



Evaluation of the UNFPA support to census data availability to inform decision-making and policy formulation 2005- 2014

PRESENTATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMAL SESSION

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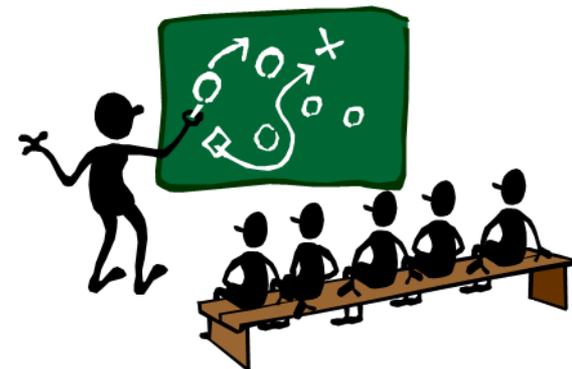
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Content

- Objectives of the evaluation
- Evaluation methodology
- Evaluation process
- Financial contribution
- Key conclusions
- Key recommendations
- Next steps

Objectives of the Evaluation

Objectives of evaluation



To assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the UNFPA support to the 2010 census round



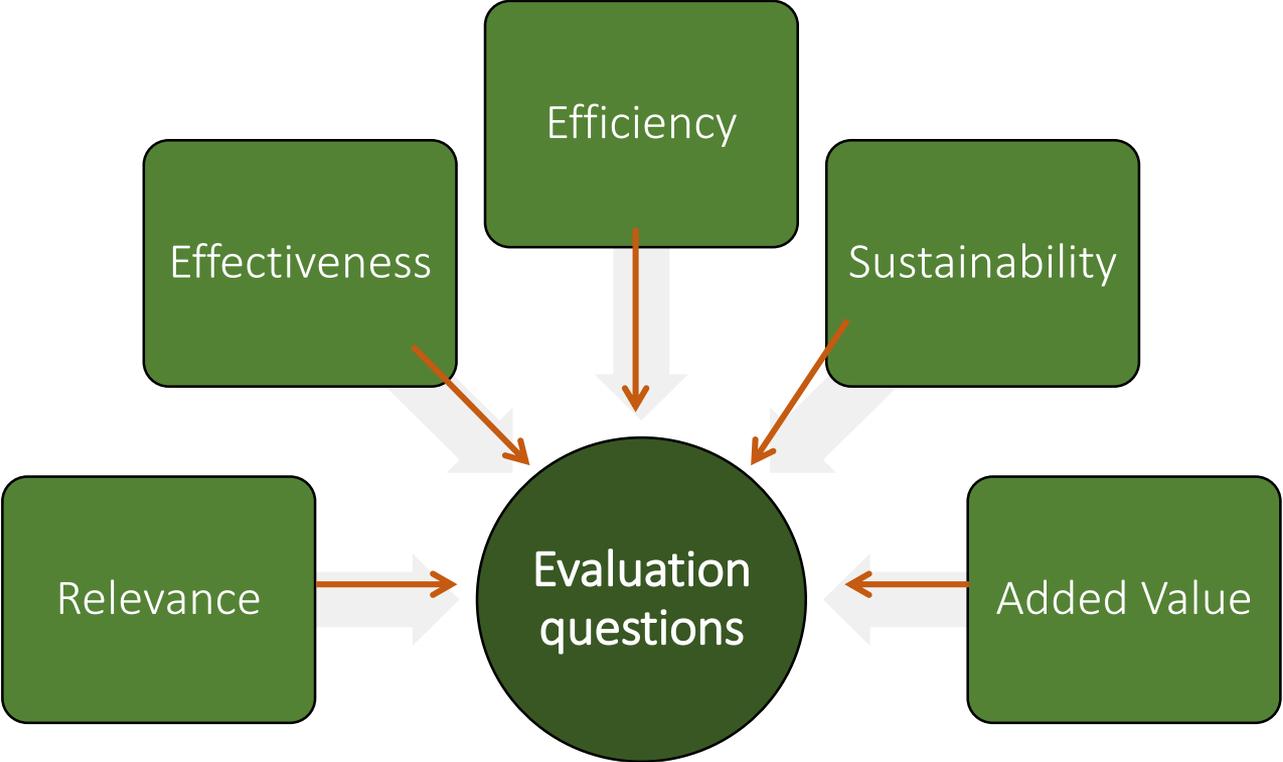
To assess the extent to which census data are used, on policy formulation and development plans at country level



To identify lessons learned and generate knowledge to inform the midterm review of the strategic plan and the support of UNFPA to the 2020 census round

