

**UNFPA Strategy for the 2020 Round of
Population & Housing Censuses
(2015-2024)**



**BECAUSE
EVERYONE
COUNTS**



UNFPA Inter-Divisional Working Group on Census
(IDWG-Census)

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BECAUSE EVERYONE COUNTS

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I. Introduction

The census is among the most complex and massive peacetime exercises a nation undertakes. It requires mapping the entire country, mobilizing and training a large number of enumerators, conducting a massive public campaign, canvassing all households, collecting individual information, compiling vast amounts of data in paper or electronic form, and analyzing and disseminating the data. By definition, *a population and housing census is an enumeration of the total population of a country and provides data on numbers of people, their spatial distribution, age and sex structure, their living conditions and other key socioeconomic characteristics*. Such data are critical for good governance, development planning, risk reduction and crisis response, social welfare programmes and business market analyses. In most developing countries, censuses are the primary source of data on the size and spatial distribution of the population and its characteristics, and this is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future.

The 2010 round of population and housing censuses was the most successful in terms of coverage of counted population, with 214 countries or areas conducting a population and housing census, comprising approximately 93 percent of the world population. Only 21 countries and areas, mainly in Africa (8) and the Arab States (6), did not participate in the round.¹ [1] This represents an improvement compared to the 2000 census round, in which 26 countries or areas did not conduct a census.

A core mandate of UNFPA, since its inception, is to strengthen national capacity to ensure high quality censuses that meet international standards and wide dissemination and use of census data for development planning, implementation and monitoring. With programme presence in 155 countries, UNFPA is committed to strengthening national capacity for the production and use of population and housing census data, including for monitoring changes in population dynamics and spatial and social inequalities, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014.

During the 2010 census round (censuses conducted between 2005 and 2014), UNFPA provided support to 135 countries, including 122 developing countries through, inter alia: technical assistance for policy dialogue and advocacy; capacity development; procurement of equipment or services; financial support; coordination and management of financial resources for the census on behalf of partner governments; and facilitation of South-South cooperation.

Building on lessons learned from the 2010 round, and responding to the new global development frameworks, UNFPA's strategy for the 2020 round of census focuses on strengthening national

¹ United Nations. Statistics Division. 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme. Available from: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/wphc/default.htm>

capacity to generate, analyze, disseminate and utilize high quality, timely and disaggregated census data to inform sustainable development policies, plans and programs, their monitoring and evaluation, and for the public good.

II. Context of the 2020 Round

New Development Frameworks

The 2020 census round (2015 to 2024) will be conducted in the context of new commitments to identify and redress inequalities between and within countries, across a wide range of development indicators. The 20-year review of the ICPD in 2014 [2], including its regional reviews, found that progress towards the Millennium Development Goals occurred against a backdrop of highly unequal achievements, with persistent (or worsening) inequalities at sub-national level in many countries.

The ICPD beyond 2014 key areas for future action call for more systematic, inclusive participation including for all key populations; good governance and systems of accountability that ensure that quality data and knowledge are accessible to the public and all decision makers; and use of data on population dynamics to guide investment of development resources.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, has placed the highest priority on ensuring that “no one is left behind”, calling on national statistical systems to disaggregate national indicators and monitor and redress inequalities as a matter of human rights. This aspiration places a high demand on national data ecosystems, and on data disaggregation in particular. The census is a key element of national data ecosystems and the source of population denominators for 96 SDG indicators. Its potential for disaggregation is limited only by the range of background variables and applicable laws on confidentiality of statistical information. The new global development framework may also demand inclusion of additional questions in censuses to ensure availability of data for the wider range of indicators. Finally, the census provides master sampling frames for national and subnational surveys that are vital for monitoring progress across the 2030 Agenda and the ICPD.

In the 46th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2015, the United Nations Secretary General requested the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), other UN agencies, and international and regional development organizations to enhance technical assistance to national statistical offices in order to strengthen national capacity for carrying out the 2020 round of Population and Housing Censuses, as a foundation for achieving sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda.

Funding Challenges

In a review of the 2010 round census by the United Nations Statistics Division and the US Census Bureau², census cost was the most commonly reported challenge (67%). As countries are striving to meet the requirements of timely production of high quality census data, they will need to invest in new capacities and technologies that facilitate such results. For instance, there has been a gradual transition towards increased usage of administrative data systems in place of a traditional census. In the Europe and Central Asia region, the number of traditional censuses declined from 30 to 24 between the 2000 and the 2010 round, while the number of censuses using either registers or combined methodologies increased from nine to 19. While such transition will eventually result in a more sustainable modality of census taking, the process towards this goal will require substantial financial investments.

Traditional population censuses are typically implemented as a project, not as integral part of statistical data systems. One implication of this is that funding of a census – by national budget allocation or by donor support – is often realized late, leaving too little time for adequate preparation for the census. In addition, funding of a census typically focuses on the most expensive components, particularly fieldwork and data processing, with relatively little attention or budget given to census publicity and census data dissemination. In cases of funding shortfalls, these are also the areas that tend to be reduced or cut first.



