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2021

The 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean amid the pandemic

Regional overview
and pressing challenges



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Foreword

The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is pleased to present its readers with this edition of the *Demographic Observatory*, which analyses the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the population and housing censuses of the countries of the region, based on information available until October 2021.

The information used to prepare this edition of the *Demographic Observatory* corresponds to data collected in surveys conducted by the World Bank and the United Nations Statistics Division in coordination with the United Nations regional commissions, and from interviews conducted with national statistical institutes and the reports of the various workshops organized in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic were incorporated into the 2020 round of censuses in the region.

Moreover, as the pandemic is still ongoing, some of its effects on census processes were not observed while this document was being prepared. These effects will continue to be seen even after the pandemic is over, owing especially to the short period in which changes in census processes were carried out and to the budget cuts required, which may have an impact in the longer term.

This edition of the *Demographic Observatory* seeks to summarize the impact of the pandemic on the conduct of population and housing censuses, identify possible areas of action to obtain relevant information in support of policies and programmes aimed at overcoming the difficulties caused by the pandemic, and measure the effects of the crisis on the population.

This publication, as well as previous editions, is available on the website of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC (<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/type/observatorio-demografico-america-latina-demographic-observatory-latin-america>).

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