Evaluation Methodology

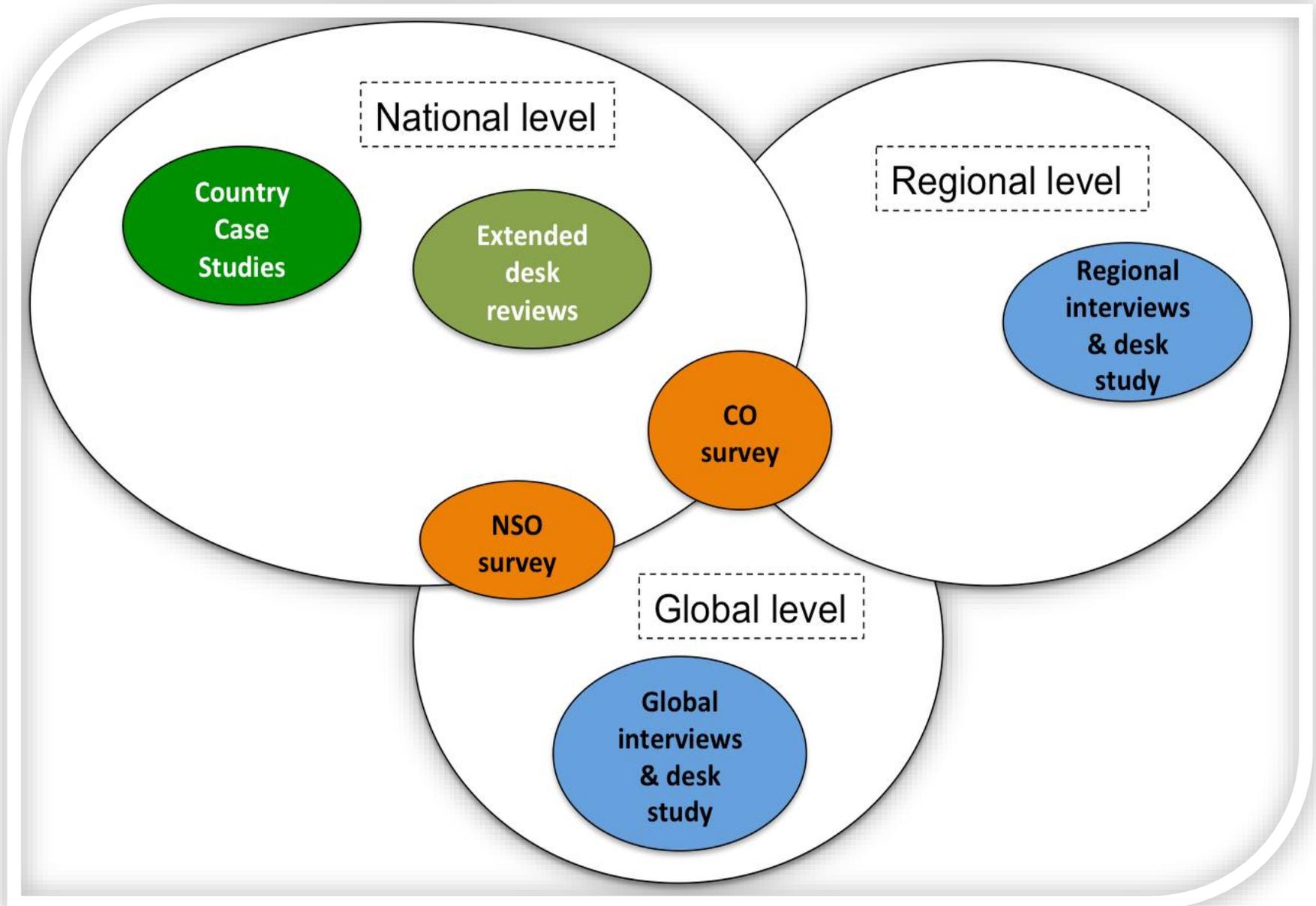
Evaluation criteria



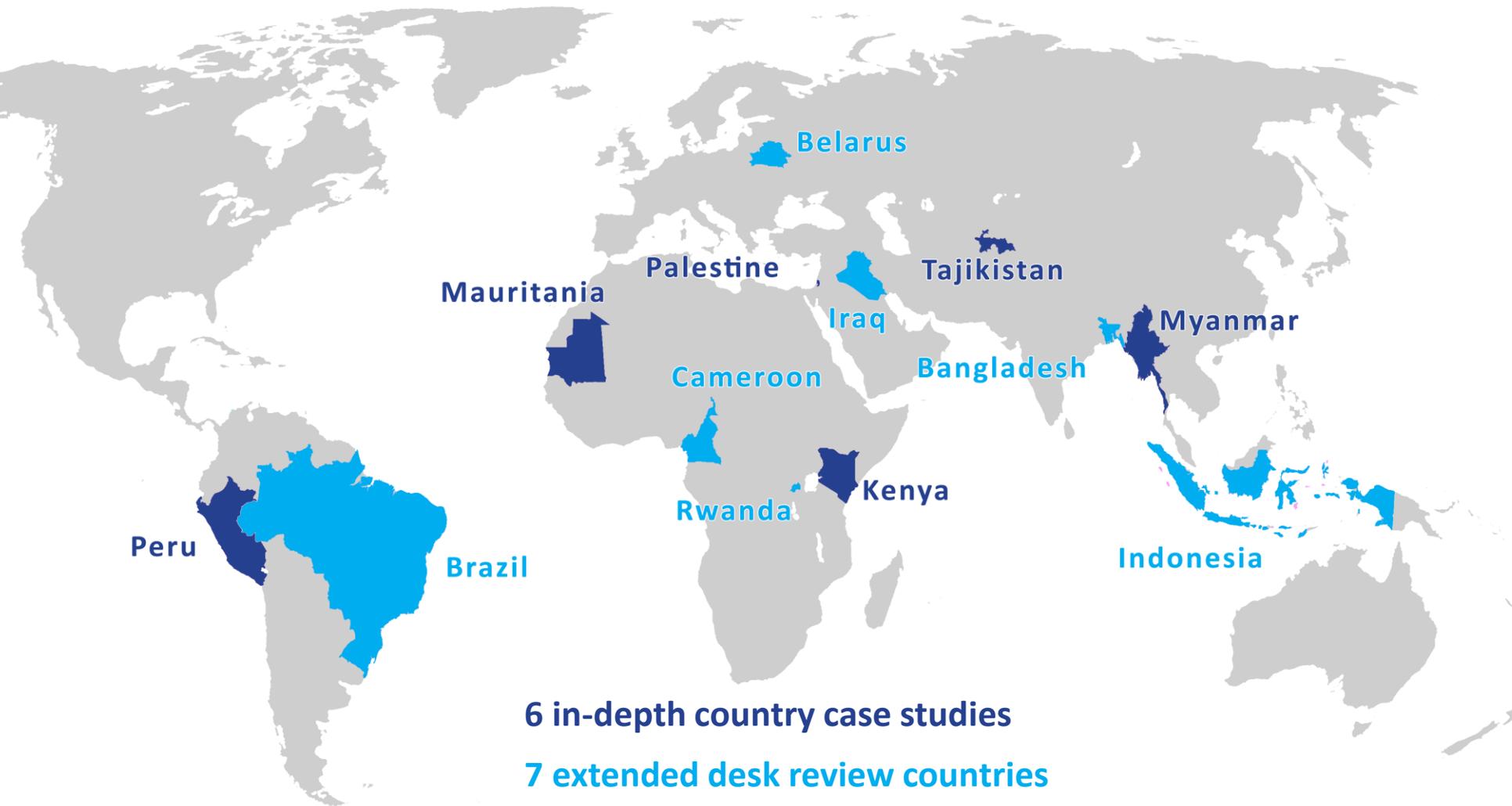
Seven evaluation questions

Evaluation question		Evaluation criterion	Level analysis
EQ1	Alignment	Relevance	National, regional and global
EQ2	Capacity for production and dissemination (NSO)	Effectiveness & sustainability	National
EQ3	Capacity for use of data	Effectiveness & sustainability	National
EQ4	Use of resources & internal synergies	Efficiency	National, regional and global
EQ5	Networks: partnerships and south-south cooperation	Efficiency & effectiveness	National, regional and global
EQ6	Added value	Added value	National, regional and global
EQ7	Human Rights & Gender equality	Effectiveness	National

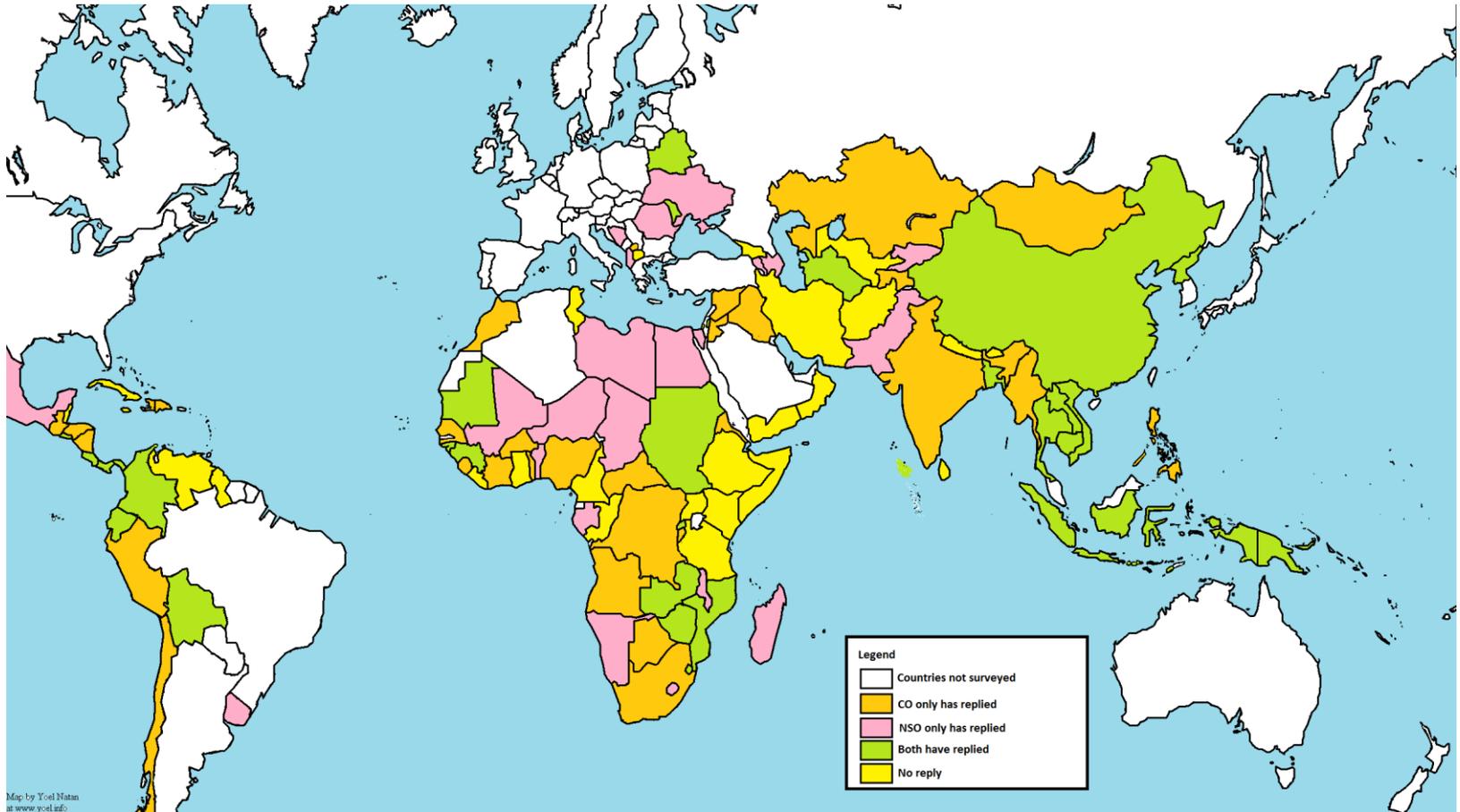
6 Components of the evaluation



Data collection at country level



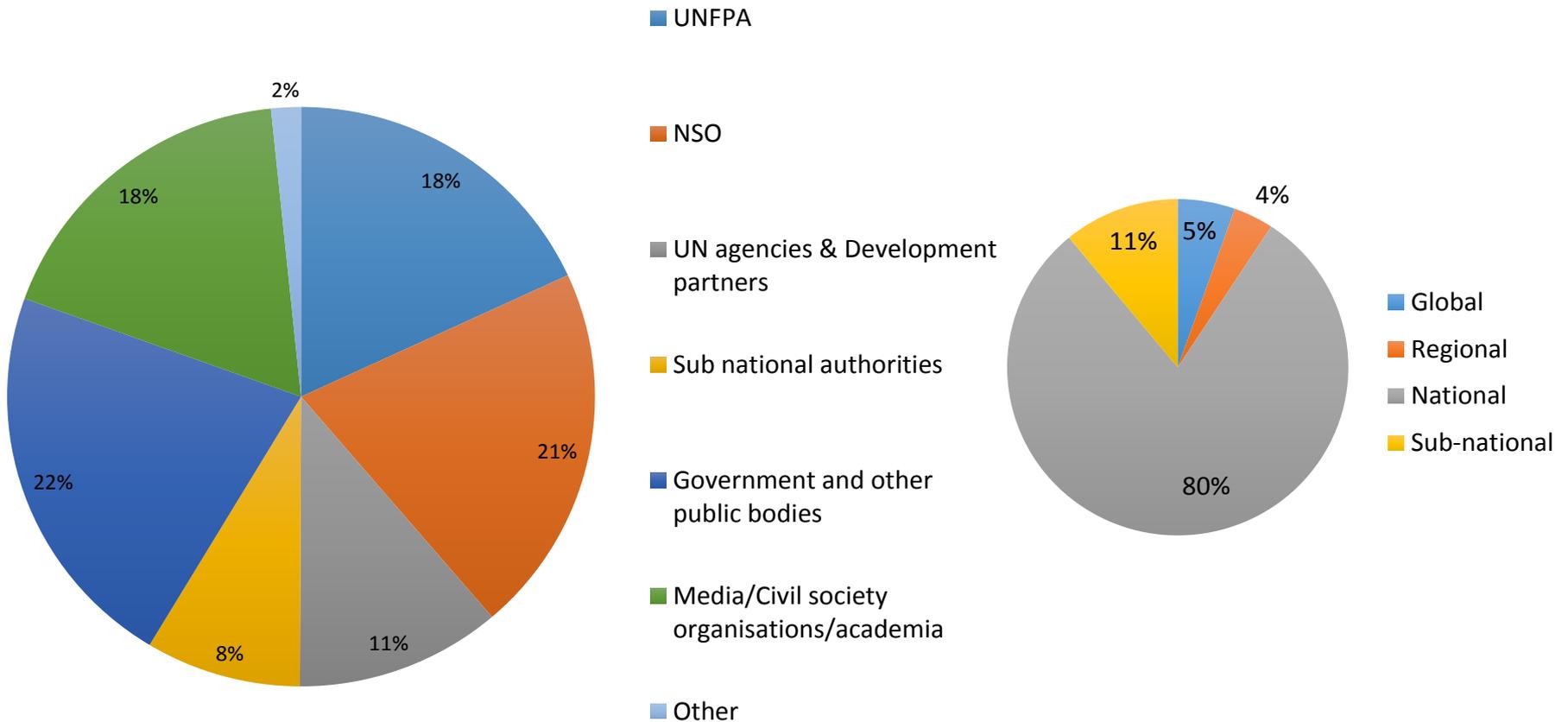
Coverage of the surveys



Coverage (response rate)	65	<u>Number of country offices</u> that responded to the survey (63% of the target population responded)
Coverage (response rate)	53	<u>Number of NSO</u> that responded to the survey (47% of the target population responded)

