

The Africa Addendum Revision to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses





The Africa Addendum Revision 1

to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses



To order copies of *The Africa Addendum Revision 1 to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, please contact:

Publications Section Economic Commission for Africa Menelik II Avenue P.O. Box 3001 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251 11 544-9900 Fax: +251 11 551-4416 E-mail: eca-info@un.org Web: www.uneca.org

© 2017 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Addis Ababa, Ethiopia All rights reserved First printing November 2017

Material in this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted. Acknowledgement is requested, together with a copy of the publication.

Layout and design by Phoenix Design Aid, Denmark.
Printed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by the ECA Printing and Publishing Unit. ISO 14001:2004 certified.

Contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Foreword	V
Abbreviations and acronyms	vii
I. Background	1
1. Importance of population and censuses	1
2.United Nations principles and recommendations	1
3.Africa's addendum to the United Nations principles and recommendations for	
population and housing censuses	3
4.Africa's addendum and Sustainable Development Goals, and Agenda 2063	4
II. Classification of topics	6
1.Global core topics	
2.Topics which are non-core at global level	
3.Additional core topics for Africa	8
4.Priority non-core topics for the African region	8
III. Review of some concepts and definitions	10
1. Place of usual residence	10
2. Nomadic population	
3. Country of birth	10
4. Rural and urban definition and classification	10
5. Relationship to head of household or other reference person	14
6. Date of birth of last child born alive and births in the last 12 months	14
7. Household deaths in the last 12 months	15
8. Cause of death	15
9. Literacy and education	15
10. Economic activity	16
11. Activity status of persons	16
12. Child labour	
13. Disability	17
14. Household assets (household durable goods)	
15. Information and communications technology devices	
16. Gender	
IV. Census planning and management	
V. Sources of data	
VI. Quality assurance and evaluation	
VII. Making value visible: analysis and dissemination of census data in Africa	
1. Data analysis	
2. Dissemination	
VIII. Conclusions	
References	27



Acknowledgements

The publication of Revision 1 of *The Africa Addendum to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* was prepared by the African Centre for Statistics of the Economic Commission for Africa. It is an update of *The Africa Addendum to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* Revision 2, which was published in 2008. The publication was prepared under the overall guidance of Mr. Oliver Chinganiya, Director of the African Centre for Statistics. The core team included Mr. Negussie Gorfe, Ms. Fatouma Sissoko, Mr. Ayenika Godheart, Mr. Gulilat Tesfaye, Ms. Hulemenaye Assefa, and Mr. Jeremiah P. Banda an International Consultant.

The preparation of *The African Addendum* was a consultative process: various levels of discussion took place as part the series of African Symposium on Statistical Development, which was held in Cape Town, South Africa (2006), Kigali (2007), and Accra (2007). The African Symposium on Statistical Development is a country-led initiative which brings together the heads of national statistics offices and experts to discuss statistical development issues. The African Centre for Statistics would also like to acknowledge the contributions of experts who participated in the expert group meeting, which was convened to revise *The African Addendum* in Nairobi from 19 to 22 July 2016in particular Mr. Yacob Zewoldi, international consultant; Ms. Margaret Mbogoni, Senior Statistician in the United Nations Statistics Division; Mr. Richmond Tiemoko, Population Dynamics Policy Advisor of the United Nations Population Fund; Ms. Sandra Zawedde, Social Affairs Officer in ECA; Ms. Narainee D. Gujadhur, Statistician in Statistics Mauritius; and Mr. Imohi M. Mukaila, Chief Statistical Officer in the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria.

Foreword

The present Africa Addendum is the second in a series that is complementary to the global **Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses** with unique and specific issues pertaining to the African region. The first **Africa Addendum to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses** Revision 2 was published in 2008.

A population and housing census is an important source of data on demographic socioeconomic characteristics a given population. A census aims at a complete enumeration of the population of a given country. This unique attribute means that data can be provided for small-area domains and population, which, at present, no other data source can fulfil. Censuses are indispensable sources, inter alia, of benchmark demographic and socioeconomic data for small-area domains, including data for effective socioeconomic planning and governance, and monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programmes. This includes measuring and monitoring progress pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 and other development milestones. In addition, censuses provide area sampling frames for inter-censal sample surveys.

The United Nations has produced, over many years, international recommendations known as the *Principles and Recommendations* for *Population and Housing Censuses*, to guide countries in planning, managing and conducting quality and cost-effective censuses, for example. Such recommendations are reviewed during different rounds of the censuses to reflect new and emerging issues.

African countries have been committed to using the *Principles and Recommendations* for *Population and Housing Censuses*. Being

global recommendations, however, they do not necessarily capture the unique and specific needs of the African region. Areas that require special attention include some definitions, classifications and inclusion of topics that are of priority to the African region. It is against this background that it was agreed to produce The African Addendum Revision 1. Through a series of consultations during the Africa Symposia on Statistical Development and other forums organized by the Economic Commissions for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank and the United Nations Statistics Division, African countries contributed substantively to the revision of the global **Principles and Recommendations** for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 3. Nevertheless, as mentioned previously, African countries felt that a number of issues in census undertaking specific to the region warranted more attention. It was, therefore, decided to develop Africa-specific guidelines that are complementary to the set of global ones.

This Africa Addendum to the global Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 3 is a set of guidelines, specific to the region, on topics, definitions and issues relevant to both census operation and analysis of results. It is, however, meant to be used in conjunction with Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 3.

The present publication is part of the ongoing efforts by ECA to increase the number of African countries to participate, with enhanced quality, in the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. The centrality of census results cannot be overemphasized in measuring and monitoring the progress towards the attainment of the development agendas, including the goals enshrined in the



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 as agreed at national, subregional, regional and international levels.

Ms. Vera Songwe

Executive Secretary

Economic Commission for Africa



Abbreviations and acronyms

ECA Economic Commission for Africa

ILO International Labour Organization

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

I. Background

1. Importance of population and censuses

For many African countries, the Population and Housing Census is a major source of demographic and socioeconomic data. Some of the important roles of a population census are listed below:

- a. Census results can be used in creating sampling frames, especially for use in large-scale household sample surveys during the inter-censal period. The area frames of primary sampling units are cardinal for designing multi-stage sample surveys.
- b. Yet another important feature of the census is the generation of statistics for small-area domains and for various population subgroups without sampling errors, because the information is collected on a complete enumeration basis. Thus, censuses are major sources of demographic and socioeconomic data, even for small-area domains. Such information can be used for local planning and decision-making.
- c. Census results are used as a benchmark for research and are amenable to in-depth analysis.
- d. The results can also be used to validate relevant results from other sources such as surveys and civil registration systems.
- e. Population projection, which is one of the analytical outputs of a census, is based on census data.

