Population Data Thematic Fund

ACCELERATING THE PROMISE

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR POPULATION DATA

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The case
for data

Only with high-quality population data, and the capacity to access and use such data, governments will be in a position to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights by 2030.

Forty-five per cent of SDG indicators require sound and reliable population data. Disaggregated, geographically precise data are vital to leave no one behind and serve first those with the greatest need.

UNFPA's **Population Data Thematic Fund** (Pop Data Fund) addresses long standing shortfalls in population data and related human capacity. The Population Data Thematic Fund expands the scope and quality of modern census and registry data, increases the use of geo-referenced population data to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, and advances the objectives of UNFPA's mandate.
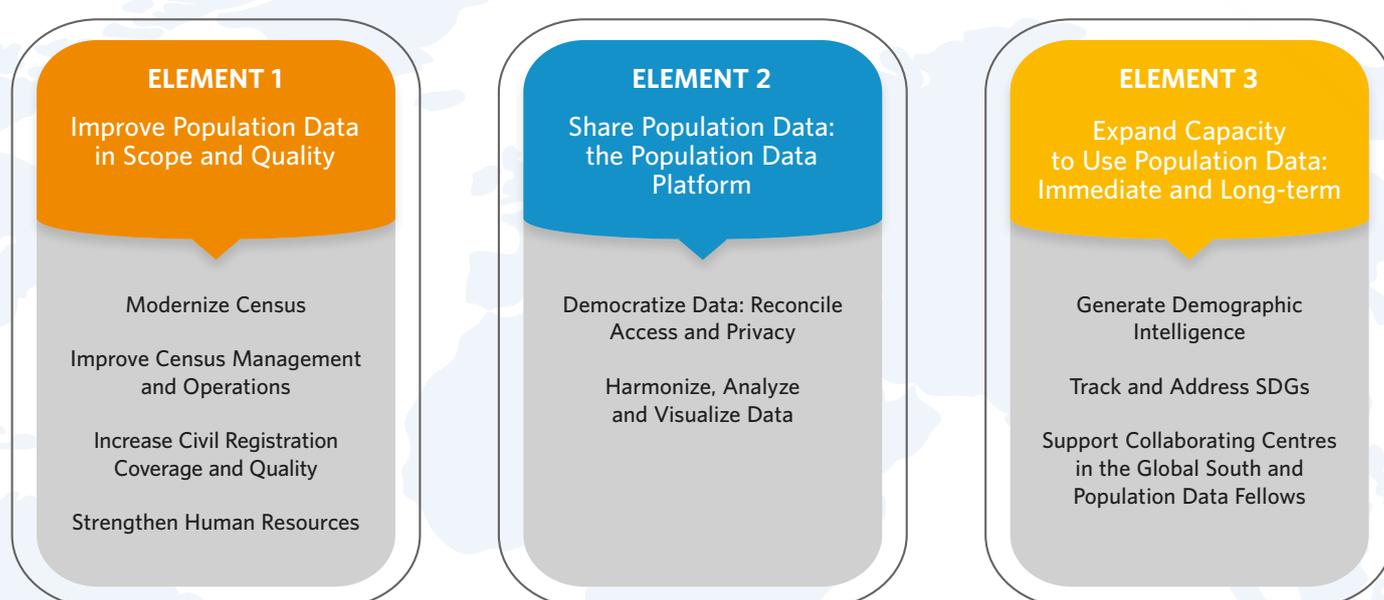
An estimated **$75 million per year through 2030** are needed to modernize census in the developing world and prepare the next generation of experts who can generate and use population data across the humanitarian-development nexus, to track the impact of UNFPA interventions and accelerate progress on the SDGs.

Census - Counting the world

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 opportunities to prioritize investments and direct programming to those most in need, but far greater investment is called for.

Capitalizing on UNFPA's support to population census and demographic intelligence over four decades, the Population Data Thematic Fund will strengthen national data systems over the two population censuses that mark the path to 2030, supporting efforts to monitor and address the SDG targets and indicators. The Population Data Thematic Fund proposes a decade of progressive and complementary investments to prepare a new generation of population data experts in more than 125 UNFPA programme countries.

The three core elements

ELEMENT 1
Improve Population Data in Scope and Quality

Modernize Census

Improve Census Management and Operations

Increase Civil Registration Coverage and Quality

Strengthen Human Resources

ELEMENT 2
Share Population Data: the Population Data Platform

Democratize Data: Reconcile Access and Privacy

Harmonize, Analyze and Visualize Data

ELEMENT 3
Expand Capacity to Use Population Data: Immediate and Long-term

Generate Demographic Intelligence

Track and Address SDGs

Support Collaborating Centres in the Global South and Population Data Fellows

Open, high-quality, modern population data

Determine who has access to SRH care
Learn who has access to essential SRH care, by combining population and infrastructure mapping with enumerated data on health facilities.

Zero in on harmful practices
Provide better local data on Female Genital Cutting (FGM) and child marriage, to assess progress over time and the impact of interventions.

Sustainable Development Goal 5.6
Map the landscape of rights and choices, by gathering and sharing new data on women's decision-making about their sexual and reproductive health (SDG 5.6.1) and men and women's access to sexual and reproductive health care (SDG 5.6.2).

Track unmet need for family planning
Improve demand forecasting and "last-mile assurance" with high resolution (local) data on population, contraceptive use and services.

Catalyst to all UNFPA funds
Support all UNFPA thematic funds with disaggregated, reliable and precise data to meet their goals.

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The **Population Data Thematic Fund** is UNFPA's response to growing requests by governments to accelerate capacity strengthening for modernizing population data systems, expanding the quality and availability of geo-referenced census and registry data, and the use of such data to map population vulnerabilities and deliver where it counts.

The Pop Data Fund builds on UNFPA's unique experience in the population data sector through delivery of technical, operational and financial support to National Statistical Offices (NSOs) for the implementation of a modern population and housing census, improving civil registration, and using geo-referenced population data for national development. UNFPA provides census technical support to more than 125 countries, through strong partnerships with governments, UN country teams, the US Census Bureau, and the population and data sectors worldwide.

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The United Nations Population Fund facilitates the production and dissemination of high quality population data to empower stakeholders to make informed decisions on crucial development issues. UNFPA collaborates closely with governments to optimize their use of national and sub-national population data to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

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