

Evaluation of the UNFPA support to census data availability to inform decision-making and policy formulation 2005- 2014

KEY RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRESENTATION FOR THE UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION
47th session**

**Side Event:
Lessons from the 2010 census round**

New York, March 8th 2016

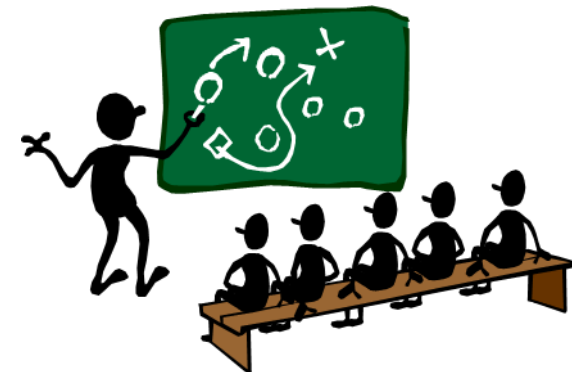


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Evaluation team: core team

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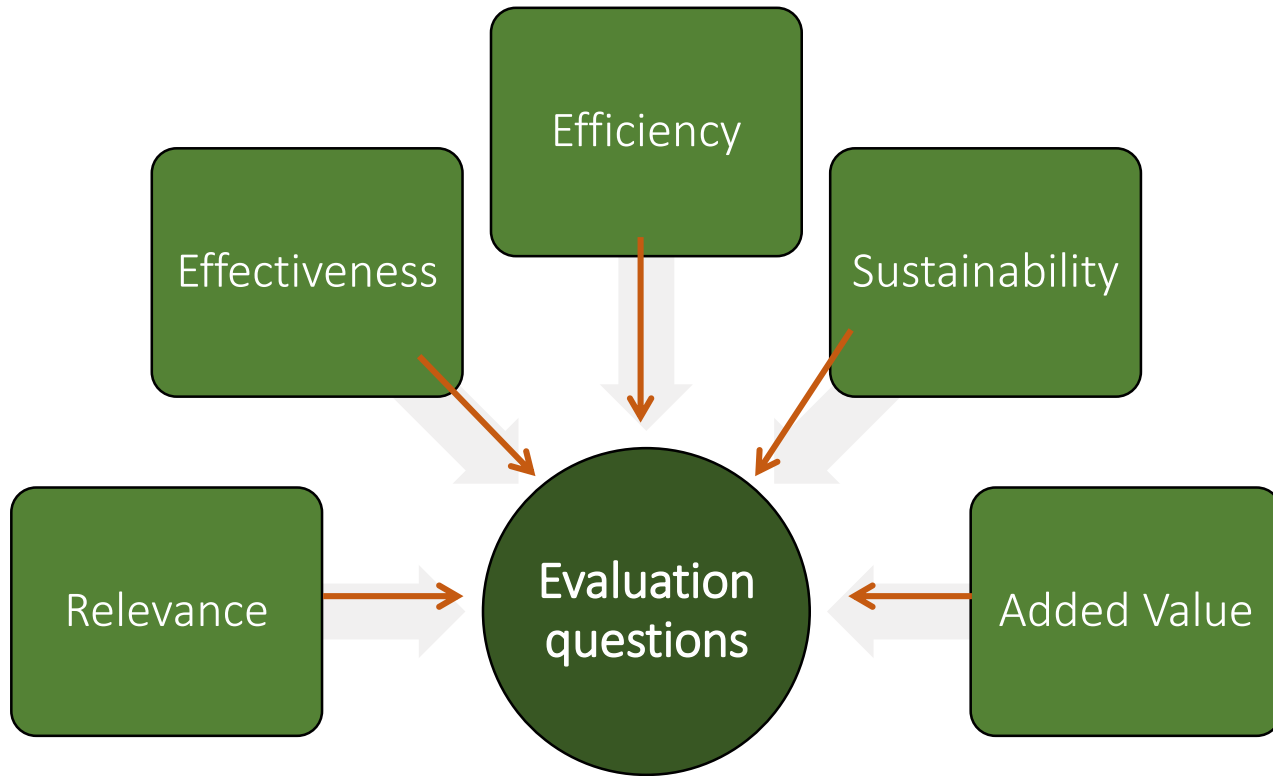
Objectives

Objectives of Evaluation

- To assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the UNFPA support to the 2010 census round
- To assess the extent to which census data are used, on policy formulation and development plans at country level
- To identify lessons learned and generate knowledge to inform the midterm review of the strategic plan and the support of UNFPA to the 2020 census round

