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Statistical 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 censuses as one of the primary sources of the 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 the disaggregated data needed to measure progress in the implementation of national development plans, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

2. At its seventh session, held in Addis Ababa in October 2020, the Statistical Commission for Africa 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 States have embraced technological innovations during the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, in particular during cartographic mapping, the process of census enumeration and the dissemination of census results. 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 enable help desks to track issues in the field and assign a team to address them.

3. At its eighth session, held in Addis Ababa in October 2022, the Statistical Commission for Africa commended the strengthening of innovative approaches by States during the 2020 round of censuses. It called upon members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to continue sharing experiences from the 2020 round of censuses and to continue working with ECA and other partners to build collective knowledge that could be used as a resource during the 2030 round. In addition, it called upon ECA, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other development partners to continue providing support to countries in the implementation of the 2020 round and in preparation for the 2030 round.

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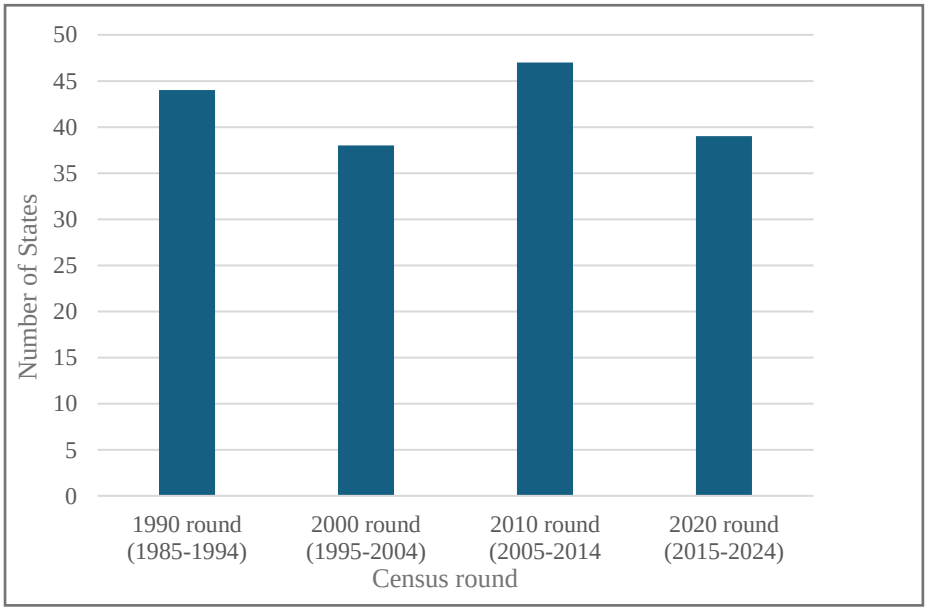
II. Status of the 2020 round

4. At the beginning of the census decade, African States committed themselves to conducting at least one census during the 2020 round of censuses, pursuant to resolution 2015/10 of the Economic and Social Council on the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. African States also undertook to transition from manual to digital systems, which, by increasing the reliability of statistics and the speed at which they become available, help to mitigate the adverse effects of such emergencies as conflicts and pandemics.

5. The 2020 round has taken place in a changing global landscape, with States across the world pursuing a range of new global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The year 2024 marks the end of the 2020 round, six years from the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. At the beginning of the 2020 round, 50 African States were expected to conduct at least one population and housing census during the period 2015–2024. As shown in figure I, however, only 39 of them have been able to conduct their censuses by the end of the round, representing a reduction by 8 States (17 per cent) from the previous round.

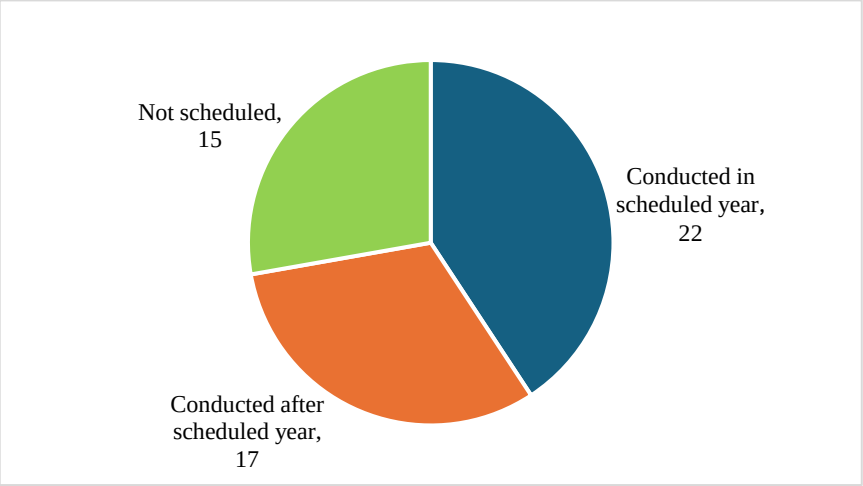
Figure I
Censuses undertaken in Africa, by round