Population and Housing Census results are, therefore, important for informed development planning and decision-making; for the monitoring of population, socioeconomic and environmental trends, policies and programmes; and are crucial for research and analysis of socioeconomic phenomena.

Africa has a long history of census taking, dating back to the nineteenth century (ECA, 2008). During the 1990 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (1985–1994), 44 countries conducted population and housing censuses; in the 2000 round of censuses (1995–2004) only 38 African countries took part; and during the 2010 round (2005–2014), the number of African countries rose to 47. The success of the 2010 round of censuses in Africa has created a momentum for African countries to participate in the 2020 round.

After the 2010 round, a number of forums acted as catalysts in encouraging African countries to participate in the 2020 round of censuses. Mention must be made of the Joint Session of the Committee of Directors-General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa, which were held in Tunis in December 2014, and at the tenth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development, which was held in January 2015 in Kampala. At those forums, African countries had resolved to keep up the momentum to participate in the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

United Nations principles and recommendations

The global Principles and Recommendations of Population and Housing Censuses are reviewed every 10 years to coincide with the launch of the decennial World Population and Housing Census Programme. The *Principles and Recommendations* are aimed at helping countries to plan, manage, and implement quality and cost effective censuses. Taking into consideration the uniqueness of some of the pertinent issues in the African region, the global *Principles and Recommendations* – starting from the 2010 round of census – were complemented by an *African Addendum*.

Since 1958, the United Nations has been supporting the decennial World Population and Housing Census Programmes by producing the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and launching decennial world programmes of Population and Housing censuses. The first United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Revising the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 2 was held from 29 October to 1 November 2013. The main objective of the meeting was to solicit the views of census managers and experts on the revision of the principles and recommendations. ECA and representatives of four African countries participated in that meeting. ECA presented the African perspective of the census programme and the representatives of four African countries shared their experiences during the 2010 round of censuses with respect to census outputs and data utilization. They also shared their experiences on issues pertaining to the selection of census topics. Some of the topics considered unique to African countries included the age of the mother at the date of first marriage, orphanhood, households headed by children, and education and qualifications.

The second expert group meeting was held from 29 April to 2 May 2014 to review the

work accomplished by working groups and subworking groups on the revision and update of the principles and recommendations. As in the first meeting, ECA and the representatives of four African countries participated in the above meeting.² In March 2015, at its fortysixth session, the United Nations Statistical Commission approved the 2020 Round World Programme on Population and Housing Census Programme, which covers the period 2015-2024. At that session, the Commission urged member States to at least conduct one census during the above-mentioned period, taking into account international and regional recommendations relating to censuses. In addition, member States were reminded to give particular attention to advance planning, cost efficiency, complete coverage, timely dissemination and easy access to census results by national stakeholders, the United Nations and other appropriate intergovernmental organizations, in order to inform decisions and facilitate the effective implementation of development plans and programmes.3

Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/10 of 10 June 20154 endorsed the World Population and Housing Census Programme. The resolution recognized the increasing importance of the 2020 Population and Housing Census Programme for meeting various data needs and underscored the need for setting quality standards for reliable and accurate results. It also emphasized the importance of the programme to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Economic and Social Council then requested the United Nations to develop statistical standards, methods and guidelines and to monitor the implementation of the World Population and Housing Census Programme.

¹ http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/NewYork/2013/list_of_docs.htm.

² Ibid

³ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2015/10.

⁴ Ibid

3. Africa's addendum to the United Nations principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses

Taking into account the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 3 being a global consolidation of census-related issues, there was a need to identify the issues of concern unique to Africa, which should be addressed through the Addendum Revision 1. The core topics identified in Revision 3, while being relevant to the African region, needed to be complemented. The Addendum will therefore complement the core and non-core topics in Revision 3 with additional topics. It should also be noted that Revision 3 was produced before the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was therefore necessary to consider some data requirement (from censuses) for measuring, monitoring and, to some extent, evaluating the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

The following attributes were considered when selecting additional core and non-core topics:

- a. Relevance of the topic to African countries
- b. Additional value of the topic to justify inclusion
- c. Clarity of the concept and definition in the context of African countries
- d. Load (number of items) of the intended questionnaire
- e. Cost considerations.

African countries have been using the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses as reference material in conducting censuses for as long as they have been available. The region has been involved in the global revisions over the census decades. For example, during the 1970 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, the African region produced two reports that were taken into consideration in finalizing the Principles and Recommendations. ECA also contributed to the 1980 and the 2000 Principles and Recommendations Revision 1 by preparing the "Report of the Working Group on Recommendations for 1980 Population and Housing Censuses in Africa", and the "Report of the Regional Working Group on Recommendations for the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa".

As mentioned previously (see section 1.2), the African region participated in the revision process for the global Principles and Recommendations Revision 3, thereby demonstrating the region's eagerness to contribute to setting global standards and procedures for population and housing censuses. For instance, African countries and organizations were part of the working groups and technical subgroups of the 2010 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses. In preparing for the 2020 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses, the region participated in the revision of the Principles and Recommendations of Population and Housing Censuses Revision 2, which culminated in the production of its Revision 3. The African countries and ECA were also part of the working groups and technical subgroups for the 2020 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses.

Notwithstanding the above, there was a strong feeling in the African region that the global *Principles and Recommendations*

should be complemented by an addendum that highlights the African special data requirements. It was evident that the *Principles and Recommendations* Revision 3, being a composite of generic worldwide issues and concerns, could not cover all the relevant issues and concerns specific to Africa.

Revision 3 benefited immensely from the contribution of a number of forums. Regional workshops were conducted on various aspects of censuses. The workshops were organized by ECA in collaboration with the African Development Bank and the United Nations Statistical Division. Such forums included the United Nations Regional Seminar on Population and Utilization of Census Results on the revision of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, held in Pretoria in March 2014. An assessment report on the 2010 round of censuses in Africa based on the results of assessment missions, surveys and workshops, were produced in November 2013. It provided some useful information on areas that required improvements in subsequent censuses. To conclude, an expert group meeting, which was held in Nairobi from 19 to 22 July 2016, extensively reviewed the core and non-core topics in the Principles and Recommendations, including some concepts, and came up with additional core and noncore topics. Furthermore, the expert group meeting developed an outline to the Africa Addendum Revision 1.