² United Nations. (2012) Report of the United States of America on the 2010 World Program on Population and Housing Censuses. E/CN.3/2012/2. Available from: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2012.htm>.

National Capacity

Many National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in developing countries experience high staff turnover and struggle to maintain qualified technical staff from one census to another. Due to capacity challenges, many of these NSOs remain largely focused on collection and processing of census data and production of the main census report, with little attention to in-depth analysis and utilization of the data for planning and development.

Limited capacity has contributed to poor census planning, delays in release of census results, as well as limited in-depth analysis or exploitation of data. In some cases, censuses are conducted without an all-encompassing analysis and dissemination strategy identifying appropriate means and channels of communication to deliver the census results, which in turn affects utilization of the data. During dissemination, limited attention is paid to needs of the public users, researchers and academia. Capacity of potential census data users, including local planners, academics, independent analysts and public activists, to interpret and use population data is limited. Many countries also lack capacity to integrate data from census, household surveys and civil registration and vital statistics to ensure comprehensive and integrated analysis.

While new technologies have opened opportunities for modernizing census operations, they also increase staffing challenges in the highly technical information technology fields. New and innovative technologies demand engagement of professionals with technical capacity.

Emerging Technologies

The 2010 round of census saw the introduction of a wide range of technology solutions for census data collection, analysis and dissemination including internet, laptops, hand-held or tablet computers, geographic information systems and scanning and recognition systems. Countries reported that the benefits of automated technologies include improving the data quality, capture and dissemination, timeliness and reduced costs of field operations.³ Most countries that used paper questionnaires in the 2010 round expressed an interest in using hand-held digital devices, laptops or the internet in the 2020 round.

Enumeration area and household mapping techniques have progressed from paper lists to the use of geographic information system (GIS), the global positioning system (GPS) and digitized maps. Data capture has evolved from manually keying data to use of scanning technologies, and to imaging and paperless capture with the use of electronic questionnaires. Census data processing has progressed to use advanced analysis and visualization software, electronic dissemination platforms, and interactive web-based tools for dissemination. Newer technologies will be available

³ United Nations. (2012) Report of the United States of America on the 2010 World Program on Population and Housing Censuses. E/CN.3/2012/2. Available from: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2012.htm>.

for use in the 2020 census round, and the international statistical community must be flexible to adapt to the changing technology landscape.

New and emerging technology solutions for census provide opportunity to improve the quality, cost effectiveness and timeliness of the census operation. In order to get the most out of the technology solutions, National Statistics Offices need to make timely, strategic choices about adoption of technology solutions that are relevant to their context, including in terms of technical expertise, ICT infrastructure and connectivity. Countries may need support to ensure selection of optimal technology solutions for their given context.

Multi-partner Landscape

Multilateral and bilateral donors are providing support for the successful implementation of population and housing censuses in developing countries. There is need for improved partner coordination at global, regional and national levels, to ensure more effective and efficient technical and financial support to the census round.

Collaborative efforts between countries through South-South and triangular cooperation also provide opportunity for experience sharing and lesson learning between countries. The Report of the United States of America on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses to the 43rd session of the Statistical Commission noted that a critical element to the success of the World Census Programme is member countries' work with each other, in cooperation with the United Nations and its regional commissions and other intergovernmental organizations.⁴ The exchange of scientific and technical expertise and information was highlighted as necessary to strengthen census-taking and results. The United Nations is called upon to play a significant role in planning for the 2020 round by: providing opportunities for countries to exchange information on their 2010 round experiences; promoting the full range of possible census methods; and providing guidance, as appropriate for country contexts, on choosing the most appropriate method(s) and technology options to use. The United Nations and partners also have a critical role to play in ensuring compliance with United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

⁴ United Nations. (2012) Report of the United States of America on the 2010 World Program on Population and Housing Censuses. E/CN.3/2012/2. Available from: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2012.htm>.

III. Lessons Learned from the Independent Evaluation of UNFPA Support to the 2010 Census Round

An independent evaluation was undertaken in 2014 to assess UNFPA’s support to the 2010 round of census, providing valuable lessons not only regarding the contributions of UNFPA, but regarding overall shortfalls in global support to national census programmes.⁵

The evaluation found that despite noted improvements in the generation and public sharing of census data since the 2000 round, use of census data by national and local governments, academics, and civil society organizations remains low. Staff attrition and turnover impact the census expertise within national institutions, affecting the depth of data analysis and the use of data in policy formulation. National training programmes in developing countries have not kept pace with the attrition of demographers, census experts, and data scientists. Further, the capacity of local planners, academics, independent analysts, or public activists to analyze and use population data remains limited in many countries, especially in least development countries. Overall, the evaluation encouraged greater support to training and capacity building of both governments and the public to use census and related demographic data for national development planning. Key evaluation recommendations to UNFPA for the 2020 round of census are shown in Box 1 below:



⁵ UNFPA. (2016) Evaluation of UNFPA support to Population and housing census data to inform decision-making and Policy formulation 2005-2014, Volume 1, UNFPA Evaluation Office. Accessible on the link: <http://www.unfpa.org/evaluation>

Box 1: Recommendations to UNFPA for the 2020 Round of Population & Housing Census

UNFPA should continue to provide and also expand its support to population and housing censuses and:

Draw up a corporate strategy and guidance for the 2020 round.

