



Inclusive Data Charter United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Data Initiatives -

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is signatory to the Vision and Principles of the Data Disaggregation Charter “Everybody Counts: A commitment to ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit and measurement of social and economic progress” and is fully committed to contribute to this end. As a champion of the charter UNFPA is pleased to share its ongoing work, i.e. action plan, laying out the concrete steps our organization is undertaking over the short to medium-term to make data more inclusive and improve data disaggregation.

Introduction/background

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015 has brought an unprecedented challenge to the world, in particular to the developing world. From MDGs to SDGs, the number of goals more than doubled and the number of targets increased more than eight times, resulting in more than 230 indicators.

The demands placed on governments are high. National governments are to identify and locate the vulnerable, intervene to support their development, and track progress across these numerous indicators each and every year.

To accomplish this much needs to be undertaken to strengthen national statistical systems. Far too many countries lack basic population data, and the capacity to use census, registry or survey data to generate a significant number of SDG indicators. Strengthening technical capacity offers all of us one of the most transformative investment opportunities possible.

Current work and commitments

UNFPA is helping to strengthen national data systems, particularly with respect to the generation and use of population data, to support disaggregation efforts at national and sub-national levels including through support for censuses, surveys, civil registration and vital statistics, and selected administrative data sources. For countries without a recent census, including highly stressed countries where a census is not possible, UNFPA supports the generation of population estimations through statistical modelling that integrates satellite imagery and micro census surveys.

With approximately 98 SDG indicators requiring population data for their estimation, the 2020 round of censuses is critical to the monitoring and tracking of the SDGs, in particular for geographic disaggregation. UNFPA has supported six decades of census rounds, and more than 130 countries in the 2010 round. This continues to be a core part of our mandate. For UNFPA, this provides a key entry point by which we are contributing to national statistical systems.

UNFPA's priorities include strengthening national capacity for production, use, and sharing of geo-referenced census data matched to digital enumeration area boundaries. This offers all governments a chance to link geospatial census data with other geo-referenced data to inform sub-national development efforts, without compromising confidentiality.

Linking geospatial population data with other high resolution geospatial datasets facilitates: i) integrated mapping of development indicators to advance planning and targeting; ii) estimation of population from remotely sensed data and microcensus surveys, iii) updating population estimates in the interim period between censuses, and (iv) generation of population estimates in humanitarian and fragile contexts.

Specific examples addressing data gaps to increase the effectiveness of development activities and increasing the value of the census and population data, and other geospatial data for national development, include:

Within the scope of strengthening national data systems, priority initiatives include:

- **Using Population and Housing Census for Disaggregating SDGs.** UNFPA is investing in regional capacity development workshops that include hands-on exercises with real data – and focusing on the combined use of census and related data for disaggregation of SDGs and other development indicators.
 - **Workshop (10 days) in Seoul, RKO for 14 countries (Oct 2017)**
 - **Workshop (5 days) in Dakar Senegal for 23 countries (July 2018)**
 - **Workshop (5 days) in for Southern and Eastern Africa countries (tent Nov 2018)**
- **Sex disaggregation: Combining census and registry data to assess quality and coverage of CRVS (SDG 17),** with focus on sex disaggregation. Morocco (2017), and 4 additional countries (2018-2019).
- **Geographic disaggregation: Sub-national Mapping of Development Indicators.**
 - 2016: UNFPA supported the Ministry of Planning in Zambia to generate sub-national maps of a wide range of population and development indicators with district level disaggregation, to inform the Seventh Zambian National Development Plan.

- 2018-2019: Supporting African governments to **produce and use high-resolution spatial population data** integrated with other geo-referenced data to assure capacity for use of high resolution population, infrastructure and development indicators – including for data disaggregation; supplemented by population modelling in hard-to-reach areas or during the inter-census period within the scope of the GRID3 project.
- **Support for Hybrid Censuses to improve population estimates, and disaggregation of data by population metrics:** UNFPA is spearheading efforts in generating population estimates from satellite imagery and microcensus data – “hybrid census” where a traditional census has not been possible. In 2015, at the request of the Afghanistan Government, UNFPA and WorldPop/Flowminder generated sub-national population estimates from localized micro-census surveys and satellite imagery to inform planning processes. In 2018 and 2019, with support from BMGF and DFID, UNFPA in partnership with WorldPop/Flowminder, and CIESIN (GRID³) will extend application of the hybrid census methodology to several African countries.

In addition, with respect to SDG measurement and reporting, UNFPA has prioritized 17 indicators where we play an active role, including:

- As custodian agency, measurement and reporting of SDG indicators 5.6.1. and 5.6.2, and partnering with other agencies on reporting of other indicators e.g. partnering with the UN Population Division on **collecting SDGs on Demand Satisfied (3.7.1) and Adolescent Birth rate (SDG 3.7.2)**, and working together with the WHO and others on the **Maternal Mortality Interagency Estimation Group (MMIEG)**, etc.

UNFPA is currently developing a Population Data Platform to enhance UNFPA storage, generation and display of data, and integrate population census data, settlement and boundary data, and SDGs indicators. The Platform will be inter-operable with data platforms of sister agencies, and above all - facilitate data disaggregation enhanced through integration of data from different sources.

At UNFPA, we are poised to carry this vision forward with all of you, and rely on our collective action to transform development in the coming years to 2030.