Source: Administrative information compiled by ECA, August 2024.

7. As shown in figure II, by the end of the 2020 round, 22 States will have conducted their population and housing census in the scheduled year, while 17 will have been forced to reschedule their census for various reasons, such as presidential elections, funding deficits, security concerns or lockdowns in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID 19) pandemic.

Figure II
Number of countries by successful census implementation in scheduled year



Source: Administrative information compiled by ECA, August 2024.

8. In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the COVID-19 outbreak was a pandemic. The pandemic had a significant adverse effect on statistical systems, in general, and on the African 2020 census round, in particular. Of the censuses scheduled for 2020, 2021 and 2022, ten, six and two, respectively, had to be postponed. Following the postponements, 15 States did not ultimately reschedule their census. In the table in the annex, the years in which the censuses of the 2020 round were scheduled in African countries are shown, along with the years in which they were actually conducted.

9. The result of these failures to reschedule is that 15 States will not conduct a census for the 2020 round.

III. Support from the Economic Commission for Africa

10. ECA, UNFPA and, through its Office for National Statistics, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have assisted African States with conducting censuses during the 2020 round. ECA has helped several Governments with various tasks, including provisioning tablets; using a census-monitoring dashboard and a census help desk tool; reconfiguring tablets after data collection; providing such technical assistance as assessment of preparedness; and reviewing census designs and questionnaires.

A. Capacity-building

1. Analysis of census data for monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals

11. ECA, UNFPA and the Government of the United Kingdom held capacity-building workshops to train national statistical offices on analysing and using geolocational data collected as part of the 2020 census round for monitoring progress with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing national development plans. The workshops were held in June 2023 in Nairobi, with crucial contributions from States that had created a final database of recently conducted georeferenced censuses. Representatives of Botswana, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia participated in the English-speaking workshop, while representatives of Burkina Faso, the Congo, Côte

d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda and Togo participated in the French-speaking workshop. The specific training objectives were:

(a) To provide training on the analysis of geolocational census data and their application to spatial variations in the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and in the thematic areas of censuses;

(b) To showcase software-based methods for assessing georeferenced census data, for disseminating them for wider use and accessibility, and for increasing their impact on policymaking and decision-making;

(c) To provide hands-on training in the geospatial mapping and analysis of geolocational census data, including the use of ArcGIS Desktop;

(d) To strengthen capacity for mapping and analysing geolocational census data and combining them with other data for granular analysis;

(e) To improve understanding of spatial data and coordinate reference systems, and of their relevance to the analysis of geolocational census data.

2. Dissemination and use of census data

12. ECA, the Government of the United Kingdom and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), along with other partners, held a four-day training workshop on modernization of statistical practices on the continent. This training event was focused on a toolkit for disseminating census results. The workshop was held in Nairobi in September 2023, with participants including statisticians, and information and communications technology (ICT) experts from the national statistical offices of Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, in all of which a census had recently been conducted. The objectives of the workshop were:

(a) To build familiarity with the census-dissemination toolkit of the African Centre for Statistics and its functionalities for easy adaptation and use at the national level;

(b) To demonstrate the importance of the more deliberate communication of the central findings of a census;

(c) To illuminate basic concepts of gender-related statistics and the importance of making censuses gender-sensitive;

(d) To show how visualizations, data storytelling and social media can be used to disseminate the gender messages drawn from censuses.

