



DANE

Executive Summary

Lessons Learned

Second Order of Judgment
T-276 of 2022 – Part One

English version

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01

Executive Summary

01

Introduction and context

This executive summary presents the synthesis of version 12 of the study carried out by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) in conjunction with the plaintiff organizations, participants of the focus groups, the United Nations Population Fund, the Attorney General's Office, among others, in compliance with the first part of the second order of Constitutional Court Ruling T-276 of 2022. The ruling stems from a remedy of protection filed by Afro-descendant organizations, which highlighted the substantial decline in the Afro-descendant population between the 2005 (4,311,757 people) and 2018 (2,982,224 people) national censuses. In response, the Court ordered a technical and participatory study to identify the causes that explain "the difficulties and eventual decrease in the identification of the country's black population in the last three censuses" (1993, 2005 and 2018), as well as to consolidate a document of lessons learned.

Version 12 of the study differs from previous versions by integrating an in-depth analysis from the structural and institutional racism approach, using methodological tools such as process tracing and census error analysis. The document was constructed in a participatory manner through nine meetings between April and June 2025, including plenary and technical sessions with the participating organizations, the Attorney General's Office, DANE, participants of the focus groups, the United Nations Population Fund and other institutional actors.

02

Problem Statement and Research Questions

The variation in the uptake of the Afro-descendant population in the 1993, 2005 and 2018 censuses constitute a complex and multifactorial phenomenon. This is framed within demographic and identity dynamics, as well as elements specific to the design and implementation of censuses (Zuberi, 2014). The study is based on the recognition that official statistics and ethnic-racial categorizations are not only instruments used by the State to estimate the size and characteristics of the population, but instead, in essence, represent a form of politicized construction of reality to the extent that the criteria from which the operations are executed reflect the imaginaries, the values and expectations of the dominant sectors of society, place from which the legitimacy of inferiority attributed to racially minoritized populations is constructed (Bejarano, 2010).

Based on this, the study was formulated based on three main questions:

1. Do demographic factors explain the census variation in the Afro-descendant population in Colombia?
2. Do identity factors explain the census variation in the Afro-descendant population in Colombia?
3. Do the factors associated with the design and implementation of the census explain the census variation in the African-descending population in Colombia?

The analysis ruled out the first two hypotheses as central causes and focuses on the third, showing how institutional practices, operational aspects and structural conditions of institutional racism directly and indirectly affect the inclusion of the Afro-descendant population in the censuses.

The general objective of the study was to systematically and comprehensively evaluate the direct and indirect causes that have led to this variation.

03

State of Art and Theoretical Framework

The state of the art reviews DANE's bibliographic production on the Afro-descendant population from 1993 to 2022. This analysis reveals how the conceptualization and treatment of this population has been influenced by indigenist theoretical approaches, culturalist perspectives and methodological limitations in the application of the principle of self-recognition.

The theoretical framework articulates key concepts such as structural racism, institutional racism, census error and process tracing. It is recognized that statistics are not neutral but reflect historically racialized power relations. Authors such as Bonilla-Silva, Jones, Fanon, Wade, and Van Dijk are referenced to argue that the statistical invisibility of Afro-descendant populations is a manifestation of institutionalized structural racism. This approach provides an understanding that the observed decline is not limited to a technical failure, but rather to the reproduction of discriminatory social structures through the implementation of statistical operations.

04

Methodology

The methodology of the study combines qualitative and quantitative tools and is based on the process tracing approach, used to identify causal mechanisms within complex systems.

A coding system for institutional documents and records of participatory sessions was designed to identify direct and indirect causes, cross-cutting causes and contributing factors that explain the census variation. This information was supplemented with quantitative data from the 2005 and 2018 censuses (for some of the causes), and with the analyses generated by the DANE.

Additionally, and as part of the methodology for the consolidation of the causes, technical sessions were held with DANE officials, the plaintiff organizations, participants of the focus groups, the Attorney General's Office, the United Nations Population Fund, among others, in which the causal hypotheses were validated, collective explanations were constructed, and elements of interpretation were discussed.