Methodology

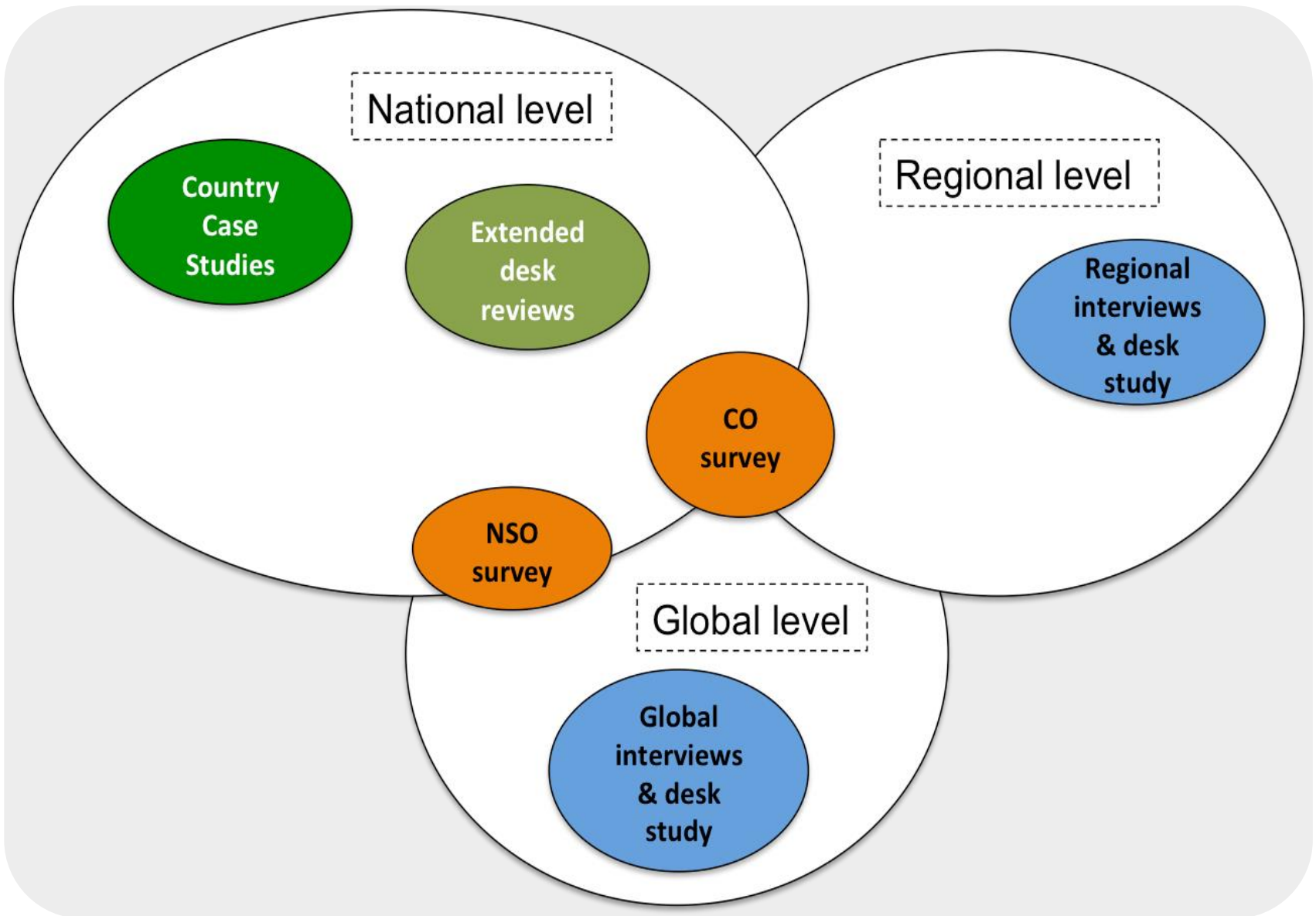
Evaluation criteria



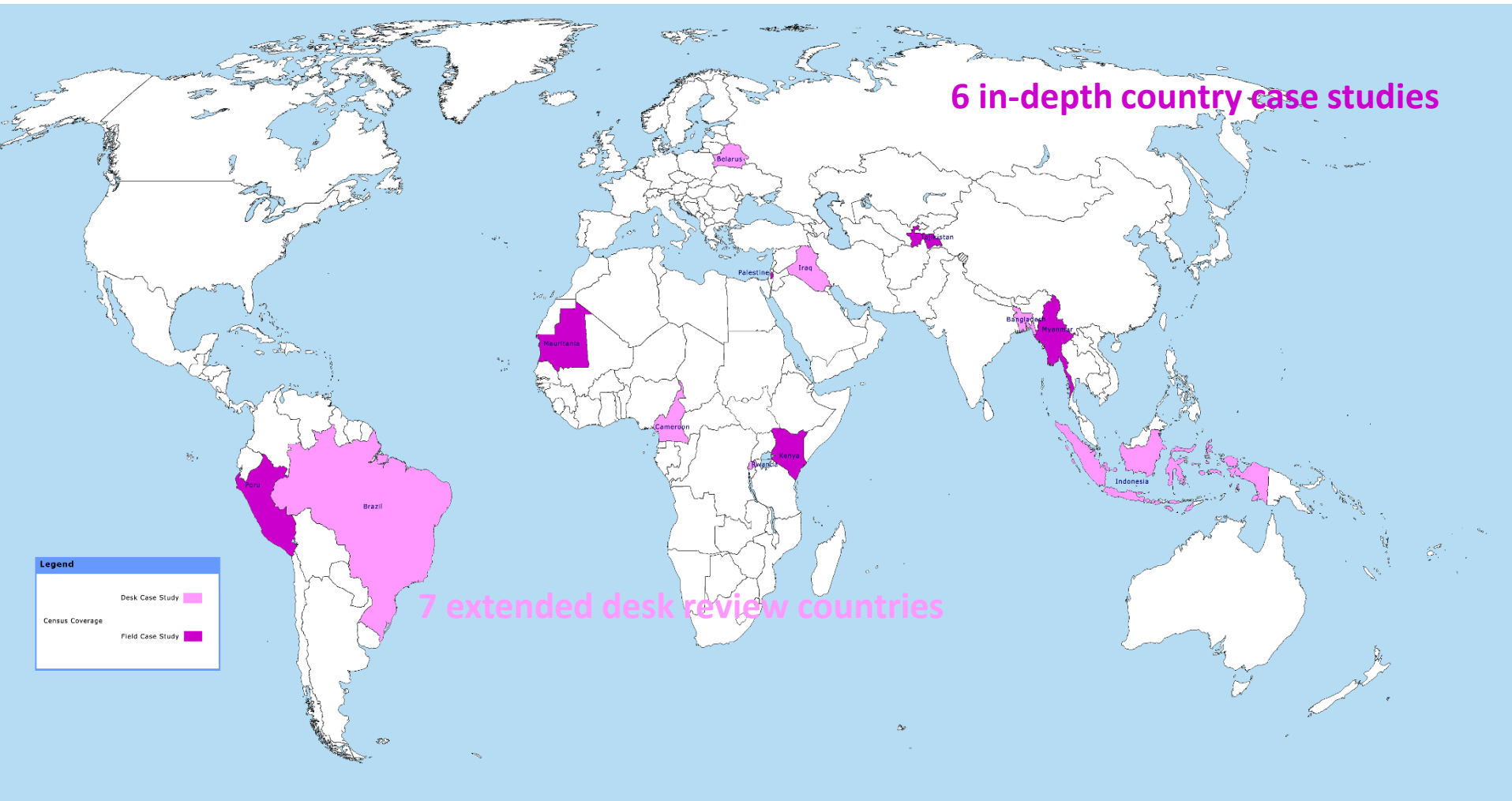
Seven Evaluation Questions

Evaluation question		Evaluation criterion	Level analysis
EQ1	Alignment	Relevance	National, regional and global
EQ2	Capacity for production and dissemination (NSO)	Effectiveness & sustainability	National
EQ3	Capacity for use of data	Effectiveness & sustainability	National
EQ4	Use of resources & internal synergies	Efficiency	National, regional and global
EQ5	Networks: partnerships and south-south cooperation	Efficiency & effectiveness	National, regional and global
EQ6	Added value	Added value	National, regional and global
EQ7	Human Rights & Gender equality	Effectiveness	National

