

# The 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses – Taking Stock and Looking forward

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## 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

□ The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations endorsed the draft Resolution on 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme on 10 June 2015 ECOSOC

□ All Member States are asked to conduct at least one population and housing census or otherwise produce small area census statistics at least once in the period 2015 - 2024

### ❖ UNSD mandate:

- prepare international statistical standards, methods and guidelines for the conduct of PHCs
- coordinate activities among stakeholders in assisting Member States to plan and carry out PHCs
- monitor and regularly report to the Statistical Commission on implementation of the Programme
- provide technical assistance to countries in conducting censuses
- serve as the secretariat to the Programme

## UNSD Methodological framework

Principles and  
Recommendations  
for Population and  
Housing Censuses,  
Revision 3 (2015)  
ENG, FR, RUS

Handbook on Measuring International Migration through censuses (2017)

New

Guidelines on the Use of Electronic Data Collection Technologies in PHC (2019)

New

Handbook on Editing for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 2 (2019)

Technical report on Measuring SDG Indicators through PHC and CRVS Data (2021) New

Technical Report on Post Enumeration Surveys (2010)

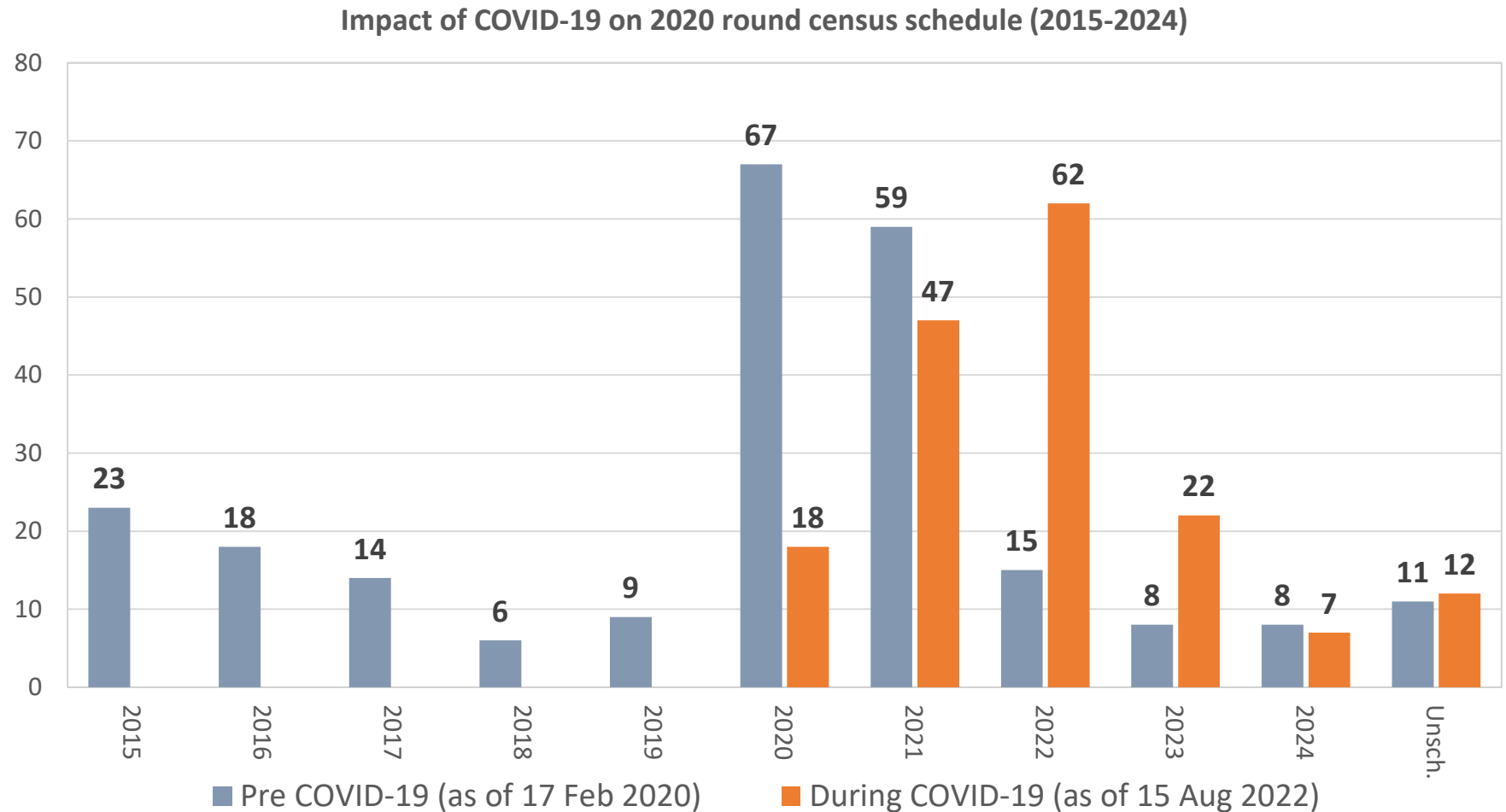
Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses

New

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/index.cshhtml#methods>

- ❑ **Until 2020 the implementation of the 2020 World Programme progressed well**
- ❑ **The COVID-19 pandemic had serious adverse impact on census-taking**
  - ❑ We conducted three expert-group meetings on the impact of COVID and the fourth is scheduled for 12 – 14 December on New York
  - ❑ We also conducted three global surveys and the fourth is now underway
  - ❑ Major findings
    - postponing and delaying census activities
    - extending enumeration period
    - increased costs (storage, PPE)
    - trying to switch to different data collection mode on the fly
    - quality of data
      - usual residence
      - employment
      - school attendance
      - increased focus on analyzing quality of data
      - importance of metadata and training users

