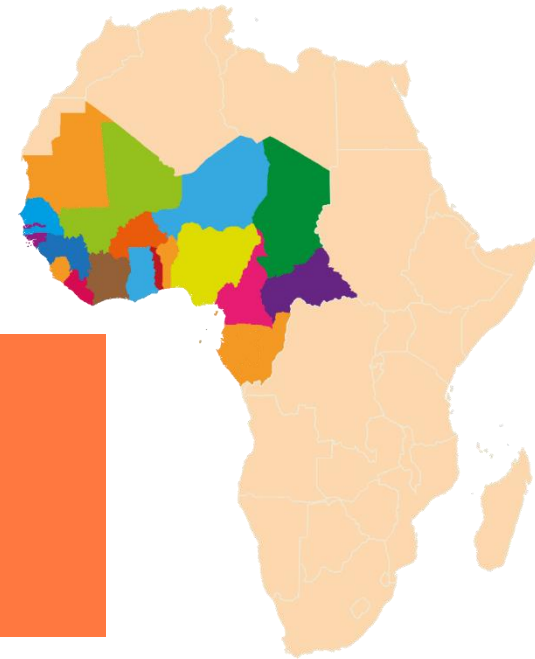




# United Nations Regional Workshop on the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses:

## International Standards and Contemporary Technologies



**UNFPA/WCARO**  
**Census: 2010 to 2020**

**Lagos, Nigeria, 8-11 May 2017**

## Outline

- 2010 Round census: the corporate UNFPA Evaluation
- 2020 Round Census: Context of population and housing census (2015 – 2024)

## **UNFPAs Contributions – Historic & Future**

- During the 2010 census round, UNFPA contributed technical and or financial support to censuses in more than 135 countries, including 122 developing countries.
- Support was, in most cases, carried out in partnership with other UN agencies,
- Support for drawing on the census guidelines generated by UNSD.
- Support ranged from resource mobilization, to planning, data collection and processing, analysis including generating population projections, and dissemination.

# UNFPAs Contributions to Censuses: Historic & Future

- UN and donor support was pivotal in many countries, and a substantial number of countries continue to need both fiscal and technical support for their census.
- The number of countries fully funding their census has increased over the prior round.
- An independent evaluation undertaken in 2014 to assess UNFPA's role in the 2010 round of census suggests valuable lessons not only regarding the contributions of UNFPA, but regarding overall gaps and shortfalls in national census programmes

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

# Purpose of the evaluation

- **Purpose of the Evaluation:** to assess the extent to which the UNFPA support to population and housing censuses over the last 10 years strengthened national capacity for:
  - Production and dissemination of quality disaggregated data,
  - Integration of evidence-based analysis into decision-making and policy formulation

# Objectives of the evaluation

- **Specific objectives:**
  - To assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the UNFPA support to the 2010 round of PHS
  - To assess the extent to which census data are used, on policy formulation and development plans
  - 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

# Scope of the evaluation

Censuses are large and complex operations and constitute the backbone of any statistical system and hence involve many actors and contributes directly and indirectly to a vast array of statistical and policy outcomes.

## Scope in terms of focus:

- The relevance of UNFPA support to census **data availability** under the 2010 census round (2005-2014); and
- The implementation of the UNFPA support to **enhancing national capacities** on census data production, dissemination, analysis and use; focusing on the effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and added value evaluation criteria.



# Scope of the evaluation

## Scope in terms of coverage:

- The evaluation covered countries in the six UNFPA regions where UNFPA has been involved directly

## The scope of the Evaluation is not:

- To assess the impact of the policies, their quality and how they influence people (the population)
- To assess individual performance

# Main findings

- **Alignment:** Support to census **aligned with needs and priorities** of NSOs and line ministries and the **response capacity** to the national context was timely and appropriate.
  - *However, no evidence that **civil society and academia** were consulted during the design phase for the UNFPA support. Risks associated to **focus excessively on NSO**.*
- **Effectiveness:** UNFPA support to census used a **combination of a mix of complementary strategies** which resulted in an effective support to the availability of census data (fund management, logistic support, specialized TA, capacity building, advice).
  - *In spite of effective support there were **deficiencies due to external factors** (weak communication about the new census methodology; quality problems due to outdated methodology, gender and ethnicity gaps in the census form)*

# Main findings

- **Sustainable use:** **tangible and significant contribution** at all levels of users (NSO, Line ministries, academia) and beyond the census (surveys, studies and data processing). There is evidence that data has been widely **used to inform the development (and monitoring) of evidence-based** plans, programmes and policies e.g. sectoral programmes, national plan for the prevention of teenage pregnancy, national population plan).
- **Availability and use of resources:** high expenditure rate, swift availability of results. **High degree of efficiency** in organizing TA and managing the funds
  - *downside: **national ownership** and national capacity). High quality products but no proactive dissemination strategies to target groups.*

## Main findings

- **South-South:** it did take place and was **highly valued** by the NSO, yet only circumscribed to AWP and to the NSO as recipient.
  - *UNFPA **potential as facilitator not yet unfolded** (NSO as provider, involve other actors).*
- **Partnerships:** **partnership with NSO** stands out. High degree of **coordination and leadership** with other groups of actors but not necessarily strategic partnerships (*IGS, Poverty round table*).
  - *Absence of partnerships with civil **society and academia** in a context of fund reduction and focus on advocacy.*

