



Accelerating the Promise: Building Capacity for Population Data

Increasing the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, and building capacity to use those data **by 2020** - was a core commitment of the 2030 Agenda. Have we delivered?

3 March 2020, Tuesday, 1:15pm to 2:30pm
United Nations Secretariat, Conference Room E (tbc)

Background

Without high-quality population data, and the capacity to access and use such data, governments will not be in a position to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), not least to reach universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights by 2030.

About 45 per cent of SDG indicators require sound and reliable population data. Disaggregated, geographically precise data on populations are vital to 'leave no one behind' and 'serve first those with the greatest need'.

Mid-way through the 2020 census round, the world is facing major delays and shortfalls in the availability of high-quality population data. UNFPA estimates that as much as 34% of the African population is at risk of not being counted, due to shortfalls in technical and fiscal capacity, and political instabilities. Modern census – with its potential for digital mapping and geospatial data – offers governments extraordinary potential to prioritize investments and direct programming to those most in need. But far greater investment is called for to fulfill this potential.

UNFPA is launching the **Population Data Thematic Fund (Pop Data Fund)** to address long standing shortfalls in population data and related human capacity. The Pop Data Fund aims to expand the scope and quality of modern census and registry data, and increase the use of population data to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, advance the objectives of UNFPA's core mandate, support UN Common Country Analyses (CCA), and track the value of related investments.

The Pop Data Fund is a response to growing requests by governments for UNFPA to improve capacity for building a modern census and registry database, and use geo-referenced data to map population vulnerabilities and deliver where it counts.



The Pop Data Fund builds upon more than 40 years of UNFPA experience in the population data sector through delivery of technical, operational and financial support to National Statistical Offices (NSOs) for the implementation of the population and housing census, and the use of survey and registry data for national development. In the 2010 round of census, UNFPA provided support to more than 125 countries, through strong partnerships in multiple dimensions of the population and data sectors across UN country teams worldwide.

The **objectives of this event** are to:

- Make the case for open, high-quality modern population data to achieve the SDGs and the ICPD goals;
- Present the vision, objectives and core elements of the Pop Data Fund as a vehicle for strengthening this sector across the developing world;
- Solicit feedback from UNFPA partners on the vision and strategic priorities of the Pop Data Fund.