CASE STUDY REPORT

Localizing User Engagement and Data Utilization Post-Census

MARCH 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Rwanda has a strong legal scaffolding for the use, quality, and dissemination of its official statistics, as well as a "goldmine" of data housed by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). However, the Institute still requires continuous support in raising awareness of its statistical products among local users, and tailoring its census data to be more useful and user-friendly for local government actors, civil society, and policymakers. Through the Data For Now initiative, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (SDSN TReNDS) in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), the UK Office for National Statistics (UK ONS), and the Rwanda Civil Society Platform (RCSP) hosted five workshops in the Nyarugenge, Bugesera, Nyamagabe, Musanze, and Karongi districts. The workshops had the goal of enhancing Rwanda's local user engagement and data dissemination efforts post-census[1].

The workshops brought together partners and NISR staff working on data dissemination and user engagement at the NISR, with local community leaders, decision-makers (district officials), and civil society actors from the district level, alongside key partners SDSN TReNDS, UK ONS, and RCSP. The aim was to foster a greater understanding of local districts' data needs for decision-making, as well as identify best practices and an initial strategy for dissemination of the census data within these local districts at sub-national levels.

The workshops aimed to achieve several key objectives. First, they sought to establish the most effective way for NISR to distribute its census data, thereby facilitating improved decision-making and advocacy efforts at the grassroots level. Additionally, the workshops aimed to bolster comprehension and awareness surrounding census data and the resources offered by NISR for local district officials. Ultimately, the workshops endeavored to foster ongoing dialogue between NISR, community leaders, and local civil society networks to bolster user engagement and the dissemination of census data, empowering local community leaders to leverage census data effectively for both decision-making processes and advocacy initiatives.

This case study report summarizes the results and impact of the five half-day workshops that were organized December 13–14, 2022 (Nyarugenge and Bugesera Districts), and August 16–18, 2023 (Nyamagabe, Musanze, and Karongi Districts). The insights shared within this report build on the collective expertise of implementing partners SDSN TReNDS, UK ONS, and RCSP.

We begin with a brief overview of the Population and Housing Census in Rwanda and highlight the key agenda items of the workshop and implementation. We conclude with a summary of lessons learned and provide recommendations for similar initiatives seeking to enhance local user engagement and post-census data utilization.

[1] Rwanda's fifth population and housing census was conducted from August 15 – 30, 2022.

CENSUS DATA LOCALIZATION

OVERVIEW OF THE 5TH RWANDA POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS (2022 RPHC)

The Population and Housing Census in Rwanda (RPHC) dates back to the 1970s. The 2022 RPHC is the fifth in a series of modern censuses conducted in Rwanda following the 1978, 1991, 2002, and 2012 censuses. In line with international recommendations, the census contributes to the Rwanda development agenda, based in part on Rwanda's Vision 2050 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by providing reliable demographic and socio-economic data useful in understanding population dynamics, changes, and projections for national planning.

The overall goal of the census is to improve the quality of life by providing relevant, reliable, and timely data for national planning, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation, and service delivery to the population. Specific objectives include enhancing the availability and accessibility of accurate demographic and socio-economic data, and serving as a benchmark for other statistical surveys.

Established on June 28, 2013, the NISR is the authority responsible for producing official statistics through censuses, surveys, and administrative data sources.

The 2022 RPHC was the first fully digitalized census conducted by NISR, incorporating various new technologies in all census operations including census mapping with the use of satellite imagery and other technologies, e-recruitment, pilot data collection using smartphones, hybrid training of enumerators using online platforms and pre-recorded training materials, data collection using smartphones, and field monitoring using dashboards and other electronic devices.

The census went through four main phases: census mapping, a critical operation using advanced technology to delineate enumeration areas; a pilot census to test questionnaires, census methodology, electronic devices (especially smartphones), and the readiness to use technologies in all census operations. It also included the main census enumeration that was conducted following extensive preparations, including recruitment and training of all field staff (core, master, training of trainers, and main training of enumerators).