It is against this background that African countries have developed the Africa Addendum Revision 1 to the Principles and Recommendations Revision 3 (Africa Addendum Revision 1). The Addendum therefore proposes some topics as core for inclusion in African censuses even though they were not

considered core at the global level, and some topics to be included as non-core.

The Africa Addendum Revision 1 provides a set of guidelines on topics, definitions and concepts, and unique issues pertaining to the management of census operations and analysis of census results taking into account specific African concerns. The Addendum proposes a number of topics to be included as core and non-core in censuses to be undertaken in Africa. Thus, some topics not necessarily considered core at global level will be regarded as core by the African region. It should, however, be underscored that these topics will be in addition to the core topics which were recommended at the global level and agreed upon by African countries. Thus, all core topics agreed upon a global level were endorsed as core for the African region.

4. Africa's addendum and Sustainable Development Goals, and Agenda 2063

The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 3 were drafted before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁵ The Goals to be attained by 2030, include: zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, decent work, clean water and sanitation, economic growth and sustainable cities and communities. From the African perspective, the measurement and monitoring demands of indicators pertinent to the above requires significant amounts of data. The population and housing censuses will be major sources of data for the Sustainable Development Goals - with many goals (17), targets (169) and indicators (230). ⁶ Poverty eradication is featured prominently

 $[\]begin{tabular}{ll} 5 & https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/\\ transformingourworld. \end{tabular}$

⁶ http://unstats.un.org//indicators/indicators-list/.

as number one among the Goals; this implies that a census would be a major source of some requisite data for measuring and will provide subgroup population figures, with relevant cross tabulations of some socioeconomic and housing variables to come up with poverty profiles.

The data requirement will thus include measurement and monitoring of national poverty levels; household income and employment status; maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality – including their causes. With respect to education, indicators on primary, secondary completion rates for girls and boys, and tertiary enrolment for females and males could be generated from the census. There is also a need for geo-coded data, which are critical for calculating some environmental indicators.

With regard to Agenda 2063, African countries jointly developed a strategic framework for the socioeconomic transformation of Africa spanning a period of 50 years.⁷ Among other goals, the strategy seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and development. The Agenda stipulates some aspirations, including the desire for a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. This would encompass improved quality of life and wellbeing of the people. In addition, it advocates (particularly for the urban areas) access to basic needs of life - shelter, water, sanitation, energy public transport and information and communications technology.8 The Agenda specifically calls for action to eradicate poverty by 2025, catalyse education and skills, and achieve gender parity. There are 20 goals, each one of which has priority areas that have set targets. The level of attainment of targets under each priority area determines the extent to which a goal will be met. Indeed, some of the targets could be measured through the decennial census results.⁹

While some of the above information, if collected in a population and housing census, answers the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063 statistical requirements as was the case with the Millennium Development Goals, others owing to their complexity, can be covered through other sources such as specialized surveys. The following information and more can be, however, easily generated from censuses: age and sex, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location of the population, education status, transport, housing, and information and communications technology. Some information from censuses can be used as benchmark data and for monitoring and evaluating both and Agenda 2063 indicators. The significance, therefore, of population and housing censuses as sources of data for measuring, monitoring and evaluating some indicators pertinent to the Agenda 2063 cannot be overemphasized.

⁷ http://www.au.int/web/agenda2063.

⁸ archive.au.int/assets/images/agenda2063.pdf.

⁹ www.regionalcommissions.org/ECAtransition.pdf.



II. Classification of topics

1. Global core topics

As previously mentioned, the African region endorsed the global core topics, therefore the additional African core topics will be a complement.

Geographic and internal migration characteristics

- 1. Place of usual residence
- 2. Place where present at time of census
- 3. Place of birth
- 4. Duration of residence
- 5. Place of previous residence
- 6. Place of residence at a specified date in the past
- 7. Total population (derived)
- 8. Locality (derived)
- 9. Urban and rural (derived)

International migration characteristics

- 1. Country of birth
- 2. Country of citizenship
- 3. Year or period of arrival in the country

Household and family characteristics

- 1. Relationship to the reference person of the household
- 2. Household and family composition (derived)

Demographic characteristics

- 1. Sex
- 2. Age
- 3. Marital status
- 4. Disability status

Fertility and mortality

- 1. Children ever born alive
- 2. Children living
- 3. Date of birth of last child born alive
- 4. Household deaths in the last 12 months

Education characteristics

- 1. Literacy
- 2. School attendance
- 3. Education attainment

Economic characteristics

- 1. Labour force status
- 2. Status in employment
- 3. Occupation
- 4. Industry
- 5. Participation in own use production goods

Housing unit characteristics

- 1. Type of living quarters
- 2. Location of living quarters
- 3. Occupancy status
- 4. Type of ownership
- 5. Number of rooms
- 6. Water supply system
- 7. Main source of drinking water
- 8. Type of toilet
- 9. Main type of sewage disposal
- 10. Main type of solid waste disposal
- 11. Bathing facilities
- 12. Availability of kitchen
- 13. Fuel used for cooking
- 14. Type of lighting and/or electricity
- 15. Occupancy by one or more households (derived)
- 16. Number of occupants
- 17. Type of building
- 18. Type of construction material of outer walls
- 19. Age and sex of the reference person of household
- 20. Type of tenure
- 21. Availability of information and communications technology devices in households

2. Topics which are non-core at global level

International migration characteristics

Acquisition of citizenship

Household and family characteristics

Household and family status

Demographic and social characteristics

- 1. Religion
- 2. Language
- 3. Ethnocultural characteristics
- 4. Ethnicity
- 5. Indigenous peoples

Fertility and mortality

- 1. Age, date or duration of first marriage
- 2. Age of mother at birth (date and time when) first child born alive
- 3. Maternal or parental orphan hood

Education characteristics

Field of education and training and educational qualifications

Economic characteristics

- 1. Place of work
- 2. Institutional sector of employment
- 3. Working time
- 4. Income



Agriculture

- 1. Own-account agriculture production
- 2. Characteristics of all agricultural jobs during the last year

Housing census non-core topics

- 1. Number of bedrooms
- 2. Useful floor space
- 3. Type of heating and energy used
- 4. Availability of hot water
- 5. Availability of piped gas
- 6. Use of housing unit
- 7. Year or period of construction
- 8. Number of dwellings in the building
- 9. Position of dwelling in the building
- 10. Accessibility to dwelling
- 11. Construction of material of floor and roof
- 12. Availability of elevator
- 13. Farm building
- 14. State of repair
- 15. Rental and owner-occupied housing costs
- 16. Furnished/unfurnished
- 17. Number of cars available
- 18. Availability of durable household appliances