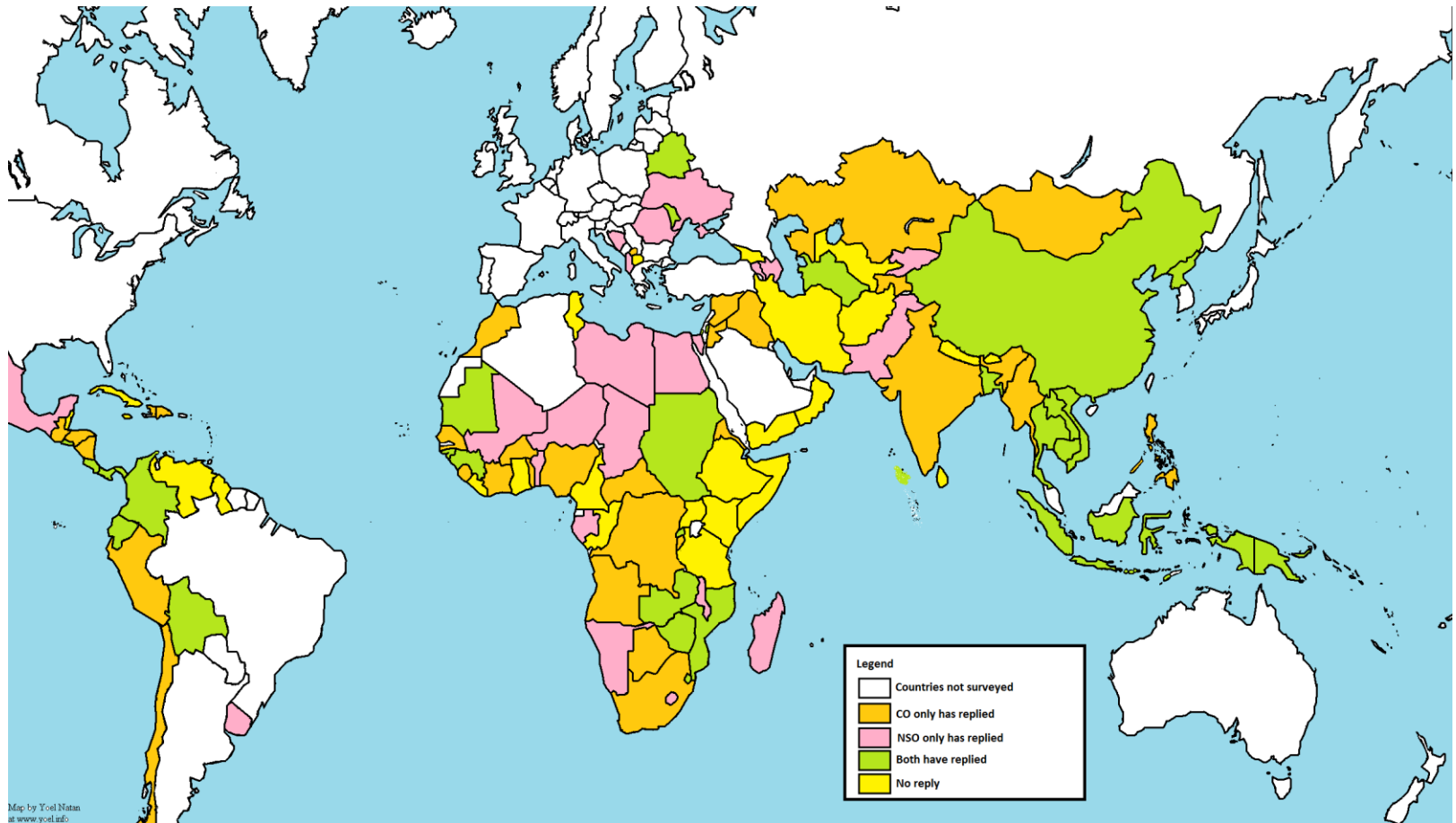
3 components of the evaluation



Data collection at country level



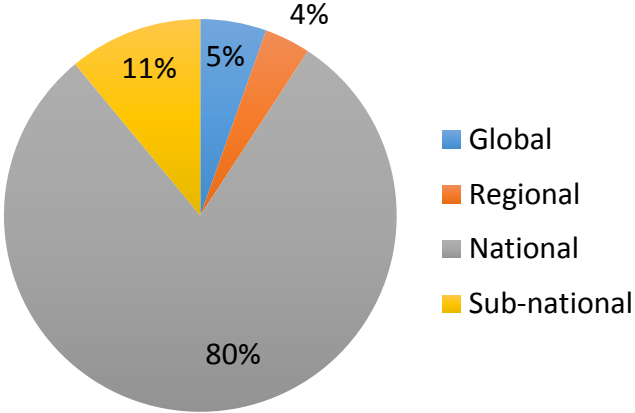
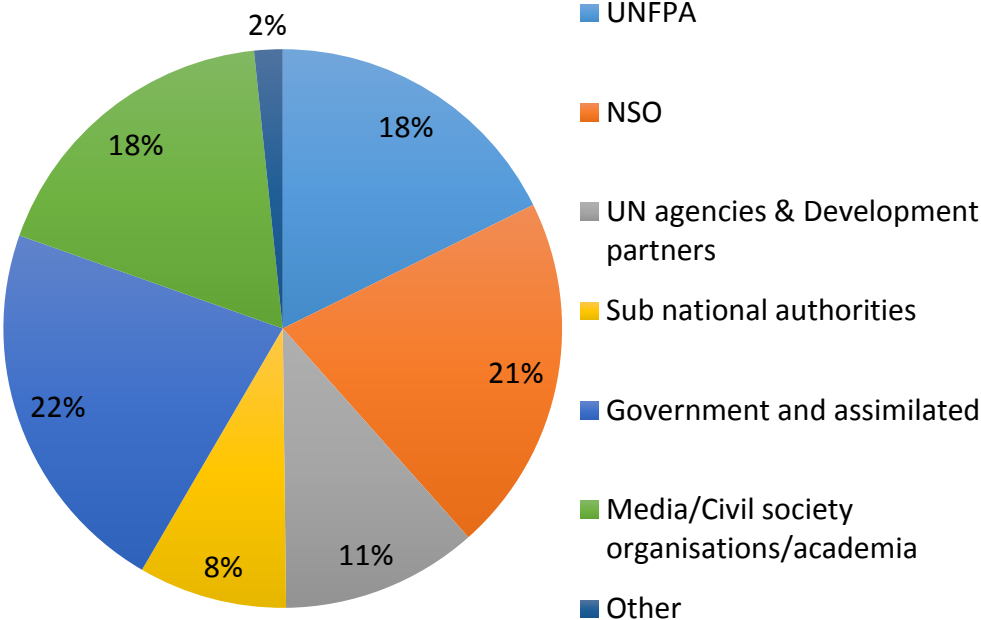
COVERAGE OF THE SURVEYS



Coverage (response rate)	65	<u>Number of country offices</u> that responded to the survey (63% of the target population responded)
Coverage (response rate)	53	<u>Number of NSO</u> that responded to the survey (47% of the target population responded)

