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**BACKGROUND PAPER:
MOVING DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT ONLINE**

Like other institutions, the United Nations Population Fund is moving traditional printed publications online. At the institutional level, this has various advantages. With decreasing demand for printed publications and compilations, publishing electronically reduces printing costs and saves public funds.

The main advantages are:

1. Appeal to wider audience
2. Cost effective distribution
3. Opportunity for update

POPULATION SITUATION ANALYSIS (PSA)

The Population Situation Analysis (PSA): A Conceptual and Methodological Guide published in 2011 expresses the commitment of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to mainstream population dynamics, reproductive health and gender issues into National Development Strategies, explicitly adopting a human rights, culture and gender perspective. In accordance with the principles agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Millennium Declaration, it responds to the demand by countries that international cooperation should promote national capacity-building and recognize national ownership and leadership as prerequisites for development. There is a need for increased capacity for data generation and analysis, the establishment of data bases, the consolidation of available evidence and the promotion of the use of such evidence.

The need to reflect national realities and priorities and new emerging issues for analysis as well as constant development of new methodologies, tools and data sources, resulted in the need to lose the static character of the published guide. In order to maintain the highest standard of delivery, the adaptation of the guide to an interactive online tool was chosen. A dynamic and flexible format of the PSA provides several options to tailor the guide to national requirements. As a result, every application process and outcome document of the PSA can be country-specific, yet unified by a common methodology and substantive vision.

In 2013, UNFPA's Population and Development Branch launched www.unfpa.org/psa. The manual published in 2011 was used as a content basis for this interactive website. To reach a large audience, the website has been translated into Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Bringing the PSA to the web serves several purposes.

The online portal allows the authors to update the content on a constant basis, reflecting changes and new developments in methodologies, tools and data sources. Through the protected back-end application, the administrators can perform the management of the content and features. In order to facilitate the analysis, all tools as well as primary and secondary data sources are hyperlinked, leading the user directly to the information in question.

Through the online platform the Population Situation Analysis Guide is available to the user in HTML and PDF. The user can navigate easily between the different thematic issues, based on individual interests and needs. Given its flexible thematic framework and its reflection of national realities, the HTML version allows for a customization of the guide by thematic issues. Through the indexed content, the user is enabled to select specific issues in order to create a customized document. Thus the web improves the accessibility to and the application of the guide, making it more user friendly.

Through the interactive forum various stakeholders of the PSA process can be connected and build on previous experience. The archive of formerly developed population situation analyses provides the users with the opportunity to compare their analyses and outputs. An open Question and Answer Forum connects users and allows them to interact independently. Discussions can further be administered by the content managers. Users of the site are invited to share their experience and outcomes, to enrich the existing content of the guide and to provide other applicants and UNFPA with the opportunity to learn from previous endeavours. This connection increases the possibility for sharing knowledge and lessons learnt, and strengthens the capacities of national counterparts.

Building on the need to increase the number of people trained in the guide without having to engage in too many training missions, an E-Learning course on the application of the PSA and its methodologies was developed. This course translated the guide into didactic training material, following the same structure of the guide. In addition, the user will be guided step by step through the thematic issues included in the guide, introduced to analytical examples and challenged through trivia questions after every course module.

However, moving online creates many challenges. The frequency of the updates depends on the content and the audience and needs careful consideration. The advantages and disadvantages of direct or postponed update have to be compared. While an instantaneous update, as soon as new tools or data arrive, ensures the page is current, it might overwhelm the audience using the platform. Updates must be identified appropriately on the platform and the specific content site.

POPCLIMATE

POPClimate is a web platform designed to bring together a global community of data practitioners, climate scientists, policy makers and climate change adaptation practitioners to create a better understanding of climate vulnerability and adaptation built on spatial analysis of census data.

Climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning to date has gone in one of two directions: 1) highly technical assessments and plans based on geographic, ecological and infrastructural vulnerability, often relying on significant resources and technical skills; or 2) community-based adaptation, with a strong participatory component but without an effective foundation in data-driven vulnerability assessment.

UNFPA has put considerable resources into bridging these divides and improving vulnerability assessment by developing methods for the integration of census data using geographic information systems. Census data are the only comprehensive population data that can be analyzed at small area level, meaning that it is very easy to build base census units into the geographies of climate exposure, including flood plains, sea level rise, agricultural impacts, heat island effects and the like. Further, censuses provide a vast array of information critical for adaptation planning, including the spatial distribution of the population, its concentration in certain areas, and a wide range of individual and household level characteristics: education, employment and occupation, age and disability status, housing stock, access to vital services like water and sanitation, energy sources for cooking and heating, and more.

POPClimate is designed to create an innovation center for the integration of census data into climate change adaptation planning. It is built around UNFPA's manual on the use of census data for adaptation, which provides an introductory guide to spatial analysis, data processing and existing resources in this area. Building on this manual, the platform invites users to join the POPClimate community and contribute five key types of inputs:

- Methods for data processing and analysis
- Case studies demonstrating uses of census data for spatial analysis
- Census-based indicators of vulnerability and resilience
- Data sources
- Visualizations of data, particularly maps

POPClimate community members are encouraged to post content in these areas, to comment on existing topics and posts, to ask questions, and to interact with each other. High quality contributions also can be promoted to the manual itself. UNFPA developed POPClimate in partnership with NiJeL, Inc., a state-of-the-art startup focused on improving the use of spatial data and analysis for public purposes. It has been fully developed, and will be launched as a public platform within the next month. http://nijel.org/un_popclimate/

Since, both platforms shall become self-contained modules, integrated into the existing UNFPA website, they adhere to the graphic style and technical requirements of the UNFPA system.