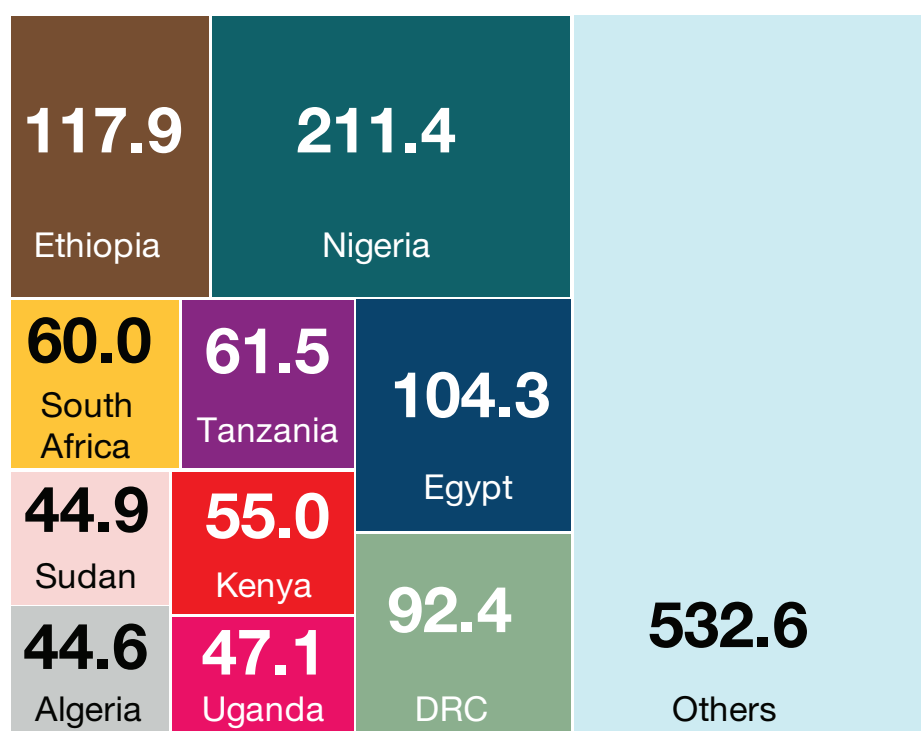


# CENSUS catch up

For the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census

January 2022

## Top ten most populous countries in Africa (million)



60% of the Africa's population live in only 10 countries

## News/Events

- **South Africa's first digital Census 2022**  
from February 3 - 28, 2022
- **Workshop on good practices in digital censuses in Africa:**  
from February 21-25, 2022  
Accra, Ghana

## Launch of your census newsletter

Technological advances that have dramatically improved the performance of censuses are featured in a newsletter service being introduced by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

This newsletter aims to keep stakeholders informed of the latest developments in the current census round which runs until 2024. It provides updates on countries' progress, shares best practice and sets out the support which is available from the ECA and its partners.

The first edition describes how digitalisation has transformed the census process in Kenya and Ghana, with time-savings and improvements in reliability of the data which is essential for development of policies to foster economic and social development. It also sets out the potential for the ECA to provide other countries with the same digital tools.

The newsletter is produced by the ECA, established in 1958 as one of the UN's five regional commissions to promote the economic and social development of its 54 African member states. You can sign up to receive the newsletter here. Find out more about ECA's census work on the new Census Hub website.



President Nana Akufo-Addo (3rd left) with Vice-President Dr Bawumia (2nd left), Mr Ken Ofor-Atta (left), Mr Kojo Oppong Nkrumah and other officials launching the 30-Day Countdown to Population Census. Picture: SAMUEL TEI ADANO

# 2022 round of census



Around half the countries in Africa are scheduled to hold censuses during the next two years as part of the 2020 census round which spans from 2015-24. So far around 165,000 devices and field workers have been deployed and 50,000 tress saves (although electrons have suffered instead!).

The purpose of censuses is to provide data on demographics and economic characteristics, for well informed decision and policymaking. Thus they are critical, and ECA has worked with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), The African Union Commission (AUC), African Development (AFDB) and more to ensure their success!

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 there have been many postponements to censuses. However, with the severity of Covid-19 cases falling, and practical measures put in place to reduce the risk of spread of infection, censuses will resume in full swing this year!

This year 13 countries are scheduled to complete census. The full list of Member States for this year, and those that have completed are provided in full detail in the table/infographic below.

ECA's role will be to roll-out its tailored census package to these countries. This package includes provisioning to upload the relevant documents on tablets quickly, cost-effectively and efficiently, a dashboard that monitors daily inflows of data, problem reporting mechanisms, and management dashboard.

Explanations of these features will be provided in the future editions of the new ECA Census Hub Newsletter.

## The digital censuses in Africa

Technology is playing a transformative role in the 2020 round of African censuses.

Thanks to digital innovation supported by the African Centre for Statistics (ACS), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and their partners, the 2015-2024 census round is providing countries with more credible data, statistics and geospatial information. The developments have the potential to benefit many more countries.

Key has been the use of tablets and smartphones with specialized software developed and tailored to each country by ECA, which has enabled:

- Censuses to be completed in record time;
  - Results to be disseminated more quickly and efficiently;
  - Computerized monitoring to detect and correct errors; and
  - Real-time information to be provided on households.
- In Kenya, the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), with assistance from ECA and the UK's

Office of National Statistics (ONS), used tablets to complete its census in a record four months. The programme used to calibrate the tablets saved a total of 506 days. The joint KNBS and ECA tablet-sharing programme was hailed by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta as "a rare fusion of pan-Africanism and the information age".

See <https://www.president.go.ke/2021/04/01/kenya-shares-its-census-technology-with-other-african-countries/>.