Consultations by type of stakeholders and level of analysis

795 persons have been interviewed



Ethical principles

Evaluation designed and conducted in line with United Nations Evaluation Group Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct

1. Respect for confidentiality

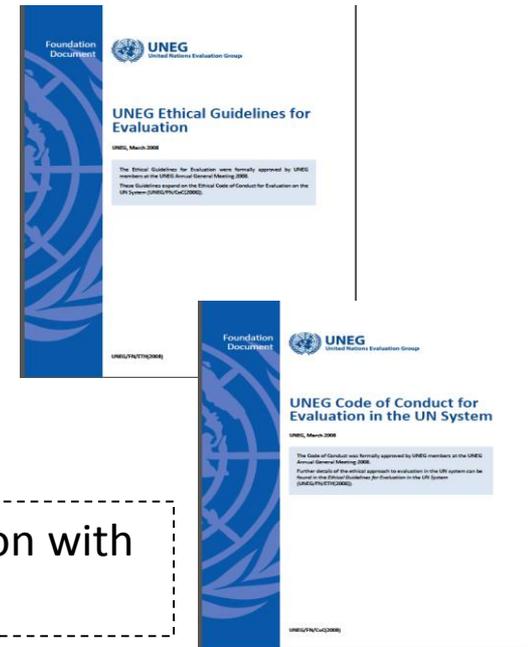
2. Respect for dignity and diversity

3. Wide ranging and broad consultation with consideration for gender balance

4. Transparency and reporting back to stakeholders

Avoidance of harm

Avoidance of conflict of interest



Gender-responsiveness

Gender considerations were incorporated both in terms of *what* the evaluation examined and *how* it examined it

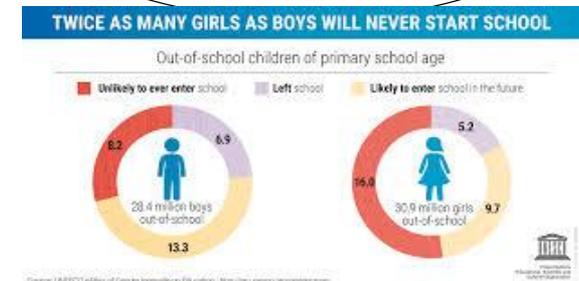
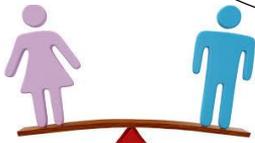


Evaluation team ensured

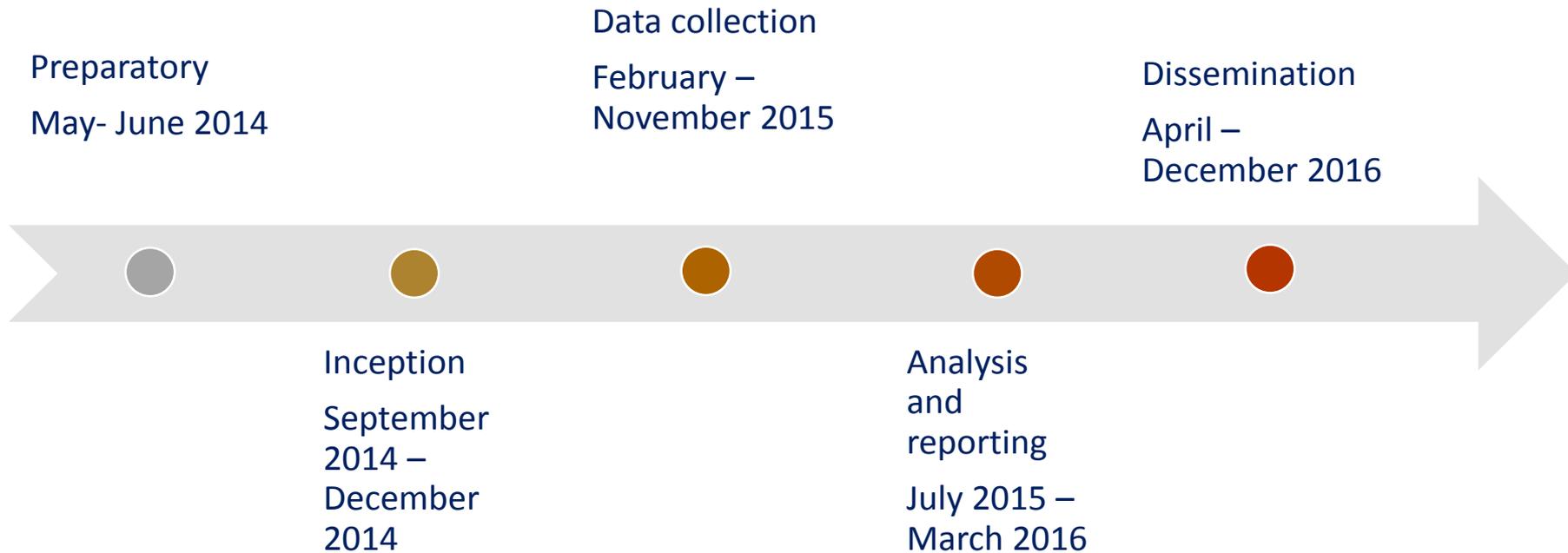
One **evaluation question (EQ7)** on Gender and Human Rights

A focus on the use of census-related data in **gender-related policies**

Analysis of **power relationships** in the census questionnaires



Evaluation process

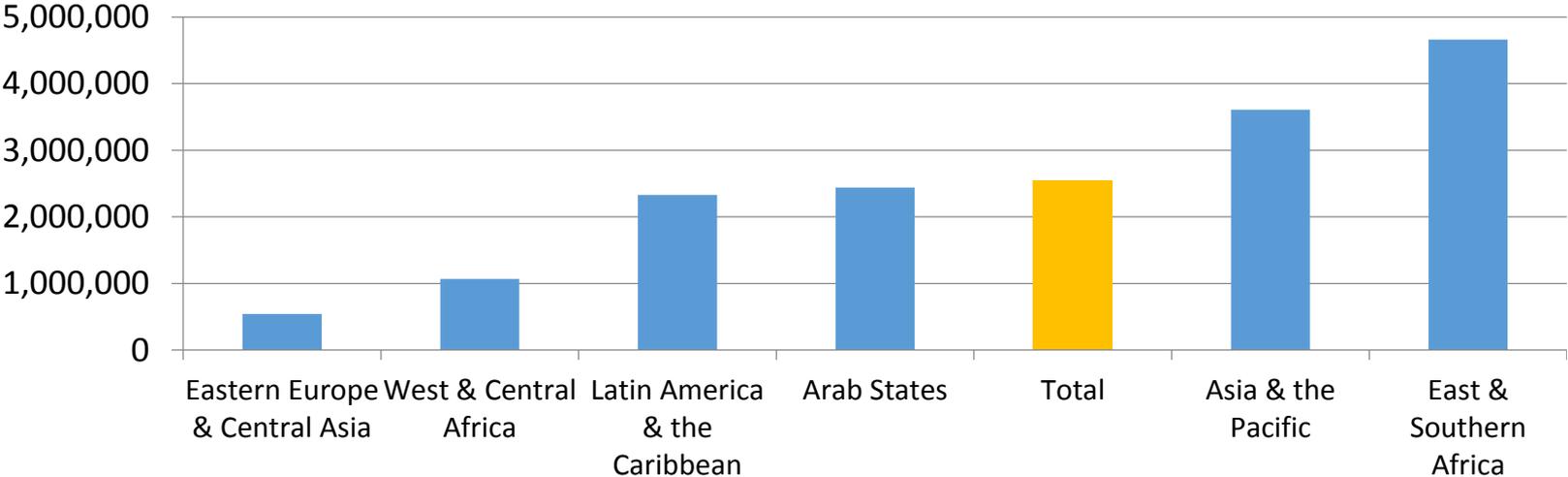


**Financial contribution and
typology of interventions
2005-2014**

Financial support

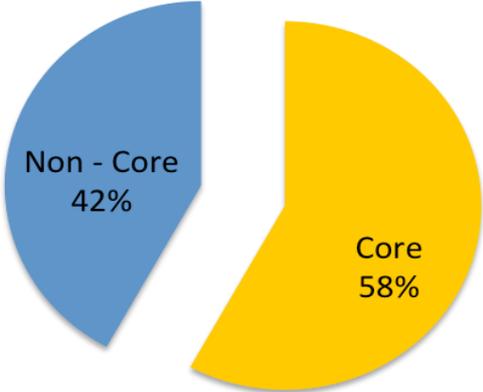
Level	Expenditures in USD		
	Core funds	Non-core funds	Total
Country	92,551,764	193,338,386	285,890,150
Regional	7,380,946	1,477,181	8,858,126
Global	4,849,891	2,070,227	6,920,118
Total	104,782,601	196,885,794	301,668,394