The methodology employed in census mapping involved the use of satellite imagery and ArcGIS software for the delineation of all administrative boundaries, and the geo-location of infrastructures. The mapping phase lasted about nine months. It resulted in the creation of enumeration areas, the basis for the population count, and planning for the main census enumeration and updated administrative maps of the country.

A pilot census was conducted to test all data collection tools, internet connectivity, smartphones to be used, field operations, and readiness to conduct a digital census, providing valuable insights used to improve main census operations. The questionnaire was designed based on stakeholder meetings held prior to the pilot but also guided by country programs monitoring the progress of implementation. The plan for the main census and refinement of the census questionnaire and methodology was based on lessons learned from the pilot census conducted September 16–30, 2021. The census was preceded by a comprehensive publicity and sensitization campaign involving various communication channels.

The actual census enumeration took place August 16–30, 2022, and involved well-trained enumerators, support staff, and data quality monitors. Quality assurance was maintained through close supervision and by utilizing dashboards for monitoring progress and ensuring completeness, data quality, and field visits. Post-enumeration activities, including a post-enumeration survey (PES), data processing, and results dissemination, were conducted promptly. The PES aimed to assess census coverage and data quality, confirming the high quality of the 2022 RPHC data.

In summary, the Fifth Rwanda Population and Housing Census was successfully implemented, providing valuable data for informed decision-making and supporting the country's development plans. The rigorous planning, use of technologies, and collaboration with various stakeholders ensured the census's success and the production of high-quality census results.

IMPORTANCE OF LOCALIZING CENSUS DATA FOR COMMUNITY-LEVEL DECISION-MAKING

Rwanda has recorded remarkable progress in poverty reduction and economic growth over the past two decades. However, ensuring this progress reaches every corner of the country requires a nuanced understanding of local needs and aspirations. In this context, harnessing the power of localized census data becomes a critical tool for community-driven development.

NISR has taken commendable steps towards implementing data localization, recognizing its potential for community-driven development. NISR disaggregates its data as much as possible to the lowest administrative level and different population characteristics. For example, the 5th Population and Housing Census results are disaggregated by sex, urban/rural area, and location (sector, district, and province). This approach provides a more granular picture of local needs and challenges that are faced at all levels.

Data at the national level provide a broad picture, masking significant variations within villages and districts. For example, aggregating poverty data across vast regions can conceal pockets of extreme deprivation within seemingly prosperous areas. Similarly, blanket healthcare policies might overlook specific disease clusters or sanitation challenges faced by geographically isolated communities. This is where disaggregating data by village, sector, and district provides a sharper lens, bringing data down to the human level.

Disaggregating national statistics by village, sector, and district paints a far more nuanced picture. It reveals disparities in access to education, healthcare, basic amenities, and infrastructure. For instance, localized data might show a village struggling with low school attendance and access to key infrastructure such as water and sanitation, waste disposal, and employment.

Such granular insights empower communities to become active participants in their development. By understanding their unique needs and challenges, residents can work alongside local authorities to prioritize projects and allocate resources strategically, leading to more effective planning and better management of available scarce resources. This bottom-up approach fosters a sense of ownership and accountability, leading to more sustainable and impactful interventions. Data can become the fuel for community-driven development, propelling local initiatives and ensuring no one is left behind in the march towards shared prosperity.
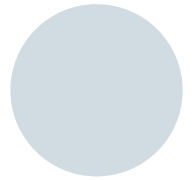
However, the power of localized data comes with responsibility. Data privacy must be prioritized, ensuring individuals are not identifiable and information is used ethically. Additionally, capacity-building is crucial. Communities need training to understand and interpret the data, translating numbers into actionable insights.

