Directory of statistical services of international organisations- UNFPA

Brief description of the organisation¹

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, created in 1968 to support the execution of projects and programmes in the area of population and development, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. At present, UNFPA has field offices in 127 countries, in addition to Headquarters in New York, 6 regional offices in Bangkok, Istanbul, Cairo, Johannesburg, Dakar and Panama, 8 representation offices (Copenhagen, Addis Ababa, London, Geneva, Brussels, Tokyo, Washington and Seoul) and 3 sub-regional offices; Pacific SRO- Fiji for Pacific Islands and territories; Jamaica SRO for English-speaking and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries; and Kazakhstan SRO.

Most of UNFPA's global work on statistics and indicators is led by the Programme Division in HQ, but significant statistical work is also supported at regional and country office level. The Programme Division represents UNFPA in the CCSA and other inter-agency groups, such as the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on SDGs, and the IAEG on Gender Statistics, among others.

Mission²

The mission of UNFPA is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA works with partners in more than 150 countries to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and promote gender equality and empowerment of women, girls and young people to take control of their bodies and their future. The UNFPA goal is ending unmet need for family planning, preventable maternal death, and gender-based violence and harmful practices including child marriage and female genital mutilation by 2030.

Specific to data and statistics, UNFPA seeks to ensure that everyone, everywhere, is counted, and accounted for, in pursuit of sustainable development, through strengthening national population data systems for addressing inequalities, SDGs, ICPD and humanitarian needs, and mainstreaming demographic intelligence in development policies, plans and programmes

Fields of Activity/ structure

Statistics

While UNFPA is not directly responsible for the collection of primary statistics, it plays an important role in providing technical and financial support to statistical activities in countries, such as population and housing censuses, civil registration and vital statistics systems thematic household surveys, particularly in the area of reproductive health (e.g. DHS), geospatial data, as well as humanitarian data. UNFPA collaborates with UN and non-UN organizations active in the field of population statistics and analysis, such as UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, World Bank, UN Statistics Division, UN Population Division, and the regional economic commissions. In

¹ Description of the statistics section/department in the organization

² Mission of the statistics section/department of the organization

addition, UNFPA is actively involved in the development and monitoring of indicators in its area of action, particularly with respect to the SDG targets 3 and 5.

UNFPA strengthens national capacity, (including for government, academia, civil society, and the public) to generate and use data, and in particular population data for planning and decision-making, including monitoring of ICPD and SDG indicators, and to track demographic and social change in areas related to sexual and reproductive health, gender and population dynamics.

Mandate

The mandate of UNFPA is to advance the vision and values represented within the Programme of Action of the International Conference of Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the outcomes of its reviews. Reaching the goals of the Programme of Action is also essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. UNFPA brings its expertise in sexual and reproductive health and population dynamics to the worldwide collaborative effort of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

In collaboration with technical partners, UNFPA supports the production, analysis, dissemination and use of relevant disaggregated data in the areas mandated by the Programme of Action of ICPD and SDGs, especially basic demographic data on population size, growth and structure, fertility, mortality, migration, family planning, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and gender issues, including statistics on violence against women.

Statistical work programme

To deliver on the goal of ensuring that everyone, everywhere, is counted, and accounted for, in pursuit of sustainable development, UNFPA technical work at global, regional and country level provides technical assistance and capacity strengthening to deliver on the commitments of the ICPD and the 2030 sustainable development agenda. The statistical work programme focuses on the following priority areas:

- Ensuring that population and housing censuses meet the highest international standards; expanding coverage and quality of civil registration, administrative records, and vital statistics; and supporting relevant household surveys. Where humanitarian crises preclude traditional data gathering, UNFPA provides technical support to estimate the population through a combination of microcensus and remote sensing.
- Improving national capacity to use geo-referenced population and infrastructure data, improving GIS capacity within national Statistical Offices, and promoting the visualization and accessibility of geo-spatial data through national and sub-national mapping and use of small area estimation (SAE) to address data gaps and enhance the ability of governments and the development community to locate those "furthest behind". UNFPA also supports increased access to population data through geospatially enabled portals aligned with the UNFPA Population Data Portal.
- Contributing to the estimation of Common Operational Data Sets (CODS) on Population in humanitarian and fragile contexts, to prepare pre-conflict

- population estimates in fragile countries, and allow rapid estimation of those at risk in cases of heightened insecurity, displacement, and humanitarian crises
- Strengthening national capacity for integrated analysis and use of national and sub-national population, health and gender data for tracking trends and outcomes central to ICPD and the SDGs.
- Strengthening national capacity to monitor and report on progress in SDG implementation through workshops and webinars targeting NSOs and SDG focal points.
- Introducing innovative metrics for tracking progress in core areas of UNFPA mandate such as SRH, GBV, etc.
- Providing a framework for the integration of Demographic Dividend-related data and indicators within national development plans through Demographic Dividend-Atlases.

UNFPA works with a range of partners and serves as a bridge to connect data producers, methodological and substantive innovators, and data users for purposes of promoting generation and use of population data for national development planning, coordinated risk reduction and humanitarian response.

Number of staff

Total / Statistical division

While UNFPA has a staff of about 3000 including international and national staff members, only a relatively small percentage of the staff is directly involved in statistical activities. The Programme Division at HQ which is mainly responsible for statistics has approximately 130 staff, majority of whom are, in some way, technically engaged in data compilation, analysis and reporting. However, due to the decentralized nature of the organization (including the 6 regional and 127 country offices), and the multiplicity of staff responsibilities, it is difficult to accurately quantify the number of staff involved in statistics.

Regional/ country offices normally have one or more data experts/focal points that support statistical capacity strengthening and analytical work. At regional level, each region has a dedicated adviser on population and development/ data, with responsibilities that include technical support for population data collection, analysis and reporting, including for SDGs. Many of the country offices also have a population and development specialist, who provides guidance for UNFPA support to national data initiatives e.g. related to censuses, surveys, and integrated socio-economic and demographic information systems.

Flagship Publications

- Annual State of the World Population report
- Annual report of the Secretary-General on programmes and interventions assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

	Annual report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
Website	https://www.unfpa.org/ Population data portal (https://pdp.unfpa.org/)

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