3. Population estimation

13. In November 2023, ECA, UNFPA and the Government of the United Kingdom jointly held two 6-day capacity-building workshops on estimating population projections: one in Johannesburg, South Africa, for English speakers and another in Dakar for French speakers. The training was attended by 99 participants from 28 countries across Africa. As well as being an opportunity to share experiences, the workshops were designed to provide hands-on technical training in the production of population projections for informed planning and programming. The workshop's specific objectives were:

(a) To introduce the latest developments in population-projection methodologies and explain the preparation of assumptions and inputs;

(b) To share national experiences of producing population projections;

(c) To identify potential uses of population projections and decide on strategies to inform the estimation, improve the dissemination and promote the use of the results;

(d) To identify subjects on which experts could be called upon in the future to provide technical assistance to African States;

(e) To build networks between African States and technical agencies to foster opportunities for future collaboration.

14. The participants were drawn from national statistical offices and from selected universities and research institutions. The training was provided by ECA, the Governments of the United States of America, in the form of its Census Bureau, and of the United Kingdom, UNFPA and the United Nations Population Division. Highlights included the use of open-source software to generate population projections using the R programming language and the use of probabilistic population-projection methodologies, both of which are departures from traditional scenario-based approaches.

4. E-census handbook

15. At the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, ECA members were encouraged to use South-South cooperation to exchange experiences in terms of census technologies; in addition, ECA members were called upon to share experiences from the 2020 round of censuses and continue working with ECA and other partners to build a collective knowledge base that could be used as a resource during the 2030 round. Recognizing the need to learn and share lessons from the 2020 round, ECA, UNFPA and the Government of the United Kingdom have developed a handbook on e-censuses, which is continuously updated. The handbook provides a repository of experiences, chief lessons learned and best practices drawn from the digital censuses conducted in Africa during the 2020 round.

5. Census expert group meeting

16. From 9 to 13 September 2024, ECA, UNFPA and the Government of the United Kingdom held a census expert group meeting in Pretoria. The overarching objective was to undertake a comprehensive review of the 2020 round in Africa and planning for the 2030 round, while more specific goals of the meeting were:

(a) To undertake a final review and validation of the e-census handbook that focused on how the use of electronic devices and other technologies affected the census business model;

(b) To seek consensus regarding a technical note on lessons learned, best practices and recommendations to be included among the Africa-specific recommendations for the 2030 round;

(c) To review and validate the identified areas in which experts could be called upon to provide future technical assistance to African States, as part of the digital census-development process through South-South cooperation;

(d) To mobilize support from census experts to provide additional information that could fill any remaining gaps in the content of the e-census handbook.

17. The meeting was attended by participants from 40 African countries, including senior officials and experts from national statistical offices; representatives of pan-African institutions; representatives of regional economic communities; data experts from resident coordinator offices; UNFPA population and development focal points; and development-partner experts. Participants discussed challenges, lessons learned and best practices in conducting censuses in Africa during the 2020 round, also making Africa-specific recommendations for the 2030 round as an addendum to the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*.[1]

[1] *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, revision 3* (United Nations publication, 2017).

B. Technical support

18. During the 2020 round, ECA has conducted missions in 24 African countries – Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe – in relation:

(a) To planning, preparation, resource mobilization, procurement, distribution of devices and census design;

(b) To tablet provisioning, including automating the installation of specific census software, in order to limit the scope for human error and to reduce the time and human resources required during manual installation; planning workflows, resource requirements and tablet specifications; configuring the provided open-source software to match local conditions; and testing and initiating tablet provisioning procedures;

(c) To tablet reconfiguration after a census for local disposal or for reuse, including guidance on planning workflows and resource requirements for resetting tablets; the supply of applications to enable reconfiguration and resetting of the used tablets; guidance with configuring the software to suit local country conditions; assistance with testing and initiating cleaning and reset procedures; and guidance and advice on issues that need to be addressed when tablets are to be shared with other States;

(d) To the ECA census-monitoring dashboard, including identifying and developing country-specific census-monitoring indicators for the dashboard, setting expected values and tolerance levels for each indicator, and testing and installing the dashboard locally for use in the census; developing such in-census business processes as educating users on the dashboard; defining mitigation measures for different scenarios; defining structures and terms of reference for regular operational meetings; and developing a dashboard with similar activities for post-enumeration surveys;

(e) To customizing and implementing a help desk application, including gathering information to identify local requirements for the application, customizing the back end to reflect local requirements and processes, installing the back end, conducting application user training and troubleshooting;

(f) To the census-monitoring dashboard, including pilot exercises and other digital or quality issues; resolving issues in real time; real-time changes to the dashboard to reflect emerging requirements; and identification of potential enumeration issues and solutions to deal with them immediately or during data processing;

(g) To the census dissemination and communication toolkit, including the automation of some census-related analytical processes, and the communication and use of such census products;

(h) To the supply of a census-management toolkit to help with the implementation of each census phase, including a planning checklist to provide guidance on the timing and scheduling of activities when implementing a digital census in Africa, intended for use by national census-implementing agencies alongside the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*.