NISR recognizes the importance of empowering communities and the Nation Statistical System to utilize data effectively. NISR conducts training programs and workshops for local authorities and community members by focusing on data interpretation, analysis, and practical applications for local development planning. Partnerships with universities, media organizations, and development organizations further supplement these efforts, ensuring long-term capacity building and sustainability.

While NISR has made significant strides, challenges still exist. Limited resources and building long-term capacity within communities require continued effort and innovative solutions. The workshops on localizing user engagement and data utilization post-census aim to fill that gap and understand the unique contexts and aspirations of individual communities. These workshops serve as a valuable model for other initiatives seeking to bridge the gap between national data and local needs.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND DESIGN

SDSN TReNDS co-organized the five half-day workshops with NISR; RCSP, a Rwandan non-profit organization that facilitates information-sharing and consultation among civil society organizations (CSOs); and UK ONS.

Each workshop brought together representatives and NISR staff working on data dissemination and user engagement at the NISR with 25–30 local community leaders, decision-makers, and civil society actors at the district level.
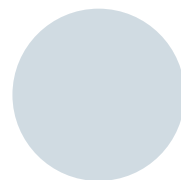
With support from the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), these workshops aimed to foster a greater understanding of local districts' data needs for decision-making, how district leaders and civil society partners can use census data for advocacy and evidence-based decision-making, and how to identify the best practices and a strategy for the effective dissemination of census results at sub-national levels (district, province). Each workshop focused on the individual district and thematic area pertinent to the community's needs. SDSN TReNDS worked alongside RCSP to identify the districts and thematic areas of focus. A translator was available on-site to translate remarks from English to Kinyarwanda (the official language of Rwanda) and vice versa, for the benefit of all participants.

These workshops aimed to familiarize local government officials and community leaders with the effective utilization of data for informed decision-making. At the end of each workshop, a shortlist of priorities for streamlining local user engagement and data dissemination of census results for each district was developed.

Other workshop objectives included the following:

→ Increase the NISR's understanding of how to make its census data more accessible and usable at the local level, and the importance of doing so in the long term.

→ Determine the best ways for NISR to disseminate the census data to district levels to facilitate greater decision-making and advocacy efforts at the local level.

→ Cultivate greater understanding and awareness of census data and the NISR's offerings among local districts, community leaders, and civil society actors in Rwanda.

→ Foster a continuous dialogue between the NISR, community leaders, and local civil society networks to enhance user engagement and data dissemination efforts of census data.

→ Empower local community leaders and civil society networks to use census data for decision-making and advocacy.

WORKSHOP IMPLEMENTATION

The five workshops were split into two phases. The first phase included two workshops taking place December 2022 in the Nyarugenge and Bugesera Districts (see Annex I for workshop agendas). After the first phase, we assessed the format and outcomes, which led to adjustments for the second phase of census dissemination. The second phase included the remaining three workshops conducted August 2023 in the Nyamagabe, Musanze, and Karongi Districts (see Annex II for workshop agendas).

CONCERNED DISTRICTS, DATES, AND LOCATIONS

The workshops were held for a half-day each on the following dates and venues:

Date	DISTRICT	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
December 13, 2022	Nyarugenge	25 participants
December 14, 2022	Bugesera	30 participants
August 16, 2023	Nyamagabe	31 participants
August 17, 2023	Musanze	32 participants
August 18, 2023	Karongi	33 participants

The agendas for each of these workshops were structured similarly. An introduction by NISR set the stage for discussions by reviewing key concepts and terminology. A subsequent discussion facilitated by UK ONS engaged participants in evaluating Rwanda's National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, followed by breakout group discussions.

During NISR's Introduction to Census Data, Jean Luc Kabera, data portals manager at NISR, gave a presentation on what census data is, along with an overview of the key findings from the 2022 Census. The presentation highlighted the critical importance of census data in enabling evidence-based decision-making, and guiding resource allocation and development initiatives. Using engaging visuals and graphs, Kabera presented key findings disaggregated by district, including demographic trends and other significant insights derived from the census data. Participants were then provided with an understanding of how data is organized and categorized. This knowledge was crucial for participants involved in data analysis and interpretation. This segment highlighted the diversity and richness of information that census data can encapsulate and how best it can serve districts in the planning and budgeting exercises that are normally carried out April–June each year (fiscal year starting July 1 of each year).