It is important to note that this executive summary gathers the central ideas regarding the causes that led to the decrease in the uptake of the Afro-descendant population in national censuses, especially in the 2018 census. These reflections were consolidated in the aforementioned technical working sessions and were the result of consensus reached in the consideration of each cause; nonetheless, there were disagreements on specific aspects that the plaintiff organizations have consistently pointed out. In turn, DANE has also expressed its understanding of these aspects. These dissenting opinions are detailed in the general report and readers are invited to refer to them there for a more in-depth reading of each cause and, in general, of the dialogical process that underpins the study, a characteristic that is one of the main attributes of this.



05

Results and lessons learned

The development of the study made it possible to rule out demographic factors and identity transitions as a central explanation of the census variation of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia. The analysis focused, then, on the factors associated with the design and implementation of the censuses, such as institutional practices, methodological decisions, regulatory frameworks and operational dynamics.

The analysis identified 15 probable causes of the difficulties in collecting data on the Afro-descendant population through national censuses, especially in the 2018 census, considering available declarative, documentary and quantitative evidence suggesting a causal relationship with these difficulties.

The objective was to reveal the chain of events that led to each case, as well as the mechanism by which underreporting risks were generated in the recording of the Afro-descendant population in national censuses. The results do not offer a measure of the explanatory weight of each cause. Instead, they show a plausible explanation for the course of events that comprise each cause, and the way in which each of them affects one or more of the moments where there was a risk of underreporting of the Afro-descendant population in national censuses.

The causes identified from the available evidence address the following aspects:

1. Operational Pressure
2. Operational Personnel Training
3. Establishment of operational teams

4. Transport of operational teams
5. Census Budget
6. Collection Mechanisms
7. 1. Geographical framework
8. Monitoring and Control System
9. Security and Armed Conflict
10. Homes occupied by absentees
11. Rejection of the census operation
12. Phrasing of the self-recognition question
13. Sensitization
14. Structural and Institutional Racism
15. Implementation of Consultation and Concertation agreements.

Causes articulate differently from each other. There are causes with direct or indirect effects on the sub-registry timing. The cause associated with structural and institutional racism is considered to be transversal to the others, and the cause associated with the monitoring and control system is included as a contributing factor, since its occurrence does not “generate” the difficulties in the uptaking the Afro-descendant population, but it does limit the possibility of timely detecting its occurrence and implementing corrective measures during the collection operation.

It should be clarified that this set of causes covers both the processes prior to the collection of information, as well as those that are specific to the operation. It is possible to identify some that are completely contained in either of these two phases. For instance, the causes associated with the census budget, the geographical framework, or the design of a quality monitoring system, are completely due to preoperational processes; likewise, the causes associated with operational pressure or safety issues, materialize during the collection of information. Yet, most cases involve aspects of the census process design (i.e., prior to the operation) and the implementation of those designs in the collection of information.

•Operational pressure(direct cause): Operational pressure refers to the set of circumstances where the deficit of human or technical resources converges to advance the collection of information, and the increase of workload in the available operational teams. Operational pressure acts on the set of

census execution processes and activities, affecting the organizational and methodological structure that DANE establishes to guarantee quality and efficiency in the collection of census information; it materializes when there are fewer people to carry out more surveys at the same estimated time. This led the 2018 Census to increase operational goals and assign census official's functions to supervisors, which had as an adverse effect an increased risk of incurring errors in the application of the census questionnaire.

On the other hand, increasing that operational pressure inherently carries an increased risk of census omission. This set of facts facilitate showing how some conscious and unconscious racial biases were able to operate through the operational teams. In situations where the time to complete the survey was pressing, certain questions were prioritized to the detriment of others, some of which were ethnic-racial identification. The above indicates that under circumstances of pressure it tends to be considered that some issues are more relevant than others.