19. Access to outdoor space

For collective quarters, the following are noncore topics:

- 1. Useful floor space
- 2. Drinking water
- 3. Type of toilet
- 4. Availability of kitchen
- 5. Bathing facilities
- 6. Type of lighting and/or electricity

3. Additional core topics for Africa

- 1. Age of mother at birth (date or time since) first child born alive
- 2. Field of education and education qualifications
- 3. Institutional sector of employment
- 4. Non-monetary poverty (basic needs approach to be derived)
- 5. Construction materials (floor and roof), note that under global topics it is non-core
- 6. Information and communications technology availability at individual level

4. Priority non-core topics for the African region

- 1. Orphan hood (paternal, maternal and dual)
- 2. Age, date or duration of first marriage

- 3. Reasons for migration
- 4. Reasons for not seeking work
- 5. Cause of death (this is complex to measure therefore, to the extent possible, should be avoided for canvasing in censuses)
- 6. Informal sector employment
- 7. Maternal mortality using probing questions to women in the reproductive ages (refer to Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, paragraph 4.255)
- 8. Household income (but fit for collection in specialized surveys)
- 9. Child reference persons in households (derived)
- 10. Agriculture (countries are advised to refer to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations recommendations)



III. Review of some concepts and definitions

Given the wide variation across the world in levels of development, some definitions used in the global *Principles and Recommendations* for *Population and Housing Censuses* are not appropriate for the conditions in African countries and so have been reviewed in relation to their:

- a. Clarity and precision of definitions and classifications
- b. Applicability and the scope for improvements
- c. Relevance to current and emerging policy needs
- d. Methodology
- e. Appropriateness of the definitions to suit local African conditions and logistical capacity, and the potential to adjust them to local needs.

Below are the revisited definitions that are included in the Addendum to the global Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

1. Place of usual residence

The global **Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses** (paragraphs 4.52–4.57) categorize persons who "have lived in a locality for six months and one day or intend to live in a locality for at least six months" as usual residents. African countries noted that "the intention to stay" might be confusing in the African context. African countries therefore recommend that there is a need to separate the collection of data relating to past residence in a given locality from the collection of data on the intention

to reside, and to use only past residence in determining usual residence.

In order to avoid confusion, the information on "intention to stay" should be collected as a separate follow-up question and only if desired.

2. Nomadic population

The global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (paragraph 4.48 [a]) discusses "nomads and persons living in areas to which access is difficult" and highlights the problem of enumerating these groups of people, providing guidelines on how to enumerate them.

African countries recommend that the census planning should identify nomadic populations, enumerating them using the most appropriate local methods.

3. Country of birth

The global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (paragraphs 4.105–4.106) points out that the country of birth of a person is not the same as the country of citizenship. A question on the country of birth is needed to distinguish the native born from the foreign born population. Information on place of birth can be used to develop policies pertaining to migration.

4. Rural and urban definition and classification

The urban and rural definitions in Africa are based on the global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* Revision 3 (paragraphs 4.92-4.100) and lessons learned from the *Africa*

Addendum to Revision 2. However, the concepts, especially for urban areas are fluid within and among most African countries. This is because there are differences in the characteristics that distinguish rural from urban population, therefore, there is no single definition that would be applicable to all African countries. It is against this background that African countries are advised to establish their own definitions in accordance to their own needs, as it is not feasible to have standard definitions across countries. It is advisable that each African country, therefore, sets its own specific criteria with respect to the definitions of urban and rural areas, in order to clearly describe the definitions by providing metadata in relevant census reports.

The urban and rural definitions in Africa are also based on the global Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 2 (paragraphs 2.81-2.88) and lessons learned. The definitions and lessons learned are still valid and relevant. The need to have a harmonized definition both at the global level and in the African region has been extensively discussed with respect to assembling and analysing urban and rural data. The underlying quest has been to explore the extent of comparability of the said data across the African region and for monitoring the spatial and temporal changes affecting the urbanization phenomenon in all its major dimensions including demographic, economic, social and environmental.

Member States of the African region agree with the global *Principles and Recommendations* for *Population and Housing Censuses* Revision 3 (paragraphs 4.92-4.100) that it is not possible to have a standard definition across countries of urban and rural areas because of differences in the characteristics that distinguish rural and urban areas among countries. However, some comparisons can be carried out based on the similarity of basic characteristics of an area.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to be aware that areas can change in status over time from rural to urban, and even, occasionally, from urban to rural.

It is advisable, therefore, that countries set their own specific criteria for the definition of urban and rural areas and clearly describe the definitions in the relevant metadata. A number of criteria might be used in developing definitions of urban and rural areas, which may require extra information (from both census and non-census sources). It should be noted, however, that some comparisons can be carried out based on the similarity of basic characteristics of an area. It is, nevertheless, important to be aware that areas can change in status over time from rural to urban, and even, occasionally, from urban to rural.

4.1 Locality

According to the **Principles** and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 3 (paragraph 89), for census purposes, Africa adopts the global definition of a locality that is a distinct population cluster (also designated as, for example, inhabited place, populated centre or settlement) in which the inhabitants live in neighbouring sets of living quarters and that has a name or a locally recognized status. It thus includes fishing hamlets, mining camps, ranches, farms, market towns, villages, towns, cities and many other population clusters that meet the criteria specified above.

Countries may wish to distinguish agricultural localities from non-agricultural localities and are encouraged to develop their census statistics for localities in accordance with national needs and capabilities. A combination of agreed-upon features might assist in defining a city which is the primary unit of the urban area. African countries are encouraged to disaggregate data at lower administrative levels for clusters of localities of different

population size which can determine the actual size of a city, a metropolitan area, district, local government areas, commune, municipalities, wards, or wider region designated to administrative functions.

For international and national comparability, the most appropriate unit of classification for distinguishing urban and rural areas is the locality (paragraphs 2.78-2.80) of the global Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. In cases where the use of the locality as the unit may not be feasible, countries are encouraged to make use of the concept of the multi-communal agglomeration (that is, to treat single units as groups of two or more contiguous minor civil divisions which form part of the same population cluster). Otherwise, countries are encouraged to develop new approaches to classify entire minor civil divisions in ways which yield results that are comparable with those obtained by using the locality as the unit.

4.2 Urban and rural areas

A number of criteria used in classifying urban and rural areas may require extra information. Such characteristics include: legal and administrative requirements; population size and population density; availability of facilities such as schools and health institutions; socioeconomic facilities and amenities including electricity and piped water; and main economic activity depicted by proportion of the labour force in non-agriculture activities. Most inhabitants of urban areas are involved in non-agricultural jobs. In addition, urban areas tend to be relatively developed, implying that there is density of human structures, including houses and commercial buildings.