# Main findings

- **National capacity, ownership:** strengthened capacity in **production of data** (more surveys, more accessible and faster), also in the analysis and use of statistical data for policy development and monitoring (more use of statistics to inform policies). **Increased in demand** for statistics (authorities and civil society). There is contribution in a framework where the **main explanatory factors are external** (use of Internet and internet-based applications; results-based budgeting). **Implicit tension** between: corporate mandate of focus on national capacity and a corporate financing model based on mobilizing resources (Government, donors, private sector).
- **Added value:** permanence and technical expertise; **credibility and neutrality** (power to convene); trust – the **closest partner** (accompaniment, soft aid, advice). Highly efficient in administrative and **fund management**.

# Main findings

- **Mainstreaming of HHRR, gender and intercultural aspects:** at Country Office level UNFPA incorporates a **crosscutting approach** of the other priority areas into the census; at NSO level: UNFPA has introduced **new and innovate elements** (gender equality, sexual roles but NSO slow in integrating gender issues. Presence of **ethnicity and intercultural aspects** not always visible.

# Summary of Main findings

- Strong support for the generation of census data has not been matched by capacity strengthening for the national and local use of the census for analysis of population trends or development indicators. Even use of census to plan public infrastructure remains under-realized in many countries.
- While dissemination of census results improved in 2010 over the 2000 round (e.g. with more summaries of simple census tabulations posted online ), most developing countries still lack public websites providing analysis of the census results.
- Despite improvements in public sharing of census data in many countries, the uptick in the use of census data has not materialized, neither by national governments, academics, nor civil society organizations (CSOs).

## Summary of Main findings

- The important use of geo-referenced census is still not universal, and too many countries fail to undertake a post-enumeration survey to provide quality assurance and estimations on coverage;
- Overall, more focus by UNFPA, other development partners and national governments is needed to enhance the training and capacity of both governments and the public to use census and related demographic data for national development planning.



## Main lessons (I)

- The central focus of UNFPA support is on strengthening **national capacity** of users and producers of statistical data and not in the **census operation**

It is about how UNFPA support has contributed to enhance national capacity (first level, EQ2) and how this capacity has in turn resulted in good quality available data that is used for evidence-based policy making (second level, EQ3)

- The census is part of a **national statistical data “package”** that also includes associated surveys.

The census is the backbone of the national statistical system. The surveys carried out between two census operations use census cartography & sampling from the census, and census and survey data are interlinked (used together; surveys are fed by census data).

## Main lessons (II)

- About the **support approach model in pink countries** and how to measure its effectiveness.

Fund administration, public procurement and specialized Technical Assistance

Policy advocacy channeled through capacity building and policy dialogue (in a framework of continuity of the support)

Measuring effectiveness - sequence: positioning of topics; support to the creation and maintenance of decision-making processes and spaces

- The need to work in a **strategic alliance's format** allowing the use and exploitation of statistical data at three levels: sectoral ministries, local governments and civil society.

# **Sociopolitical and Technical Context of Population and Housing census in Africa (2015 – 2024)**

## **Some Challenges**

**Attention to the data revolution for development, as well as the need for monitoring of SDGs has sparked renewed interest in reliable data**

- Agenda 2030 advances the bold ambition to “leave no one behind” and “reach the furthest behind first”.
- Effectively monitoring the SDGs from a population perspective is core.
- Of the 230 SDG indicators, 96 require population numbers either in numerator or denominator
- Greater support in population statistics will increase as countries begin to implement the SDGs;