Average expenditures by country offices per region

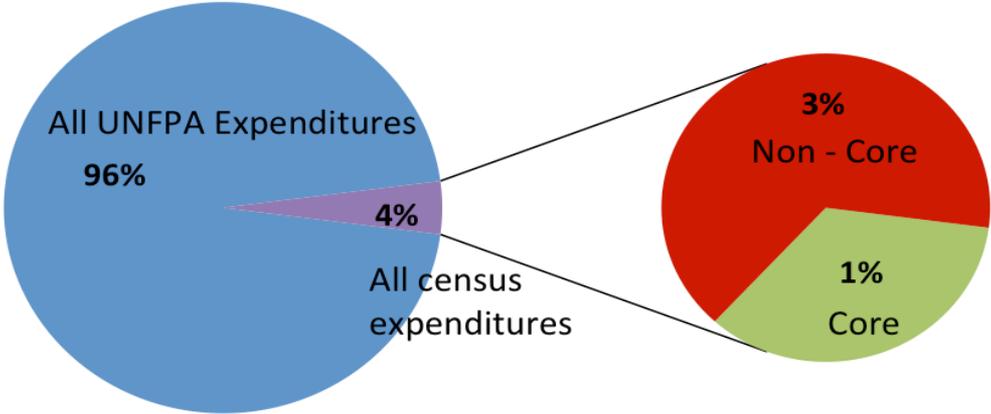
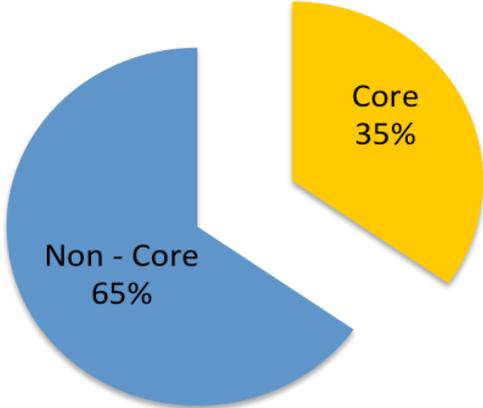


Financial support (cont.)

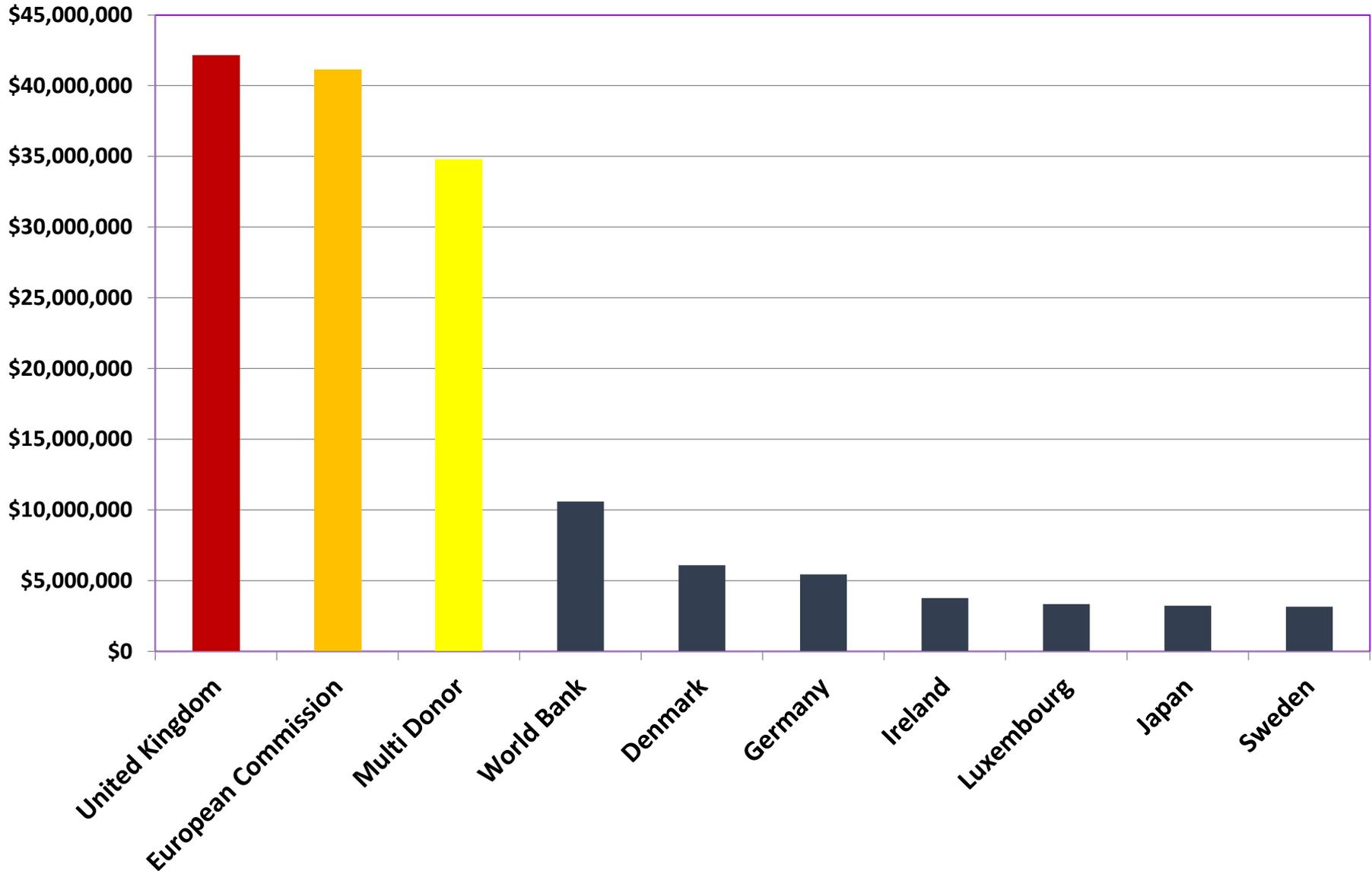
Breakdown of total UNFPA programme expenditures by source of funding (HQ + RO + CO)



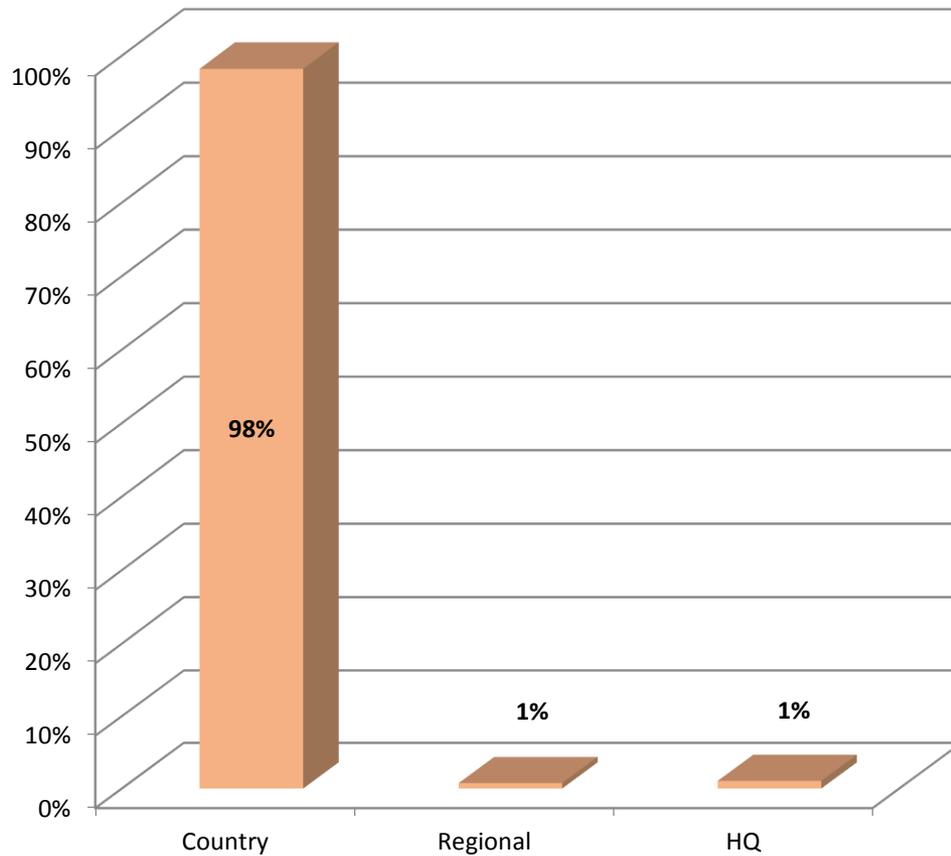
Breakdown of UNFPA expenditures on census by source of funding (HQ + RO + CO)



Top 10 Donors for Census (non-core funds)



Non-Core Expenditure in Support of Census - at Country, Regional and HQ Level



- Bulk of non-core resources are spent and mobilized at country level

Typology of intervention

- **Advocacy** and **policy dialogue** to encourage the undertaking of censuses, fundraise, and create motivation and political commitment to collect and use internationally comparable data
- **Technical assistance** and advice for planning, preparing, and carrying out the census including dissemination and analysis activities
- Service delivery to provide **direct financial support**, for example, to pay enumerators, or to procure equipment and/or services for questionnaire data capture
- Facilitation of **South-South and triangular cooperation**