In short, operational pressure can be generated by multiple factors associated with some of the causes identified in this study. To manage the risks of coverage and quality of the information that this pressure represents, it is necessary to tackle all the abovementioned causes that lead to a shortage of human and technical resources for data collection. In cases of census operations where such a deficit occurs, risk management measures should be provided that do not result in the suppression of supervisory activities on census takers, nor in the implementation of collection goals that exceed the real possibilities of their work.

- **Operational staff training (direct cause):**

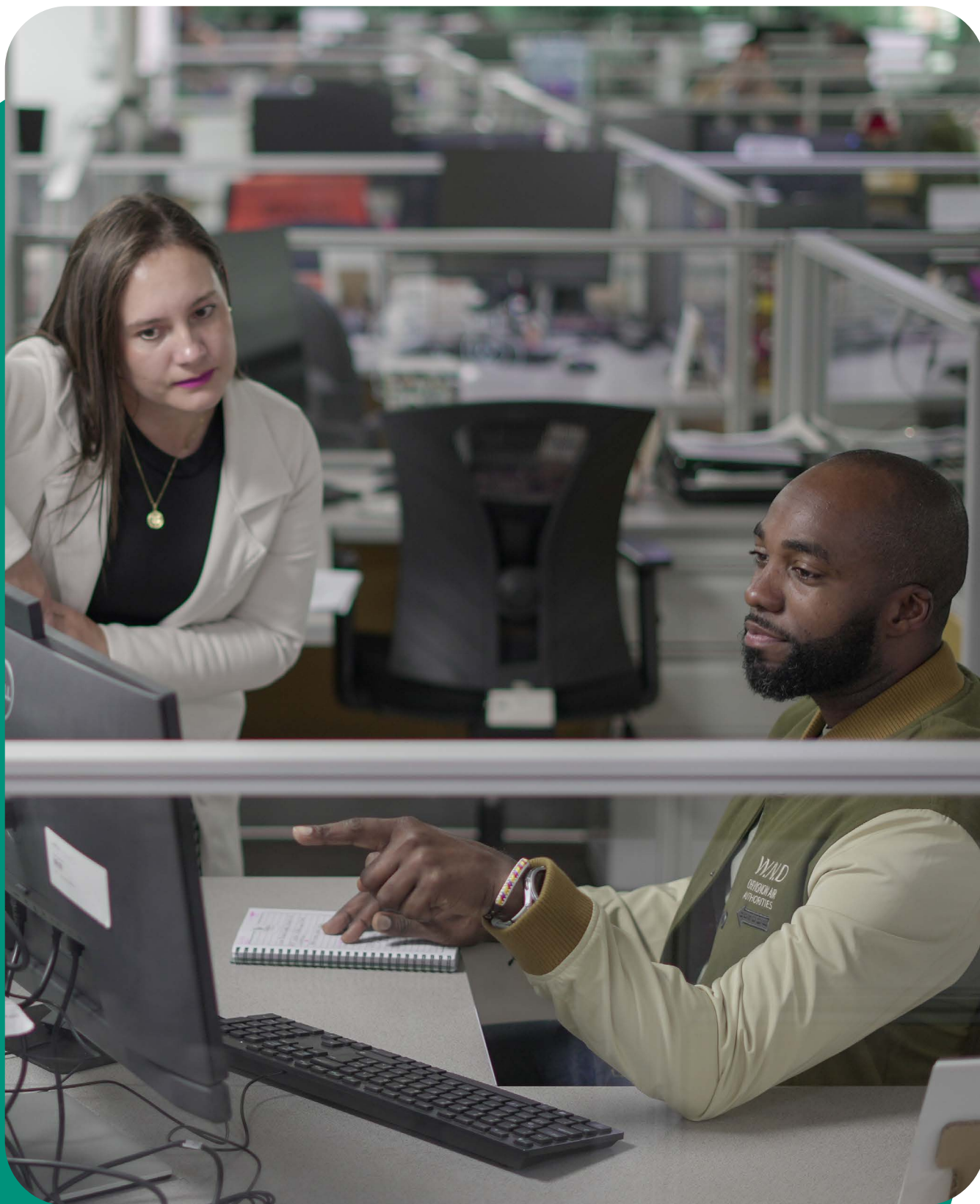
Operational staff training aims to provide the necessary knowledge so that participants can perform their role correctly and in accordance with institutional guidelines. In this sense, it is a crucial moment for carrying out any statistical operation, especially in a National Population and Housing Census. The knowledge transfer from DANE officials to the people involved in the operation depends on many factors that, in many cases, do not guarantee that those who are going to collect



