



Seminar announcement:

“Experiences, good practices and challenges for the National Statistical Systems of Latin American countries in the light of the 2020 Population and Housing Census round”

UN ECLAC, Santiago, Chile, November 27-29, 2017

Hosted by the Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID), the National Statistical Institute of Chile (INE Chile), the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO Chile), the Latinamerican and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE) – Population Division of UN ECLAC, the Census Group of the Statistics Conference for the Americas (CEA-CEPAL) and the United Nations Funds for Population Activities (UNFPA), with the support of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD).

I. Background

In Latin America and the Caribbean the 2020 census round has already begun since at least five countries in the region are in the process of conducting their censuses between 2017 and 2018 and the rest of the countries are planning it for the period of 2019 and 2022.

Population and housing censuses are a key tool because the nature of data collected is essential for purposes of planning, development and improvement of the population’s quality of life. The census is a special wide-range activity, which takes place once a decade in the entire country. The population census is the most detailed information source on the population at the level of small localities, neighborhoods in cities and small population groups. The data acquired, forms a basis of information that is available to public and private elements at the national and local level for purposes of decision making in a variety of areas of the life of the residents of a country.

Its purpose is to gather information about the general population, in order to present a full and reliable picture of the population in a country – its housing conditions and demographic, social and economic characteristics. A well designed census allows obtaining vital information regarding dwelling, households and population and constitutes an invaluable resource for a nation. This information makes it possible to plan better services, improve quality of life and solve existing problems.

Also, census data is used for the creation of sample frames for household surveys, its demographic information is used for calculating population estimates. Provides data and information on small, unique groups in the population and allows studying the components of demographic dynamics among others.

This census round is relevant particularly because it is entangled with the 2030 Agenda (A2030) for the Sustainable Development and the 17 Goals (SDG) with its 169 targets and 232 indicators. The A2030 integrates the three pillars of the sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), and defines concrete targets regarding the disaggregation of indicators by sex, age, disability, geographical location and ethnicity, among others. In this regard, censuses constitute a source of basic information for the construction of the indicators with their disaggregation.

On the other hand, under a regional perspective Latin America and the Caribbean defined its own agenda on population and development emerging from the 2013 Regional Conference on Population and Development (Consensus of Montevideo - CdeM), building an indicators framework for the follow-up of the priority measures as well as seeking harmonization with the ODS.

The region faces major substantive challenges resulting from the need to achieve the goals and targets of development agendas and people's well-being but also important instrumental challenges in order to measure real progress. Special relevance, therefore, takes the implementation of new technologies that allow innovation and offer the opportunity to improve census processes and consequently the coverage and quality of census information.

Considering these, the Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID) and the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO Chile), jointly with the National Statistical Institute of Chile (INE Chile), the Latinamerican and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE) – Population Division of UN ECLAC, the Census Group of the Statistics Conference for the Americas (CEA-CEPAL) and the United Nations Funds for Population Activities (UNFPA), with the support of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and the Statistics Commission for Central America (CENTRPESTAD) are organizing the international seminar “Experiences, good practices and challenges for the National Statistical Systems of Latin American countries in the light of the 2020 Population and Housing Census round”, to be held in Santiago, Chile, during 27, 28 and 29 of November, 2017.

Given the breadth and complexity of the themes for the preparation and implementation of the next population and housing censuses in their different phases and dimensions the seminar will focus on sharing national experiences on technological innovations implemented or to be implemented by countries of the region in the 2020 census round. The scope of the use of technologies in census processes could range from strategic design to analysis and dissemination of information.

II. Objectives

General objective:

Section 1.01

Promote the use of new technologies in census processes in order to improve their quality and coverage.

Specific objectives:

1. Promote a dialogue between key actors of national statistical systems on their experiences and best practices in:
 - a) Census strategic design, that is, the design planning and tools options to be used in the different phases of the census process.
 - b) Census preparation, including cartographic updating, recruitment and training, instruments testing, preparation of pilot tests and experimental censuses.
 - c) Census field work, that is, technology and instruments to be used for data capture operational monitoring and field coverage recovery.
 - d) Processing, validation and data consistency and
 - e) Analysis and dissemination of information (including compatibility with BIG DATA, web GIS, APIs, etc.).
2. Discuss the organizational aspects and challenges for the Information Units of the National Statistical Offices in the census process.
3. Discuss the challenges for South-South cooperation regarding the 2020 census round and the SDGs and CdeM.

III. Participants

The Seminar will be addressed to officials of the National Statistical Institutes of the region who work in the team of Population and Housing Census.