impact of the results. Countries and agencies that had already disseminated their census results or were planning to do so shared their experiences and plans.

16. The specific objectives of the workshop were as follows: to discuss mechanisms to identify and engage with users of census data to understand how and for what purpose they used census data; to identify approaches applied by national statistical offices to optimize the analysis of census data to users' needs – internal processes; outsourcing; collaboration with academic and other research institutions, and so forth – and the lessons learned from those approaches; to discuss mechanisms to effectively exchange and disseminate census data to users to improve the use and impact of census results; to identify areas of expertise that could be called upon in future to provide technical assistance to other African countries during dissemination to enhance use of their census products; and to build relationships between countries and other agencies to foster opportunities for future collaborative work.

17. The workshop was attended by 61 participants from the national statistical offices of 14 African countries (Cameroon, Eswatini, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia) and staff from ECA, the United Nations Population Fund and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom.

18. The third workshop was held online on 25 August, 2022 with the aim of bringing population and housing census experts from all the national statistical offices in Africa together in order to share information on the proposed e-handbook on digital population and housing censuses in Africa and mobilize their support in provision of the required information for development of the e-

handbook. During the webinar, the timelines and structure of the e-handbook were presented, together with the proposed approaches to be used in development of the e-handbook.

19. A total of 135 participants attended the webinar. In all, 123 came from 31 national statistical offices, 8 from ECA and 4 from the United Nations Population Fund. The national statistical offices included those of: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

B. Technical support

20. During the 2020 round, ECA, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, conducted missions in various African countries to assess their preparedness, encourage them to conduct population and housing censuses, provide them with various technical assistance and undertake the provisioning of tablets. The countries that received support were Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Support was provided in the following areas:

(a) Planning and preparation: Countries received assistance and advice with planning and resourcing their digital censuses and procuring and distributing devices. The design of their censuses was also reviewed;

(b) Provisioning: The installation of specific census software on specific tablets was automated, thus reducing the scope for human error and reducing the time and human resources required for manual installation. Countries received assistance with planning their workflows and resource requirements. Guidance was provided on tablet specifications and software configuration. Countries received open-source software and guidance on how to configure the software to local conditions. Lastly, countries received assistance and guidance with testing and initiating provisioning procedures;

(c) Tablet reconfiguration: Tablets need to be reconfigured to factory settings after a census so that they can be disposed of or reused locally for other activities or for censuses in other countries. The support provided included guidance on planning workflows and resource requirements for resetting tablets; the supply of applications to enable the tablets to be reconfigured and reset and guidance with configuring the software to suit local conditions; assistance and guidance with testing and initiating cleaning and resetting procedures; and guidance and advice on issues that needed to be addressed when tablets were shared with other countries;

(d) Census monitoring dashboard: Countries received support with identifying and developing dashboard indicators specifically for their own census; setting expected values and tolerance levels for each indicator; testing and installing the dashboard locally for use in the census; developing business processes for using the dashboard during the census, such as educating users on the dashboard; defining mitigating actions for different scenarios; and defining structures and terms of reference for regular operational meetings. A dashboard with similar activities could also be developed for post-enumeration surveys;

(e) Help desk: Countries received assistance with customizing and implementing the help desk app, including: gathering information to identify local requirements for the app; customizing the back-end to reflect local requirements and processes; installing the back-end; user training for the app; and troubleshooting;

(f) Observation of census operations: In-country assistance was provided for the observation of the dashboard for censuses, including in pilot exercises, and other digital or quality issues; for the resolution of issues in real time; for changes to

the dashboard to reflect emerging requirements; and for the identification of potential enumeration issues and solutions to deal with them immediately or during processing.

IV. Experiences in the implementation of censuses during the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa

21. In August 2022, a total of 22 African countries had conducted population and housing censuses within the 2020 round. Like other countries across the globe, several countries experienced difficulties in implementing various phases of the censuses owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For those countries that did conduct a census during the pandemic, the cost was higher.

22. Most countries experienced challenges related to restrictions on movement, difficulties procuring and distributing census equipment and funding constraints because government funds were reallocated to other activities. Some countries are still facing technological, methodological, operational and financial challenges as they conduct their censuses because of the changing context.

23. Countries that have conducted censuses have had various experiences and learned various lessons that will be documented to inform the planning and implementation of the 2030 round in Africa.

