

**STRENGTHENING THE DEMOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE BASE  
FOR THE  
POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA:**

**Complementing traditional data sources  
with alternative acquisition, analytic and  
visualization approaches  
to ensure better utilization of data  
for sustainable development**



# **Complementing traditional data sources with alternative acquisition, analytic and visualization approaches to ensure better utilization of data for sustainable development**

*Bruce Campbell (United Nations Population Fund) - Moderator*

*Emmanuel Letouzé (Data-Pop Alliance)*

*Robert Kirkpatrick (United Nations Global Pulse)*

*Manuel Garcia Herranz (United Nations Children Fund)*

*Alejandro M. Blei (New York University)*

Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening the Demographic Evidence Base for the  
Post-2015 Development Agenda

## Complementing traditional data sources

- Moderator: *Bruce Campbell (United Nations Population Fund)*
- *Emmanuel Letouzé (Data-Pop Alliance)* – New data sources for population sciences
- *Robert Kirkpatrick (United Nations Global Pulse)* – UN Global Pulse experience with the use of big data for population-related issues
- *Manuel Garcia Herranz (United Nations Children Fund)* – uReport and mTrac experience
- *Alejandro M. Blei (New York University)* – Monitoring global urban expansion using remote sensing and a network of city-based researchers

## Core questions for each session include:

- What are the experiences and lessons learned from demographic data collection, compilation, analysis, dissemination and utilization within the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Conferences and Summits relevant to population and development?
- What are the key challenges of existing data sources to fulfil the needs of the post-2015 development agenda (including in terms of baseline setting for the targets, frequency, timeliness and disaggregation of data available)?

## Core questions for each session include:

- What are the recommendations on how to strengthen the demographic evidence base and what are the actions required to implement them in the following areas:
  - principles and standards (e.g. quality and integrity, disaggregation, timeliness, transparency and openness, usability, protection and privacy, governance and independence, resources and capacities, and data rights);
  - technology innovation and analysis (e.g. data innovation networks, systems for global data sharing, filling research gaps);
  - capacity and resources (e.g. funding streams, investment needs, private sector participation, capacity development, and global data literacy); and
  - governance and leadership (e.g. global partnerships and forums, coordination, data sharing).

## National statistical systems

National  
Statistical  
Office

Censuses and surveys

Administrative data

New sources  
of data

Line ministries and agencies

Local  
governments

New  
partnerships

## **Keynote Address by Neil Fantom, World Bank “New” data sources from technology**

- Cost: varies (and access not guaranteed)
- Monitoring: good, routine records
- Scope: often limited
- Coverage: limited, biased (“big data, big bias” – Nate Silver)
- Disaggregation: unclear

