

NBS NEWSLETTER

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NBS: "A ONE-STOP CENTRE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN TANZANIA."



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ECA: Data Collection Operations Significantly Affected By COVID-19

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has said that the novel coronavirus crisis has significantly affected data collection programmes across the continent.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) conducted a survey in March 2020 which aimed at establishing the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on statistics operations in Africa in which 37 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) completed the survey out of 154 members.

The results revealed that 42--

surveys have been halted or suspended in 15 countries, out of 168 planned this year in countries that participated in the survey and further 48 surveys were postponed or delayed in 21 countries as it is not possible to collect data as designed.

The report which was availed to *NBS Newsletter* shows Population and Housing Census (PHC) activities in four countries have been stopped or suspended and postponed in 7 states out of 18 where census activities were planned this year; those activities include planning and mapping.

The restrictions on people movement and social distancing are blamed for the impacts; hence, the resulting survey postponement, suspension or even delays will affect seasonality of some surveys and shifting census calendars.

The report says NSOs in the continent have adopted business continuity measures including adjusting to new working hours, limiting staff numbers in the office by adapting a rotational system, working remotely and methodological adjustments.

Graphic 1: Number of surveys planned for 2020 by the current status as a consequence of COVID-19



Despite experiencing technical and operational difficulties, still NSOs face daunting challenges like high demands for data and supporting activities.

“National Statistical Systems, and particularly NSOs, are overwhelmed by requests for data, statistical services and information, which include projections of affected populations, visualizing information and socio--

economic impacts to support and inform responses to the pandemic” the report says.

As the pandemic caught NSOs unprepared, the report appealed for an urgent technical assistance and capacity building for NSOs in order to adjust their skills and to adapt to new working environment.

Likewise, the report--

mentioned financial support as very essential since the new working conditions require infrastructures that are yet to be acquired, such as laptops and good access to the internet.

“The economic slowdown that goes along with measures to contain the COVID-19 spread will result in the shrinkage of public revenue and general-

Graphic 2: Status of Population and Housing Censuses activities planned for 2020 as a consequence of COVID-19



government capacities to live up to planned budgetary spending. Statistical offices will consequently suffer this very fact while undergoing the need to disburse financial resources for specifically anti-COVID expenses,” the Report added.

In a bid to support NSOs, ECA has created an online platform for knowledge exchange and experience--

sharing for the African statistical community.

The platform is a discussion forum on topics of interest and solution exchange to help gather tested mechanisms on how to handle specific issues as well as methodological challenges.

According to the report, the platform will have--

information on best practices from other statistical systems in the world.

ECA has been exploring ways of creating partnerships with research institutions to respond to data demands through specific estimation methods in the absence of a Population, and Housing Census.

Meanwhile, in Tanzania,--

some on-going surveys have been frozen and some rescheduled due to the corona pandemic. According to NBS Acting Director of Statistical Operations Emilian Karugendo, *Feed the Future End Survey* which was in the middle of its implementation was put on hold in April and May, 2020 just for the survey managerial team to review and rearrange working conditions in respect of health preventive measures because of the pandemic.

