



The Relevance of **Place**: a Framework for Social and Demographic Statistics



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Importance of **PLACE**

- The concept of "place" or geography is essential for understanding social and demographic phenomena.
- The interaction between populations and their environments reveals patterns of inequality, migration, and economic opportunity.
- Incorporating geography deepens our understanding of these complexities.



People and social events occur within specific territories, making geography critical for **observation, measurement** and **analysis**.

A Simple Argument

People experience opportunities
and risks in specific places
[and time]



Statistical systems must standardize
where and when they measure, link
events to persons and locations.

Keeping in mind **privacy**
and **security**

What is the Proposed Framework

Integrated, practice-oriented framework that treats places as the anchor concept

Make social data more granular, timely and comparable in time, within and between geographies

Where people ... *live, work, care, enjoy, go, die*

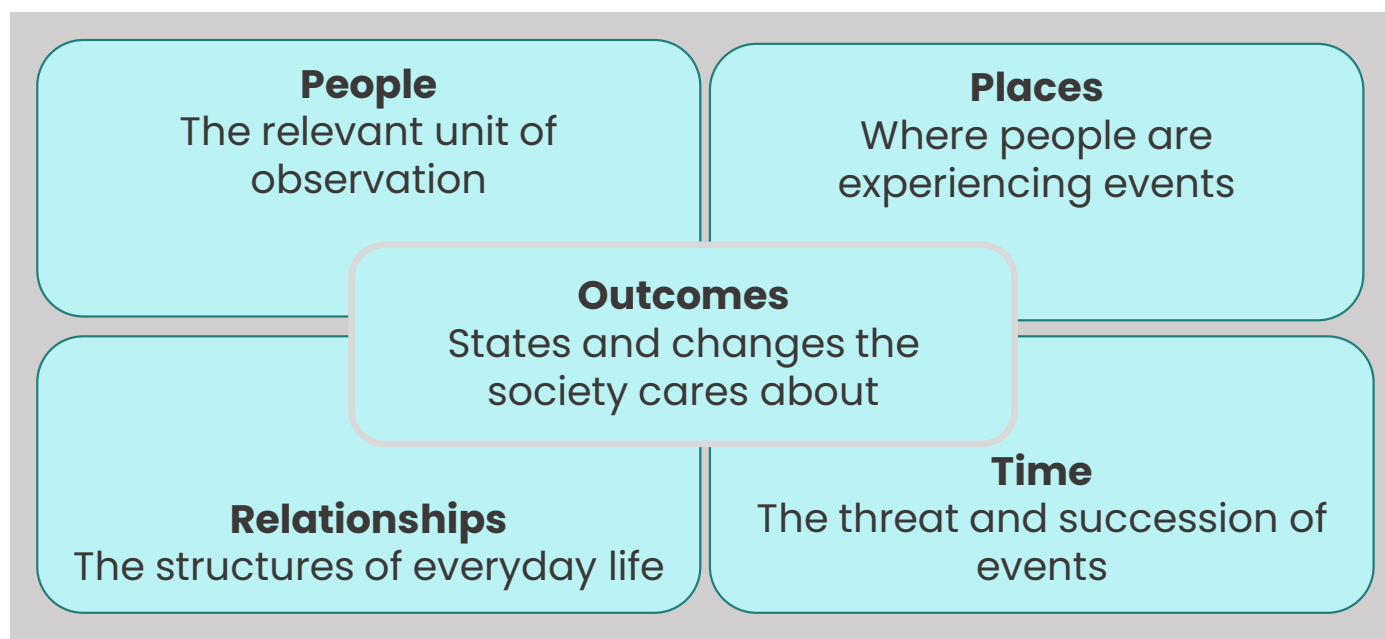
Based [use] widely agreed international standards

- Global Statistical Geospatial Framework
- Geospatial Information Framework
- Degree of urbanization
- P&R for Population Census

Does not replace existing statistical systems [not only a new system], but enhances them