the information fully understand what they must do, why it is necessary to ask all the questions, and, above all, why they should not leave any questions out. Mastery of the practical functions of data collection must be accompanied by an awareness of the importance of information, and of how to approach historically racialized populations for whom the absence of information encourages the perpetuation of their marginalization.

In the CNPV 2018, some failures in the training process were identified, with a possible impact on the recruitment of the Afro-descendant population. Some of them were inappropriate pedagogical conditions (very large groups, spaces not adapted for the activity, technological limitations, among others); lack of personnel to make the inductions and reinductions to the personnel who came to replace those who resigned; finally, the limited time to give the training, less than ideal to address all the contents with sufficient depth.

Given the limitations described above, the topics to be covered in the training competed for time on



the agenda, and due to the need to shorten the training, depth may have been lost in addressing the issue of ethnic self-recognition, its importance, methodology, and mistakes to avoid. Ultimately, the Afro-descendant population was affected by the incorrect application of the ethnic self-recognition question as a result of problems in training.

In this sense, it is essential to design training strategies to respond to contingencies such as the replacement of operational personnel who resign, or situations that prevent implementing the methodology initially designed for a specific place. Assuming the probability of operational contingencies that require adaptations of the original training design, such adaptations must be thought through in advance, ensuring that in no case is the integrality of the ethnic-racial approach of the census compromised, and particularly of the application of the ethnic-racial self-recognition question.

• Establishment of operational teams (indirect cause): Conducting the National Census involves the massive hiring of personnel in a very short period, in order to cover the different operational roles required. There are challenges to achieving the timely conformation of these teams, avoiding recruiting delays that result in delays in the census schedule, and ultimately, in coverage or quality risks associated with operational pressure. Among these challenges are i) the management of recruitment requirements, ii) the effectiveness of prior training, and iii) compliance with agreed procedures to include Afro-descendant personnel in compliance with consultation and agreement arrangements with their representative bodies. The entity must identify, for these three aspects, the opportunities for improvement and bottlenecks that have arisen in past censuses, and hence, implement preventive design and risk management measures that mitigate their effects on the timely conformation of the teams of census operational staff teams.

• Transport of operational team (direct cause): transportation services seek to ensure the transfer of operational teams. The efficiency of these services in collecting information directly impacts

the ability to access the homes of the census target population. At the 2018 CNPV, two modes of transportation were implemented to ensure the displacement of operational personnel: daily transportation assistance in municipal areas and a multimodal transportation service contracted for rural areas.

In view of both modalities, corrective measures to be implemented for the next census have been identified, with a view to minimizing the risks of omission represented by teams' transport failures. In urban areas with security or access problems, daily transportation assistance is insufficient, since the censor is exposed to risks present in the territory, and the possibility of the supervisor monitoring the work of his team is difficult. Meanwhile, in rural areas, it is necessary to i) make estimates of transport costs adjusted to the territorial particularities of each place in the country, avoiding the implementation of homogenizing criteria, and ii) design service management mechanisms (request and authorization), which are agile and efficient without forfeiting the ability to monitor and control the usage of these services.