With the objective of making support to census programmatically visible and better managed, communicated and monitored, UNFPA support to the 2020 census round should be guided by a clear and formalized strategy accompanied by formal, comprehensive and structured guidance for regional and country offices, i.e. guidelines on UNFPA support to the 2020 census round.

Adapt current human resource and technical assistance strategies to address attrition in census expertise and to ensure adequate support to the 2020 census round.

Towards this end, UNFPA should consider conducting a mapping exercise of in-house census expertise, forming and utilizing regionally based technical census teams and further capitalizing on census Chief Technical Advisers.

Activate knowledge management for support to census.

UNFPA should take advantage of the comparative advantages of the geographic scope of its work and leverage the wide range of country and regional level experiences and knowledge on census support generated by the 2010 census round, which is currently under-utilized. A database of good practices on census, including on the use of census and survey data in policymaking facilitates identification of potential opportunities for South to South cooperation.

Incorporate data use as a focus of UNFPA census support.

UNFPA should decide whether its support to the 2020 census round will focus primarily on the production and availability of data – continuing current practice – or also include an emphasis on data use for policymaking. If the latter, UNFPA should ensure that the actual implementation strategy is consistent with the theory of change. This may also mean ensuring that UNFPA's business model is sufficiently flexible to allow relevant modes of engagement in a wide variety of country contexts and UNFPA support settings.

View dissemination as the link between data availability and data use for policymaking.

UNFPA should work with NSOs in innovative ways to ensure that census-related data is disseminated in a manner that fosters data use in policymaking and advocacy. Towards this end, UNFPA should challenge current NSO assumptions on dissemination mechanisms.

Explore combining census data with other sources, including surveys, administrative sources and other sources of data in order to foster full use of census data in the framework of national statistical systems.

UNFPA should promote the role of the population and housing census as the backbone of national statistical systems, above and beyond a one-off data collection exercise. UNFPA should support Programme Country efforts to explore the possibilities and to exploit the full potential of combining census data with data from other sources.

Examine new funding mechanisms to support dissemination and use of data, including census-related data.

Explore the possibilities offered by and feasibility of a global-level trust fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the dissemination and use of data, including census-related data in the 2020 census round. The trust fund could address some of the challenges raised in this report, including 1) limited levels of support to the dissemination and use of census-related data, 2) the narrow conception of census (i.e. census seen as a one-off exercise), 3) inadequate investments in enhancing national capacity for use of census data.

Prioritize exploring the full potential of South-South cooperation for census support, in line with the 2014–2017 Strategic Plan.

South-South cooperation should be a key strategy of UNFPA support to the 2020 census round. Expand upon the focus of current successful South-South cooperation exchanges for census to support exchanges on analysis, dissemination and the use of census-related data. In addition to NSOs, include a range of stakeholders (e.g. line ministries, CSOs, academia) in South-South cooperation exchanges on census.

Table 1: UNFPA support to census- SWOT Analysis

<p>INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT</p>	<p>STRENGTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solid presence of UNFPA in over 155 countries and territories (country office/ programme presence); ▪ Rich experience in supporting countries in census-taking; ▪ Trusted partnership with NSOs built on a long history of financial and technical support. 	<p>WEAKNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited institutional coordination mechanism ▪ Limited systematic approach to strengthen data utilization ▪ Attrition of census expertise
	<p>OPPORTUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New global sustainable development agendas and increasing demand for disaggregated data ▪ Multi-partner landscape ▪ Emerging innovative census technology solutions ▪ New data sources and methodologies for linkages between census and other data, e.g. big data 	<p>Strategic Focus Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Positioning UNFPA as the go to agency for census technical support ▪ Streamlining internal organizational structure for effective support ▪ Strengthening national institutional capacity ▪ Strengthening institutional partnerships and coordination at global, regional and national level ▪ Resource mobilization ▪ Strengthening the role of census data in SDG and ICPD beyond 2014 monitoring frameworks ▪ More structured and timely technical guidance ▪ Harnessing the benefits of new technological innovations ▪ Strengthening knowledge management and knowledge sharing ▪ Increasing access to census data in the public domain, through for instance IPUMS and REDATAM
<p>THREAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global economic uncertainty and funding challenges ▪ Lack of global partner coordination ▪ Limited technical capacity of NSOs including for data utilization ▪ Scale and complexity of census operations 		

Table 1 shows, the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analytic framework for UNFPA’s census strategy and the key strategic focus areas. The strategy aims to increase the impact of UNFPA investments in census both internally and externally. Internally, UNFPA is advancing a more streamlined structure across different organizational units at HQ, regional and country level, and promoting regional hubs of technical support through a more effective management structure, the Inter-Divisional Working Group on Census (IDWGC). Externally, UNFPA will reduce duplication of efforts through: shared production of guidance notes and technical briefs; improved coordination of technical support to countries with the UN Statistical Division and the US Census Bureau under a newly established International Committee on Census Coordination (ICCC); and establishment of simpler contracting systems (Memorandum of Understanding) for support to countries by the United States Census Bureau.

