



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

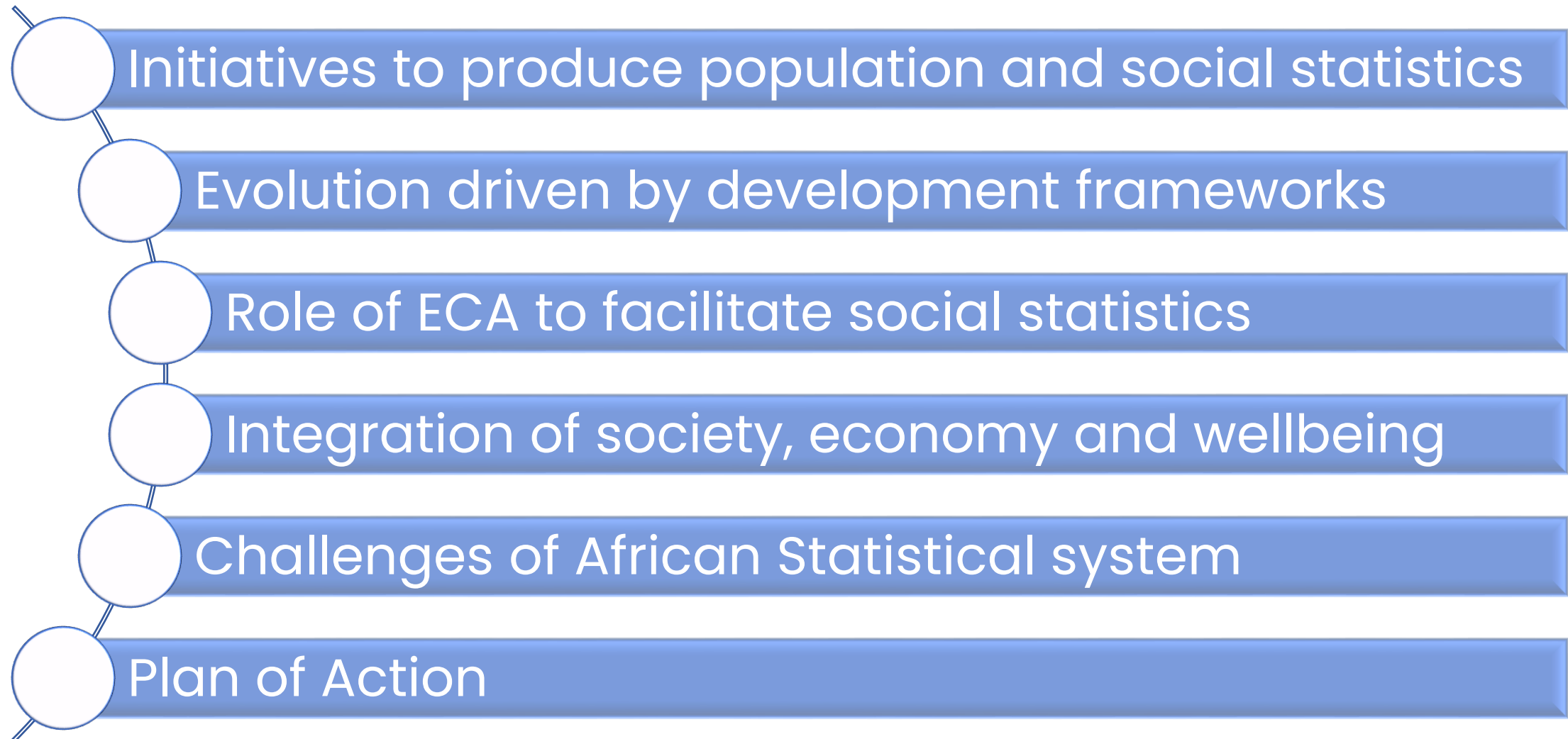
Development and Evolution of Demographic and Social Statistics in Africa.



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Presentation outline



Initiatives to Build Demographic and Social Data

World Fertility Surveys – An international undertaking in demographic data collection and analysis between **1974–81**



African National Household Survey Capability Programme – a regional component of the global NHSCP, established in **1978** to improve the availability of continuing, timely and integrated data in African countries