Consultations by type of stakeholders and level of analysis

797 persons have been consulted/ interviewed

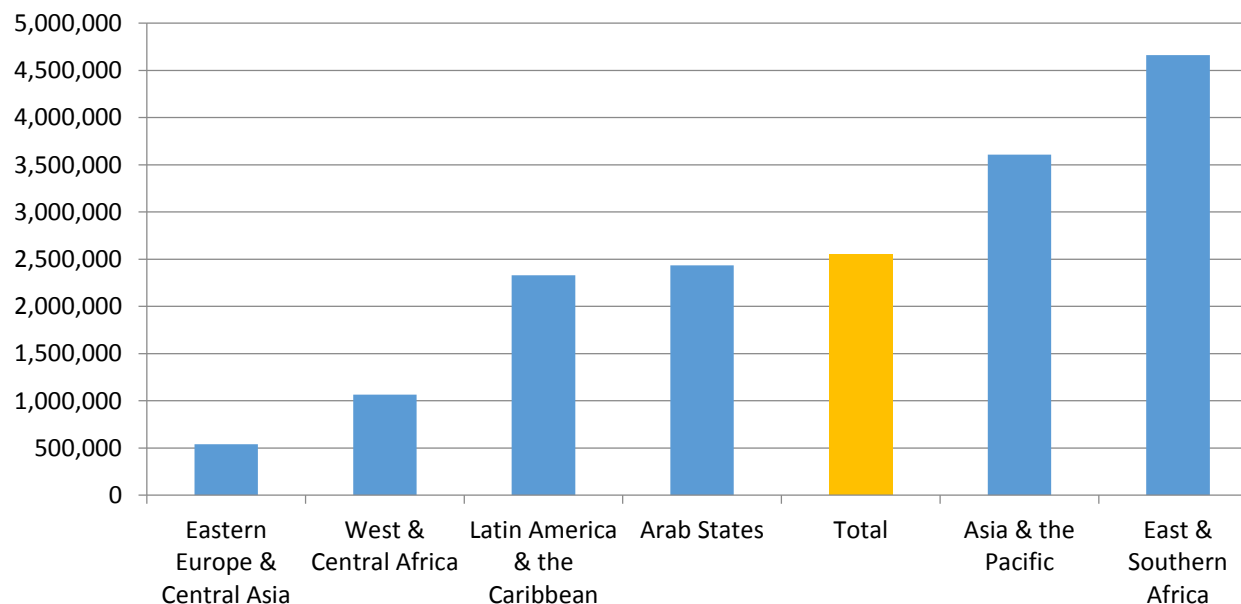


Financial contribution and typology of interventions

Financial support from 2005 until December 2014

Expenditures in USD			
Level	Core funds	Non-core funds	Total
Country	92,551,764	193,338,386	285,890,150
Regional	7,380,946	1,477,181	8,858,126
Global	4,849,891	2,070,227	6,920,118
Total	104,782,601	196,885,794	301,668,394

Average expenditures by country offices per region



TYPOLGY OF INTERVENTION

- **Advocacy** and **policy dialogue** to encourage the undertaking of censuses, fundraise, and create motivation and political commitment to collect and use internationally comparable data; eighty
- **Technical assistance** and advice for planning, preparing, and carrying out the census including dissemination and analysis activities;
- Service delivery to provide **direct financial support**, for example, to pay enumerators, or to procure equipment and/or services for questionnaire data capture;
- Facilitation of **South-South and triangular cooperation**.

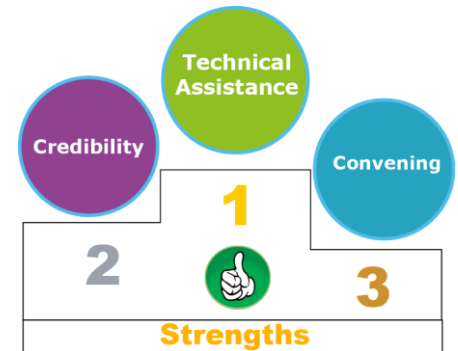
SUPPORT BY TYPOLOGY OF INTERVENTIONS AND REGION

Region	Advocacy- Policy dialogue	TA - Capacity building	Service delivery & procurement	South- South
Asia-Pacific	44%	100%	56%	31%
Arab States	29%	93%	36%	14%
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	47%	87%	60%	20%
Eastern & South Africa	60%	100%	67%	13%
Latina America & Caribbean	15%	73%	50%	18%
West & Central Africa	89%	100%	89%	0%
Total	42%	90%	58%	18%

Key results

Overview

Overall, a **positive and tangible contribution** of UNFPA support to the 2010 census round, particularly on strengthening national capacity for the production and availability of quality census data



- **Key areas for improvement:**
 - Consolidate the position of UNFPA on population and housing censuses
 - *Corporate strategy and guidance, activate knowledge management*
 - Exploit the full potential of census data
 - *Focus on use, dissemination as a link between availability and use, explore combining with other sources*
 - Explore new resource mobilisation strategies and possibilities of engagement
 - *New funding mechanisms, south-south cooperation*
- Based on findings and conclusions:
 - **A clear recommendation to continue support** to censuses and increase its weight and profile within the UNFPA

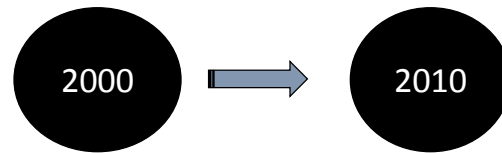
Key contributions of UNFPA support to the 2010 round

Overall, largely **positive**, highly **relevant**, delivered **efficiently** and with a clear contribution to **strengthening national capacities for the production and availability of data**; for the implementation of the **ICPD agenda**