IV. UNFPA Census Strategy

Data can make a difference, and the key is to collect, analyze and disseminate quality, timely and disaggregated data in such a way that it drives informed decision making. The primary goal of the UNFPA strategy for the 2020 census round is to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems to collect and disseminate such data, to enable the production of socio-demographic intelligence that is suitable for informing and monitoring subnational, national and global development agendas.

The UNFPA strategy is informed by the new development frameworks (The 2030 Agenda and ICPD beyond 2014), prevailing country contexts, (e.g. technical capacity, political stability/humanitarian situations, funding challenges, emerging innovative census technologies, multi-partner census landscape) and the recommendations of the independent evaluation of UNFPA support to the 2010 round of census.

THE STRATEGY

The strategy has five elements:

- Streamlining the internal organizational structure;
 - Rolling out structured census technical guidance;
 - Promoting new and innovative census technologies and methodologies; and
 - Leveraging institutional partnerships at all levels; and
 - Strengthening resource mobilization.
-

To achieve the goal of the strategy, UNFPA will:

Streamline internal organizational structure for more effective census support through:

- Conducting a capacity assessment of in-house census expertise and developing a capacity development strategy to address existing gaps, including the development of corporate guidelines on the minimum qualifications needed by UNFPA staff to effectively support census.
- Ensuring functionality of the IDWGC, for effective coordination of census support from different units within UNFPA. The IDWGC seeks to promote internal strategic partnerships that exploit competencies within and between divisions and units to better plan, structure, and deliver support to countries conducting a census. The IDWGC was established under the leadership of the Population and Development Branch of UNFPA's Technical Division in

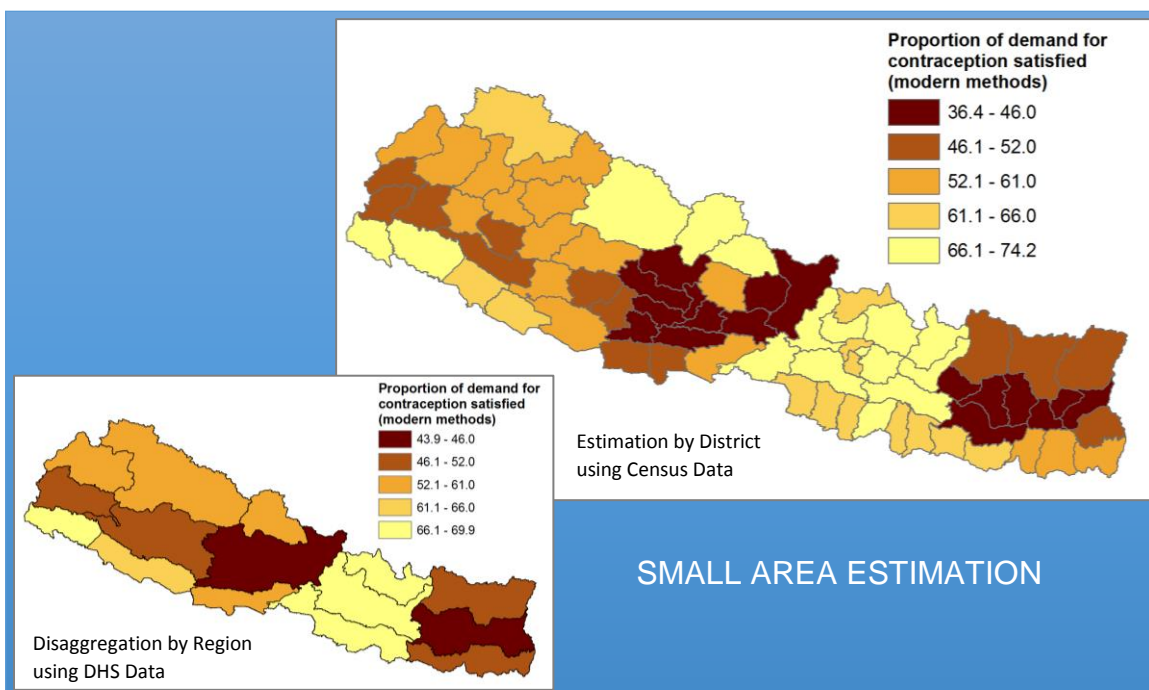
2013, to align technical assistance and fundraising support to countries across different units of UNFPA. It operates through an annual in-person meeting, quarterly virtual meetings, and ongoing online information exchange to support countries. It includes UNFPA experts in all aspects of census operations with membership that includes Population and Development Branch, Resource Mobilization Branch, Procurement Services Branch, Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts Branch, Regional Offices and Regional Desks. As a coordinating body, the IDWGC attends to emerging census issues, assures that the organization is abreast of new technical developments, guides and implements agreements undertaken within the International Committee on Census Coordination (ICCC), leads the production and review of UNFPA census training materials and Census Briefs, initiates and supports South-South collaboration.