On the other hand, a rural area is, in general, an open expanse of land that has relatively few homes or other buildings and is sparsely populated. The rural area population density is low compared to urban areas. Typical rural areas have low population densities and small localities. In many African countries, the urban population consists of those living in towns and cities of 2,000 ¹⁰ and the population is largely non-agricultural.

While different African countries may have varying definitions of rural and urban areas, the concepts are important for statistical purposes. The most appropriate unit of classification for distinguishing urban and rural areas is the locality. In cases where the use of the localities unit may not be feasible as mentioned previously, countries are advised to make use of the concept of the multi-communal agglomeration (that is, to treat single units as groups of two or more contiguous minor civil divisions which form part of the same population cluster). Otherwise, countries are encouraged to develop new approaches to classify entire minor civil divisions in ways which yield results that are comparable with those obtained by using the locality as the unit. Whatever approach is taken should be clearly described in the relevant census report(s) and metadata.

In many African countries, the urban population consists of those living in towns and cities of 2,000 or more, and such populations are largely non-agricultural. For continental comparisons, measuring the degree of urbanization from population census definitions of urban or the population living in localities over a certain population size is more appropriate than the overall degree of urbanization11 It is recommended that for the purposes of regional comparisons, countries define urban areas as localities with a population of 2,000 or more. Countries should be guided by specific characteristics and criteria of an urban area, such as population size, and density, spatial

¹⁰ Country specific definitions of urban

¹¹ Assessment of Globalization Data in Africa (ECA 2017)

configurations, socioeconomic facilities, and economic activities that are mostly nonagricultural.

Based on the proposed census definition of urban, each country would be better placed in providing: a distribution of urban centres by size-urban population; day time urban population; the breakdown by size of city; urban population at the national level at the census reference date. For purposes of cross-country comparisons, countries smaller in size, geographically and with smaller populations that might consider urban areas with a population less than 2,000 12 are still able to sort size categories despite the suggested 2,000 or more. It is recommended that rural areas be defined as localities with a population of less than the said 2,000 with agricultural activity largely in place.

Similarly, countries larger in size, geographically and with larger populations of more than 2,000 and with agricultural activity, would still be guided by the size categories from the population census data to inform the variations of the temporal and spatial, in the structural changes in the urban system. Whatever approach is taken should be clearly described in the relevant census report and metadata.

4.3 City

Countries might wish to be guided by specific characteristics and criteria relating to the concept of a city in Africa as an inhabited place larger than a village or town, that has an organized population with varied skills, economic and political functions that touch national and international spheres, administrative boundaries, also taking into consideration changes that are spatial and temporal, demographic (population

size and growth rate), and socioeconomic (living conditions such as health, transport commuting, employment and housing conditions), and the sustainable aspects such as energy consumption and energy types, air emissions and land consumption. The added item in the census questionnaire, such as place of activity, could serve to measure interlabour market connections across cities¹³

It is recommended that, for purposes of regional comparisons, countries define a city by having a population of over 20,000 inhabitants. Census data should provide the population size and the actual geographical size of the city, the metropolitan area or wider region with designated administrative functions and information on whether inhabitants are in the periphery of nearby settlements and commute to the city on a daily or weekly basis.

Countries may wish to elaborate further the specific function(s) of the city over time, as the function is not static and may change. Elaboration would be for the purposes of positioning and mapping the African city within the national and international system of production of goods and services. Countries may also wish to consider the spatial aspects of the actual boundaries of cities, including the core city beyond it being an administrative hub.

4.4 Slum

It is recommended that the definition of "slum" used in censuses takes into consideration the physical boundaries and establishes that a particular slum is part of the city. It is encouraged that data produced on slums are disaggregated as part of city data to include specific characteristics of: the housing types in an area; the interchangeability of terms

¹² Global Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses for 2020 round

¹³ Assessment of Globalization Data in Africa (ECA 2017)

associated with the slum definition (such as squatter, shanty town, informal settlement) and the spatial dimension with respect to the location within the city.

Countries are encouraged to capture the site of information as this helps in the enumeration and exploitation of collated data that are specifically relevant to the characteristics of the slum (*de jure* population, housing conditions, economic activities, infrastructure and services). Countries may also wish to capture the slum as a part of a city placing emphasis on the spatial dimension to establish the location of the slum within the city.

It is recommended that the definitions of "slum" used in censuses takes into account the physical boundaries and that the fact that a slum is part of the city. It is advisable that data produced on slums be disaggregated as part of city data to include specific characteristics such as housing types, housing conditions, economic activities, infrastructure, services and spatial dimension with respect to the location within the city. Countries are encouraged to capture the site of information as this helps in the enumeration and exploitation of collated data specifically relevant to the characteristics of the slum (de jure population). Countries may wish to capture the slum as a part of a city, placing emphasis on the spatial dimension to establish the location of the slum within the city.

5. Relationship to head of household or other reference person

The global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (paragraphs 4.129–4.139) discusses this issue and points to the need to identify the relationship of each member of the household to one reference person. This may be especially necessary – but can be quite difficult – in polygamous,

multi-family and other households. African countries recognize that there are variations in defining a household and head of household, especially in polygamous situations.

Following consultations, the African countries recommend continuing to identify a "Usual Household Head" and collecting, for as many people as possible, their relationship to the usual head of household, while taking care not to double count the polygamous heads or others who may have more than one place of residence. The use of "family" should be avoided as the concept is complex to interpret but rather to use a "household".

It is advisable for countries to clearly state, in the enumerators' manuals as well as in the metadata, the approach adopted in defining and enumerating a head of household.

6. Date of birth of last child born alive and births in the last 12 months

The global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (paragraphs 4.237–4.240) indicate that collecting information on "date of birth of last child born alive" provides a more accurate derived measure of current fertility than the use of the direct question on number of live births in the last 12 months (paragraph 4.241). In this case, the direct question on "births in the last 12 months" will provide an alternative estimate for purposes of validation.

It should, however, be clear which last 12 months the question refers to, thus the 12 months preceding the census. The time period should not be confused with the calendar year preceding the census. It should also be clear that the question refers only to live births and not still births. In addition, these questions should be asked only to women aged 15–49 years of age. Some censuses in

Africa, however, do ask fertility questions to women aged 12-49 years old.

