

Population data innovations: collection, analysis, and use

Expert Group Consultation 10/21/2025

UNFPA Programme Division



ICPD - PoA - Relevant more than ever!

Valid

Reliable

Timely

Culturally relevant

Internationally comparable

Data form the basis for programme development, implementation, and M&E



Context

- The world faces a polycrisis
- Accurate, timely demographic data with foresight analysis is critical
- Only 70% global population was covered in the 2020 round census
- International funding support for population data collection is evaporating
- Technology and Innovation offer hope





Experience

- Doubling of countries that use register-based/combined census (2010 vs 20)
- Population estimates in hard-to-reach locations now possible
- Greater geographic and temporal granularity, (near-) & real-time availability
- Persistent gaps in the availability, quality, and use of gender data continue to undermine progress
- New challenges have risen (ethics, privacy, data governance & data quality)



Way forward

- Accelerate transition to integrated population data systems
- Develop a rights-based data governance architecture
- Expand financing for data and statistics
- Address inequalities in statistical capacity and data use
- Demonstrate urgency in closing the gender data gaps