- Continuously populating and mobilizing UNFPA regional rosters of technical experts to facilitate timely technical support to individual countries.

Roll out structured census technical guidance to country offices to facilitate coordinated engagement and support to national census processes by:

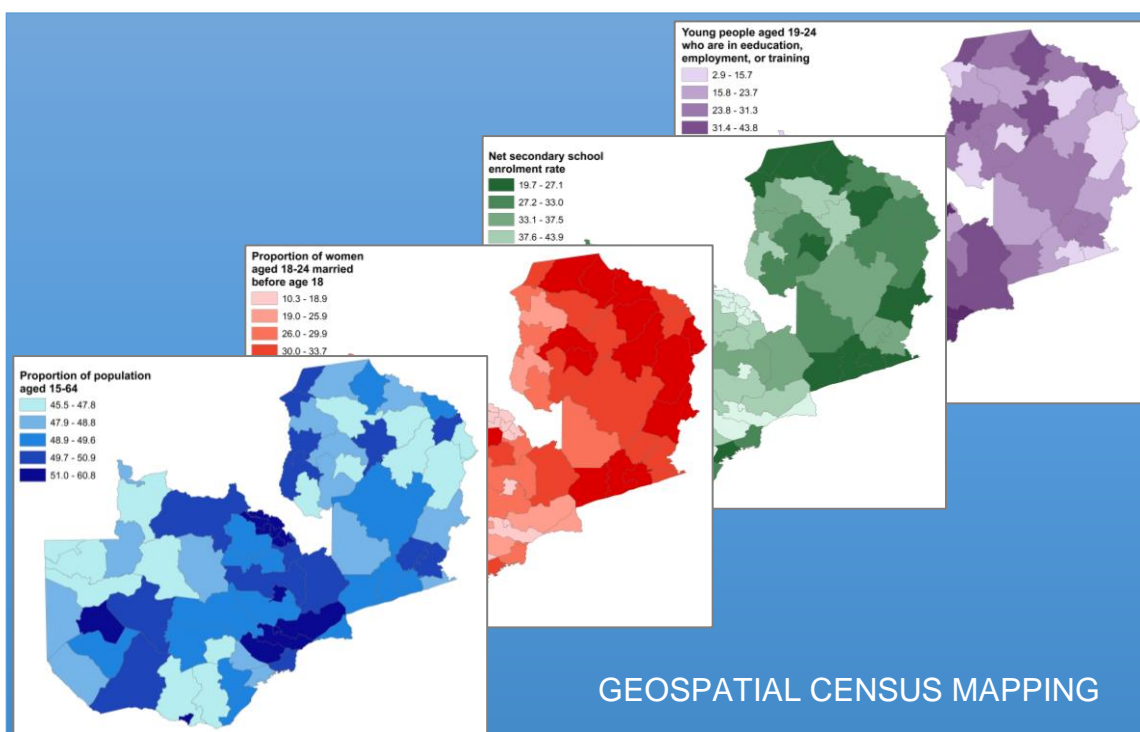
- Providing census technical guidance tools in user-friendly online formats, to guide UNFPA country offices. For example, a multi-year census planning *step by step guide* on **when, why, how** or **in what sequence** the various census mechanisms should be established. The guide will include a matrix, highlighting the key phases of the census with corresponding activities, will provide a brief description and purpose for each activity, and will provide generic guidance on potential areas for engagement and support by UNFPA country offices (COs). Other guides will relate to resource mobilization, user consultation, political risk assessment, census technology, field management, Post-Enumeration Surveys and data quality evaluation. The learning materials are particularly useful for staff who may not be familiar with census operations and demands. The materials will be updated taking into account emerging issues and lessons learned.
- Providing technical guidelines and training on Small Area Estimation (SAE). SAE is a key methodology to enhance the utilization of census data. By linking census and sample survey data through modelling, it generates reliable estimates of certain key indicators, which are only available in sample surveys (such as family planning indicators, see Figure 1), at a smaller geographic/administrative area level than would be possible from the sample survey alone.