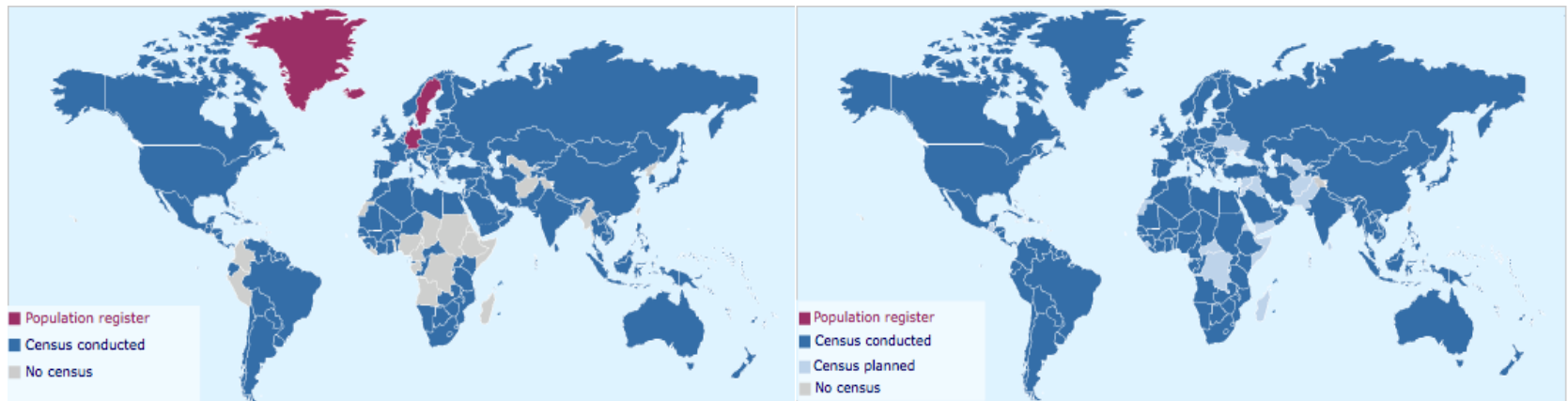
Main points

- Increased availability of census data worldwide (versus 2000 round)
- Strong alignment with government priorities, plans, strategies and data needs
- Good management of funds and strong adaptability; timely census
- Successful use of partnerships; inclusion of gender equality considerations
- Enhanced capacity of NSO for the production of census data in line with int'l standards

More countries have conducted a census in the 2010 than in the 2000 round – only 21 countries have not conducted a census (conflict situations or political instability)



The greatest increase in population covered happened in Africa, in Latin America and in Asia



Strategic positioning as a census player worldwide

Well-placed within the UN system to work with partner governments and other development partners. **Lead convening role** in the field of population and housing censuses. **Yet, UNFPA support to census ranks rather modestly among UNFPA strategic priorities**

Main points

- Unanimously recognized as a key player
- Census support seen at country level as flagship of UNFPA support
- Wealth of experience and learning – not captured or systematised at corporate level

Focus on data production and availability versus focus on data use

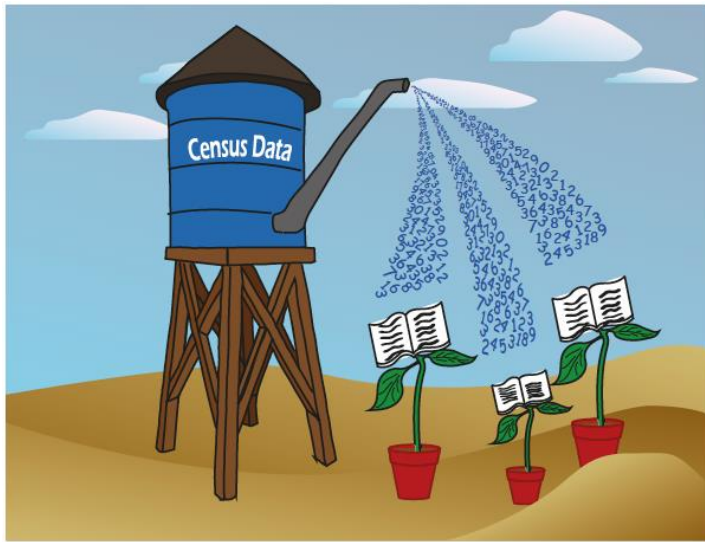
Preeminent focus on enhancing the production of census data, with disproportionately **less attention on data dissemination, analysis and use** in policy-making.



Main points

- Weak dissemination phase: supply-based plans, raw data and micro data access overlooked, little advocacy for dissemination technologies
- Assumption that availability would automatically lead to use
- Focus on central government stakeholders (NSO, ministries)
less on sub-national levels and CSO/Academia
- No long-term strategy to develop analytical capacity of national stakeholders on a consistent basis

Current situation



≠

Expected situation



On quality assurance mechanisms

The UNFPA support features good **quality assurance mechanisms** for the census, including census governance mechanisms. Yet **not systematic** and **not part of a corporate guidance**

Main points

- UNFPA played a role introducing, advocating and ensuring mechanisms related to quality assurance - data quality and census governance - were in place (PES, ITAB, NAC, donor committees, outreach campaigns)
 - Thus ensuring respect of UN principles and confidence of stakeholders...
 - But no guidance, no minimum standards (when, why, how, in what sequence)
- Uneven approach to QA linked to the absence of ex-ante ass



On the value for money of the UNFPA support to census

Value for money of the UNFPA support to census **varies**, depending on what is being assessed

Main points

- **High** for support to enhancing national capacity for production and availability of data
- **Low** for enhancing capacity for the use of data for evidence-based policy-making
- **Extremely high** for the contribution to overall institutional positioning of UNFPA worldwide:



Demand-driven support, a positive feature with some limits

UNFPA support to census is **highly demand-driven**. Positive feature, as it generates national **ownership and leadership**. However, **risks** associated with this approach in the absence of high quality and timely needs assessments.