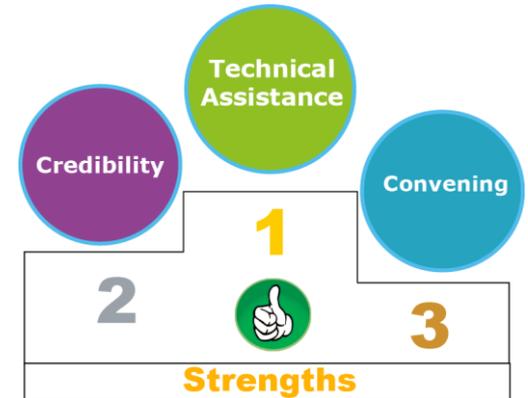
Support by typology of interventions and region

Region	Advocacy- Policy dialogue	TA - Capacity building	Service delivery & procurement	South- South
Asia-Pacific	44%	100%	56%	31%
Arab States	29%	93%	36%	14%
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	47%	87%	60%	20%
Eastern & South Africa	60%	100%	67%	13%
Latina America & Caribbean	15%	73%	50%	18%
West & Central Africa	89%	100%	89%	0%
Total	42%	90%	58%	18%

Key results

Overview

- Overall, a positive and **tangible contribution** of UNFPA support to **strengthening national** capacity for the production and availability of quality census data



- However, the **contribution to the use of data** to inform decision-making and policy formulation has been **inadequate** vis-à-vis the intended outcomes (UNFPA Programmatic frameworks covering the period under evaluation)
 - Based on findings and conclusions:
 - **A clear recommendation to continue support** to censuses and increase its weight and profile within the UNFPA

Overview (cont.)

Key areas for improvement:

- Consolidate the position of UNFPA on population and housing censuses
 - Corporate strategy and guidance, activate knowledge management
- Exploit the full potential of census data
 - Focus on use, dissemination as a link between availability and use, explore combining with other sources
- Explore new funding mechanisms and expand current strategies of support
 - Global trust fund for use of data, south-south cooperation

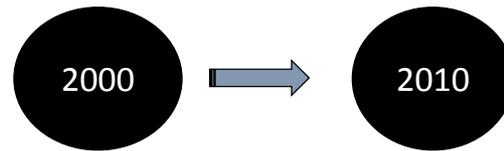
1. Key contributions of UNFPA support to the 2010 round

Overall, largely **positive**, highly **relevant**, delivered **efficiently** and with a clear contribution to **strengthening national capacities for the production and availability of data** - for the implementation of the **ICPD agenda**

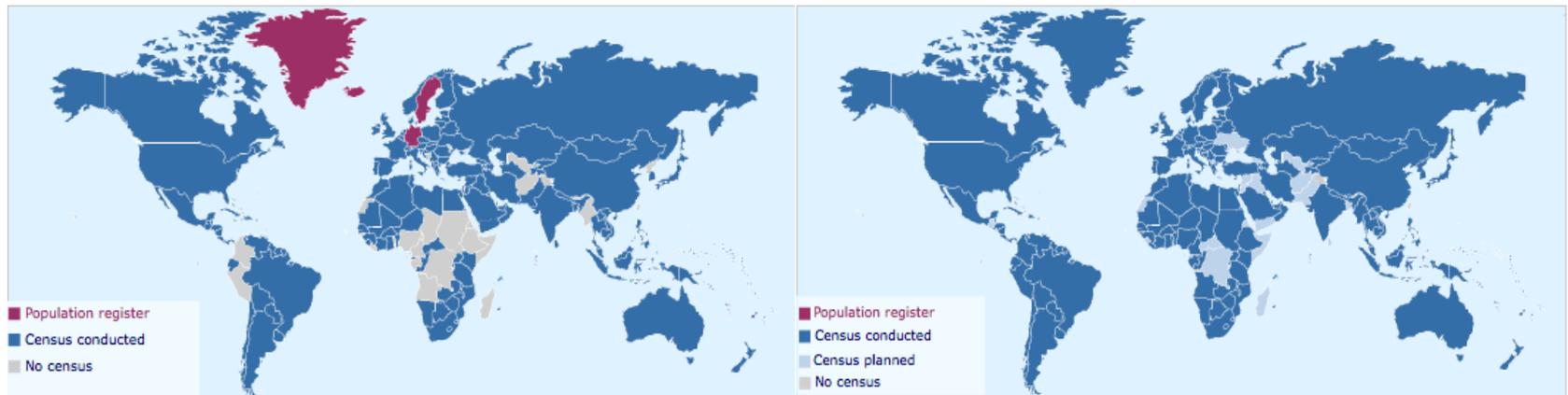
Main points

- Increased availability of census data worldwide (versus 2000 round)
- Strong alignment with government priorities, plans, strategies and data needs
- Good management of funds and strong adaptability; timely census
- Successful use of partnerships; inclusion of gender equality considerations
- Enhanced capacity of NSO for the production of census data in line with int'l standards

More countries have conducted a census in the 2010 than in the 2000 round – only 21 countries have not conducted a census (conflict situations or political instability)



The greatest increase in population covered happened in Africa, in Latin America and in Asia



2. Strategic positioning as a census player worldwide

Well-placed within the UN system to work with partner governments and other development partners. **Lead convening role** in the field of population and housing censuses. **Yet, UNFPA support to census ranks rather modestly among UNFPA strategic priorities**

Main points

- Unanimously recognized as a key player
- Census support seen at country level as flagship of UNFPA support
- Wealth of experience and learning – not captured or systematised at corporate level

3. Concerns on internal census expertise and human resources

UNFPA **positioning** in censuses is strongly **associated with** the **expertise** of its staff. **However**, there are important internal human resource **imbalances** and structural **dysfunctions** when it comes to census support (**attrition**)

Main points

- Staff knowledge and expertise on census is an asset (convening, donor trust, critical for developing national capacity)
- Yet, substantially depleted throughout the 2010 census round:
 - Integration of Country Technical Service Teams in regional offices
 - Inadequate human resource at Headquarters level . SIC dismantled and absorbed by P&D but without replenishment of staff
 - Indications that P&D officers lack adequate capacity in statistics, demography and census
- Lack of corporate guidance and advice on technical and socio-political aspects of census (including governance); no systematic corporate backstopping

4. Focus on data production and availability versus focus on data use

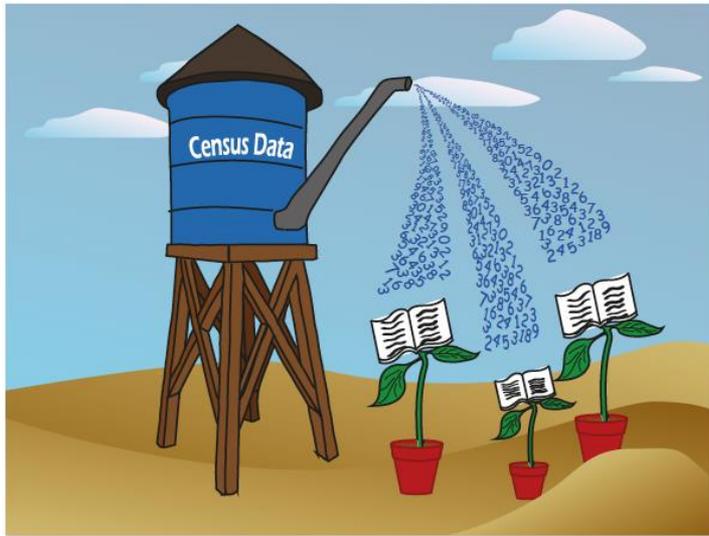
Preeminent focus on enhancing the production of census data, with disproportionately **less attention on data dissemination, analysis and use** in policy-making



Main points

- Weak dissemination phase: supply-based plans, raw data and micro data access overlooked, little advocacy for dissemination technologies
- Assumption that availability would automatically lead to use
- Focus on central government stakeholders (NSO, ministries)
less on sub-national levels and CSO/Academia
- No long-term strategy to develop analytical capacity of national stakeholders on a consistent basis

Current situation



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Expected situation



5. Quality assurance mechanisms not systematic

The UNFPA support features good **quality assurance mechanisms** for the census, including census governance mechanisms. Yet **not systematic** and **not part of a corporate guidance**

Main points

- UNFPA played a role introducing, advocating and ensuring mechanisms related to quality assurance - data quality and census governance - were in place
 - Thus ensuring respect of UN principles and confidence of stakeholders...
 - But no guidance, no minimum standards (when, why, how, in what sequence)
- Uneven approach to QA linked to the absence of assessment culture



6. Value for money of the UNFPA support to census varies

Value for money of the UNFPA support to census **varies**, depending on what is being assessed

Main points

- **High** for support to enhancing national capacity for production and availability of data
- **Low** for enhancing capacity for the use of data for evidence-based policy-making
- **Extremely high** for the contribution to overall institutional positioning of UNFPA worldwide



7. Demand-driven support, a positive feature with some limits

UNFPA support to census is **highly demand-driven**. Positive feature, as it generates national **ownership and leadership**. However, **risks** associated with this approach in the absence of high quality and timely needs assessments



Main points

- (+) Demand-driven support in the **context of a partnership model** linked to UNFPA comparative advantages, legitimacy and institutional positioning in censuses
- (-) **Downsides** of only responding to demands:
 - (i) proactive, innovative and positively disruptive advice from UNFPA to change the culture from supply-driven to use-driven of data undermined;
 - (ii) focus on short-term, ad-hoc responses as opposed to mid, long term strategies

8. The socio-political implications of censuses

Censuses are statistical operations of a **technical nature but** may carry significant socio-political implications. In this context, there is **no operational guidance** on how to address politically sensitive censuses **and ensure** reliability, credibility and legitimacy of the results