• Census budget (indirect cause): the budget for a census refers to the monetary resources necessary to carry out the activities of the statistical operation. Although DANE makes initial estimates of these resources and thus makes its request to the Ministry of Finance, the allocation of the budget is the responsibility of the latter. The amount allocated depends on the prioritization of national government spending, which subjects the conducting of the census to factors and decisions external to the institution, which condition the design and execution of the chain of activities of the operation. By influencing all processes, including the training of operational personnel, transport services and the salaries of the people in charge of collecting information, it also affects the risks of coverage or quality of information that create difficulties in capturing the Afro-descendant population, although it is not the only factor related to this problem. Within the scope of the entity's actions, risk management associated with possible

budgetary constraints must be provided for, in which scenarios for the redistribution of items are generated, prioritizing those processes associated with the causes analyzed in this study.

• **Collection mechanisms (indirect cause):**

Collection mechanisms are the devices and programs used to capture information in the field. The implementation of mobile capture devices (DMC) and the E-census in the 2018 census operation represented a significant technological advance in data collection in Colombia. Nevertheless, the experience showed multiple operational and technical challenges that affected process efficiency, which is why all technical aspects related to the DMC must be tested in advance and rigorously to ensure its correct functionality. Hardware failures, such as overheating and low battery life, coupled with difficulties in software configuration and information transmission, resulted in delays, reprocessing and omission risks. In addition, the use of the E-census, although innovative, showed limitations in its ability to respond to high volumes of users and in its applicability in diverse territorial contexts. These findings underscore the need to strengthen technology infrastructure, device readiness and testing processes, as well as staff training to ensure a more robust and efficient implementation in future census operations.

• **Geographical framework (indirect cause):**

It is the necessary input to locate the census observation units (homes, households and people) and constitutes a fundamental input to properly plan the collection operation. However, it faces two important challenges: a) constant changes in territory use, which make it difficult to keep the information updated; b) lag in updating it, which prevents it from accurately reflecting the territorial reality at the time of the operation. These two aspects have operational consequences, such as underestimation of staffing needs or other resources, and lack of efficiency in the development of the operation. It is necessary to strengthen the area in charge of updating the geographical framework, to minimize the level of lag in this work, which must be constant during the intercensal period. With the aim of minimizing the effects of this gap in the Afro-descendant population, it is advisable to prioritize those municipalities with the highest volumes of this population in the

country, and those with a high proportion of Afro-descendants in the total municipal population.

• **Monitoring and control system (contributing factor):**

the Census Monitoring and Control system seeks to monitor in real time the results of the collection during the operation, identifying the coverage achieved at each moment, and the quality of the collected information. This information should serve to make corrective decisions in a timely manner and give feedback to the operational staff. The monitoring system is ideally composed of two parts, coverage and quality. During the census operation, significant deficiencies were identified in the monitoring of the question on ethnic belonging. Among the main failures is the absence of a previous diagnosis that would allow for anticipation of risks in the uptake of this variable, as well as the lack of a standardized procedure for its follow-up. This deficiency prevented timely detection of problems, resulting in a delayed response and no clear path for reporting and correction. In this order of ideas, it is imperative to design and implement, for the upcoming census, a specific quality monitoring system to track the outcome of the ethnic-racial belonging question.

