

First-ever digital census driven by youth in Malawi



Young people were the driving force behind the national census conducted in Malawi in 2018. Taking up enumeration and supervisory roles, young enumerators engaged with a population that is rapidly growing.

Back in 1966, the first census counted 4 million people. Today Malawi's population is about 17 million, which means a total population 1.3 times higher than the last census conducted in 2008. 51% of the population in the country is under 18.

Tablets played a key role in counting this very young population. Using tablets allowed the country to collect real-time data from households, and nearly real-time data transmission from the field to a central server. This digital transition was an effective solution to reduce intensive manual data entry, delivery time and costs. As a result, preliminary outcomes were published in half the time expected.

For more information, visit www.unfpaprocurement.org or contact procurement@unfpa.org

South-South Cooperation

UNFPA Malawi handed over 15,000 tablets worth US\$2.3 to the Malawi Government to support the implementation of the 2018 Population and Housing census.

After finalizing the process, the tablets were sent to Zambia, where the



census exercise is scheduled for 2020. This sustainable solution allowed for re-utilization and cooperation between the neighboring countries.

UNFPA Procurement Services Branch assisted with:

- Procurement of 15,000 tablets with custom rugged covers and custom tempered glass
- Procurement of 15,000 solar power banks
- Guidance on procurement planning
- Technical assistance to ensure value for money in the digital transition
- Guidance and assistance for an effective re-utilization of digital devices
- Assistance in implementing payment methods for enumerators

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