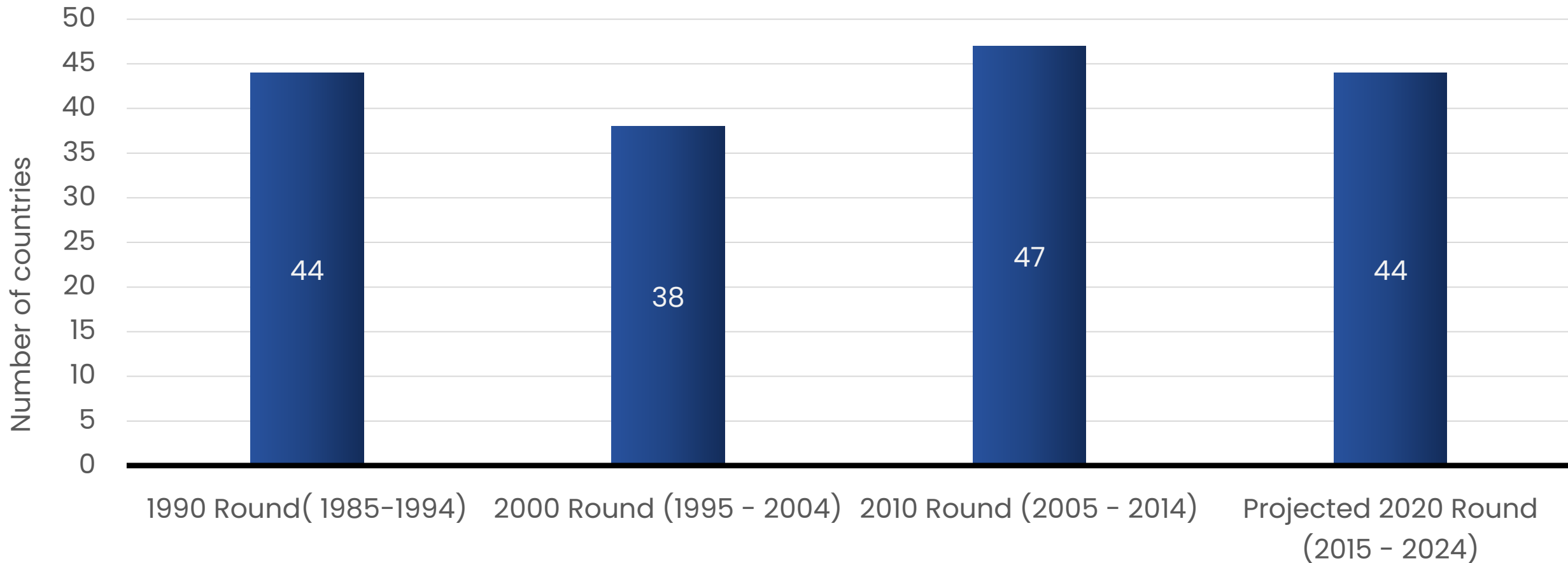
Demographic and Health Survey program – household surveys developed by USAID in **1984** to provide indicators on population, health, and nutrition for monitoring and impact evaluation. (45 African Countries)



Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys – household surveys developed by UNICEF in **mid 1990s** to produce key indicators on well-being of children and women to help shape policies for the improvement of their lives. (46 African countries)

Initiatives to Build Demographic and Social Data POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

Censuses have been the most important sources of demographic and socio-economic data



PHC Rounds

Evolution of social statistics in Africa

- **Before 2000s:**
 - At attaining independence, most needed data for planning and they embarked on censuses and surveys to supply demographic and socio-economic data.
 - Poverty reduction strategies in the 1990s required data to target the vulnerable and monitor the PRSPs
- **2000s:** The content of population and social statistics in Africa has evolved since the coming of the **MDGs** and move to **SDGs**.
- **2020s:** significant progress was noted in terms of availability of data and progress of social sector goals (SDG 3, SDG4) which form part of the SPSA.

The Agendas



Agenda 2063

- January 2013
- The Africa We Want



Agenda 2030 (SDGs)

- September 2015
- The Future We Want

All African countries had to produce data (demographic & social statistics) to inform the two Agendas and their National Development Plans

Facilitators for availability of social statistics

ECA maintains a data base, **ECASat Base** for all data including on population and social statistics

ECA maintains a dashboard for tracking progress in SDGs implementation in Africa.

ECA measures the alignment levels of development frameworks to national development plans to avoid fatigue on NSOs data production requirements and ensure consistency.

Existence of programmes such as DHS program, MICs, Labour surveys, etc that target NSOs to improve methodology and produce social statistics.