A. Census planning

24. During the COVID-19 pandemic, census planning committees could not meet physically or regularly. Countries adopted an online approach to many census processes, such as by holding online technical working group meetings and online meetings with national and local teams. In some countries, online meetings were interrupted because of Internet connectivity problems.

25. There was a funding gap in census budgets resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly because Governments reduced funding and reallocated resources to COVID-19 mitigation measures and the implementation of COVID-19 guidelines that required the adoption of additional measures, which meant that training and data collection took longer. The mitigation measures included the purchase of personal protective equipment (hand sanitizers, face masks and other items) for field staff, the screening and vaccination of field staff and adherence to social distancing guidelines. These measures required additional training facilities and trainers, among other expenses.

26. Restrictions on movement prevented key staff from various national statistical offices from attending training events and carrying out benchmarking with other countries. Restrictions also prevented experts from travelling to other countries, such as Sierra Leone, to provide technical training or support, or forced them to travel less often or postpone their trips. Some support, however, was provided through online meetings.

27. Countries had to mobilize additional funds for extra items such as personal protective equipment for field staff and an enhanced publicity campaign to assure the public, increase COVID-19 awareness and safety, and educate the population on new modes of data collection.

28. Despite the challenges, there was no major change in the data-collection instruments used and the types of information collected in the censuses.

B. Census field activities (cartographic mapping, household listing, enumeration and publicity)

29. During the pandemic, the operational challenges associated with conducting population censuses greatly increased. These challenges included training field staff, ensuring the safety of enumerators and the public, mitigating the risk of public insecurity and a lack of cooperation, and addressing the logistical challenges involved in transporting census personnel and material.

30. Because of COVID-19 measures, including restrictions on movement and other reasons such as insecurity, elections, financial constraints and floods, field mapping and household listing were delayed in some countries and, in some cases, postponed to a later date.

31. Outdoor census rallies and public community mobilization meetings were not held because of COVID-19 restrictions on mass gatherings. Instead, other approaches were used to inform the public, such as census webinars for stakeholders, live streaming of in-person publicity, education and advocacy events with limited participants, social media public education campaigns and road shows with media coverage.

32. Most countries leveraged technological developments to carry out publicity and advocacy through public education campaigns on social media platforms and in mainstream media (television and radio) to assure the public that the data collected will be secure and confidential, despite the use of electronic devices.

33. Some countries postponed enumeration until after the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in a loss of periodicity, with the 10-year interval between censuses broken. It also meant that enumeration took place during a different season that was less suitable for conducting a census.

34. Many countries revised their census timeline and shifted the census enumeration date to a suitable period. Some Governments had to amend their census laws to allow census enumeration to take longer and to reflect changes in the data-collection methods.

35. Many countries developed guidelines on how to prevent or mitigate COVID-19 transmission during fieldwork operations. They also raised awareness of the mitigation measures among census officials. During census enumeration, field personnel had to observe COVID-19 guidelines, including wearing face masks, observing social distancing and conducting interviews from outside premises.

C. Data analysis and dissemination

36. In accordance with the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3, “a census is not complete until the information collected is made available to users in a form suited to their needs”.[1]

37. In some countries that had finished collecting data, analysis of the data and the drafting of reports were delayed because there were fewer technical officers and experts that could meet in person to process the data, owing to the COVID-19 restrictions.

38. Similarly, restrictions on the movement of persons deterred off-site analysis workshops, which were traditionally a major channel for disseminating the findings of censuses. Because of the restrictions on large gatherings, it was not possible to disseminate census results through workshops and forums at the

[1] ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.3.

subnational level. Other, more limited avenues were used to disseminate census results, including institutional websites and media platforms.

39. The census products generated by national statistical offices have included published tabulations of preliminary and final census results; specialized or customized products requested by users, such as tables taken from national statistical office databases or generated by users; general- and special-interest group products; thematic statistical and analytical reports; methodological reports; administrative reports; census geographical reports, including codes and classifications; databases, including microdata and table-oriented databases; metadata; post-enumeration survey reports; special-audience products (policy briefs, summary reports, thematic and analytical reports, key findings reports, fact sheets, posters, brochures, flyers, basic reports, detailed tables and spreadsheets, articles, videos and social media products).

40. During the 2020 round, it was noted that, for census products to be used effectively, training is needed in the use of those products. Potential users are not always aware of the benefits of using census data for evidence-based decision-making. Some may be willing to use the information but need additional training to more fully understand the data. Users' training needs must be identified early to ensure that adequate funds are available. Where necessary, users or donors may be asked to provide funding for specific courses. Training should be fully integrated into the census process so that users are involved and interested in the census throughout the process. Partnerships should be identified and used for different topics, such as gender issues.