• **Security and armed conflict (direct cause):**

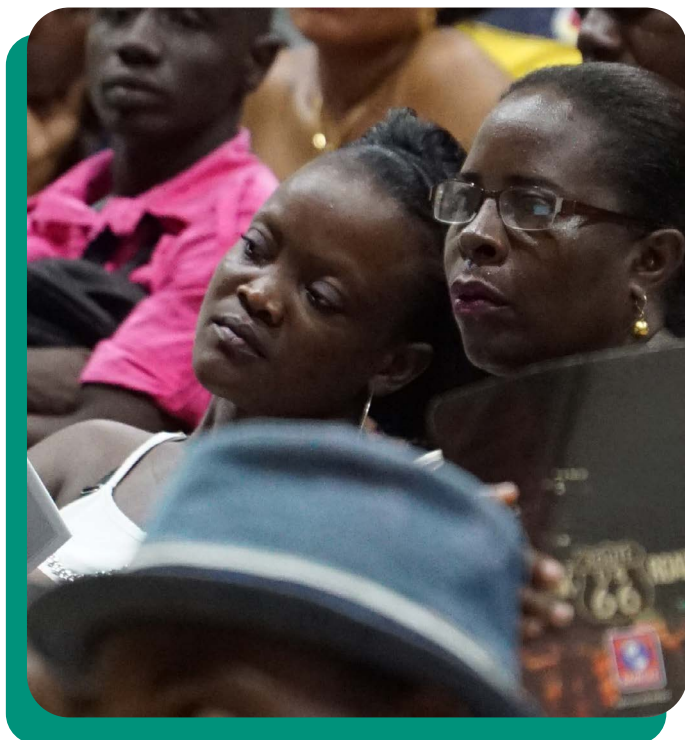
Security and armed conflict problems in the territory are adverse factors to the collection of information that negatively contribute to the risk of census omission and, in some cases, of making mistakes in the application of the survey. In several areas, public order conditions limited or even prevented the entry of operational teams, leading to coverage problems and, in some cases, errors during the application of the survey. This situation put additional pressure on the operational staff assigned to these areas, encouraging them to rush through their tasks, which could have compromised the quality of the information. The cause associated with the public order and security situation in the territory involves multiple factors external to the entity and with high levels of uncertainty. In any case, it is necessary to identify and implement opportunities for improvement in the inter-institutional articulation to monitor these situations before and during the operation, and in the procedures to address the collection in these circumstances.

• **Homes occupied with absentees (direct cause):** the omission of occupied homes with absent persons refers to the population that was not registered because at the time of the census visit a suitable reporting resident (of legal age) was not present. The situation that constitutes the risk of this type of omission occurs for employment, study or other reasons. The management of these risks is addressed in the operational design of the census, especially by the indication to perform revisits. However, in contexts where operating returns are lower than expected, the pressure to meet goals may reduce the possibility of conducting these revisits, thus increasing the likelihood of census omission. Mitigating the risk of omission due to occupied homes with absentees involves implementing improvements in: i) raising awareness among the population, reinforcing messages that prepare for the arrival of the census taker, ii) overcoming barriers to conducting surveys at times when the population is at home, iii) overcoming the causes that contribute to operational pressure and reduce the time available for revisits, and iv) incorporating sufficient time for revisits into the operational design.

• **Rejection of the census operation (direct cause):** This cause is related to the factors

that created resistance in the population to be censored. The 2018 National Population and Housing Census identified three types of factors: i) unawareness about the use of census information, ii) fear of the population of the census worker's visit in contexts of insecurity or armed conflict, and iii) unmet expectations about the formation of Census operational teams. Several challenges related to sociocultural and safety dynamics in certain regions were identified that may explain the rejection of the operation in those contexts: a) expectations of ethnic-racial representation; b) difficulties in forming teams with Afro-descendant representation to specifically census the Afro-descendant population, generating resistance to the census in some cases; c) misinformation about the use of census data; and d) fears associated with the territorial control of armed groups. Given that there are multiple factors that generate rejection of the census operation, and that are included in other causes related to awareness, security and armed conflict, as well as the implementation of consultation and agreement mechanisms. Mitigating the risk of rejection of the census by the population implies managing improvements around the previous processes. In addition to this, and as part of the daily work of the entity, it is necessary to strengthen its communication efforts to position its image in the Colombian population, raising awareness about the mission and importance of its mission.

• **Phrasing of the self-recognition question (direct cause):** the question on self-recognition has faced difficulties that compromise the quality of the data, due to errors in its application and the resistance of some sectors of African descent to the terms incorporated in its phrasing or in its response options. This resistance, influenced by historical, cultural and social factors, highlights the pressing need to design a culturally appropriate question to the heterogeneity of ways of identifying the Afro-descendant population in the country. The lack of uniform acceptance of the four terms included in the response option that is expected to cover the majority of the Afro-descendant population (black, mulatto, Afro-descendant or Afro-Colombian), the wording of the current question, becomes a restriction that effectively discourages the statistical visibility



of this population. This and other criticisms that exist about the wording of the question show the need for a conceptual and methodological review that guarantees greater cultural relevance and precision in the collection of information, supported by sufficient empirical evidence to improve the question.