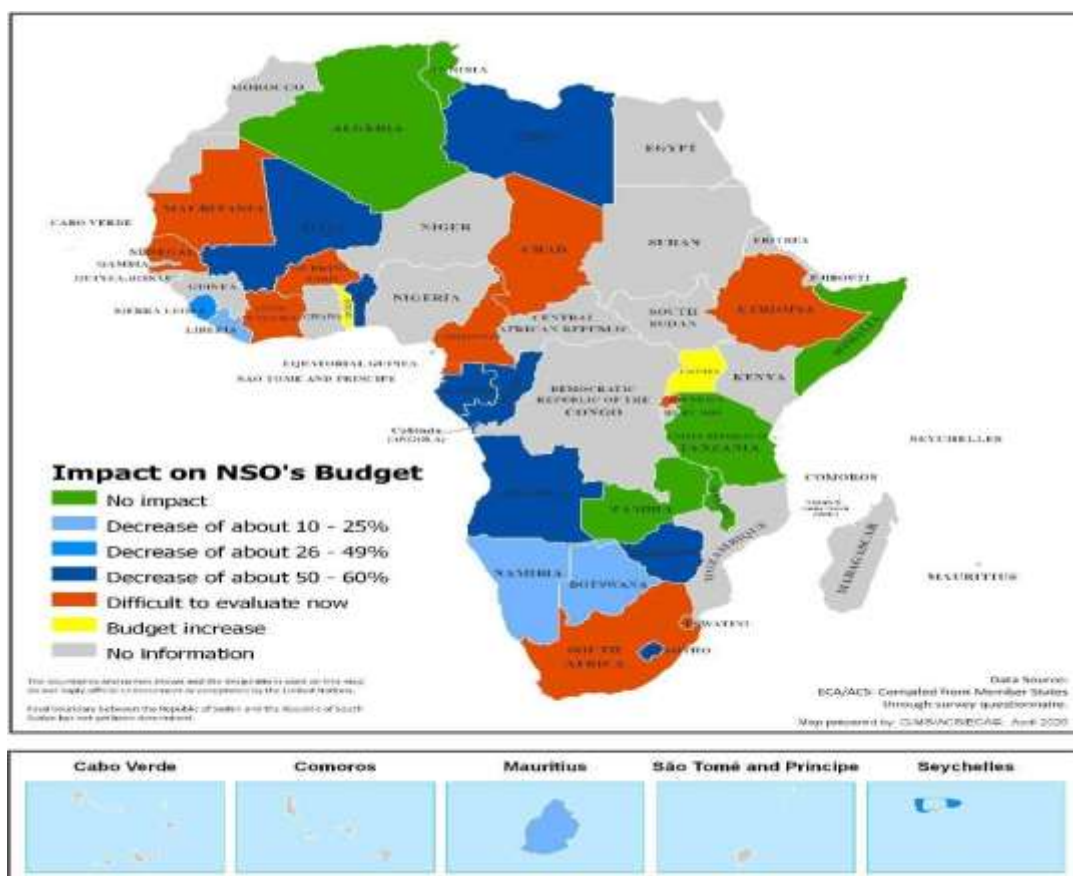
Two key programmes rescheduled due to--

coronavirus are the 2018-2019 National Sample Census of Agriculture (NSCA) which was to start in March, 2020 and the 2020 Tanzania Social Inclusion and Gender Index Survey 2020 (TSIGI) which was scheduled to begin in April, 2020.

As to preparations for the 2022 Population and Housing Census, planned activities like mapping which started early this year in Dodoma as part of pilot study on the application of new technologies in census cartographic work continued unabated.

However, the pandemic has delayed the much awaited launching of the 2022 Census Roadmap which was to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on March 28, 2020 but was called off as part of the implementation of government directives to postpone all public gatherings, meetings, seminars and workshops as part of measures aimed at containing spread of the virus.

Graphic 1: Foreseen COVID-19 impact on NSOs' budget



Statistician General: Corona Pandemic won't halt NBS work

• Puts emphasis on precautionary measures

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has insisted that notwithstanding the coronavirus disease pandemic the national statistics body will continue with its statistics operations but strictly ensure all necessary preventive measures were observed.

She was speaking in Chemba District, Dodoma Region during quality control inspection tour of the ongoing 2022 Population and Housing Census (the 2022 PHC) geographical work in the district.

Statistician General told Chemba District Commissioner Simon Odunga that application of new technologies will dominate the work of the 2022 PHC by 80 percent, describing it as a big step towards adoption of modern technologies in production of statistics in the country.

“80 percent of work will be done using new technologies as a result there will be enormous reduction of cost which is a relief to our government and indeed--

produce better quality and above all timely statistics,” She said.

Dr. Chuwa informed the District Commissioner who was accompanied by the District Administrative Secretary, Ms. Zahara Issa Michuzi, that census’ cartographic work in the district was in the final stages and will be completed soon and promised to hand over the report to district leadership.

She said her visit to the district was “to validate the quality of cartographic work” which had so far been done because quality was key to ensure smooth implementation of census work.

“Today the management team will inspect some enumerated areas (EAs) demarcated by the cartographic team and see the quality of work,” she said adding that the work will continue step by step in all 139 districts and 185 district councils.