D. Training of field census officials

41. The national statistical offices and census agencies collaborated with the relevant health authorities to enhance safety protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The changes introduced included the fumigation of training facilities, the screening of participants, adherence to the recommended seating arrangement of 2 m spacing between participants at training sessions, and body hygiene measures (handwashing and sanitizing). Because of the new activities to ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines, the training took longer and required more trainers, so the cost increased.

42. Some countries trained their field staff online. This posed certain challenges. For example, those participating from home would sometimes do other tasks at the same time or would not give their full attention to the training. Sometimes, they would even delegate attendance to others.

43. A hybrid training system in which enumerators would attend training sessions, which were pre-recorded and held online, at a common training centre, with the presence of data quality monitors, was found to be better than a purely online system.

E. Use of technology

44. The 2020 population census round (2015–2024) is taking place in a changing global technological landscape. During the 2020 round, most African countries continued to adapt innovative approaches and strategies in every phase of the census – mapping, recruitment, training, data collection, analysis, dissemination and use. Some countries embraced the use of technology for online recruitment and training, but they also had to deal with the issue of poor Internet connectivity and coverage in some countries

45. One of the major challenges involved in implementing digital censuses is the logistics associated with the large number of devices – mostly tablet

computers and power banks – that are needed, including how to procure them and how to dispose of them.

F. Independent monitoring of population and housing censuses

46. In various countries, the censuses were monitored independently, objectively and impartially and compared against international standards and best practices.

47. The independent monitoring teams assessed the quality of training documents; assessed the appropriateness and quality of enumeration methods, procedures and instruments; observed and documented general field practices, enumeration procedures and operations, with emphasis on risks and challenges; observed and assessed the suitability of the field logistics; provided regular feedback to national statistical offices and census agencies during the labelling and listing of structures and during enumeration; documented lessons learned and best practices for building capacity and improving the implementation of future censuses and other large-scale statistical activities; and provided a comprehensive report to underscore the credibility and transparency of the census process.

48. The independent monitors were drawn from international and national institutions with proven expertise in large-scale data collection, in particular, the implementation of population and housing censuses. Specifically, they were drawn from national statistical offices in Africa, various United Nations Population Fund country offices in Africa and elsewhere, and the Fund's regional office and headquarters. In addition, an ECA team participated in the monitoring.

49. Lessons learned from the monitoring were documented to facilitate knowledge-sharing and knowledge transfer with other countries. Independent monitoring significantly improved the outcomes of the censuses and is recommended for all future censuses.

G. Opportunities

50. Countries still depend on census data to boost social and economic development, report on their progress on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and generate disaggregated data to support their response to emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic. During the 2020 round, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for population data has increased for countries to identify locations with populations at risk and potential service delivery points and to report on the Sustainable Development Goals.

51. The United Nations Population Fund and ECA supported the conduct of censuses by offering competitive procurement of digital data-collection tablets and related software; personal protective equipment for enumerators; technical assistance to strengthen capacities in the modernization, dissemination and use of census data; quality assurance for the census undertaking; guidelines and training packages on different aspects of census undertaking; the facilitation and brokering of partnerships for resource mobilization; and the promotion of south-south and triangular cooperation for knowledge exchange.

52. Data-collection devices were shared through South-South cooperation, thus reducing census budgets. For instance, Sierra Leone borrowed 20,000 tablets and Mauritius borrowed 8,000, both from Kenya.

53. Internet coverage and mobile phone accessibility has improved across the region, while geographic information systems and statistical modernization packages have become widespread. ECA facilitated exchange between countries to strengthen regional capacity in the use of new technologies, such

as the programming of computer-assisted personal interviewing and the use of geographic information systems through south-south learning and knowledge-sharing.

V. Lessons for the 2030 round

54. ECA, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, is documenting experiences, key lessons and good practices learned during the planning and implementation of digital censuses in Africa during the 2020 round to inform planning and implementation for the 2030 round in Africa.

55. As they seek to build back better from the disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, African countries should transition to fully digital census systems to make statistics timely, more reliable , accessible and quicker to access.

VI. Conclusion

56. Despite the innovations being undertaken during the 2020 round, the potential challenges that have been noted to adopting new approaches to census data collection include: continuous changes in technologies; procurement challenges (timeliness, upfront costs); staff skills and capacities in using digital applications; georeferenced data sharing and the issue of access versus confidentiality; and financial constraints.

