

As of February 21, 2019

Where We Live and Work: Improving Population and Infrastructure Data through the POPGRID Data Collective

[RSVP via Eventbrite](#)

Date and time: 8:15AM-9:30AM, Wednesday, 6th March 2019

Location: UNHQ, Conference Room 8

Point of contact: Jay Neuner (TReNDS), Jennifer Oldfield (Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data) (Jay.neuner@unsdsn.org; joldfield@data4sdgs.org)

Background

Understanding the spatial distribution of human settlements, population, and infrastructure is vital to all of the SDGs and many SDG targets and indicators, especially with regard to leaving no one behind. The diverse data communities who develop and use georeferenced population and infrastructure data in diverse applications have begun to collaborate through the [POPGRID](#) Data Collaborative to address the needs of the sustainable development community for more spatially accurate, consistent, up-to-date, and multi-dimensional data, including time series data and projections.

On the occasion of the UN Statistical Commission's 50th session, POPGRID seeks to engage NSOs and the broader statistics community in a dialogue about data needs, priorities, and challenges. The side event will begin with a brief overview of POPGRID and related activities, including country-level examples of how such data can help support SDG monitoring, planning, and decision making. Most of the event will be dedicated to group discussion based on framing questions, to gather insights from participants on their needs and preferences that POPGRID may be able to address. Participants will also learn about ways to get involved. Representatives from the organizations leading POPGRID ([CIESIN](#)/Columbia University, the [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#), and the UNSDSN Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics, [TReNDS](#)) together with key partners such as [UNFPA](#), will be on hand to answer both technical and programmatic questions. POPGRID aims to bring into the fold additional stakeholders from all corners of the data community and to identify country-level partners for the next phase of work.

Session objectives and overview

The objectives of this session include:

1. Overviewing POPGRID
2. Seeking input from potential country partners and future country partners on project orientation; and
3. Seeking input from potential platform users on platform format and needs.

Format and speakers

Overview of POPGRID

Robert Chen, *Director, CIESIN*

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Brief remarks on population monitoring estimates in varying contexts, what is needed to support NSOs and UN agencies

Discussants:

Roger Shulungu Runika, *Director General, L'Institut National de la Statistique (INS), Democratic Republic of Congo*

Pablo Salazar Canelos, *Regional Population and Development Advisor, UNFPA Regional Office in Panama*

[Additional discussants to be confirmed]

Discussion with audience on country and agency needs to scale new approaches to population monitoring

Moderator:

Claire Melamed, *Executive Director, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data*

All

Overview and closing remarks

Jessica Espey, *Director, TReNDS*