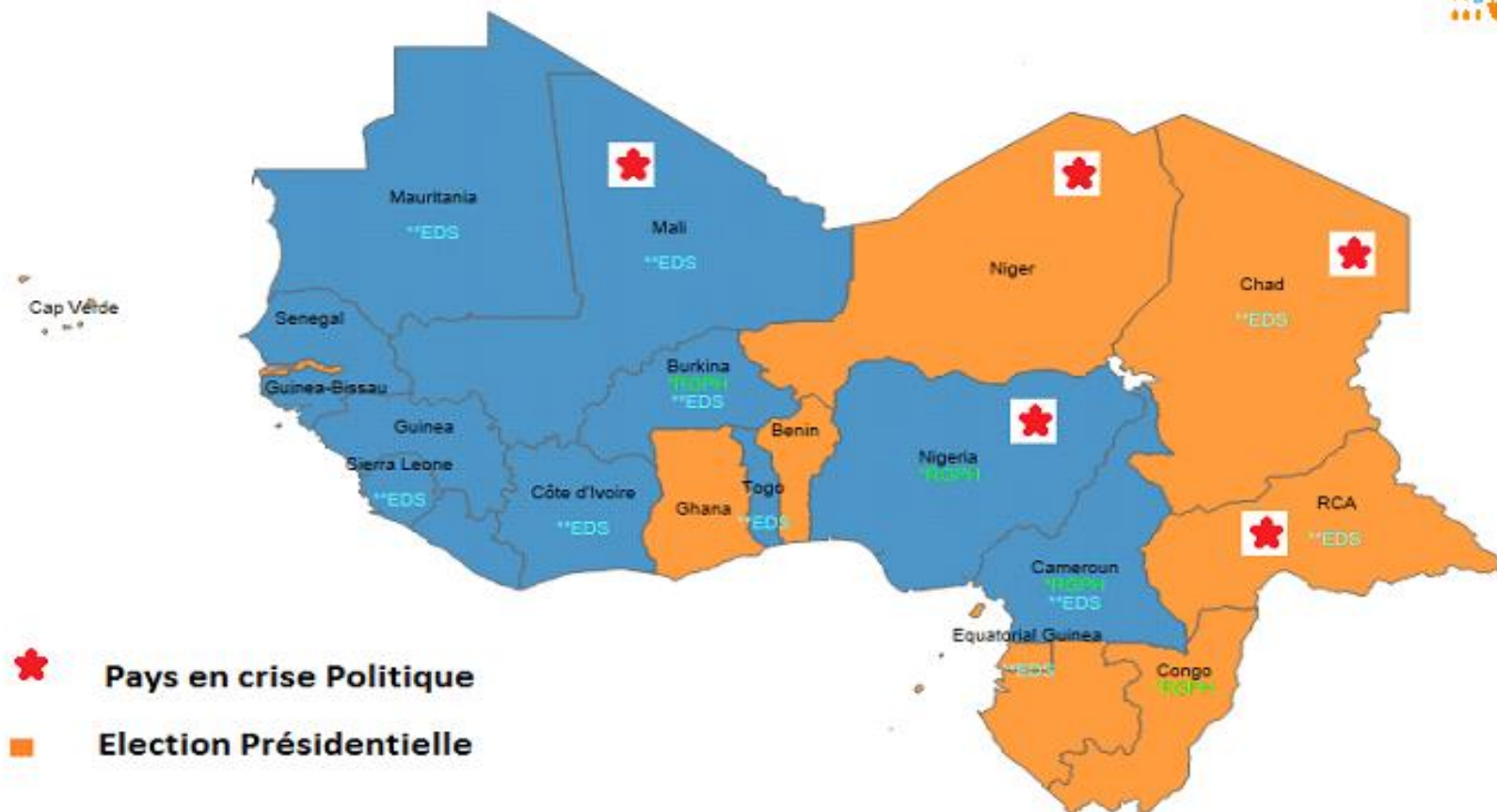
# Some Challenges

## **Political increasingly involved in census taking process:**

- As conflicts and insecurity are more and more frequent in the African Continent, it will be difficult to have a normal planning for census taking and many countries could fail to have their censuses at the right dates
- Census calendar could be overlaying with electoral calendar creating risk to either postponement or simply cancellation of the censuses in those countries;
- There is increasing demands from politicians to combine census and electoral enumerations, creating risk of loss of neutrality of the census that should be a core characteristic of the census.
- Increasing interference of politicians about the outcome of the census that they could declare inappropriate if it does not meet their expectation for their own regions or communities;

# Combined Map of Data Collection and political concerns in WCA region in 2016

Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre 2016 : Cartographie des Opérations de Collecte



**UNFPA Initiatives for Creating Stronger Population  
Data Systems and Better Use of Demographic  
Intelligence : SSA in the 2020 (2015- 2024) Round**

# **UNFPA's Initiatives in Support to Better Data System in SSA : 2015- 2024**

- National / Regional Capacity building
  - Training in CsPro and digital census taking (French speaking countries Senegal 2015), to be expanded to the other languages countries (English Speaking and Portuguese speaking countries);
  - Establishing of digital census taking & CsPro regional experts team trained to provide TA to countries (Francophone group available, English Speaking and Portuguese speaking countries);
  - Mapping of Data collection situation in countries;
  - Implementation of the « Centers of Excellence » methodology to address part of the capacity challenge;



# **UNFPA's Initiatives in Support to Better Data System in SSA : 2015- 2024**

- Outcome 4 of the new Strategic Plan is dedicated to Data and use of Data for Policy
  - UNFPA improved this component of its mandate taking it from the ad hoc implication to a more comprehensive one up to the analysis and assistance to the use for evidence based decision making, evidence based advocacy, and policy dialogue;

# **UNFPA's Initiatives in Support to Better Data System in SSA : 2015- 2024**

- Need for improved strategies to reduce the timeframe from field work to dissemination:
  - Appropriate census taking methodologies to cancel some classical steps including all those that converted the filled paper questionnaires into information and data to be processed and analysed.
  - Digital census taking should be among other methodology to promote to reduce the delay between the field enumerations and the dissemination

# Initiatives in Support to Better Data System in SSA : 2015- 2024

- Focus on analytical dimension of censuses to feed the policy development and monitoring needs:
  - Give more focus to analytical works with clear targets of explicit/ implicit users;
  - Involve reseach centers and academia to the process (students dissertations, development studies/researches, ...)
  - Associate civil society associations;
- DD programming is key and data from various sources are the foundations of it.



**THANK YOU !!!**

