



XXIII MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS

REGIONAL SEMINAR “INNOVATIONS IN THE POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS OF THE 2020 ROUND LOOKING TOWARDS THE 2030 ROUND”

August 27, 2024, Santiago, Chile, ECLAC headquarters

CONTEXT

This seminar is part of the activities within the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (SCA-ECLAC). It is organized jointly by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE)-Population Division and the Statistics Division of ECLAC, with the collaboration of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The 2020 round of population and housing censuses has been especially complex in the region, both due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting socioeconomic crisis due to the sociocultural changes, technological challenges, political contexts, and citizen trust among other aspects. Within the framework of the Twelfth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (September 26 to 28, 2023), a series of political, technical and institutional challenges of the National Statistics Offices (NSO) were identified, concerning both the process of carrying out their censuses of the 2020 round and the dissemination of their results. In this event, the role of regional collaboration among countries was emphasized for making well-informed decisions that minimize the risks inherent in the complex processes involved in population and housing censuses. Furthermore, the assistance of specialized international organizations, the strengthening of networks and regional alliances; the exchange of best practices, and the circulation of technical resources were highlighted as crucial components.

Similarly, in the SCA-ECLAC meetings as well as other discussions and debates related to censuses, efforts made by the National Statistical Offices have been recognized to face the challenges of the 2020 round. The offices have innovated in the management, technical, and methodological aspects, with lessons that must be capitalized towards the 2030 round of population and housing censuses. These innovations include the use of mobile capture devices (MCD), online self-enumeration, and hybrid training, among many others. In addition, as we approach the 2030 round, it is essential to improve administrative records and facilitate access to them, acknowledging their significant potential as a source for population statistical data.

OBJECTIVE

This seminar aims to share the innovations introduced in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses and the lessons learned, from the perspective of the directors or managers of the national statistical offices, with focus on planning and preparing the 2030 census round. It is expected to enhance the NSOs learning and capabilities in light of the quality of the results obtained and the challenges ahead.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Schedule	Session
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome ECLAC UNFPA IDB
09:30 – 10:00	A brief overview of the 2020 population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean and the main challenges facing the 2030 round Objective: Summary of the status of the censuses in the region, highlighting the main characteristics, innovations, and challenges faced. Country interventions
10:00 – 10:45	Main challenges for strategic planning and political-social contexts Objective: Know the main challenges at a strategic level to plan and implement and communicate the census in uncertain scenarios, due to the pandemic, political calendars, budgetary restrictions, among others. Country interventions
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Strategies for large scale recruitment, selection, hiring and payment Objective: learn about the administrative strategies or solutions to achieve efficient selection, hiring and payment of personnel. Country interventions
12:00 – 13:00	Challenges in the use of MCD, web self-enumeration, and other capture methods, in balance with the extension of fieldwork, control, and monitoring of coverage and quality of the census data Objective: learn from experiences in the use of mobile capture devices as a tool to enhance coverage and quality assurance during the census operation, also highlighting the complexities of the parallel use of various capture methods, such as

	web self-enumeration and progress control on the field. Country interventions
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	The virtues of new technologies in the dissemination strategy of census data Objective: become familiar with the new ways of presenting census results such as geographic information systems, dissemination of microdata, and online processing. Country interventions
15:00 – 16:00	Challenges in advancing Population Statistical Records Objective: present the advances and challenges in the development of statistical population records for the 2030 round Country interventions
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 17:30	A discussion panel on census coverage and quality, addressing various approaches from strategic, operational, and communication perspectives
17:30 – 18:00	Final comments and closing