Following this presentation, Theodore Joloza, strategic advisor to NISR at UK ONS, helped participants evaluate Rwanda's third National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. Discussion questions addressed the ease of access to data from NISR, as well as alternative sources of data they use within their districts.

Finally, workshop participants were split into five to six breakout groups to reflect further on their districts' data needs, with a primary focus on women and youth and the extent to which they use census data; and how best to disseminate census results within the community.

The groups had nine key questions that facilitated discussion:

1. **Is it easy for you to access data from NISR? What channels and tools do you use to access the data?**

2. **Are there specific types of data that NISR does not collect or share, which, if available, could enhance your daily work?**

3. **Has the NISR ever sought your insights, views, or opinions regarding the data it collects and shares to assist you in your daily tasks or professional endeavors?**

4. **Apart from the NISR, where do you source the data that you utilize in your daily tasks or professional endeavors?**

5. **How do you use data from NISR within your district in solving issues relating to women and youth? Labor force participation and population growth?**

6. **How is your district addressing issues concerning women, youth, and people with disabilities, particularly regarding labor force participation and population growth? What measures do you believe need to be taken to further address these issues effectively?**

7. **How can census data be refined to facilitate easier decision-making and to support citizens in better understanding of government decisions more effectively?**

8. **Does your organization utilize census data for advocacy purposes, and if so, how is the data used and at what level? Additionally, what measures are in place to ensure the effective utilization of census data within your organization?**

9. **How can the NISR further support your initiatives, and what is your preferred method of collaboration with the institution to enhance mutual effectiveness?**

These breakout groups facilitated rich discussions, highlighting the crucial role of data in addressing district challenges related to women, youth, and population growth.

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

At each workshop, we had more than 25 individuals from different organizations attend, including executive secretaries from various districts, sectors, and cells; civil society groups such as the Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base (CCOAIB) and Rwanda Workers' Trade Union Confederation (CESTRAR); and key partners, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), GIZ, SDSN Great Lakes, and the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS).
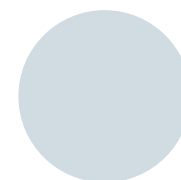
During the December 2022 workshop, participants highlighted several challenges related to migration data gaps, particularly challenges with significant internal migration in and out of districts (census data was not yet published). Language barriers were also underscored. Participants emphasized that only some of NISR's publications had been translated into Kinyarwanda. Digital accessibility challenges (limited internet and smartphone access), specifically among women and older generations, were noted. Many individuals reported relying on local channels such as flyers, community meetings, and radio for access to information due to digital accessibility challenges. Participants also expressed concern about statistical literacy, especially among women and rural populations, and voiced a need for data availability at more localized levels, such as cell and sector levels, beyond the current district-level scope.

Similarly, the August 2023 workshop participants emphasized the need for improved access to granular data at the grassroots level, increased engagement with NISR, and enhanced measures for the effective utilization of census data in planning and decision-making. Below we highlight the most salient themes that arose from participant breakout group discussions during the August 2023 workshops:

Discussion Item	KEY FINDINGS
Accessing NISR Data	• Participants had difficulty accessing data at the grassroots level due to disaggregation challenges. • Participants had difficulty navigating the channels for accessing NISR data, including NISR's thematic reports, social media, and other government websites; and difficulty interacting with statistics staff.
Types of Data Needed	• Participants requested more granular data at lower administrative levels, including information on land size for seed planting, mobile phone and internet accessibility, agricultural activities, public transportation and road status, and citizen economic status.
District Initiatives for Women, Youth, and Disabilities	• Representatives at various levels addressed issues concerning women, youth, and people with disabilities. They also emphasized the need to strengthen information sharing, especially for those who cannot read or write.
Refining Census Data	• Participants suggest providing analyzed census data to the lowest local government level (cell), for effective communication of government decisions.
NISR Support and Collaboration	• Participants requested NISR's support to enable non-internet access to information, and to increase training and data dissemination sessions, particularly for data managers at the sector level.