## Improving data sources

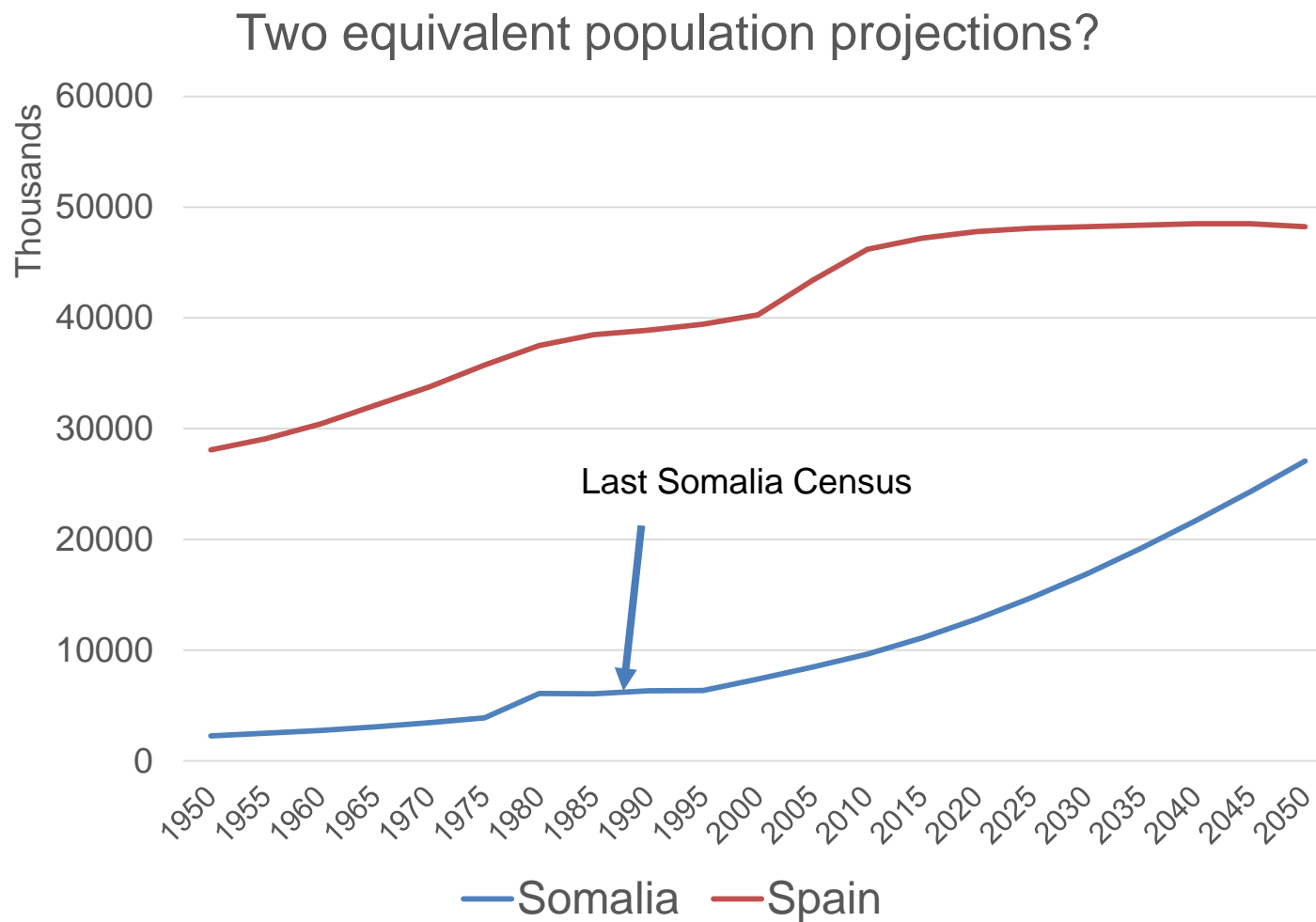
1. Invest in civil and vital registration
2. Leverage technology
3. Archiving, openness, and metadata
4. Combining sources
5. Fix the boundary problem



# Reliance on traditional data

- DHS
  - Once a stop gap measure pending CRVS, now the only game in town in many places
  - 15-49, often married
- Birth registration/CRVS
  - People are denied legal recognition
  - 109/193 member states have complete coverage of births
  - In LDCs, only about a third of births are registered
  - Less than 10% in Ethiopia, Liberia and Somalia
  - Women often can't register births without a male relative
- Census – critical, expensive, rare
  - Systematically undercount marginalized/vulnerable groups
  - Methodology problems have been all too frequent

# A veil of confidence



# Post-2015 monitoring

- Widespread recognition of the need for a data revolution
  - E.g. aggregate gains mask large numbers of people left behind
- A FRANTIC push for the SDG monitoring framework
  - First core set due Friday!!! (MDG MDG MDG...)
- Major hopes pinned to “disaggregation”
  - Target 17.18 “by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”
- What systems for:
  - Subnational/local?
  - Closer to real-time?
  - Reducing our reliance on expensive surveys?
  - Acting absent massive new investments in data infrastructure?



**We need a new way.**