Main points

- Large statistical operations at times **perceived as** administrative operations
- Inclusion of questions **with socio-political impact** (ethnicity, religion) with implications on reliability of results and participation aspects
- **Different connotations** in different contexts (adding to complexity)
- In UN P&R, ethnicity is a non-core topic yet civil society and partner governments tend to view it as a crucial topic

9. Data for development: combining the census, national surveys and big data

No evidence that UNFPA has promoted **the exploitation of the potential of combining census data** with specific surveys, administrative data or new sources of data, such as big data in the perspective of data for development



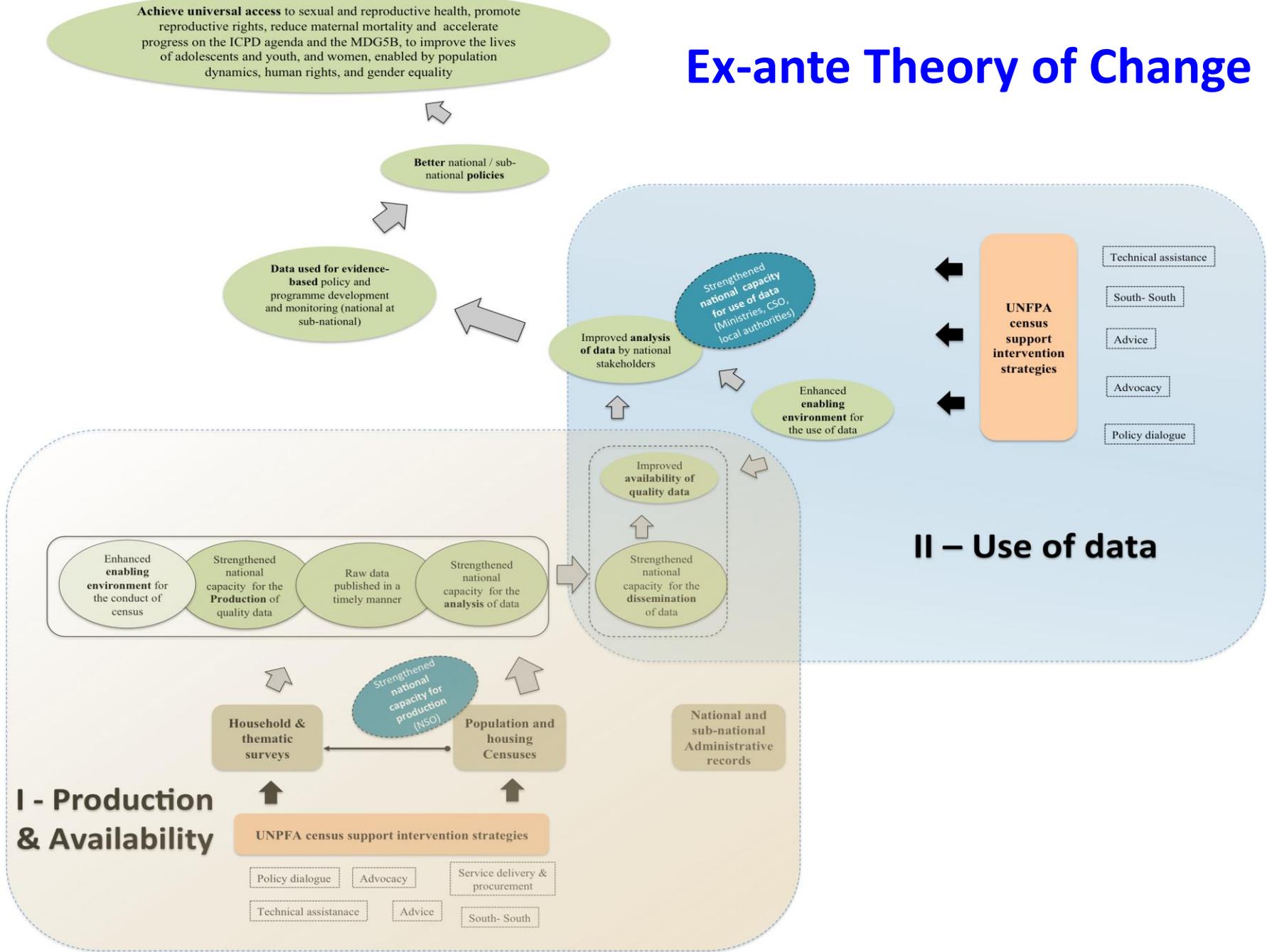
Main points

- Richness of census (generates information that helps monitor progress on development indicators + disaggregated data at local level) is under-exploited
- Combination with other surveys (poverty maps, reproductive health needs), administrative data (civil registration) and with big data (migration, census updates) offers interesting possibilities, yet support to census and to other surveys remains not integrated