Over the course of the workshops, several pressing challenges and recommendations regarding data accessibility, engagement with NISR, and utilization of census data were identified. Among the concerns highlighted were data gaps, language barriers, and digital accessibility challenges, particularly for women and older generations. Participants also emphasized the need for more granular data at lower administrative levels, and there were calls for increased support from NISR to address issues such as non-internet access to information and the provision of training sessions for data managers at the sector level. These discussions underscored the importance of targeted interventions that seek to identify challenges and improve data accessibility and utilization at the local level.

RESULTS AND IMPACT

The workshops convened participants from different government offices and civil society organizations, fostering open discussions on the challenges encountered in accessing and interpreting census data. Among the key issues highlighted were difficulties in accessing data due to outdated technology, lack of awareness, and bureaucratic hurdles. Additionally, participants expressed a need for training in modern data interpretation methods, as well as data analysis and visualization tools.

Despite these challenges, participants actively engaged in discussions and put forth valuable suggestions. They emphasized the importance of addressing data access barriers, and facilitating training initiatives like the aforementioned workshops. Several challenges were identified, including the predominance of local government officials among participants, hierarchy-related delays, and scheduling conflicts, but there was consensus that these workshops were integral to raising awareness of data products produced by NISR.

Participants demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing their understanding of data interpretation and its application in decision-making processes. Participants gained insights into their right to request data from the NISR, and learned about the channels to follow in such cases.

Moreover, the workshops empowered the more than 150 participants to question or report any misrepresentation of statistics by officials. Actionable insights emerged from the workshop discussions, with a commitment from NISR, supported by UK ONS, to diversify participant demographics for future workshops, improve communication and coordination to avoid scheduling conflicts, prioritize initiatives to enhance data accessibility and user awareness, and provide training opportunities in modern data interpretation skills.

Participants also recognized the importance of understanding population growth statistics in making informed decisions about public infrastructure investments. This knowledge was seen as crucial for policy areas such as family planning and budgeting, enabling leaders to develop effective programs and allocate resources efficiently based on population trends and future needs.

In summary, the workshop facilitated meaningful dialogue and collaboration among participants, resulting in actionable insights aimed at overcoming challenges and maximizing the impact of data interpretation in decision-making processes at various levels of governance.

RECOMMENDATIONS, SUGGESTIONS, AND FUTURE ACTIONS

In his opening remarks, the representative from UK ONS informed participants that questions asked in the workshops would contribute to the review of Rwanda's third National Strategy for Statistics Development (SDNS3). He emphasized the critical importance of the workshop feedback in guiding this review process.

Following the workshops, UK ONS made some key recommendations to both NISR and the broader National Statistical System (NSS). These included:

→ **ENHANCING DATA ACCESSIBILITY FOR GRASSROOTS USERS:**
  Making data more readily available and understandable for individuals at the community level.

→ **EQUIPPING LOCAL POLICYMAKERS WITH DATA INTERPRETATION SKILLS:**
  Providing training to local-level policymakers on interpreting and utilizing data effectively.

→ **IMPROVING COMMUNICATION OF NISR OUTPUTS FOR DIVERSE AUDIENCES:**
  Tailoring how NISR communicates its findings to cater to the needs of different user groups.

By implementing these recommendations, Rwanda can strengthen its statistical system and ensure that data is accessible, understandable, and used effectively to inform decision-making at all levels.