African countries, therefore, recommend the collection of information on live births in the last 12 months in addition to "date of birth of last child born alive". It should however, be noted that it may not be possible to get reliable information on date of birth of last child born alive owing to high illiteracy especially in the rural areas.

7. Household deaths in the last 12 months

The global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (paragraphs 4.250–4.254) indicates that information on household deaths in the last 12 months by age and sex is useful in estimating the level and age pattern of mortality, especially in countries that lack satisfactory, comprehensive and continuous civil registration and vital statistics systems. While African countries have recognized the importance of civil registration and vital statistics, the systems in many countries are not yet fully developed. Given the cultural constraints in some African countries, respondents are reluctant to answer this question.

It is, however, recommended that statisticians and demographers should work on alternative ways of asking questions that could allow the collection of this information, even in countries where it is culturally sensitive. As stated in the global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, the reference period refers to the 12 months preceding the census and not the previous calendar year. African countries also recommend that there is need to avoid double counting (or omission) where the place of death is different from the place of burial.

8. Cause of death

This information, when combined with the information on household deaths in the last 12 months, could provide useful information on the levels and patterns of the causes of death. Indeed, if the data are collected in repeated censuses this may provide important information on the trends over time in the causes of death. Nonetheless, issues to do with "causes of death" are difficult to ascertain. In particular, it is difficult to determine whether a disease was an underlying cause of death or a primary cause. To obtain correct data on the exact cause of death would require health professionals, who are conversant with the International Classification of Diseases, to correctly record death certification that would facilitate correct coding of diseases.

Given the complexity of the topic, the decision to collect data on cause of death in a population census is left to individual countries.

9. Literacy and education

According to the global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (paragraph 4.258), literacy is defined as the ability both to read and write distinguishing between illiterate and literate persons. In most African countries, there is paucity or lack of reliable and detailed information on literacy levels and distributions. This deficiency means that policymakers often rely on data based on self-declaration of literacy skills or on estimates derived from proxy indicators such as years of schooling. In most cases, this results in overestimation of literacy rates in countries.

The global Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (paragraphs 4.260–4.264) discusses issues associated with collecting data on literacy. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO) recommends the collection of data directly from the individuals – rather than from one representative of the household. Notwithstanding the above, the African countries will continue to ask the question to one responsible adult or reference person in the household as to whether each household member is literate (using one of the standard questions proposed by UNESCO). If possible, survey data measuring literacy more reliably could be used to calibrate the census results on literacy.

The collection and tabulation of statistics on literacy (paragraph 4.263) should not be based on any assumed linkages between literacy, school attendance and education attainment. Whereas the global recommendation is that data be collected for those aged 10 years and above, African countries see advantages in lowering this to five years in the population censuses in order to get a complete picture of literacy, since some children under the age of ten years are literate. In order to retain the ability to conduct international comparisons, the data should be tabulated by age.

With respect to primary school attendance (paragraphs 4.265–4.271), it is recommended that the data are tabulated according to the age of the child. This will allow decisions to be made at the analysis stage about how to treat children who are below the official ages for primary school. In cases where data collection is extended to cover pre-primary education, the age ranges maybe adjusted as appropriate. This decision should be made in consultation with experts at the national level (and household survey data may also inform the decision) but if any recoding is carried out it should be fully documented.

African countries recommend that data should be collected on children's attendance in preprimary schools because of the importance of such data for planning the education system but also in relation to the employment of mothers.

10. Economic activity

According to the global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (paragraph 4.294) measurement of economic characteristics should be based on the conceptual framework for work statistics, which is defined as "any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or provide services for use by others or for own use¹⁴".

The noticeable changes from the preceding International Labour Organization (ILO) guidelines and other frameworks are that the conceptual framework for work statistics is consistent with the System of National Accounts (thus, separately measuring different forms of work, targeted definition of employment as work for pay or profit). Productive activities without pay are not included as employment (e.g. production of goods intended for own final use by household).¹⁵

11. Activity status of persons

The framework stipulated that the new terminology should be used and replace the out dated concepts. For example, labour force and outside of the labour force to replace economically active or inactive, labour force status to replace economic activity status and labour force status reference time to refer to one week (seven days). New categories highlighted include: employed, unemployed, outside of the labour force and introduction of working time.

¹⁴ http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/standards-and-guidelines/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁵ http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/meetings-and-events/international-conference-of-labour-statisticians/19/WCMS_230304/lang--en/index.htm.

12. Child labour

A special dimension of labour force status is "child labour". ILO describes child labour information as concerning the general use of children's time and the effect on their health, education and normal growth (ILO, 2000). Nevertheless, it should be noted that "working children" is not the same as child labour. Not all children engaged in either economic or non-economic activities should be regarded as engaging in child labour.

In Africa, the incidence of child labour is high, even with the existence of many laws prohibiting it. This is mainly due to the prevailing socioeconomic conditions (e.g. predominance of agricultural activity, high levels of poverty, orphanhood, and prevalence of armed conflicts).

Countries in which many children participate in economic activities, such as agriculture, will need to select a lower minimum age of entry into economic activity than that used in countries where the employment of young children is uncommon.

African countries recommend that in order to capture information on working children and child labour, population and housing censuses should collect data on the labour force status of all persons including children. "Children" are commonly defined as persons under 15 years for statistical purposes. Countries are advised to pay particular attention to special groups for which determination for labour force status may be difficult. Such groups include youths, women and elderly persons, refer to the global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (paragraph 4.310).

13. Disability

The global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* deal with the collection and use of data on persons with disabilities (paragraphs 4.193 and 4.213).

Although African countries agreed on the importance of the questions on disability status, problems have been experienced in relation to the application of the underlying definition of disability and the willingness and ability of respondents to provide this information, which has led to under-reporting of those with disabilities. Furthermore, ambivalence exists in some countries as to how accurate the data are that are based on responses to a continuum scale of disability, taking into account the pressures of data collection in a census environment. The recommendations for the region are that the questions should be kept relatively simple at present. Meanwhile, extensive advocacy work should take place on the importance of collecting and using data on disability. As the acceptability of these questions grows, it may be possible to adequately test and then incorporate them in future censuses in line with the multilayered approach and with the definition of disability outlined in the global Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, and as recommended by the Washington Group.¹⁶

14. Household assets (household durable goods)

As indicated earlier, information on ownership of assets when analysed together with household access to some basic facilities, can be used to estimate non-monetary poverty. The global recommendations include a list of examples of durable household appliances, such as laundry or washing machines,

¹⁶ The Washington Group on Disability Statistics, a United Nations City Group that focuses on proposing international measures of disability. Available at www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group.htm.

dishwashing machines, refrigerators, deep freezers (paragraph 2.552). Other household assets are mentioned in several other sections of the global Principles and Recommendations.