❑ **Where are we now in terms of the implementation of the 2020 World Programme?**



## Towards the 2030 round of censuses

- ❑ Are the register- based censuses the future of census-taking?
  - ❑ In the current round a good 75% of documented censuses are/were traditional censuses – whereby each household in the country is approached with the request to provide relevant information to the census-taking authority, irrespective of the mode of reaching to households – internet self-enumeration, mail-in mail-out, or canvassing the whole country and knocking on each door
  - ❑ The remaining 25% is almost equally divided between a combined censuses – field operations and use of administrative sources and purely register-based censuses
  - ❑ Therefore, it is unlikely that the 2030 round will see drastic changes – majority of countries will continue to rely on traditional censuses while, at the same time, there will be an increase of countries contemplating and developing use of registers – in anticipation, UNSD finalized the work on the *Handbook on Register-based Population and Housing Censuses*



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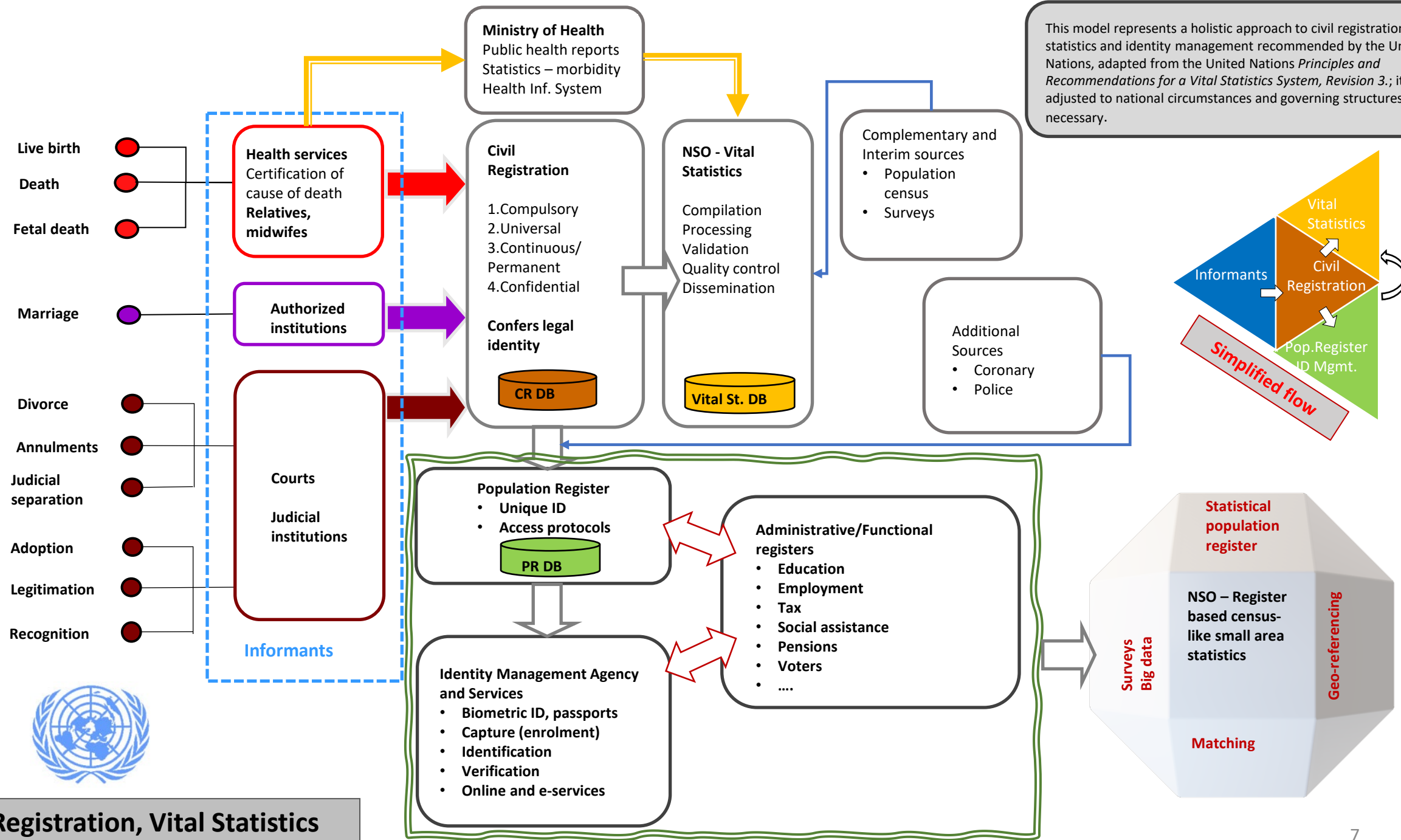
Statistics Division

Demographic and Social Statistics Branch

Demographic Statistics Section



This model represents a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management recommended by the United Nations, adapted from the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3*; it can be adjusted to national circumstances and governing structures as necessary.



# Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management System

## Statistical Commission – March 2022

- Taking into consideration the paramount importance of complying with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (see General Assembly resolution 68/261) and the requirement to protect the confidentiality and privacy of individual records, using population and housing census individual records to establish the national statistical population register would not contravene the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, provided that there are clear and unambiguous legal provisions for establishing, operating, maintaining and exploiting the national statistical population register solely for the purposes of compiling aggregate statistics and that it cannot be accessed for any other purposes within or outside of the national statistical authorities
- **Decision: To encourage national statistical authorities to consider the establishment of national statistical population registers on the basis of the census master file produced in the 2020 round of censuses in full compliance with the provisions of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**



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