CONCLUSION

Organized by SDSN TReNDS, NISR, UK ONS, and RCSP, the workshops on localizing user engagement and data utilization post-census brought together various stakeholders to address challenges in accessing, interpreting, and utilizing census data at the local level. Discussions highlighted issues such as data gaps, language barriers, and digital accessibility challenges, particularly for marginalized groups. Recommendations included the need for more granular data, increased engagement with NISR, and improved support for non-internet access to information.

Despite the challenges identified, participants demonstrated a strong commitment to improving data utilization for decision-making, leading to actionable insights and commitments for future initiatives. Collaborative efforts between local organizations and the statistical office were envisioned as the way forward, leading to a data-informed, empowered community, and more effective decision-making processes. Overall, the workshops served as valuable platforms for fostering dialogue, collaboration, and capacity-building in data interpretation and decision-making processes at the local level, and served as a model for similar initiatives aiming to empower and engage local leaders in evidence-based decision-making.

ANNEX 1

Workshops on Localizing User Engagement and Data Dissemination
in the Nyarugenge and Bugesera Districts

December 13 -14, 2022

Hosted by SDSN TReNDS, the UK Office of National Statistics, the Rwanda Civil Society Platform, and the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda

Workshop Locations:
- National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 38 KN 2 Ave, Kigali, Rwanda (December 13)
- Palast Rock Hotel, Nyamata Road Rwanda Bugesera, Kigali, Rwanda (December 14)

I. **Agenda** (All times in Central Africa Time)

Tuesday 13th December 2022 - Nyarugenge district	
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast, Registration, and Informal Networking
9:00 am – 9:05 am	Brief welcome remarks, scene-setting, and review of workshop objectives and agenda
9:05 am – 9:15 am	Brief welcome remarks from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, the UK Office of National Statistics, and the Rwanda Civil Society Platform
9:15 am – 9:40 am	Roundtable introduction of participants
9:40 am – 9:55 am	Presentation from the NISR on their local data offerings and planned user engagement and data dissemination strategy for the census, with a particular emphasis on how they plan to engage with local districts and civil society groups.
9:55 am – 10:05 am	Presentation from UNICEF on their MODA report and multi-dimensional child poverty in Rwanda
10:05 am – 10:20 am	Q & A with participants on the presentations
10:20 am – 10:30 am	Coffee break
10:30 am – 10:50 am	Presentations from the UK ONS on how they have engaged with local communities and user groups on census dissemination and from GIZ Rwanda's Good Governance Team on their Imihigo Watch platform (TBC)
10:50 am – 11:00 am	Q & A on Presentations
11:00 am – 11:45 am	*Breakout Groups Discussion* o Participants will break out into two to three smaller groups to reflect on their districts' data needs (with a primary focus on women and youth and secondarily on labor force participation and population growth), the extent to which they use census data, and how to best disseminate census information within the community.
11:45 am – 12:15 pm	Breakout Groups report back on discussions
12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	Roundtable Discussion on Next Steps
12:45 pm – 12:50 pm	Closing Remarks
12:50 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch

Wednesday 14th December 2022 - Bugesera district	
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast, Registration, and Informal Networking
9:30 am – 9:35 am	Brief welcome remarks, scene-setting, and review of workshop objectives and agenda
9:35 am – 9:45 am	Brief welcome remarks from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, the UK Office of National Statistics, and the Rwanda Civil Society Platform
9:45 am – 10:10 am	Roundtable introduction of participants
10:10 am – 10:25 am	Presentation from the NISR on their local data offerings and planned user engagement and data dissemination strategy for the census, with a particular emphasis on how they plan to engage with local districts and civil society groups.
10:25 am – 10:35 am	Presentation from UNICEF on their MODA report and multi-dimensional child poverty in Rwanda
10:35 am – 10:50 am	Q & A with participants on the presentations
10:50 am – 11:00 am	Coffee break
11:00 am – 11:10 am	Presentation from the UK ONS on how they have engaged with local communities and user groups on census dissemination
11:10 am – 11:20 am	Q & A on Presentations
11:20 am – 12:05 pm	*Breakout Groups Discussion* o Participants will break out into two to three smaller groups to reflect on their districts' data needs (with a primary focus on women and youth and secondarily on labor force participation and population growth), the extent to which they use census data, and how to best disseminate census information within the community.
12:05 pm – 12:35 pm	Breakout Groups report back on discussions
12:35 pm – 1:05 pm	Roundtable Discussion on Next Steps
1:05 pm – 1:10 pm	Closing Remarks
1:10 pm – 2:10 pm	Lunch

