

Workshop for dissemination of 2022 Housing and Population Census results in Rodrigues-24 Nov 2022

Intervention by Dr Willis Odek

Dr. Willis Odek, representing the United Nations Population, East and Southern Africa Regional Office (UNFPA ESARO) underscored the importance of the partnership between the United Nations agencies and Statistics Mauritius for the implementation of the 2022 housing and population census. He noted that while the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Program had recommended the adoption of digital technologies for data collection, this came with some challenges to many governments, such as the lack of required technical capacity for designing and implementing computer-assisted personal interviews for data collection, ensuring coverage and data quality, especially against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and financial costs of acquiring the necessary technologies. However, Statistics Mauritius had effectively navigated through these challenges in both the pre-enumeration and main enumeration phases, resulting in a credible census.

Dr. Odek commended Mr. Johnson Roussety, GOSK, Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues, for his clear articulation of the development challenges, such as rising teenage pregnancy and school dropout rates, which the government planned to understand better and address more effectively using the census results. He reiterated UNFPA's and other UN agencies' commitment to continued work with Statistics Mauritius in the analysis, dissemination and use of the census results. He concluded by emphasizing one of the principles and recommendations of the United Nations for censuses: "a census is not complete until the information collected is made available to users in a form suited to their needs".

24 November 2022