57. Taking into consideration the importance of population and housing censuses national statistical offices, partners and all players need to continue advocating that countries conduct digital censuses and analyse, disseminate and use census data.

58. African countries are encouraged to continue to adapt the digital census approach because it enhances the timeliness of census data, improves the quality of results and enhances the potential for geospatial analysis. It is worth noting, however, that shifting to digital censuses requires careful consideration of design, planning and resourcing to maximize the value and mitigate the risks.

VII. Points for discussion

59. The 2020 round (2015–2024) is drawing to a close against a changing global landscape, as countries around the world have pursued a range of new global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. For Africa, the next two years will be critical, with the added pressure that many countries will not complete a 2020 round census before the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals.

60. It is recommended that, as part of the way forward, African countries take the following actions:

(a) African countries need to continue to adopt innovative approaches and strategies at every phase of the census, from mapping, recruitment and training to data collection, analysis, dissemination and use;

(b) African countries need to learn from their experiences in the 2020 round and apply the lessons to the planning and design of new innovations during the 2030 round. They need to evaluate their censuses and work with ECA and other partners to share lessons learned and provide a collective knowledge base for all African countries to work from during the 2030 round;

(c) Countries still planning for their 2020 round of censuses must identify their assistance and expertise needs early and flag them with ECA. For its part, ECA will work with partners and other organizations to coordinate

assistance to ensure that countries have access to the expertise and assistance they need to conduct their censuses;

(d) Countries should look to identify expertise within their own organizations that can be used to assist other countries with their censuses as part of South-South cooperation ambitions. Such expertise may include computer-assisted personal interviewing programmers; communications experts, and demographers and statisticians;

(e) Countries should identify other ways that national statistical offices and development partners, such as ECA and the United Nations Population Fund, can support countries in order to maximize participation in the 2020 round and prepare for the 2030 round.

Annex I
Originally scheduled census years and actual census years in African countries
(Number of African countries)

	Actual census year										
Scheduled census year	***2015***	***2016***	***2017***	***2018***	***2019***	***2021***	***2022***	***2023***	***2024***	***Not rescheduled***	***Total***
2015	2										2
2016		1									1
2017			4					1			5
2018				2			1				3
2019					2						2
2020						2	3			7	12
2021							4	3		1	8
2022							6	2			8
2023								5	1		6
2024								**1**	**4**		**5**
Not scheduled										2	2
Total	**2**	**1**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**14**	**12**	**5**	**10**	**54**

Source: Administrative information compiled by ECA, September 2022.

Annex II

Implementation status of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa, by actual year conducted

(Number of African countries)

	Actual year										
Status	***2015***	***2016***	***2017***	***2018***	***2019***	***2021***	***2022***	***2023***	***2024***	***Not rescheduled***	***Total***
Completed four months earlier than scheduled							1				1
Completed as scheduled	2	1	4	2	2		2				13
Completed one year later than scheduled						1	4				5
Completed more than one year later than scheduled						1	2				3
Rescheduled one year earlier								1			1
Rescheduled seven months earlier								2			2
Schedule unchanged							3	3	4		10
Rescheduled one year later									1		1
Rescheduled more than one year later							2	6			8
Not scheduled										10	10
Total countries	**2**	**1**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**14**	**12**	**5**	**10**	**54**

Source: Administrative information compiled by ECA, September 2022.

Annex III
Distribution of African countries by originally scheduled census year and actual census year

Original census year	*Actual census year*										
	2015	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*Not scheduled*	*Total*
2015	Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone										**2**
2016		Lesotho									**1**
2017			Comoros, Egypt, Eswatini, Mozambique								**4**
2018				Madagascar, Malawi			Liberia	Congo			**4**
2019					Kenya, Burkina Faso						**2**
2020						Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire	Seychelles, Mali, Togo			Algeria, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sudan	**12**
2021							Botswana, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia	Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Niger		Chad	**8**

Original census year	*Actual census year*										
	2015	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*Not scheduled*	*Total*
2022							Central African Republic, Libya, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe	Burundi, Nigeria			**8**
2023								Benin, Gabon, Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal	Somalia		**6**
2024								Uganda	Angola, Guinea, Morocco, Tunisia		**5**
Not scheduled										Eritrea, South Sudan	**2**
Total	**2**	**1**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**14**	**12**	**5**	**10**	**54**

Source: Administrative information compiled by ECA, September 2022.