Thus, the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* do not have one comprehensive list of household assets even at the global level, which could be standardized and considered as measures of welfare or non-monetary poverty in Africa. A further problem is that some of the household asset items mentioned in those *Principles and Recommendations* may not be basic and therefore are probably not relevant to Africa – an example being dishwashing machines.

Whereas it may seem desirable to generate a standard list of items for comparison in the region and subregions, there are difficulties in doing this due to the wide variations across the continent in living conditions, and therefore applicable household assets. For example, it is important to include agricultural equipment in asset ownership since a majority of people in African countries depend on agriculture for their livelihood, but this list may not be appropriate for people living in an urban area or inner city. It was, therefore, proposed that a master list be drawn of assets and a subset of such assets be selected according to the circumstances of those being interviewed. The master list must reflect the variations in required assets between urban and rural households, and across different countries in Africa.

Some of the household assets for Africa would probably include:

- Radio
- Television
- Refrigerator or deep freezer
- Bicycle

- Motor vehicle (car)
- Motor cycle
- Plough
- Speed boat (a boat with an engine)
- Canoe
- Scotch cart
- Livestock (e.g. donkey, cattle, pigs, goats and sheep)
- Agricultural land
- Tractor
- Residential buildings
- Commercial buildings
- Fishing net
- Hammer mill or grinding mill
- Telephone landline
- Cell phone
- Computer
- Sewing machine and knitting machine

15. Information and communications technology devices

Related to this, the global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (paragraphs 4.564–4.571) proposes a classification of information and communications technology devices for countries to use. These include radio, television, fixed line telephones, personal computers, and Internet facility (in the home

and access to the Internet elsewhere). These devices are generally similar in nature and should be comparable globally, but the issue for African countries is whether access or ownership of each of these devices is common enough to include the questions in a general population census. The recommendation for Africa is, therefore, that countries could consider whether it is appropriate and also whether it is a priority to include questions on access and availability or ownership of information and communications technology devices in the household in the census questionnaire, and that if they decide to do so they should use the global classifications.

16. Gender

Gender refers to socially constructed differences in attributes and opportunities associated with being female or male. In most societies, the differences and inequalities between women and men are depicted in roles and responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access and control of resources, including decision-making opportunities.

By definition, gender equality means equal opportunities between females and males and equal rights, and responsibilities for women and men, boys and girls. It implies that interests, needs, and priorities of both women and men should be taken into consideration.

It is against this background that African countries are urged to disaggregate data by sex and other statistics to reveal the differences or inequalities so that the above mentioned disparities are exhibited to inform policy.



IV. Census planning and management

African countries recognize that population and housing censuses are significant sources of varied data. It is therefore essential that they be well planned and designed, adequately funded and efficiently executed.

On census preparation and support, it is recommended that:

- a. African countries should launch their census operations with a well-defined project document that clearly outlines the sources of funding, and ensures that the necessary human capacity is in place.
- b. Full and critical assessment should take place of the stakeholders' needs with regard to the data and products at the time of designing the questionnaires by:
 - Organizing joint meetings of the data users and producers;
 - ii) Ensuring that users are selected from the different sectoral areas in order that the input into both census planning and analysis reflects a comprehensive relevance of the census.
- c. Countries should consider census fundraising and resource mobilization in the broader context of the national strategic plan for statistics, taking cognisance that population and housing censuses are an integral part of the plan.
- d. African countries should consider reducing reliance on donor assistance since censuses are legally the responsibility of national

- governments. To some extent this took place during the 2010 Round of Population and Housing census.
- e. Countries be encouraged to explore ways of establishing census funding partnerships with the private sector, donors and the civil society.
- f. Attention be given to advance planning as highlighted in the Economic and Social Council resolution on 2020 Population and Housing Census Programme.
- g. Adequate testing of procedures, topics, etc., be carried out, especially when new ones have been introduced.

On census management, it is recommended that:

- a. Countries should use internationally agreed standards and definitions in the census operations.
- b. Countries should strive to establish an integrated programme of censuses, surveys and administrative records (where used for statistical purposes) in a statistical system.
- c. African countries participating in the 2020 round of censuses should modify operational procedures as appropriate to take into account the technological advances made since the previous round, especially in the area of geographic information systems and scanning technologies.
- d. Countries should take into consideration security concerns,

such as the existence of landmines or areas of armed conflict, and may need to make special arrangements for census data collection in such areas.

V. Sources of data

The common sources of population statistics in Africa are the population and housing censuses, household surveys, and for very few countries, civil registration and vital statistics systems. For the majority of countries, the census remains to be a major source of demographic, socioeconomic and housing data. Some demographic household surveys, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys, also generate useful data but on a sample basis implying that the results, in most cases, cannot be generalized to small geographic domains because of the limitation of sample sizes. Civil registration and vital statistics systems are not yet entrenched in many African countries and therefore, not yet reliable sources of population-related statistics in most African countries. For this reason, it is recommended that African countries endeavour to develop such systems: they are comprehensive, sustainable, continuous and timely. As a precursor, countries should carry out comprehensive assessment of their current civil registration and vital statistics systems, develop strategic national and implementation plans culminating into the concerted implementation of the drawn plans.

VI. Quality assurance and evaluation

There is a need to create comprehensive quality assurance frameworks for each component of census taking. These would include clearly laid out quality criteria and procedures for measuring, reporting and documentation of various census activities.

A comprehensive recording of census experiences should start at the beginning of the preparatory work and continue throughout all of the subsequent phases, with a view to preparing a detailed administrative report. The report should describe how the census was carried out and set out the challenges, solutions and lessons learned. It cannot be overemphasized that detailed recording of experiences in an administrative report is a contribution to ensuring quality assurance in the subsequent censuses by adopting best practices in the current census and benefitting from lessons learned.

On census evaluation, countries reaffirm the importance of post-enumeration surveys in evaluating the coverage and, in some cases, quality of measurement of some selected census items. The global Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (paragraphs 3.221-3.228) define, elaborate and give justification for countries to conduct post-enumeration surveys. In this regard, coverage and some content errors should be evaluated through a postenumeration survey, which should be planned and budgeted for as part of the main census and conducted to its end with the same vigour as the main census. The post-enumeration survey should be carried out with scientific rigour in order to obtain quality results on coverage of the census.