Dr. Chuwa said that Tanzania’s population is expected to hit 63 million in 2022 where the agency is expecting to employ about 300 data collectors/enumerators to do enumeration work during 2022 census.

She revealed that the 2022 census results among other--



Chemba's District commissioner Simon Odunga stressing a point during discussion with NBS team led by Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa (with headscarf) held at his office. First right from DC is NBS acting manager of Statistics Operations Dr. Margret Martin.



Martha Macha, cartographer at NBS (holding a tablet), points to Statistician General a spatial feature (not in the picture) during the later's quality control check of census' geographical work in Chemba district.

other things will be used to review implementation of National Vision 2025 and also in formulation of post-2025 national development vision.

During her one-day quality control tour, Dr. Chuwa paid a courtesy call to the district commissioner where she briefed him on the ongoing cartographic work, her expectations from the district leadership and visited part of the enumeration areas already demarcated.

Meanwhile, Chemba District Commissioner Simon Odunga said he was impressed with the way the census' geographical--

work was going on in his district.

He told Statistician General that with the technology which is used apart from demarcating Enumeration Areas (EAs), the cartographic team collects spatial information which is useful for the district development plans.

“The technology used in the exercise allow to gather spatial information which is very important and beneficial to the district as it helps us better understand our district which is crucial in planning and implementation of district development programmes,”--

he said.

He added that knowing information about infrastructure, availability and location of socio-economic facilities, government offices and the like in the district is very important as it guides district leadership on how best to plan in provision of various services to the people.

For his part, the head of Geographical Information System (GIS) at National Bureau of Statistics, Mr Benedict Mugambi, said that his team has already completed Census' geographical work in Chamwino, Bahi and Kondo Districts and that once Chemba District is finalised, then the team will be read to move to another district.

He explained that his team was revising the 2012 geographic census frame for the 2022 Census including improving EAs boundaries linked to landmark features and socio-economic facilities.

CPI Continues to Decline Further

- It shows a relatively stable price movement over the year

The Headline Inflation Rate for the month of May, 2020 has decreased to 3.2 percent from 3.3 percent recorded in April, 2020.

That means, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended May, 2020 has decreased by 0.1 percent compared to the speed recorded for the year ended April, 2020.

The Acting Director of--

Population Census and Social Statistics, Ruth Minja, however said that the overall index went up to 120.93 in May, 2020 from 117.23 recorded in May, 2019.

Mrs Minja made those remarks during the Consumer Price Index (CPI) dissemination meeting with press held at Takwimu House in Dodoma.

She attributed the decline of the CPI of May 2020 to the-

decrease of prices of some food and non-food items as compared to prices recorded in May, 2019.

The acting director mentioned fruits, potatoes, cassava, sweet potatoes and cooking bananas as food products which their prices dropped to 5.8 percent, 5.5 percent, 13.9 percent, 8.8 percent and 3.0 percent respectively.

For non-food items (their--



Acting Director of Population Census and Social statistics, Ms. Ruth Minja addressing the media during the release of May, 2020 Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Dodoma.



Members of the Press at Takwimu House conference hall listening to Acting Director of Population Census and Social Statistics Ms. Ruth Minja (not in the picture) during release of May, 2020 Consumer Price Index

percentage in bracket) she said included kerosene (14.3 percent), petrol (10.0 percent) and diesel 12.9 percent.

As to the increase of Overall Index from 120.7 recorded in April, 2020 to 120.93 in May, 2020 Mrs Minja said was due to the price increase for both food and non-food items.

“Some of food items that contributed to such increase includes pastry-cook products by 1.5--

percent, sorghum grain by 4.1percent, fish by 3.0 percent, sardines by 1.2 percent, groundnuts by 2.2 percent, beans by 5.7 percent, cassava by 2.6 percent and cooking bananas by 4.4 percent.” She revealed.

The acting director listed non-food items that contributed to such increase included cleaning and maintenance products by 1.1 percent, men’s suit by 1.1 percent, gowns by 1.3 percent, firewood by 3.0 percent, exercise books by--

by 1.8 percent and hair dressing for women by 1.1 percent.