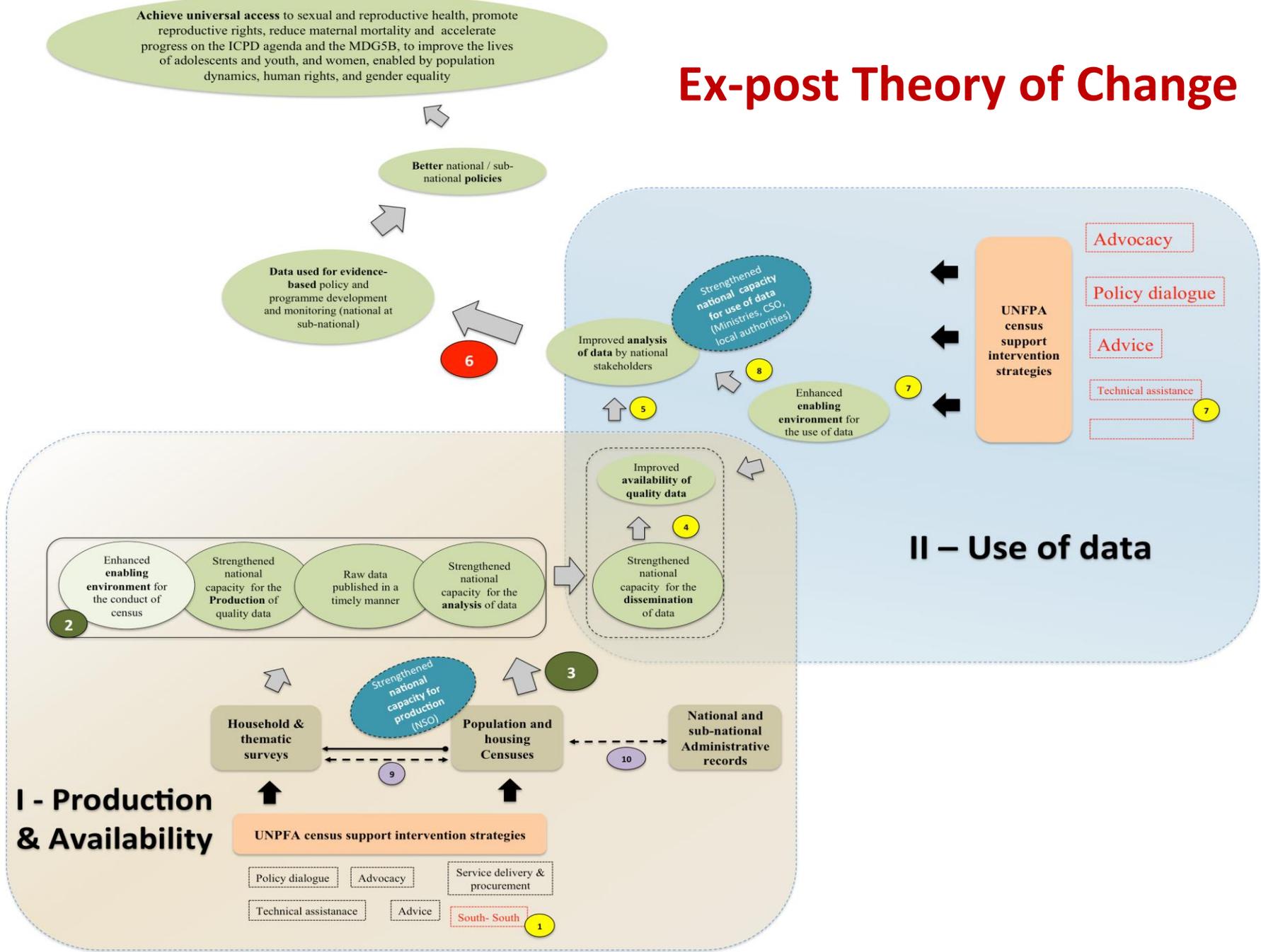
Intended versus actual Theory of Change



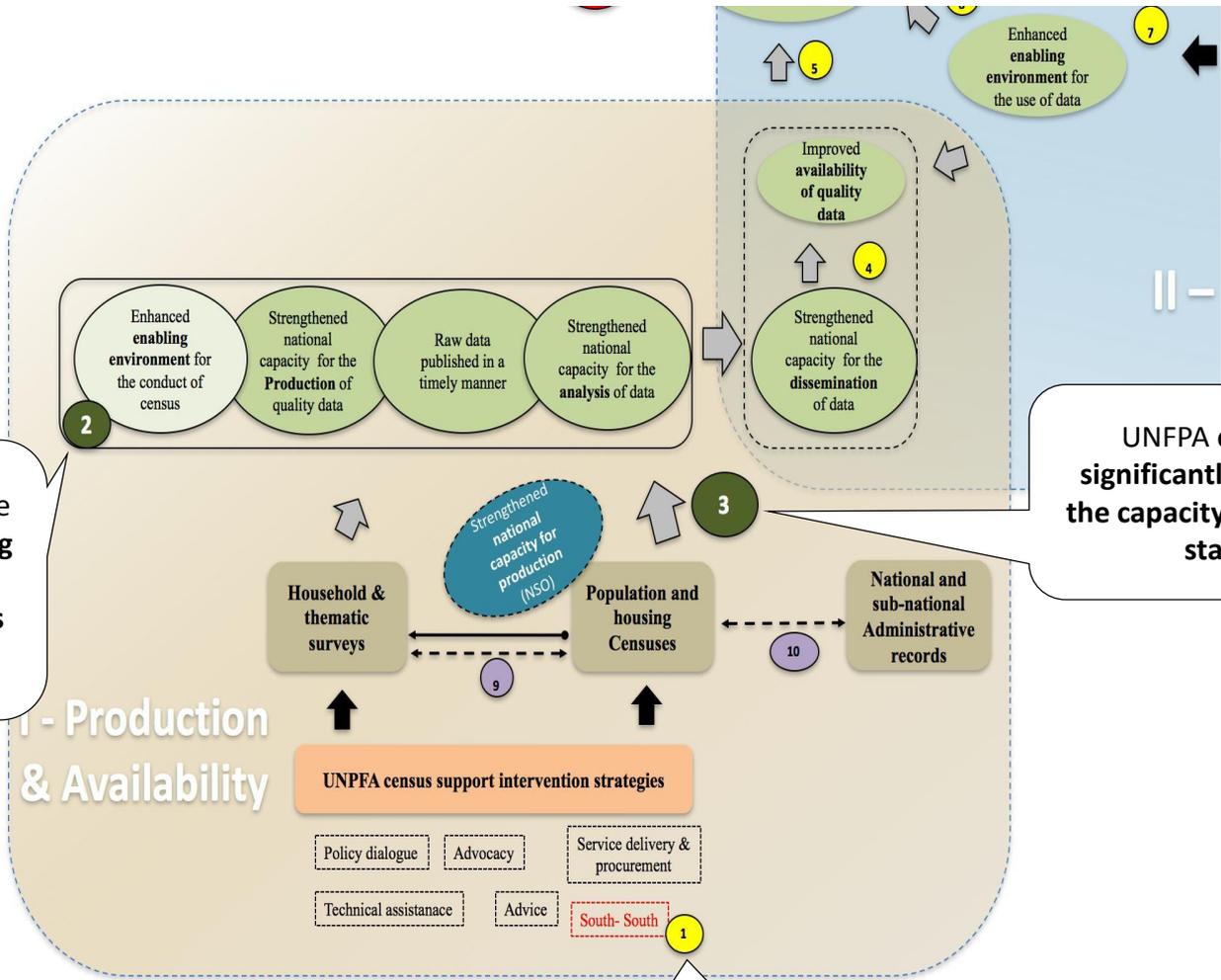
Ex-ante Theory of Change



Ex-post Theory of Change



Key and effective role in creating a enabling environment conducive to census conduct



UNPFA contributed significantly to increasing the capacity of the national statistical

South-south cooperation has not been used to the extent foreseen in the strategic plans.

Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, promote reproductive rights, reduce maternal mortality and accelerate progress on the ICPD agenda and the MDG5B, to improve the lives of adolescents and youth, and women, enabled by population dynamics, human rights, and gender equality

Better national / sub-national policies

Data used for evidence-based policy and programme development and monitoring (national at sub-national)

Census related data was not used for evidence-based policy and programme development. There is a disconnection between data analysis and its use in policies and programmes.

Improved analysis of data by national stakeholders

Strengthened national capacity for use of data (Ministries, CSO, local authorities)

Enhanced enabling environment for the use of data

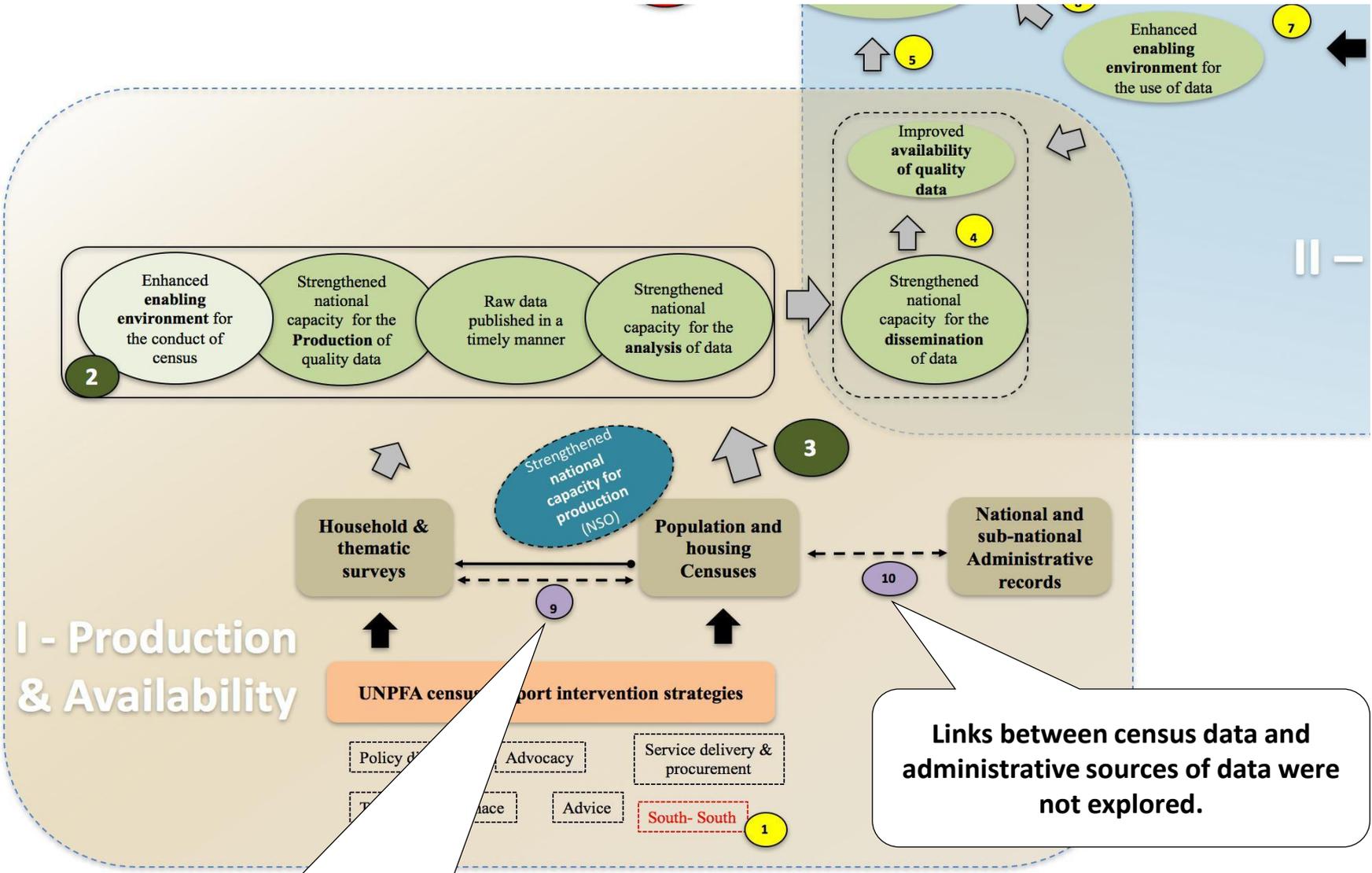
Improved availability of quality data

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Links between census data and administrative sources of data were not explored.

Links between census and national surveys were not explored.

Key recommendations for the 2020 census round



1 - Consolidate the position of UNFPA on population and housing censuses



Rec 1. UNFPA should continue and expand support to population and housing censuses, drawing up on a corporate strategy and guidance for the 2020 round

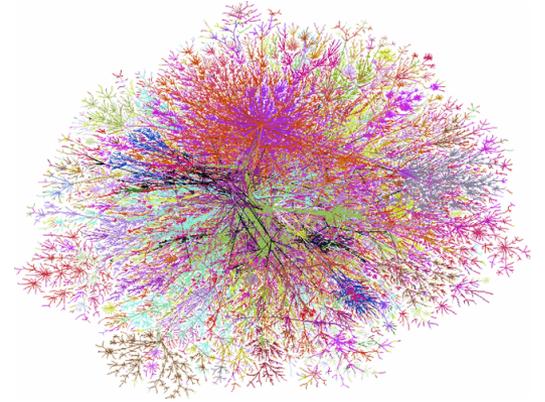
- Develop a **theory of change** for support to census clearly linked to the broader strategy for the implementation of the ICPD agenda and SDGs
- Design a concise **programmatic framework** for support to the 2020 census round envisioning the census as both a 10-year ongoing process and the backbone of national statistical systems
- Develop specific **guidelines and tools** on the design and implementation of the UNFPA support to the 2020 census round

Rec 2. To ensure adequate support to the 2020 census round, UNFPA should address the attrition in census expertise

- Conduct a **mapping exercise of in-house census expertise**, to take stock of all available census and data for development expertise
- Develop corporate guidelines on the **minimum qualifications** needed by its staff to effectively support census, including how to adapt support to each context
- Based on the mapping and the identified minimum qualifications, conduct a **capacity assessment** of in-house census expertise and develop a **capacity development strategy** to address existing gaps.
- **Redesign the population-development-hub** to better tap into the internal pool of census knowledge and external expertise
- Develop a **pool of Chief Technical Advisers** with previous experience supporting census
- Explore the possibility of reconstituting the **Country Technical Teams** at the regional level to support the production, analysis, dissemination, and use of census and census-related data for policy development

Rec 3. UNFPA should activate knowledge management for support to censuses

- Identify **good practices** on census and include them within the corporate database on Knowledge Management, with a view to:
 - Improve effectiveness of support
 - Activate south-south cooperation opportunities
 - Increase regional and international comparability
- **Active dissemination**, by Regional Offices, of guides and manuals including operational training of relevant staff, to ensure full utilisation