Figure 1: Illustration of Small Area Estimation of family planning indicators (Nepal 2011 census)



Promote new and innovative census technologies and methodologies

- Building on experience of previous census rounds, identify and share intelligence on new census technology solutions and methodologies, with a view to:
 - Capitalize on lessons learned;
 - Identify south-south cooperation opportunities;
 - Increase regional and international knowledge exchange.
- Advocating for appropriate, efficient and effective technology solutions for census data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination;
- Supporting integration of Geographic Information Systems in census data collection, analysis and dissemination;
- Promoting the long term development of administrative data systems and transition to register-based censuses or censuses combined with administrative data for countries with such potential;
- Promote free and open census data dissemination platforms including REDATUM. UNFPA has been supporting REDATAM for over 15 years, but not consistently. To date REDATAM remains the most powerful and flexible non-commercial data dissemination software. UNFPA will support global redevelopment and roll-out of REDATAM for census data dissemination.



Leverage institutional partnerships at global, regional and national level

A renewed focus on strengthening institutional partnerships at global, regional and national levels will be essential to success, including better coordination and routine information-sharing to avoid duplication.

GLOBAL LEVEL

At global level, UNFPA will:

- Strengthen engagement in the International Committee on Census Coordination (ICCC)⁶, to ensure coordination of planned and ongoing support to national census authorities to

⁶ The ICCC was established to strengthen communication and coordination of anticipated, planned and ongoing technical support to national census authorities, and promote the implementation of the latest international recommendations, guidelines, classifications and innovations in conducting a census. It comprises United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Statistics Division and the U.S. Census Bureau. The ICCC was established in response to the United Nation Economic and Social Council's Resolution E/RES/2015/10 on the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses which called for "coordination of activities among stakeholders in assisting Member States" and in recognition of the increasing importance of the population and housing census as an important source for supplying disaggregated data needed for the measurement of progress of the 2030 Agenda for

build on synergies and avoid duplication of effort. Within the scope of the ICCC, UNFPA will:

- Promote knowledge sharing on the successes and failures of the past round of censuses and derive common technical/ methodological strategies for avoiding future problems and increasing success;
- Together with the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Regional Commissions, jointly develop directory of census resources, national practices, experts and other available resources, which would allow countries to more easily obtain information when they need it and share expertise;
- Promote regional technical task teams for census support to countries, including UNFPA, UNSD and USCB experts and independent consultants, as needed;
- Support regional workshops on census guidelines coordinated with UNSD and USCB, and potentially others within the ICCC for specific expertise;
- Regularly map country census needs for more coordinated support.

REGIONAL LEVEL

At regional level, UNFPA will improve regional coordination of technical support through:

- Reducing the cost of traditional global response teams and deepening the critical mass of expertise in each world region through mobilizing the UNFPA regional roster of technical experts, to allow recurring and local support to individual countries. This will be organized, funded and coordinated through UNFPA Regional Offices (ROs), with backstopping from Headquarters (HQ). UNFPA will further develop a pool of Chief Technical Advisers with previous experience supporting census;
- Supporting regional centres of excellence for census support; mapping and pooling expertise in all aspect of census taking for inter and intra-regional cooperation; training in census expertise and advocating for census expertise to be mainstreamed into demographic curricula, and the use of census findings by governments, parastatals, academics, civil society and the public. This will include dedicated support to training the next generation of demographers and analysts to sustain the progressive modernization of census systems, and the use of data for development;
- Brokering regional knowledge exchange including South to South cooperation;
- Strengthening the role of UNFPA regional offices in working with and supporting the work of the United Nations Regional Commissions with regional political bodies, such as the African Union (AU) Commission, the African Development Bank and other institutions working on the population and housing census.

Sustainable Development. Through proactive engagement the ICCC seeks to channel the various support provided by multilateral and bilateral donors with a view to enhancing the coherence of the support.

NATIONAL LEVEL

At national level, UNFPA country offices be the go-to agency for census technical support through:

- Keeping abreast of census planning processes in their respective countries while fostering a close relationships with the National Statistical Offices to ensure smooth collaboration and support;
- Strengthening census technical collaborative partnerships with other UN agencies within the context of the United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) and other partnership fora including research and academic institutions, media, civil society organizations;
- Strengthening census governance and quality assurance;
- Coordinating timely convening of other UN agencies and donors for resource mobilization purpose. Because of UNFPA's long-standing trusted partnership with National Statistical Offices, it is often entrusted with leading resource mobilization;
- Promoting collaboration between National Statistics Offices and academic institutions to facilitate capacity building and sharing of expertise;
- Advocating for and supporting NSOs to analyze census data on demanded topics, generating more accurate and timely analysis that is georeferenced and disaggregated, using diverse means of data dissemination, and exploring various channels to promote use of census data for evidence-based policy-making;
- Raising awareness of stakeholders beyond the National Statistics Office on the utility of census data for development in the context of the 2030 Agenda, ICPD beyond 2014, and regional and national development frameworks;
- Exploring the potential modalities of combining census data with other sources of data to foster full use of census data in the framework of national statistical systems;
- Supporting in-depth analysis of and evidence generation from census data;
- Promoting increased access to census micro-data through public domains