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

19. Like those in other regions, several African States experienced difficulties with conducting censuses, owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic caused a huge gap in census budgets, mainly due to the reallocation of resources to COVID-19-mitigation measures and to longer training and data-collection times in the census-implementation process, caused by the introduction of additional steps to ensure adherence to the COVID-19 guidelines.

20. Most States experienced challenges related to restrictions on movement and to difficulties with procuring and distributing census equipment. As they conducted their censuses, some faced technological, methodological and operational challenges occasioned by the changing context.

21. On a positive note, many African States have moved towards conducting digital censuses during the 2020 round, with assistance from ECA, in particular on cartographic mapping and demarcation of enumeration areas; the use of mobile devices for enumeration and data transmission; the use of the ECA census-monitoring dashboard to display enumeration progress in terms of coverage and quality; the use of the census dissemination toolkit and the census-management toolkit for all census operations; and the use by the help desk of an issue tracker to gather issues in the field and address them.

A. Census-planning

22. During and after the COVID-19 pandemic, census-planning committees could not meet in person or regularly. States organized many census processes online, such as technical working group meetings at the national and local levels. In some countries, online meetings were interrupted because of Internet connectivity problems.

23. All States considered stakeholder involvement, logistical support, an appropriate legal framework and the political will for census implementation to be central to census-planning. In addition, a national launch of the census by the Head of State was also considered essential.

24. Census-planning in the digital era requires more thought to be given to technology. Moreover, while implementation timelines are shorter, procurement plans are more detailed and consultative, with many more stakeholders that need to agree on specifications based on calculated opportunity cost. Thus, planning and budgeting require more consultation beyond the implementing agency. States have come to understand that the outsourcing of technical services should therefore be an integral decision, taken within the implementation committee and incorporated into the plan and budget.

25. Restrictions on movement prevented critical staff from various national statistical offices from attending training events and from carrying out benchmarking with other countries. Restrictions also prevented experts from travelling to other countries 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.

26. States had to mobilize additional funds for extra items, such as personal protective equipment for field staff and enhanced publicity campaigns to reassure the public, increase COVID-19 awareness and safety, and educate the population on new modes of data collection. States realized that a census plan should not be static but rather dynamic, in order to accommodate any changes that could arise during any of its phases.

27. 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)

28. During the 2020 round, field mapping and household listing have often been postponed, owing, to, among other reasons situations arising from COVID-19-mitigation measures, including restrictions on movement; insecurity; presidential elections; financial constraints; and floods.

29. Some States postponed enumeration until after the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many revised their census timeline and moved the census enumeration date to a more suitable period. Some Governments had to amend census laws to allow census enumeration to take longer and to reflect changes in the data-collection methods. In some countries, although the census reference night and enumeration period had been clearly set out, non-response rates were still high, requiring the extension of the enumeration period to ensure complete coverage.

30. Census postponements resulted in a loss of periodicity, with a break in the 10-year interval between censuses. They also sometimes meant that enumeration took place during a different season, which was sometimes less suitable for conducting a census.

31. During the 2020 round, most States have embraced the use of mobile technology to capture spatial data and transmit them to the central servers for map production. In some countries, although the Government had carried out digital cartographic mapping, maps were printed in hard copy to facilitate map validation, training and enumeration in selected areas, resulting in an unplanned additional cost amid budgetary deficits; other States, meanwhile, went completely paperless.

32. In some countries, the incorporation of many stakeholder requests into the cartographic exercise changed it into a statistical undertaking. This slowed down mapping and, in turn, the entire census process. As part of the digital cartographic mapping process, however, each State considered which technology and software would be most suitable, on the basis of its specific output and cost requirements. Some of the intended outputs included detailed information about the use of buildings, permanent and temporary; updated business registers; a dwelling unit frame for household and land-use information; updated geography files; and a verified and categorized nationwide locality list of all administrative levels.