Main points

- (+) Demand-driven support in the **context of a partnership model** linked to UNFPA comparative advantages, legitimacy and institutional positioning in censuses
- (-) **Downsides** of only responding to demands:
 - (i) proactive, innovative and positively disruptive advice from UNFPA to change the culture from supply-driven to use-driven of data undermined;
 - (ii) focus on short-term, ad-hoc responses as opposed to mid, long term strategies

The socio-political implications of censuses

Censuses are statistical operations of a **technical nature but** may carry significant socio-political implications. In this context, there is **no operational guidance** on how to address politically sensitive censuses **and ensure** reliability, credibility and legitimacy of the results



Main points

- Large statistical operations at times **perceived as** administrative operations
- Inclusion of questions **with socio-political impact** (ethnicity, religion) with implications on reliability of results and participation aspects
- **Different connotations** in different contexts (adding to complexity)
- In UN P&R, ethnicity is a non-core topic yet civil society and partner governments tend to view it as a crucial topic

Data for development: combining the census, national surveys and big data

No evidence that UNFPA has promoted **the exploitation of the potential of combining census data** with specific surveys, administrative data or new sources of data, such as big data in the perspective of data for development



Main points

- Richness of census (generates information that helps monitor progress on development indicators + disaggregated data at local level) is under-exploited
- Combination with other surveys (poverty maps, reproductive health needs), administrative data (civil registration) and with big data (migration, census updates) offers interesting possibilities, yet support to census and to other surveys remains not integrated

Key recommendations for the 2020 census round



*1 - Consolidate the position
of UNFPA on population and
housing censuses*

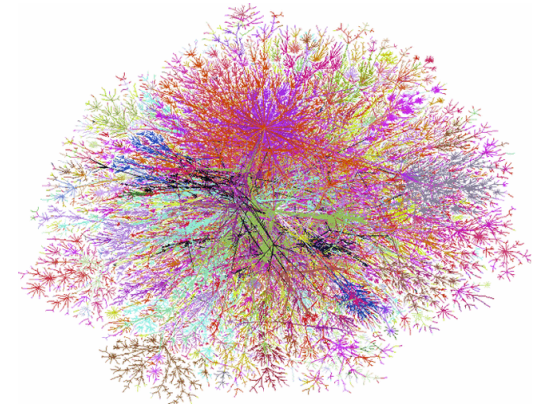


UNFPA should continue and expand support to population and housing censuses, drawing up on a corporate strategy and guidance for the 2020 round

- Develop a **theory of change** for support to census clearly linked to the broader strategy for the implementation of the ICPD agenda and SDGs
- Design a concise **programmatic framework** for support to the 2020 census round envisioning the census as both a 10-year ongoing process and the backbone of national statistical systems
- Develop specific **guidelines and tools** on the design and implementation of the UNFPA support to the 2020 census round

UNFPA should activate knowledge management for support to censuses

- Identify **good practices** on census and include them within the corporate database on Knowledge Management, with a view to:
 - Improve effectiveness of support
 - Activate south-south cooperation opportunities
 - Increase regional and international comparability
- **Active dissemination**, by Regional Offices, of guides and manuals including operational training of relevant staff, to ensure full utilisation



*II - Exploit the full
potential of census data*

Incorporate use of data as a focus of UNFPA census support

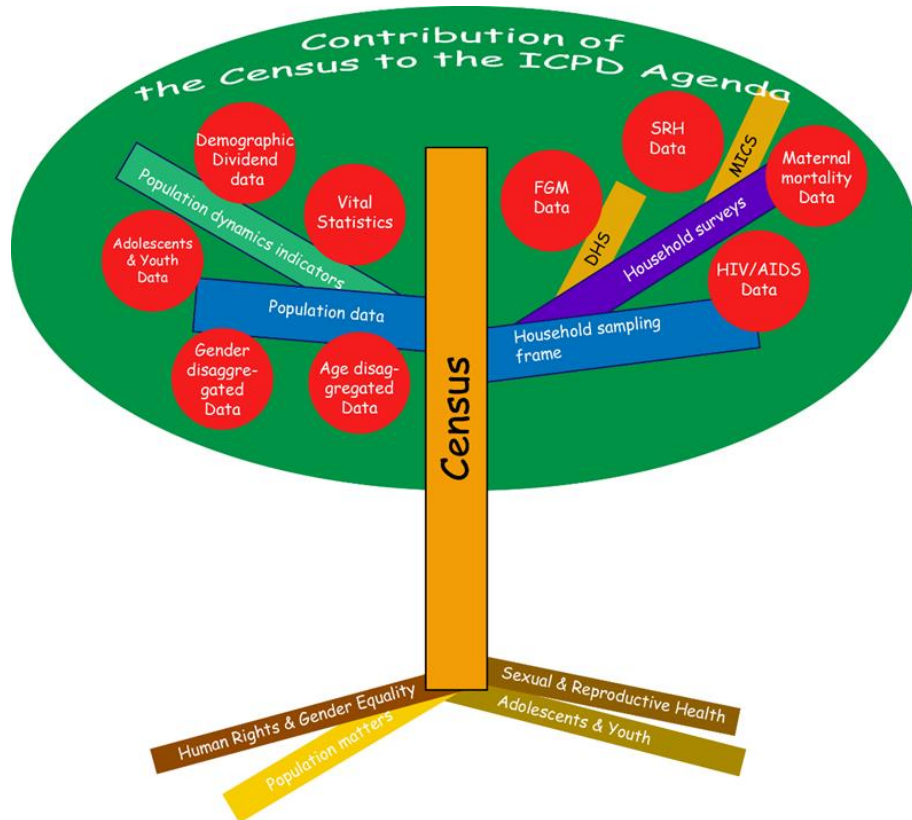
- Include **support for the effective use** of the results of the census in the definition of a census project
- Develop the **capacity of NSO** to identify potential uses of the data they produce, particularly for ministries and local governments
- Advocate for systematic inclusion of **policy impact assessment** in any draft law
- Expand the **work with civil society organizations and academia** to promote the use of data