II.   Breakout Groups Discussion Questions

We will break out into two to three smaller groups for 45 minutes to discuss how participants use census data and statistical products within their district. We will then come together as a full group to summarize the discussion and determine next steps. The following questions are intended to help facilitate the discussion:

- What are some of the challenges in your district that could benefit from greater information and data to help address the issue?

- How are information and data used within your district to address local challenges related to women and youth? To labor force participation and population growth?

- How is your district monitoring performance on issues relating to women and youth? Labor force participation and population growth? What is needed to improve monitoring efforts (e.g., more timely information or more information on specific issues)?

- How is information and data most commonly consumed in your district (e.g., via newspaper, local community meetings)?

- How is information and data disseminated within your district (e.g., via community leaders)? Is it easy to obtain and understand?

- How could information and data be improved to influence local decision-making and citizen awareness of government decisions?

- Does your organization use census data for advocacy purposes? If so, how is it used and how frequently? What are your plans to use the census data that will be released early next year?

- How can the statistical office (the NISR) best support your organization and how would your organization prefer to work with the NISR?

ANNEX 2

**Workshops on Localizing User Engagement and Data Utilization
Post-Census in the Nyamagabe, Musanze, and Karongi Districts**

August 16 -18, 2023

*Hosted by SDSN TReNDS, the UK Office of National Statistics, the Rwanda Civil Society Platform, and
the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda*

Objective : The objective of this workshop is to familiarize local government officials and community leaders with effective utilization of data for decision making. The workshop aims to specifically enhance participants' understanding of census data, and to provide them with the practical skills needed to use census data for local planning efforts and to advocate for under-served communities (including women, youth, and other marginalized groups) in varied and meaningful ways. The three half-day workshops aim to enhance local user engagement and data utilization post-census.

Workshop Locations:
- Golden Monkey Hotel, Gikongoro, Rwanda (August 16)
- Fatima Hotel, RN4, Ruhengeri-Gisenyi Rd, Musanze, Rwanda (August 17)
- Bethany Hotel, RN 7, Karongi, Rwanda (August 18)

I.   Agenda (All times in Central Africa Time)

Wednesday, 16th August 2023 - Nyamagabe district	
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Registration and Informal Networking
1:30 pm – 1:35 pm	Brief welcome remarks from SDSN TReNDS, scene-setting, and review of workshop objectives and agenda
1:35 pm – 1:45 pm	Roundtable introduction of participants
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Brief welcome remarks from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, the UK Office of National Statistics, and the Rwanda Civil Society Platform
2:00 pm – 2:20 pm	*Introduction to Census Data and Presentation of Findings from 2022 Census*: Presentation from NISR on the importance of census data for evidence-based decision making, highlighting the census data collection process, key concepts and terminology, census data formats and structure, and providing an overview of key findings from the 2022 general population census.