33. Outdoor public community mobilization meetings were not held in 2020 and 2021 because of COVID-19. Consequently, most States leveraged new technologies – social media platforms, census webinars for stakeholders and live-streaming of in-person publicity – and broadcast media to conduct public education campaigns, reassuring the public that the data collected would be secure and confidential, despite the use of electronic devices. Such measures have continued, even after the pandemic.

C. Training of field staff

34. For the digital census, the training of field staff took longer and required more trainers, which increased costs. The first reason for this is that additional effort was needed to train census personnel in the use of the computer-assisted personal interviewing application, including basic ICT skills, relating in particular to device safety and navigation of the various tablet applications. The second reason is the above-mentioned need to incorporate additional steps to the census process with a view to adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines.

35. Some States trained their field staff online, which posed certain challenges. For example, some staff members participating from home would not give their full attention to the training, perhaps because they were doing other tasks at the same time; sometimes, they would even delegate attendance to others.

36. A hybrid training system was found to be better than a purely online system. Enumerators would attend training sessions, which were pre-recorded and held online, at a joint training centre; data-quality monitors would also attend.

D. Data analysis and dissemination

37. As stated in the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, "a census is not complete until the information collected is made available to users in a form suited to their needs".

38. Some countries where data collection had been completed had limited capability to implement new ICT and geographic information system (GIS) technologies for data analysis data and report-drafting. This was coupled with delays because fewer technical officers and experts were able to meet in person to process the data, owing to the COVID-19 restrictions.

39. During the 2020 round, most States have produced electronic census products alongside the traditional reports, which have also been made available electronically via various media. Census atlases, geospatial dissemination systems, interactive dashboards, infographics and popular version reports are innovative products in the digital census era. Other census products include published tabulations of preliminary and final census results; tailored or customized products requested by users, such as thematic statistical and analytical reports; methodological reports; administrative reports; census geographical reports; microdata; and table-oriented databases. In addition, special audience products are available, such as policy briefs, fact sheets, posters, brochures, flyers, publication articles, videos and social media posts.

40. In the 2020 round, the use of institutional websites and other electronic media to disseminate census results has increased. In 2020 and 2021, it was impossible to hold workshops and forums at the subnational level – the traditional major channel for disseminating census results – because of the restrictions on large gatherings. Some countries have faced challenges due to shortages of the skills required to efficiently use the emerging technologies for producing and disseminating census products.

41. During the 2020 round, it has been noted that, for census products to be used effectively, training is needed on the use of those products. Potential users have not always been aware of the benefits of using census data for evidence-based decision-making. Some, while perhaps willing to use the information, have needed additional training to fully understand the data. 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. If users are to be involved and interested in the census process throughout, training should be fully integrated into the process. On such issues as gender and human rights, external partners should be used.

E. Use of technology

42. The 2020 round has taken place in a changing global technological landscape. Most African States have continued to adopt innovative approaches and strategies during every phase of the census: mapping, recruitment, training, data collection, analysis, dissemination and use. Some have embraced the use

of technology for online recruitment, training and payment, but it has been necessary to contend with the issue of poor Internet connectivity and coverage in some countries.

43. One major challenge involved in implementing digital censuses is the logistical complexity of providing the large number of devices – mostly tablet computers and power banks – that are needed, including their procurement and disposal. States followed various approaches to addressing census logistics plans: some established guidelines, committees and partnerships with other institutions, while others engaged logistics firms to manage the various logistical components of the census.

F. Independent monitoring of censuses

44. In several countries, the census was monitored independently, objectively and impartially, and was checked against international standards and best practices.

45. The independent monitoring teams have 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 field logistics; and provided regular feedback to national statistical offices and census agencies during the labelling and listing of structures and during enumeration. The teams have also documented lessons learned and best practices for building capacity and improving the implementation of future censuses and other large-scale statistical activities. Lastly, the teams have provided a comprehensive report to underscore the credibility and transparency of the census process.

46. The independent monitors have been drawn from international and national institutions with proven expertise in large-scale data collection, in particular the implementation of censuses: African national statistical offices, ECA and UNFPA, including its country and regional offices.

47. Lessons learned from the monitoring have been documented to facilitate knowledge-sharing with and knowledge transfer to other countries. Independent monitoring has significantly improved outcomes and is recommended for all future censuses.

V. Opportunities

48. States still depend on census data to boost their social and economic development; to report on their progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063; and to generate disaggregated data to support their response to emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. During the 2020 round, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for population data has increased, in line with the greater need for States to identify locations with at-risk populations and potential service-delivery points.