Integrating **maps, images, perspectives**

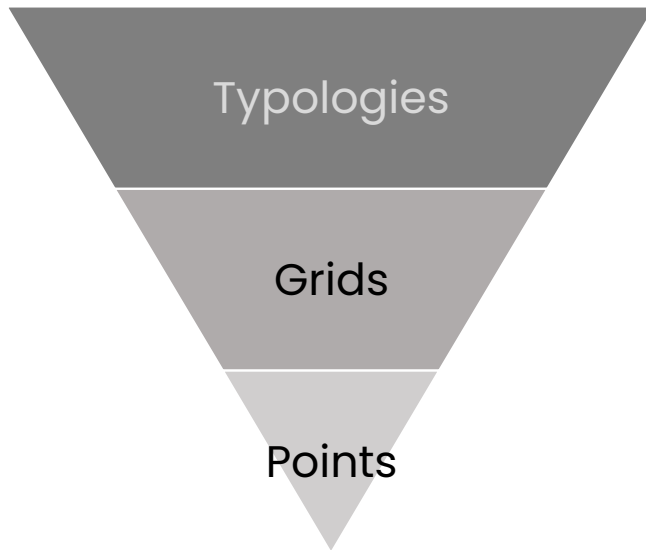
The Building Blocks



This framework should allow for **places** to contribute to the understanding of social outcomes

The Anchoring Context

Different approaches for different needs



Basic typologies: Country-specific but linking to comparable approaches (DEGURBA)

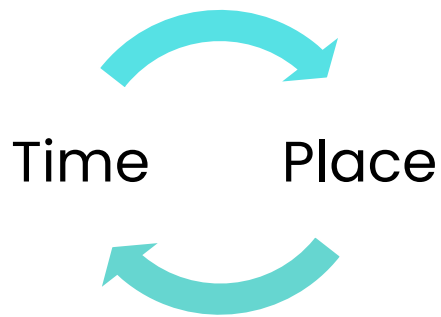


Grids: Using agreed cells for public dissemination, comparison and analysis.



Point-level precision: Using this approach in secure environments for accurate linkage.

Linking Place and Time



Time and place are used as contextual elements, but they are more.

Examples:

- Versioned geographies and grids with validity dates.
- Time-stamped registers and repeated surveys.
- Multi-temporal satellite observations.

Time

- Repeated measurements
- Frequency
- Life-course perspective
- Projections

Place

- Basic geographical information
- Spatial analysis
- Space-centered approach

Relevance of Elements



Earth observation

It provides consistent, long-term views of land cover, water, and vegetation.

Can help update population estimates between censuses and flag areas of rapid change.

Official statistics remain the anchor of truth.



Person-event-location

Consistently links events to people and locations.

Each person has a pseudonymized identifier.

Each event can be recorded with its type, place, date, and outcome.

Each location has a stable identifier.



Privacy, Ethics and Trust

Privacy and Accountability are essential. For this:

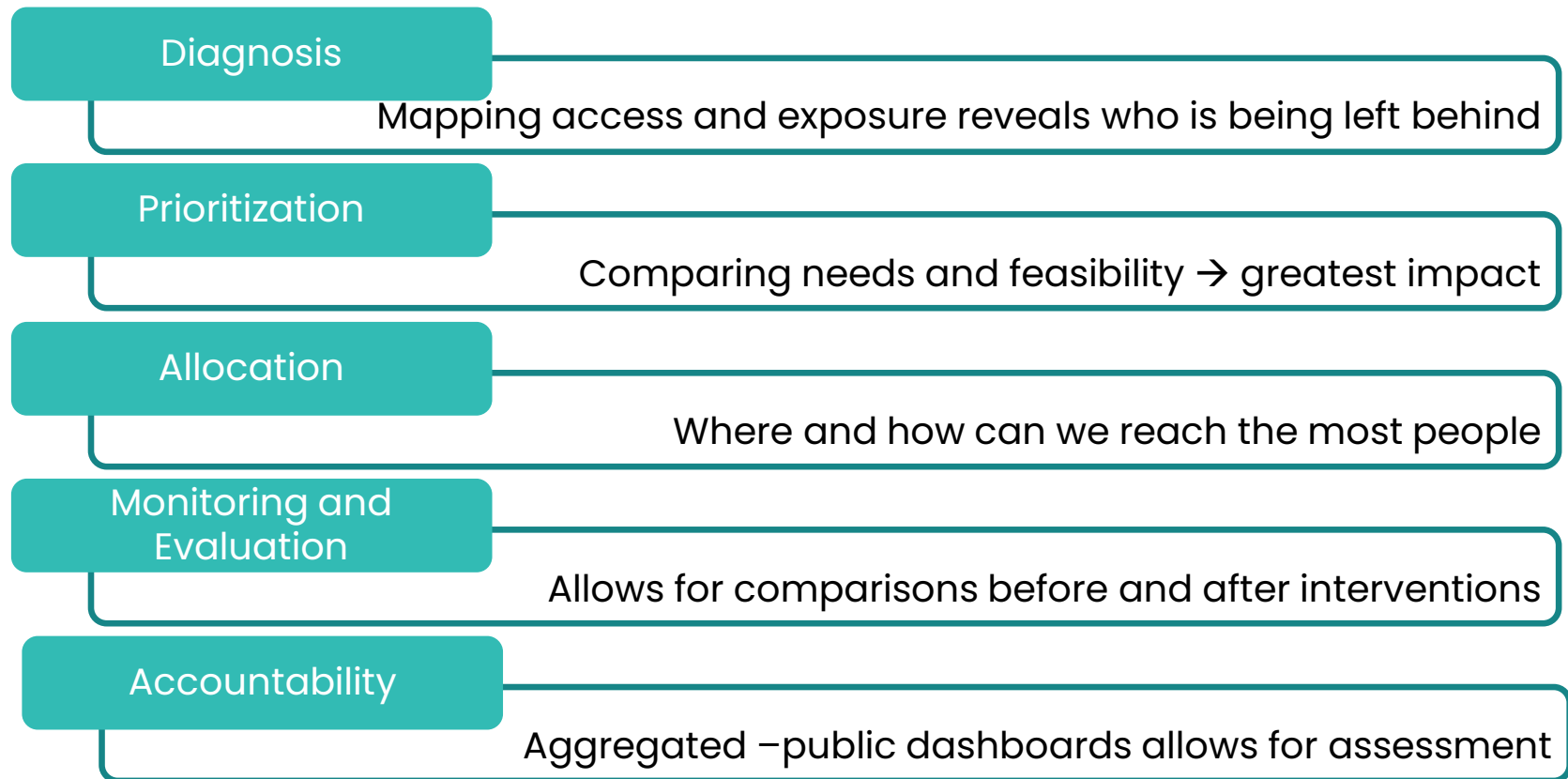
- Minimization
- Anonimization
- Public disclosure
- Governance
- Transparency

How Places Shape Outcomes in Practice

We can translate **place** into dimensions that directly inform policy.



Improving the Policy Cycle



Practical Methods Toolbox

Share
experiences

Geocoding: Privacy-preserving and standardized.

Linkage: Probabilistic matching with clear error documentation.

Small-Area Estimation: Blending surveys, registers, and Earth observation data.

Modeling: Combining layers with demographic data.