2:20 pm - 2:40 pm	Q & A with participants on the presentation
2:40 pm – 3:10 pm	*Local User Engagement for Evaluation of Rwanda's National Statistics Development Strategy*: Discussion facilitated by UK ONS to ask participants specific questions to aid in the evaluation of Rwanda's National Statistics Development Strategy.
3:10 pm – 3:25 pm	Coffee break
3:25 pm – 4:00 pm	*Breakout Groups Discussion* Participants will break out into two to three smaller groups to reflect on their districts' data needs (with a primary focus on women and youth and secondarily on labor force participation and population growth), the extent to which they use census data, and how to best disseminate census information within the community.
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Breakout Groups report back on discussions
4:15 pm – 4:25 pm	Roundtable Discussion on Next Steps
4:25 pm – 4:30 pm	Closing Remarks

Thursday, 17th August 2023 - Musanze district	
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Registration, and Informal Networking
10:30 am – 10:35 am	Brief welcome remarks from SDSN TReNDS, scene-setting, and review of workshop objectives and agenda
10:35 am – 10:45 am	Roundtable introduction of participants
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Brief welcome remarks from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, the UK Office of National Statistics, and the Rwanda Civil Society Platform
11:00 am – 11:20 am	*Introduction to Census Data and Presentation of Findings from 2022 Census*: Presentation from NISR on the importance of census data for evidence-based decision making, highlighting the census data collection process, key concepts and terminology, census data formats and structure, and providing an overview of key findings from the 2022 general population census.
11:20 am - 11:40 am	Q & A with participants on the presentation
11:40 am – 12:10 pm	*Local User Engagement for Evaluation of Rwanda's National Statistics Development Strategy*: Discussion facilitated by UK ONS to ask

	participants specific questions to aid in the evaluation of Rwanda's National Statistics Development Strategy.
12:10 pm – 12:25 pm	Coffee break
12:25 pm – 1:10 pm	*Breakout Groups Discussion* Participants will break out into two to three smaller groups to reflect on their districts' data needs (with a primary focus on women and youth and secondarily on labor force participation and population growth), the extent to which they use census data, and how to best disseminate census information within the community.
1:10 pm – 1:40 pm	Breakout Groups report back on discussions
1:40 pm – 1:50 pm	Roundtable Discussion on Next Steps
1:50 pm – 1:55 pm	Closing Remarks
1:55 pm – 2:55 pm	Lunch

Friday, 18th August 2023 - Karongi district	
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Registration and Informal Networking
1:30 pm – 1:35 pm	Brief welcome remarks from SDSN TReNDS, scene-setting, and review of workshop objectives and agenda
1:35 pm – 1:45 pm	Roundtable introduction of participants
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Brief welcome remarks from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, the UK Office of National Statistics, and the Rwanda Civil Society Platform
2:00 pm – 2:20 pm	*Introduction to Census Data and Presentation of Findings from 2022 Census*: Presentation from NISR on the importance of census data for evidence-based decision making, highlighting the census data collection process, key concepts and terminology, census data formats and structure, and providing an overview of key findings from the 2022 general population census.
2:20 pm - 2:40 pm	Q & A with participants on the presentation
2:40 pm – 3:00 pm	*Local User Engagement for Evaluation of Rwanda's National Statistics Development Strategy*: Discussion facilitated by UK ONS to ask participants specific questions to aid in the evaluation of Rwanda's National Statistics Development Strategy.
3:00 pm – 3:10 pm	Roundtable Discussion on Next Steps
3:10 pm – 3:15 pm	Closing Remarks

II.   Breakout Groups Discussion Questions

We will break out into two to three smaller groups for 45 minutes to discuss how participants use census data and statistical products within their district. We will then come together as a full group to summarize the discussion and determine next steps. The following questions are intended to help facilitate the discussion:

- How are information and data used within your district to address local challenges related to women and youth? To labor force participation and population growth?

- How is your district monitoring performance on issues relating to women, youth or persons with disabilities? Labor force participation and population growth? What is needed to improve monitoring efforts (e.g., more timely information or more information on specific issues)?

- How could information and data be improved to influence local decision-making and citizen awareness of government decisions?

- Does your organization use census data for advocacy purposes? If so, how is it used and how frequently? What are your plans to use the census data?

- How can the statistical office (the NISR) best support your organization and how would your organization prefer to work with the NISR?