*II - Exploit the full
potential of census data*

Rec 4. Incorporate use of data as a focus of UNFPA census support

- Include **support for the effective use** of the results of the census in the definition of a census project
- Develop the **capacity of NSO** to identify potential uses of the data they produce, particularly for ministries and local governments
- Advocate for systematic inclusion of **policy impact assessment** in any draft law
- Expand the **work with civil society organizations and academia** to promote the use of data

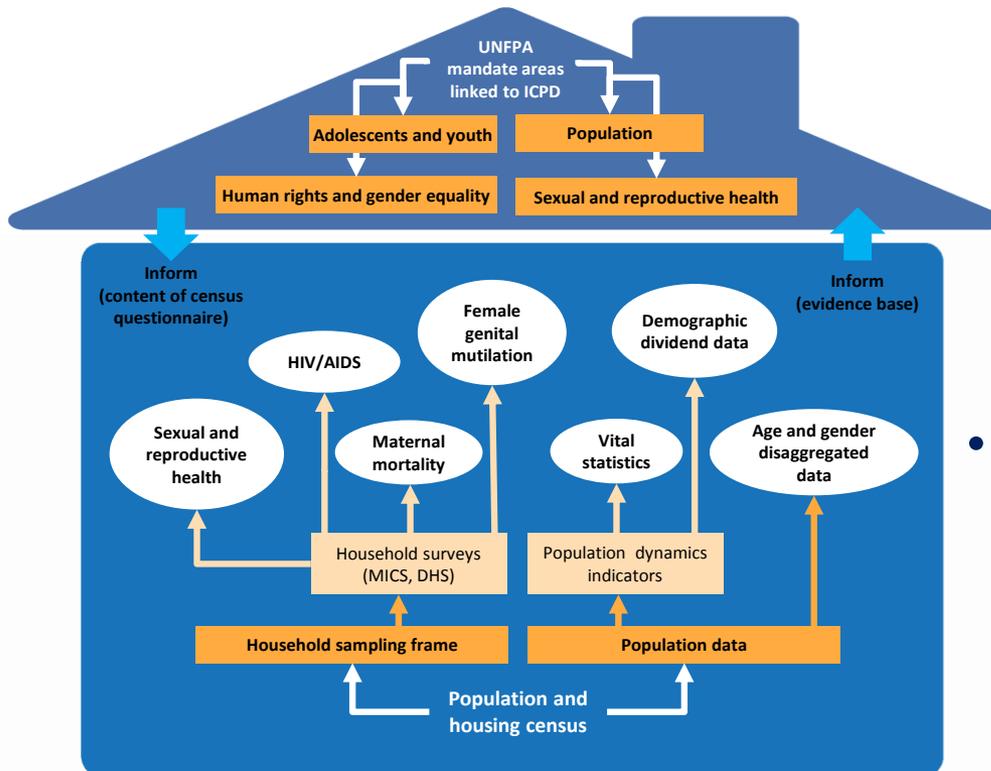
Rec 5. View dissemination as the link between data availability and use for policy-making

UNPFA should work together with NSOs to:

- Support **user-producer workshops/consultations** on census data dissemination
- Promote the availability of **microdata** for researchers
- Develop the use of **technologies** for dissemination
- Support NSOs **developing services** for advanced analysis upon request for users
- Link dissemination of census data with other surveys or sources to support access to information that is **theme-oriented** rather than source-oriented

Use its **convening role** to ensure development partners also work towards the effective use of census data for decision-making and policy formulation

Rec 6. UNFPA should explore the potential uses of combining census data with other sources of data to foster full use of census data in the framework of national statistical systems



- Support Programme Country efforts to develop and disseminate **small area estimation** methodologies to combine census and household surveys data to analyse, for example, gender and SRH at local level
- Collaborate with Programme Countries to explore the **potentialities of administrative sources and big data** in combination with census data to develop analysis on topics related to UNFPA mandate (e.g. social media data for SRH of adolescents)



III – Explore new resource mobilization strategies and tap into the full potential of South-South cooperation



Rec 7. UNFPA should examine new funding mechanisms to support dissemination and use of census-related data

- Explore the feasibility of a **global-level trust fund** dedicated exclusively to supporting the dissemination and use of data, including census-related data
- UNFPA should use **its** recognized **convening role** to lead the process and bring relevant actors into the discussion within the framework of — and the need for data for — the Agenda 2030
- The fund should **focus on dissemination and use of data** by funding activities such as:
 - **Capacity development** for data analysis and use in policymaking
 - Mobilization of international **high-level expertise** for knowledge transfer and exchanges of experiences on dissemination and use
 - **Use of innovative technologies for** dissemination and use
- **Criteria for fund allocation** should include: the establishment of quality assurance mechanisms (incl. governance), national capacity assessments on data dissemination and use and user-producer consultations

Rec 8. UNFPA should prioritize exploiting the possibilities offered by south-south cooperation

South-south cooperation should be a key strategy for the 2020 round:

- systematically **map out countries** that may benefit from south-south cooperation, in partnership with UNSD
- expand south-south cooperation among NSOs for the **dissemination and use** of census data
- explore the use of south-south cooperation to strengthen the capacity to use data **not only among NSOs** but also include line ministries, civil society organisations and academia

Dissemination



Deliverables

Evaluation of UNFPA support to
population and housing census data to
inform decision-making and
policy formulation
2005-2014

EVALUATION REPORT



Volume 1

Evaluation Office, UNFPA

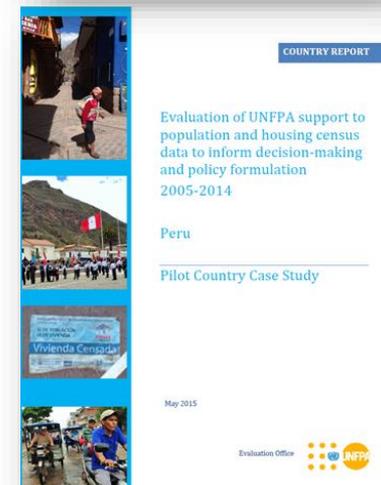
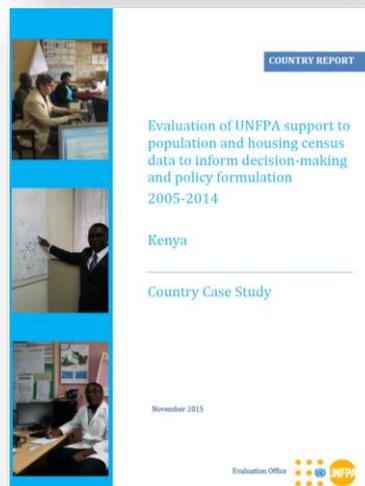
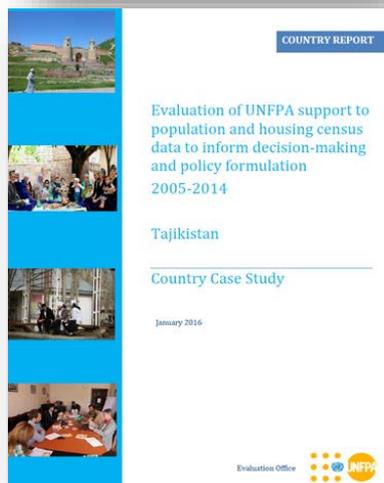
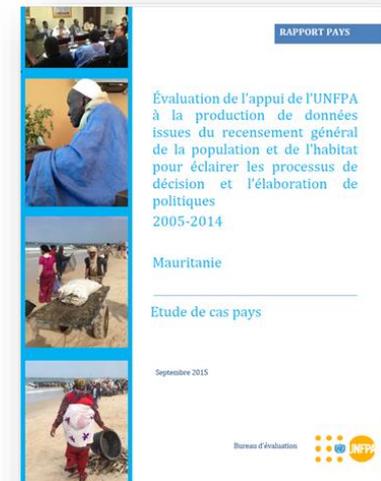
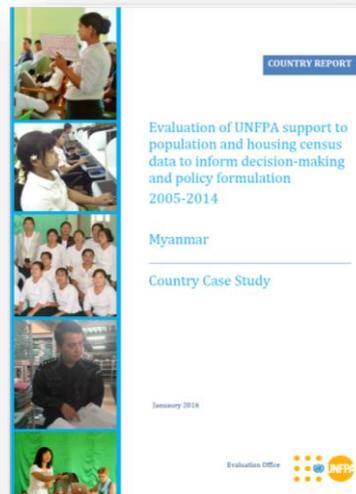
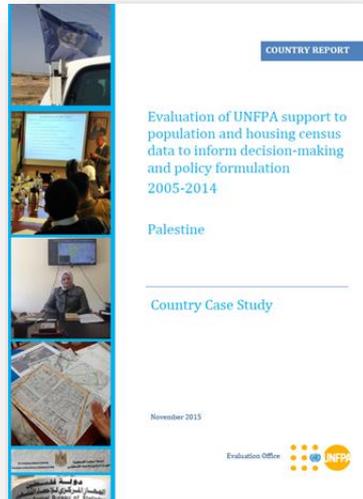
2016



- Thematic Evaluation Report
- Evaluation Brief (EN, FR and SP)

Deliverables (cont.)

- 6 Country Reports



Key dissemination events

Presentations:

- UN Statistical Commission – March 2016
- Executive Committee special meeting – April 2016
- UN Commission for Population and Development - April
- Executive Board informal session – May 2016
- Executive Board formal session – June 2016



QUESTIONS ... ?

Any other questions?

Contact: chambel@unfpa.org

<http://www.unfpa.org/admin-resource/evaluation-unfpa-support-population-and-housing-census-data-inform-decision-making>