Strengthening National Population Data Systems: UNFPA Support to Census & CRVS

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Agenda 2030 - High Demands

All governments should be capable of identifying and locating the most vulnerable, disaggregating data, and tracking progress towards SDGs.

Population census and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), together with household surveys and demographic surveillance systems, are complementary instruments of the population data ecosystem.

(~98 SDG Indicators demand population data)
Census, CRVS Systems share attributes

Attributes that need to be upheld to be useful:

• **universality** (coverage of all areas and entire population in a country);
• **continuity and permanence** on the part of CRVS and **regularity** on the part of census;
• **enforceability** (backed by appropriate legislation); and
• **confidentiality** (protection of identity of individuals and relevant data)
Population Data: Basis for upholding human rights

A comprehensive and continuous system of recording of vital events experienced by individuals at all stages of their lives is a foundation of human and civil rights (www.uneca.org). It establishes legal identity of individuals and the legal relationship between them and the state.

Census complements by mapping the relationships between individuals, and the economic well-being of individuals, households, communities and administrative units.
National dates for 2020 round of census
UNFPA priorities for the 2020 census round

1. Use of hand-held devices to enhance cartography and generate high-resolution geospatial census data
2. Strengthen capacity for using geospatial census data and integrating with other datasets
3. Support hybrid census, where full enumeration is not possible
4. Support dissemination and access to data
Advocacy, Procurement: GIS mapping technology

- Timeliness of mapping as boundaries are defined on the spot
- High quality EA boundaries to avoid omission or duplication
- Accuracy & consistency in classification of features captured in mapping
- Mapping infrastructure, road systems
Maps provide the cartographic base for enumeration and the platform for spatial census data products.
GPS locations of HHs improve spatial resolution of census data
Combining HH GPS locations with high resolution satellite imagery improves coverage
Improve quality of enumeration

Improve census quality and coverage

• Using GPS navigation of HH by fieldworkers
• Monitoring enumeration in real time
Using Census to Disaggregate SDG Indicators

Child Marriage in Zambia

SAE: Family Planning in Nepal
Supporting Census Dissemination

- Modern platforms for shared access, visualization of data
- Redatam / IMIS for open-source census dissemination
- Advocacy for public access
Supporting hybrid census, where full enumeration not possible

Ancillary geospatial data

- Vegetation index
- Slope
- Night-time
- Settlements

Partnership of UNFPA, WorldPop/Flowminder, and Afghanistan National Statistics Office.
GRID³
Geo-Referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development

launched March 2018
UN Statistical Commission
Strengthening Civil Registration Data

1. Foster full use of census data in the framework of national statistical systems

1. Cross validation to assess CRVS coverage and quality

1. Modeling incomplete data
Variable Coverage in Death Registration

Citation: Phillips et al.; The Lancet, 2015
Integrating Data to assess disparities in Death Registration

Morocco DR Completeness

Female: ~35%
Male: ~65%

Indirect estimation using successive censuses and inter-censal death registration data

Forthcoming:
Qualitative + Ethnographic Analysis to understand:
• Effects of cultural traditions on female death registration
• Incentives/disincentives

Evaluate effects of revised 2004 Family Code?
• 2004 & 2014 Census data
• 2004-2014 registration data
Research and Advocacy to Strengthen CRVS Systems

• Improve completeness estimates and demographic data quality assessment of civil registration data
• Better understand operational and cultural bottlenecks
• Promote norm of routine vital statistics production and usage - annual publication of vital statistics
Special Focus: Improve Data on Marriage and Divorce Registration

• As DHS and MICS have done for birth registration –
• Promote HH surveys and Census to questions on
  • Type of marriage
  • Marriage registration
  • Divorce registration

Lack of marriage and divorce registration has disproportionate social and economic effects for females

Combined with Death registration – protects right to inherit property, to access business and financial entitlements, and to claim available insurance benefits.
Summary: Key UNFPA Actions

- Strengthen census worldwide – 2020 focus on geospatial census, use of data for subnational attention to SDGs, hybrid census – GRID³
- Integration of data systems a priority – coverage & quality
- Address data gaps on death, marriage, divorce registration
  - Beyond Morocco: *sex differentials* in death registration coverage
  - Improve data on marriage and divorce coverage
- Partnerships and Shared Action – ICCC / GRID³
Thank you

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Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.