According to the release, CPI has shown a relatively stable price movement from May, 2019 to May, 2020.

Likewise, annual headline inflation rates over the same period have shown a stable trend that range between 3.2 percent recorded in May, 2020 and 3.8 percent recorded in November and December, 2019.

2019 Tanzania in Figures Released

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has released the 2019 Tanzania in figures which is a revision of that of 2018. The Tanzania in Figures presents data series for the period from 2015 through 2019.

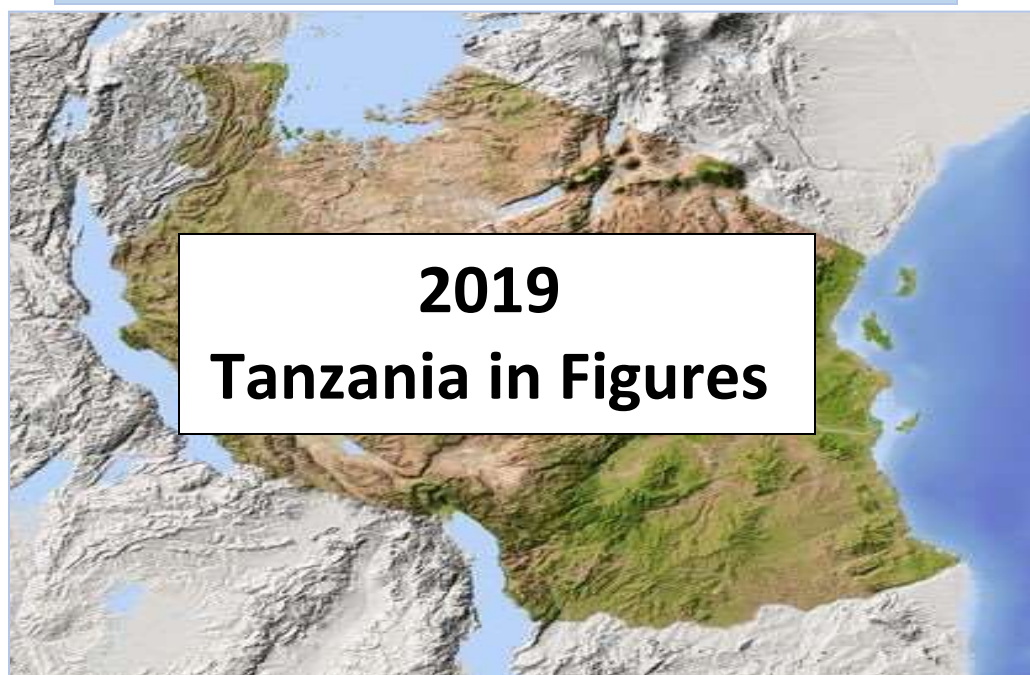
The annually released--

booklet provides aggregated data and contains information from various official statistical publications compiled by NBS, sector ministries, government departments and agencies.

The indicators presented are useful to policy makers for planning, monitoring and evaluation of various development programs at all levels.

According to the publisher, the latest figures presented for--

2019 Tanzania in Figures



for some indicators were provisional and may be revised according to revision policy of the national statistics body.

Copies of the booklet are available at NBS libraries at Takwimu House, Dodoma and Dar es Salaam Regional Statistics Office situated along Kivukoni Front. It can be viewed on the NBS website www.nbs.go.tz.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Chemba's District commissioner Simon Odunga speaking to media and NBS team led by Statistician General Dr. Chuwa who paid a courtesy call during her visit in the district to inspect the 2022 census' geographic work which is going on in the district. Right is Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa.



It seems all is well! Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa flanked by NBS GIS staff Jerve Gasto and Martha Macha in a jovial mood during quality control tour of census cartographic work in Chemba district.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Mr. Kulwa James Zimba, Dodoma artist shares his experience with NBS Statisticians Ms. Magreth Jacob and Rustus Bernard on how useful statistics are his works.



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa (left) and NBS acting manager of Statistics Operations Dr. Margret Martin (right) listen to Chemba's District commissioner Simon Odunga during a meeting held at district commissioner's office.

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