• **Sensitization (direct cause):** Awareness-raising is the preliminary process of informing the population, community leaders, and institutions about the census, its importance, how the information will be used, and the high necessity of their support. It is one of the preconditions that seeks to guarantee the population's understanding of what the census is, what its purpose is and how it will be carried out.

In the analysis of this process in the national censuses, opportunities for improvement are identified associated with i) the anticipation with which these campaigns are initiated, ii) the supervision of the execution of components of the process that are awarded to third parties, and iii) the greater emphasis that should be given to ethnic-racial self-recognition and its implications on the statistical visibility of these populations. It is strategic to strengthen coordination with organizations and bodies representing the Afro-descendant population, to work together in this regard.

• **Structural and institutional racism (cross-cutting cause):** racism is the long-term structure that conditions discriminatory beliefs, discourses and behaviors towards racially minorityized population groups, and that result in socioeconomic gaps and historical invisibility. Structural racism is a “colonial wound” that resists healing. It silently and permanently permeates all forms of collective representation, conditioning the discourses, practices, valuation system, aesthetic criteria and institutional guidelines that legitimate the injustices suffered by populations that have defined themselves as racial minorities. This undervaluation not only affects the conduct of the census, to the extent that these populations remain exposed to statistical invisibility but also questions the democratic principle according to which ours is a plural and equitable society. This

analysis identifies that structural and institutional racism, as a constituent element of our social reality, has effects on all causes analyzed.

Thus, to a greater or lesser extent, all the actors involved in a census are permeated by the different ways in which racism manifests itself. It impacts the entity's managers in making executive-level decisions on the planning and development of the national census in aspects such as the lack of depth of the ethnic-racial differential approach with a territorial focus, the absence of explicit anti-racist awareness and training among officials and operational teams. Lastly, regarding decisions on the budgetary allocation of the census.

In principle, it affects the decisions that entity officials must make in contexts of operational pressure, such as those already mentioned in relation to training and monitoring, and in general, the lack of understanding of the need, importance, or relevance of the entity's measures with a differential approach, which are still considered complementary or less important.



Finally, the impact of racism on operational teams, census takers and supervisors, is evident in decision-making under operational pressure, either to shorten the questionnaire (not asking the question) or summarize the wording of questions because there is a prioritization among questions that are assumed “indispensable” and others that are deemed “dispensable”, or less important. Subtle or explicit racial discrimination attitudes may also occur at the time of interview.

Therefore, as part of the day-to-day work of the entity, it is required to implement positive awareness actions of the entity's personnel with an anti-racist approach. Likewise, considering that structural racism fosters greater risks of census omission in some territories with a high presence of Afro-descendant population, due to safety, connectivity or access problems, it is pertinent to implement affirmative prioritization measures on the opportunities for improvement in the census processes in these territories.

• **Implementation of Consultation and Concertation agreements. (indirect cause):** the consultation and agreement with instances of representation of the Afro-descendant population seeks to reach understandings to enable and facilitate the census of this population, guaranteeing their participation in different phases of the operation. Some participants in the process have stated limitations on the representativeness of the National Space for Prior Consultation (ENCP) in relation to the diversity of the African-descendant population and its multiple organizational forms in the country. These restrictions were possibly greater in urban contexts, where most of this population is concentrated, compared to rural areas. Furthermore, there was a lack of knowledge on the part of some Afro-descendant communities regarding the commitments concluded between the entity and the ENCP during the 2018 census.

In this regard, it is advisable to carry out sufficient preparation on the entity's dialogue scheme with the Afro-descendant population, which complies with the legal parameters of the Prior Consultation,

but is not limited to them. Moreover, in compliance with the free and informed nature of the Consultation, opportunities for improvement in the Consultation and coordination of the last census should be addressed in the next one, including the analyses and conclusions of this document.