View dissemination as the link between data availability and use for policy-making

UNPFA should work together with NSOs to:

- Support **user-producer workshops/consultations** on census data dissemination
- Promote the availability of **microdata** for researchers
- Develop the use of **technologies** for dissemination
- Support NSOs **developing services** for advanced analysis upon request for users
- Link dissemination of census data with other surveys or sources to support access to information that is **theme-oriented** rather than source-oriented

Explore the potential uses of combining census data with other sources of data for development to foster full use of census data in the framework of national statistical systems



- Develop and disseminate **small area estimation** methodologies to combine census and household surveys data to analyse, for example, gender and SRH at local level
- Explore the **potentialities of administrative sources** and **big data** in combination with census data to develop analysis on topics related to UNFPA mandate (e.g. social media data for SRH of adolescents)

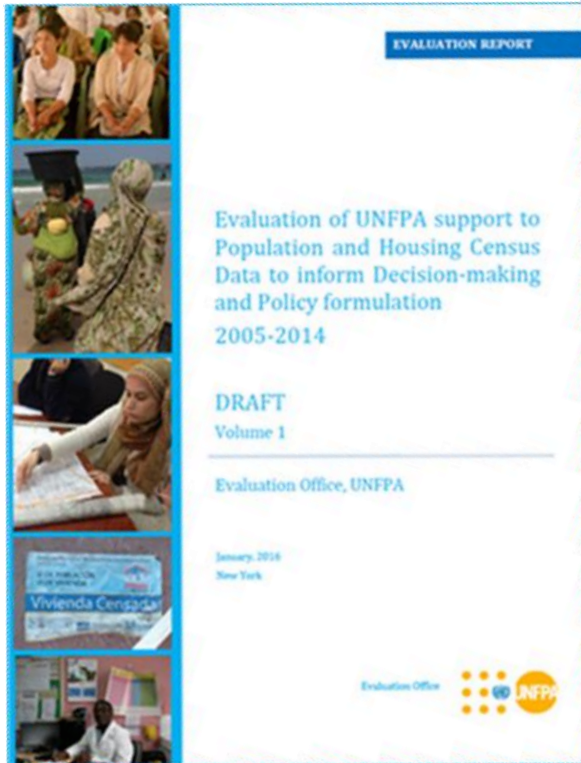
Prioritize exploiting the possibilities offered by south-south cooperation

South-south cooperation should be a key strategy for the 2020 round:

- UNFPA should systematically **map out countries** that may benefit from south-south cooperation, in partnership with UNSD
- Regional offices should support country offices expanding south-south cooperation among NSOs for the production of census data
- Explore the use of south-south cooperation to **strengthen the capacity to use data**: not only among NSOs but also include line ministries, civil society organisations and academia

Next steps

Evaluation Deliverables and Milestones



- Publication of Thematic Evaluation Report + 6 Country Reports + Evaluation Brief (EN, FR and SP) + Management Response – April 2016

Will be available on:

<http://www.unfpa.org/admin-resource/evaluation-unfpa-support-population-and-housing-census-data-inform-decision-making>
- Presentation to the UNFPA Executive Board – June 2016

Evaluation Deliverables (cont.)



COUNTRY REPORT

Evaluation of UNFPA support to population and housing census data to inform decision-making and policy formulation 2005-2014

Peru

Pilot Country Case Study

May 2015



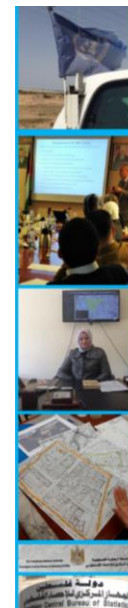
RAPPORT PAYS

Évaluation de l'appui de l'UNFPA à la production de données issues du recensement général de la population et de l'habitat pour éclairer les processus de décision et l'élaboration de politiques 2005-2014

Mauritanie

Etude de cas pays

Septembre 2015



COUNTRY REPORT

Evaluation of UNFPA support to population and housing census data to inform decision-making and policy formulation 2005-2014

Palestine

Country Case Study

November 2015



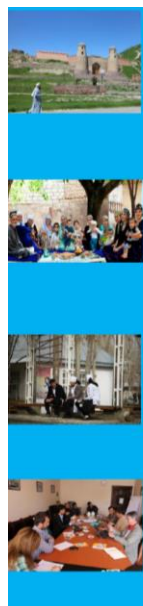
COUNTRY REPORT

Evaluation of UNFPA support to population and housing census data to inform decision-making and policy formulation 2005-2014

Myanmar

Country Case Study

January 2016



COUNTRY REPORT

Evaluation of UNFPA support to population and housing census data to inform decision-making and policy formulation 2005-2014

Tajikistan

Country Case Study

January 2016



COUNTRY REPORT

Evaluation of UNFPA support to population and housing census data to inform decision-making and policy formulation 2005-2014

Kenya

Country Case Study

November 2015





QUESTIONS ... ?

Any other questions?

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Thank you!



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