Role of ECA in the African Statistical System

capacity

availability of harmonized

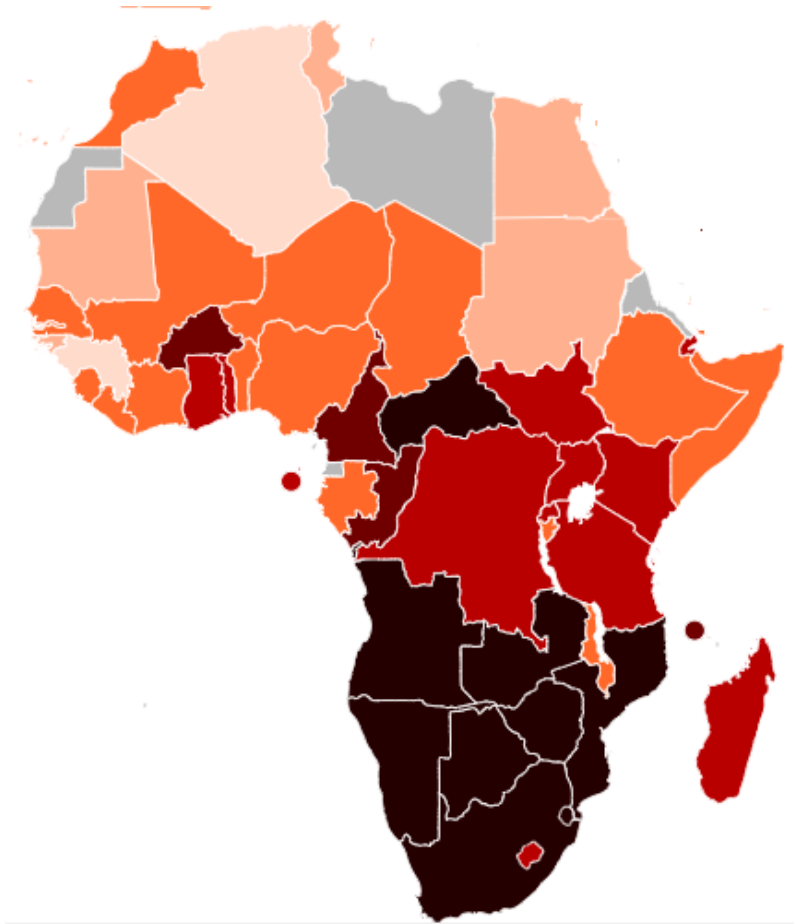
geospatial data,
information, and services.

surveys

censuses and

technology tools &
methodologies

Most used socio-economic wellbeing indicators in Africa and limitations



Gini index

- Poverty and inequality measures: Gini index, wealth quintiles
- Unemployment and under-employment levels
- Multidimensional poverty index
- Access to markets and to banking systems
- Gender inequalities
- MDGs and SDGs

Generally broken down by urban/rural and/or by socio-economic groups and by wealth quintiles

✓ **What we still don't capture well:**

- Lifelong trajectories, accumulation of human capital.
- Vulnerability and social security , in particular informal social security systems.
- Self-perception of well being in relation to security, traditional knowledge and local beliefs systems.
- Impact of wars and terrorism on actual wellbeing and perception of well being.

Possible challenges for implementing SPSA in Africa

✓ **Data requirements:**

- SPSA require numerous and regular surveys unless new data collection methods emerge.
- that's why Social Accounting matrices, which have low data requirements, are popular in Africa.

✓ **Integration of issues such as:**

- Human capital and migrations
- Environmental concerns
- Social security systems



Challenges in measuring wellbeing in Africa

Not much has been done in Africa because of methodology;

- Well-being from an African perspective is usually defined within the framework of group norms, values, kinship relationships and ties rooted in cultural values. Emphasizes family/communal relations, and spirituality.
- Cross-country comparisons on well being may be incorrect and wrongly generalized if cultural realities are neglected in defining factors that contribute to well-being in Africa.
- Noting that the challenges of social statistics highlighted in 1970s are still existent in Africa, it implies that SPSA measures and definitions of well-being may be inapplicable in an African setting.

Challenges of African Statistical system



Irregular data for monitoring of development frameworks e.g. SDG 8, 13, 16 that relate to the quality of life



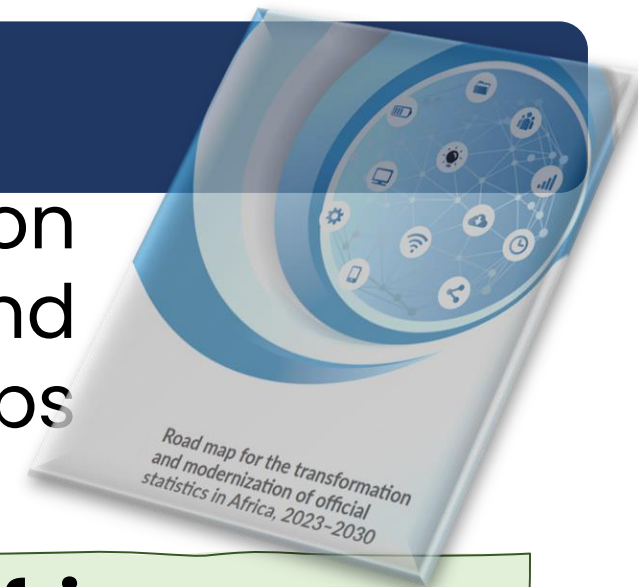
Lack of an appropriate yardstick to monitor progress in development within Africa and the global south.



Inadequate capacity, resources and absence of clear strategic planning in development of statistics.

Plan of Action

Implementation of the road map on Transformation and modernization, and innovative approaches to address the data gaps and challenges of the data ecosphere.



Priority areas of work on social statistics for Africa:

- ✍ Conduct research and develop strategies to meet the data challenges of monitoring development beyond 2030.
- ✍ Improved use of administrative data.
- ✍ Provision of technical support in developing new approaches to use ICT in data collection.
- ✍ Support to develop national targets, indicators, and methods of measurement.

Conclusion

Given the ongoing efforts, Africa can have more granular, timely data on social and demographic concerns integrated with economics and the environment to address wellbeing.



Thank you!

Questions and comments:

Ideas
to
Action