International
Frameworks

International Conference of Labor Statisticians, ILO

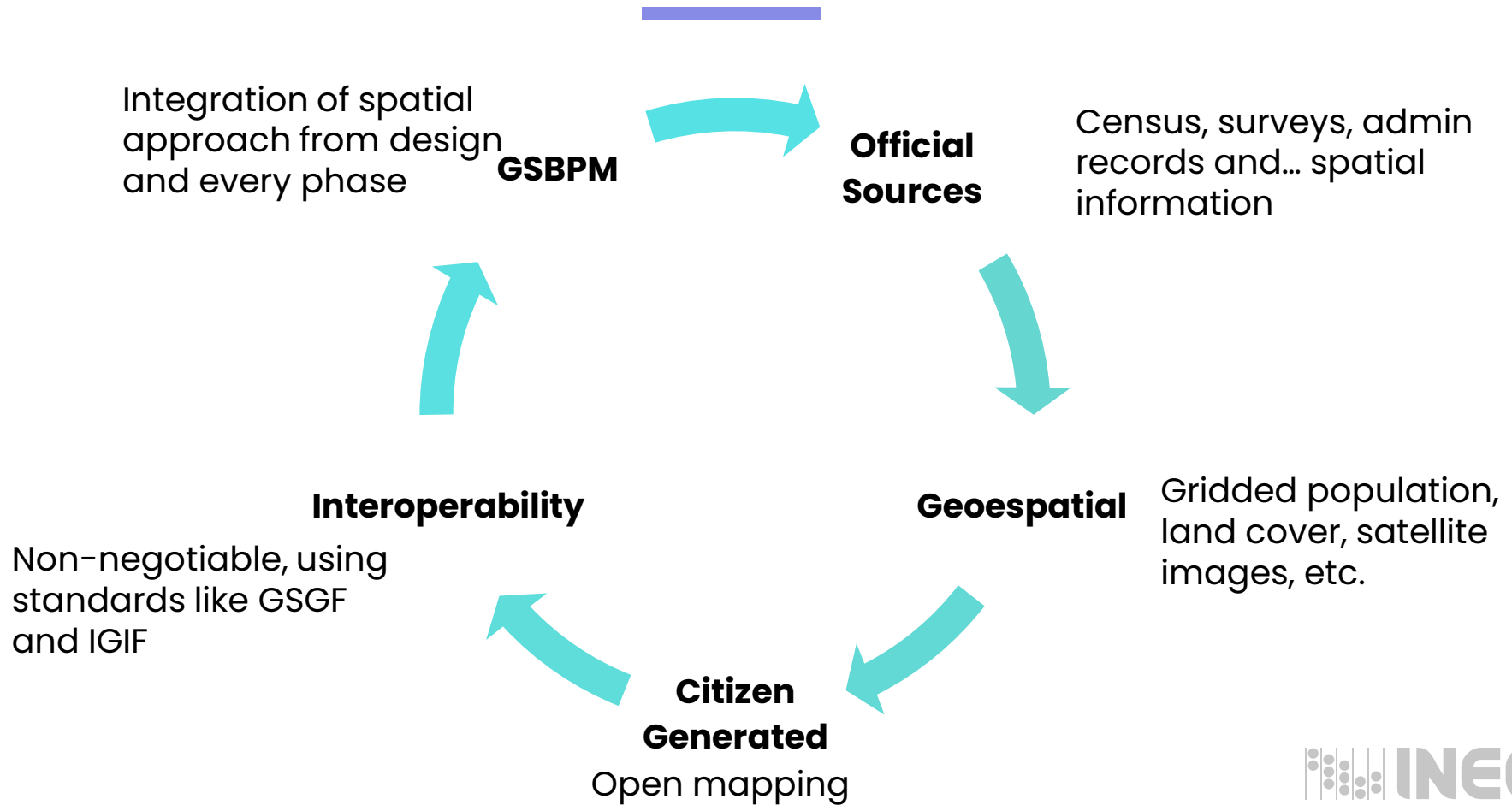
Sustainable Development Goals

Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction

Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census

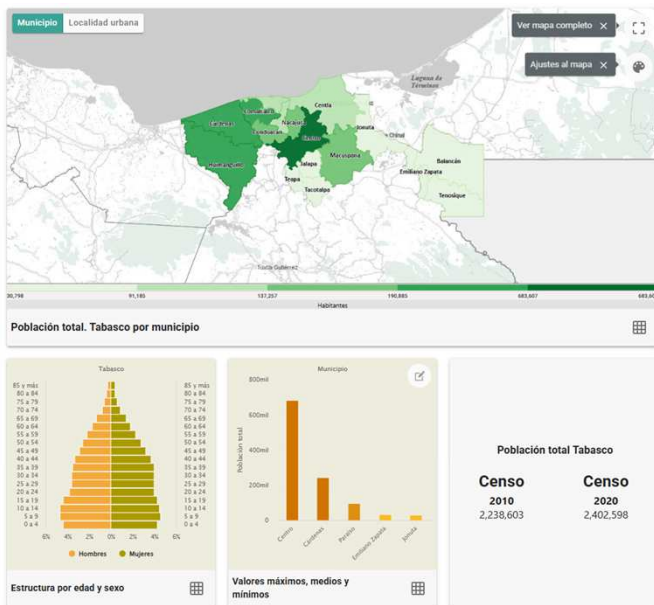
Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data

Data, Standards and Methods



Applications that Demonstrate Value

Population Distribution



Some examples:

- Trajectory Reconstruction
- Service Deserts
- Policy Evaluation.
- Mobility Analysis
- Adaptive Social Protection

Start Small, Build Momentum

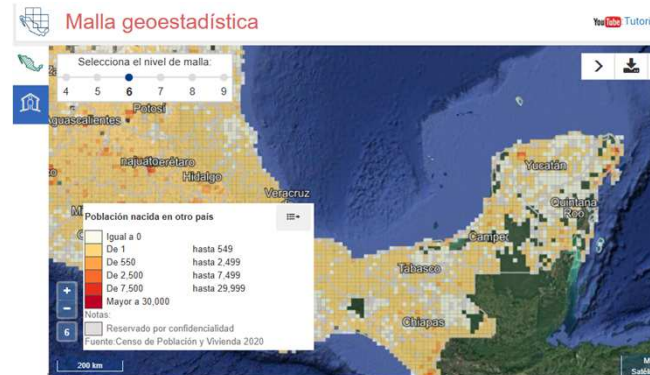
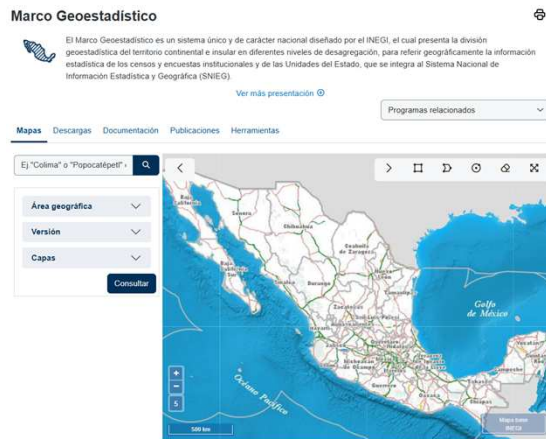
Initial Steps:

- Establish the "place and time scaffolding," such as an agreed grid for publication and national territorial classes.
- Create a national geocoding service for consistency.
- Geocode and time-stamp two to three priority registers to demonstrate value.
- Produce a first set of "bridge indicators," like travel time to schools or primary care.
- As capacity grows, the portfolio of products can expand.



Example: INEGI, Mexico

- A national geostatistical framework with stable geographic identifiers.
- A national geostatistical grid for comparable indicators.
- Open geoservices that expose data layers to other agencies and the public.



Call for Action

- The need for a conceptual framework is clear. Geography is fundamental to understanding social and demographic phenomena.
- We must move beyond fragmented data to a more integrated, place-based approach.
- By combining people, social relationships, outcomes, places, and time, we can create a powerful system for better statistics and more informed decisions.
- Implementation can be gradual, starting with a strong foundation of geocoding and agreed-upon standards.
- Strong privacy and ethical safeguards are non-negotiable.

¡GRACIAS!

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