Conclusion

The difficulties of identification and eventual decrease in the volume of the black, Afro-Colombian, raizal and Palenquera population in the 2018 National Population and Housing Census cannot be explained from a single cause or understood as a static phenomenon. On the contrary, it responds to a fabric of multiple, interdependent and changing factors, which transform over time and may vary according to the political, social, institutional and cultural context in which census operations are undertaken. The difficulties in the statistical record of these populations must be analyzed as part of a dynamic process, in which both structural and conjunctural elements influence. This implies recognizing that the causes identified at a given time are not definitive or exhaustive, and that new barriers may emerge in the future, while others may be overcome.

Simultaneously, identifying a phenomenon as having multiple causes does not mean that all the causes described must be present simultaneously in order to begin mitigating the risk that each one poses to capture the Afro-descendant population in censuses. In order to have difficulties in their uptake, it is not necessary for all 15 causes to act concurrently. In each part of the country, a different set of causes probably materialized, and to different degrees. In that sense, overcoming the difficulties to capture the African-descendant population in a national census requires managing all the causes identified exhaustively, including additional

risks arising from new territorial, population or institutional contexts. Therefore, it is essential to maintain a critical and reflective attitude towards the methods and approaches used, as well as a constant willingness to review, adjust and enrich census processes based on accumulated learning and dialogue with communities.

Within this framework, one of the most fundamental - and often overlooked - factors is the presence of structural and institutional racism, which permeates all areas of social life, including the institutions responsible for statistical production. Structural racism is not manifested only in explicit acts of discrimination, but in the way in which the norms, knowledge, practices and imaginaries that underpin the functioning of the State are configured. Far from being neutral entities, institutions are influenced by the dominant ideas of each era and reproduce—consciously or unconsciously—the patterns of exclusion and racial hierarchy that have marked Colombia's history. In the case of the 2018 Census, this was evidenced by the limited availability of adequate conceptual categories to capture the cultural and territorial complexity of black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero peoples. Although there were important advances in the recognition of ethnic diversity, the conceptual apparatus remained anchored in frameworks that do not sufficiently reflect the heterogeneity and specificity of the Afro-descendant population.

This shortcoming is not insignificant: it directly affects the way census instruments are designed, staff are trained, data are interpreted, and decisions are made. In addition, the people who operate these processes - managers, officials, operating personnel - are not exempt from the social imaginaries that associate blackness with marginality, informality or the absence of full citizenship. Deeply rooted in the country's history, these imaginaries condition the way in which the presence of the African-descendant population in the territory is recognized (or omitted). Being aware of this historical determination implies a process of

critical review that is not immediate or simple, since it requires questioning the formative frameworks, institutional practices and assumptions on which the nation has been built. Consequently, institutional racism not only limits the statistical visibility of these populations, but also restricts their access to rights, resources, and recognition.

Considering this overview, it is essential to strengthen the spaces of trust and dialogue between DANE and the organizations representing the Afro-descendant population. The effective articulation from the planning and design phases of the census not only guarantees greater legitimacy to the process but also allows incorporating the territorial and organizational knowledge that only the communities possess. The effective participation of neighborhood, community, gender, rural and urban organizations, as well as diverse organizational processes of the Afro-descendant population, is key to ensuring more heterogeneous representation and more effective control over the implementation of resources and methodologies in each region.

Ultimately, overcoming the statistical invisibility of Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal, and Palenquero populations requires a sustained commitment on the part of the State, especially DANE, to recognize and make structural and cultural changes that have historically marginalized these communities from official information. As this process demonstrated, only through the construction of trust and a broad, respectful and continuous dialogue will it be possible to move towards truly inclusive statistical information that accurately reflects the diversity of the country and contributes to the guarantee of rights for all the peoples that inhabit it.

Finally, all the participating actors reiterate that the implementation of corrective measures in national censuses cannot be understood as an isolated technical practice, but rather as part of a process for statistical visibility and data justice demanded by populations of African descent.





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