Strengthen resource mobilization

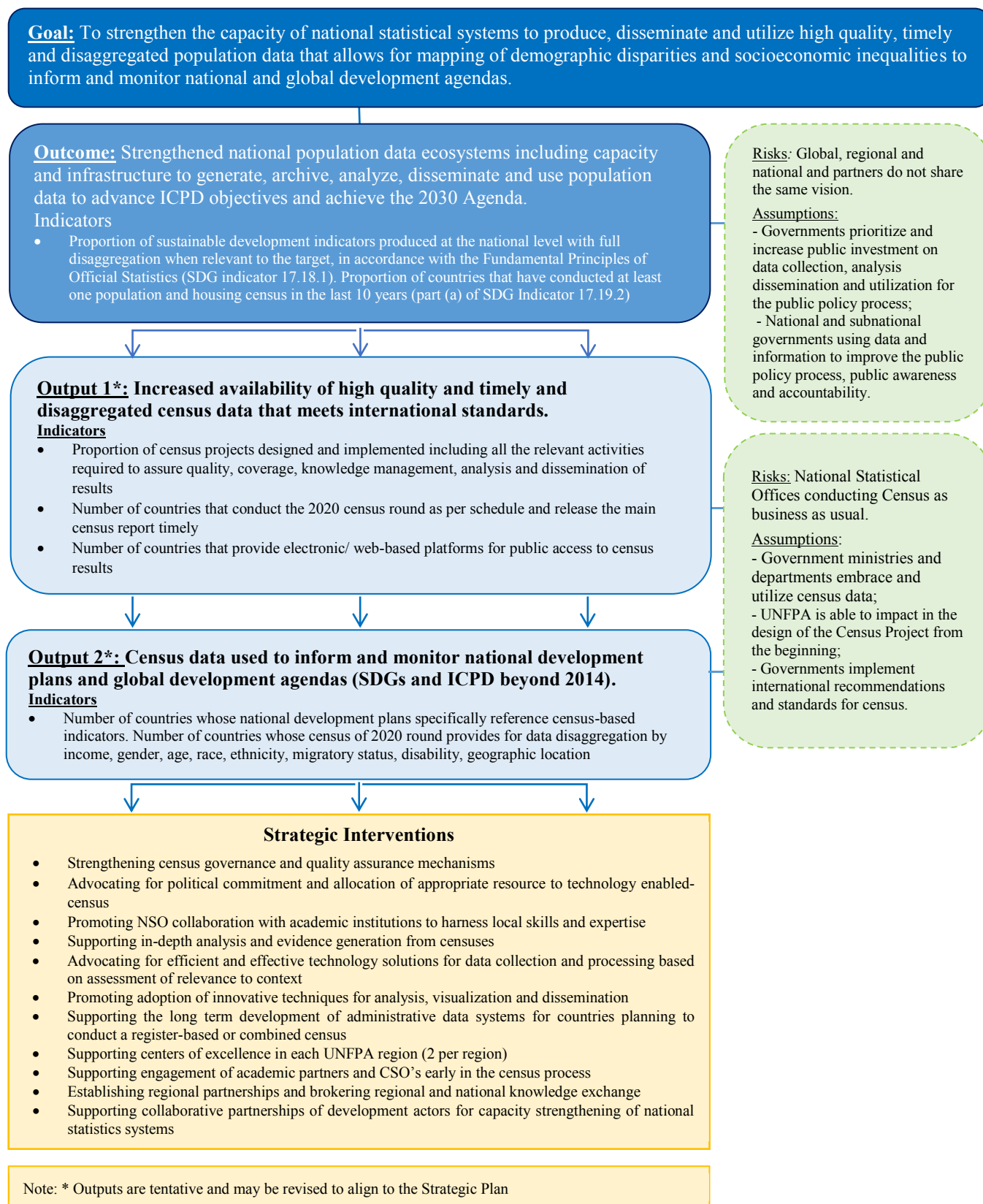
UNFPA will explore prospects for a dedicated Multi-Donor Trust Fund in Support of Data for Development that will include support for census and use of census data and will facilitate resource mobilization for coordinated activities with other agencies.

V. Theory of Change

With a long and trusted relationship with National Statistics Offices and UNFPA is committed to remain a leading and reliable partner in the conduct of population and housing censuses during the 2020 round. The outcome theory of change for UNFPA’s census strategy is summarized in Figure 2, and presents technical and programmatic guidance through proposed strategic outputs and interventions, and identifies the risks and assumptions associated with them. It is premised on the comparative advantage of UNFPA as the lead agency in population data systems and analysis with programme presence in 155 countries, supported by six regional offices and a dedicated inter-divisional team at HQ level. Details of UNFPA contribution to the achievement of outputs and the outcome are shown in Annex 1.