49. ECA and UNFPA have helped States to conduct censuses by providing them with digital data-collection tablets, along with related software, and personal protective equipment for enumerators at competitive prices; providing technical assistance to strengthen capacities for the modernization, dissemination and use of census data; carrying out quality assurance on the census process; issuing guidelines and training packages on different aspects of conducting a census; facilitating and brokering partnerships for resource mobilization; and fostering South-South and triangular cooperation for knowledge exchange.

50. Another form of South-South cooperation has consisted of the sharing of data-collection devices to reduce census budgets. For instance, Sierra Leone borrowed 20,000 tablets and Mauritius borrowed 8,000, both from Kenya.

51. Internet coverage and mobile phone accessibility have improved across the region, while GISs and statistical modernization packages have become widespread. ECA has facilitated inter-State exchanges to strengthen regional capacity for using new technologies, such as the programming of devices used for computer-assisted personal interviewing and the use of GISs through South-South learning and knowledge-sharing.

VI. Recommendations and lessons for the 2030 round

52. As the 2030 round is starting in 2025, the Africa group wishes to highlight some important lessons:

(a) African States need to continue adopting innovative approaches and strategies at every phase of the census, from mapping, recruitment and training to data collection, analysis, dissemination and use. Innovative approaches, such as hybrid censuses, need to be considered for conflict zones that cannot be reached by enumerators, owing to safety concerns. Carefully planned, mixed methods for censuses, involving a combination of traditional and Internet-based data collection and registry-based censuses may be adopted;

(b) African States need to learn from their experiences in the 2020 round and apply the lessons to the planning and design of innovations during the 2030 round. They need to evaluate their censuses and to share their lessons learned, providing a collective knowledge base from which all African States will be able to work during the 2030 round;

(c) States planning their 2030 census round must identify their assistance and expertise needs early and notify development partners of them. They must also consider new census methods for the 2030 round, including online, register-based, electronic and hybrid censuses. Such approaches would require extensive planning and preparation well in advance;

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

53. African States made other recommendations, including that national statistical offices should:

(a) Adopt a communication and dissemination plan as a standard for all statistical products;

(b) Establish an in-house communication team with design capability and skills;

(c) Increase the use of infographics, factsheets and visualizations in all statistical products;

(d) Use interactive dashboards for census dissemination;

(e) Adopt dynamic tools and artificial intelligence in census analysis and dissemination.

54. With a view to enhancing the production of population-projection estimates, ECA and UNFPA undertook to develop and share with States a handbook or workbook on using the probabilistic approach in the R programming language to generate population projections. This is beneficial because, with probabilistic population projections, fewer assumptions are

needed and, in contrast to the deterministic framework, they make it possible for several population trajectories to be projected at once.

VII. Conclusion

55. Despite the innovations introduced during the 2020 round, the potential challenges that have been noted in adopting new approaches to census-data collection include: continuous technological change; such procurement challenges as timeliness and upfront costs; staff skills with and capacity for using digital applications; the incompatibility of requirements regarding, on the one hand, access to and sharing of georeferenced data and, on the other, confidentiality; and financial constraints.

56. Given the importance of censuses, national statistical offices, partners and all other stakeholders need to continue advocating the conduct by States of digital censuses and should analyse, disseminate and use the resulting data.

57. African States are encouraged to continue adopting the digital census approach because it makes census data timelier, improves the quality of results and increases the potential for geospatial analysis. Given the existing challenges, such an approach may require States to embrace multi-modal approaches to data collection. A critical aspect of this is that digital censuses and multi-modal approaches require careful consideration of design, planning and resourcing, in order to maximize value and mitigate risks.

58. Evolving demands for frequent, timely and granular information pose challenges for traditional methods, necessitating innovative approaches and integration with administrative and other data sources. Each State must carefully select the methods suited to its unique context, drawing on best practices and lessons learned. Successful implementation will depend on collaboration and communication among all stakeholders.

59. States should identify other ways in which national statistical offices and development partners, such as ECA and UNFPA, can support them in maximizing their preparation for and participation in the 2030 round.

Annex
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						3	3	1		3	10
2021							4	2			6
2022							5		1	1	7
2023								3	1	5	9
2024									**3**	4	**7**
Not scheduled										2	2
Total	**2**	**1**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**13**	**7**	**5**	**15**	**54**

Source: Administrative information compiled by ECA, August 2024.