Pilot censuses should be conducted at least one year before the census and cover all the phases, and invariably include data processing and tabulation. It should be viewed as a rehearsal of the main census. Although most African countries collect some information through a pilot census, not all the requisite phases are covered. The most common being the pretesting of the draft questionnaire.

In line with the recommendation in the global *Principles and Recommendations*, quality assurance should be established at all phases of the census, including planning, piloting, enumeration, document flow, coding data capture, editing data processing, tabulation and dissemination (paragraph 2.170). Also, census evaluation should be undertaken by subject specialist covering all possible dimensions of quality (paragraph 2.227).

VII. Making value visible: analysis and dissemination of census data in Africa

1. Data analysis

African countries consider that analysis is an indispensable and extremely important step in census operations. It adds value to the data and ensures that they are exploited with the aim of improving the quality of life of the public. It is therefore regrettable that in most African countries there is a lack of technical capacity to fully analyse census data.

In this regard, African countries recommend that:

- A detailed data analysis plan be developed, which includes policy oriented analysis in accordance with the country's socioeconomic development programme.
- Multidisciplinary groups be established to harmonize and deepen the themes to be developed to guide the analysis.
- Census data be combined with the results of other statistical operations in order to enrich the analysis.
- A partnership be forged with specialized national institutions, regional and international organizations to support the analysis teams.
- Data, including sample microdata (anonymized), should be disseminated to researchers to carry out further analysis.
- The creation of multisectoral groups of analysts be encouraged to carry

out the census data analysis. It is up to the countries to determine the relationship between these groups and the other permanent national structures responsible for data analysis in various socioeconomic domains.

 The pilot census process should be used to test the analysis tools and procedures in addition to data collection methodologies.

2. Dissemination

With respect to dissemination, the global *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* acknowledge the influence of regional and subregional coordination in encouraging openness in relation to census results and enhancing the production of timely, accurate and costeffective data. Regional and subregional coordination will promote the exchange of experiences among countries and the exploration of new techniques in the planning, collection of data, analysis, dissemination, and utilization of census findings.

African countries recommend that data dissemination must deal with users' needs. These needs should be defined prior to data collection. The dissemination plan must take into account the specificity of different users and the limitations of the national statistics offices' capacity in relation to the content and complexity of the census. The countries recommend that a time frame be elaborated for the dissemination of the results (preliminary results, final results, thematic results) according to the national statistics offices' capacity.

With respect to user focus, countries should aim to assist users to use the data in an informed and appropriate way. They should develop an appropriate mix of dissemination means, to make the census results available to all users by means of various dissemination media, including:

- Posters, fliers and leaflets
- Documents
- Internet and information and communications technology
- Mass media (radio, television and newspapers)
- User and producer dissemination seminars
- Regular statistical bulletins



VIII. Conclusions

Most of the topics and issues recommended to be core in Addendum Revision 1 are similar to those depicted in the first Addendum published in 2008, which complemented the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 2. Addendum Revision 1 consolidates and reiterates the African approach to censuses aimed at collecting the requisite information in the African context. It is, therefore, not surprising that some topics are still very important to the African region, notwithstanding the fact that they were not included as core topics in the global **Principles and Recommendations** for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 3. Africa alludes to various issues mentioned and discussed in the present document as an addendum to the global Principles and Recommendations with the aim of making recommendations more encompassing and pertinent to Africa.

African countries are committed to taking part in the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. To some extent, the impetus was created by the success of the 2010 round of censuses in Africa where 47 out of the 54 countries that participated. Some countries have already carried out their censuses during the 2020 round. It is expected that the remaining African countries will conduct their censuses during the 2015–2024 world census programme.

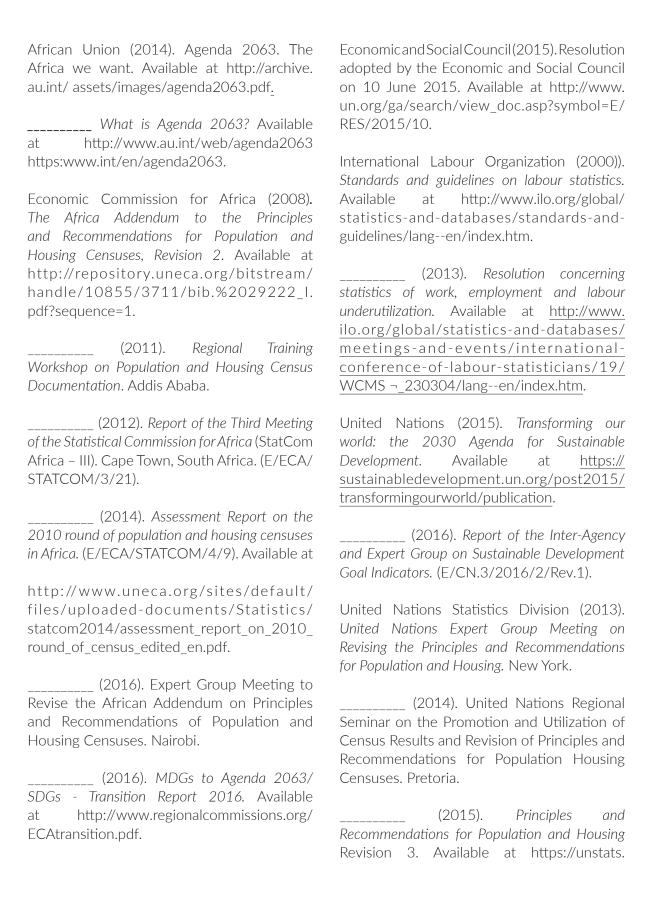
The African region endorsed the core topics recommended by the United Nations at the global level. Notwithstanding the above, African countries have recommended adding some additional core and non-core topics, which are thought to be important, but not treated as such in the global *Principles and Recommendations*. The additional topics are justified because they are relevant to Africa as

necessary inputs into the measurement and monitoring of development indicators.

African countries have also recommended a review of some topics and definitions, which suffer from ambiguity of definition in the African context and the difficulty of obtaining accurate responses in Africa, thereby introducing measurement errors.

The countries in the region will strive to produce timely, quality and demand-driven statistics from the comprehensive analysis of population and housing census data. Africa has further committed itself to effectively disseminate the census results to users nationally, subregionally, regionally, and internationally for effective policy, planning, decision-making, and research in support of Africa's development Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Africa is, however, mindful of its lack of sufficient capacity in processing, in-depth analysis and dissemination of census results and hence the need to enhance its capacity in these areas to match supply with demand.

References





un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/NewYork/2014/P&R_ Revis ion3.pdf.

Washington Group on Disability Statistics. Available at www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington _group.htm.