Figure 2: Goal, outcome, outputs and key interventions



ANNEX 1. Outputs and Strategic Interventions

Output 1: Increased availability of high quality and timely and disaggregated census data that meets international standards.	
<p>UNFPA will support capacity strengthening for generation, archiving, analysis and dissemination of high quality, timely and reliable census data through</p>	<p>Strengthening census governance and quality assurance mechanisms to ensure transparency and effective accountability, and guarantee the independence of the census process and results: Advocating for Post Enumeration Surveys to measure data quality; Supporting and advocating for adoption of functional National and International Census Advisory Committees, and donor coordination mechanisms; Promoting implementation of international principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses and use of global census guidelines and standards developed by UNSD; Facilitating user consultations including for civil society organizations (CSOs); Providing guidance on conducting local census context analysis including religious and cultural sensitivity, political risk assessments, and issues in fragile and humanitarian contexts.</p> <p>Promoting NSO collaboration with academic institutions to harness local skills and expertise</p> <p>Supporting in-depth analysis and evidence generation from censuses: Promote the wider use of innovative methods for collection, analysis, and dissemination of census data to facilitate utilization.</p> <p>Advocating for efficient and effective technology solutions for data collection and processing based on assessment of relevance to context. Promote use of the very latest in cost-effective census methods including multi-mode or mixed data collection methods, such as telephone interviews, electronic questionnaires on tablets and mobile telephones, geo-referenced integrated systems for field management; geospatial technologies for mapping; scanning technology; promoting local solutions and South to South cooperation for knowledge exchange on new census technologies.</p> <p>Promoting adoption of innovative analytical techniques including those linking census data to survey and big data sources within the framework of national statistical systems in order to produce in-depth analytical reports on topics related to UNFPA mandate, such as family planning, child marriage and the demographic dividend; generate small area estimates, poverty maps, inter-censal estimates etc.</p> <p>Advocating for the wider use of innovative methods for dissemination, display and visualizing census data in a user friendly way. Supporting review of legislative frameworks to promote data sharing and utilization; Promoting access through interactive databases and open access to microdata/sample whilst protecting confidentiality.</p> <p>Advocating for disaggregation of census data in line with the disaggregation criteria of the SDG indicator framework. In particular, UNFPA will advocate for inclusion of the core Washington Group questions on disability and the UN Statistics Division recommended questions on migration status, to facilitate data disaggregation as appropriate.</p>

	<p>Supporting the long term development of administrative data systems for countries planning to conduct a register-based or combined census supported by administrative data with short term guiding notes and brokering technical partnerships between countries. In the 2020 census round, a range of countries including over half of Eastern European and Central Asian countries plan to conduct register based census or a combined census supported by administrative data.</p>
<p>Output 2: Census data used to inform and monitor national development plans and global development agendas (SDGs and ICPD beyond 2014).</p>	
<p>UNFPA will support capacity strengthening to advance more extensive integration of data and evidence on population dynamics and their socioeconomic linkages into development policies, plans and programmes by:</p>	<p>Supporting centers of excellence in each UNFPA region (2 per region), to ensure the needed technical guidance to governments, other academic centers, research institutions, and civil society for the effective use of census and related population data, for national planning and tracking of development, including the generation of SDG indicators. Centers will also be supported to ensure the high-quality training of the next generation of census and population data experts. Through centers of excellence, UNFPA can more systematically share periodic news on emerging trends and technologies, and widely deploy a range of new analytic tools, e.g., for spatial analysis, small area estimation or others types of data integration.</p> <p>Supporting engagement of academic partners and CSO’s early in the census process to advocate for the potential value of census data, learn what potential users want to know from the census (user needs) , and expand public ownership. Bringing together designers and end users at the outset advances public ownership and long term use of census findings.</p> <p>Establishing regional partnerships and brokering regional and national knowledge exchange and increased collaboration among countries on different aspects of census-taking, including on questionnaire design, data dissemination, use of census-related data for policymaking and alternative census methodologies mainly through UNFPA regional offices and regional partners. This will include sharing and exchange of the vast amount of (currently underutilized) knowledge and experience on census support that was generated during the 2010 census round. This was a key strategy of UNFPA to strengthen capacities during the 2010 census round, mainly through South-South cooperation, and it enabled countries to draw on each other’s strengths and achievements and learn from examples of good practices in census-taking. This will include Conducting a mapping exercise to identify and systematize census support experiences that could contribute to an organizational census knowledge base; and identifying good practices, including on use of census and survey data in policymaking, and systematically include them within the good practices database currently being developed by the Knowledge Management Branch.</p> <p>Supporting collaborative partnerships of development actors for capacity strengthening of national statistics systems within the framework of the SDGs and the data revolution.</p>

REFERENCE

[1] Detailed and country-specific information on 2010 round census dates is available from the website of the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm>

[2] Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD Beyond 2014 (United Nations publication A/69/62), as prepared in response to General assembly resolution 65/234

[3] Findings of the UNFPA 2010 census evaluation are publically available at:

<http://www.unfpa.org/admin-resource/evaluation-unfpa-support-population-and-housing-census-data-inform-decision-making>





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