

# Modernizing Population and Housing Statistics through Digital and Interoperable Data Systems

## UNFPA's Support for 2030 Census Round

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15th Session of the OIC-StatCom, 29–30 September 2026, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

# Strategic Context

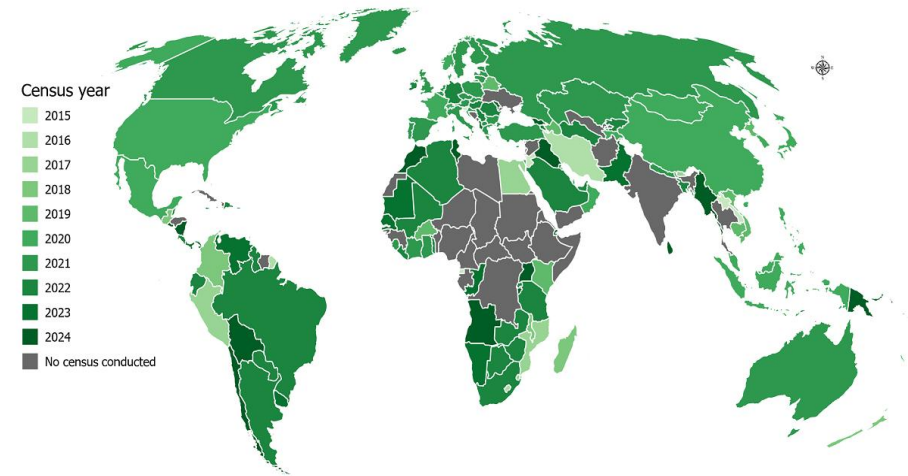
- Lessons from the 2020 Round and recommendations from the evaluation of UNFPA's support to the 2020 Round
- Aligning with the 4th Revision of the UN Principles & Recommendations.



# Lessons from the 2020 round

- 30% of global population not counted
- Rapid digital transformation of census methodologies
- Rising demand for disaggregated, timely and inclusive data
- Financing and statistical capacity gaps
- Increasing conflict, instability and mobility

## The 2020 census round (2015-2024) implementation

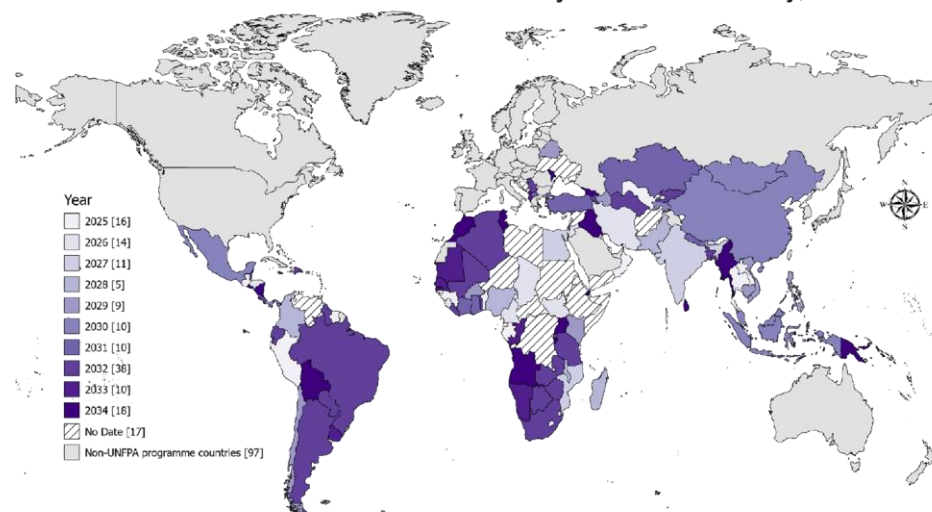


Source: UNFPA Census Tracker, 2025

# Plans for the 2030 Round

- Expected censuses in the 2030 round in UNFPA program countries will peak in 2032.
- Continuation of digital censuses (CAPI) and transition to register-based systems.
- Growth in combined methods and mixed-mode data collection.

2030 Census Round: Planned Censuses by Year and Country, 2025 - 2034



Data Source: UNFPA Census Tracker, consulted on the 28 Nov 2025.  
Author & Date: UNFPA, 28 Nov 2025.

Disclaimer: - The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
- The data focuses only on UNFPA programme countries.

| Year | Expected Number of Censuses (UNFPA Programme Countries) | Year | Expected Number of Censuses (UNFPA Programme Countries) |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025 | 16                                                      | 2030 | 10                                                      |
| 2026 | 13                                                      | 2031 | 11                                                      |
| 2027 | 11                                                      | 2032 | 36                                                      |
| 2028 | 5                                                       | 2033 | 10                                                      |
| 2029 | 9                                                       | 2034 | 18                                                      |

# 4th Revision of UN Principles & Recommendations



- Reinforces **core census principles**: universality, simultaneity, individual enumeration, defined periodicity
- Strong emphasis on **digital transformation**
- **Integration of administrative data** and CRVS
- Expanded guidance on **data protection, confidentiality and governance**
- Greater focus on **inclusiveness and LNOB**
- Enhanced data **dissemination and open data practices**

## Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses

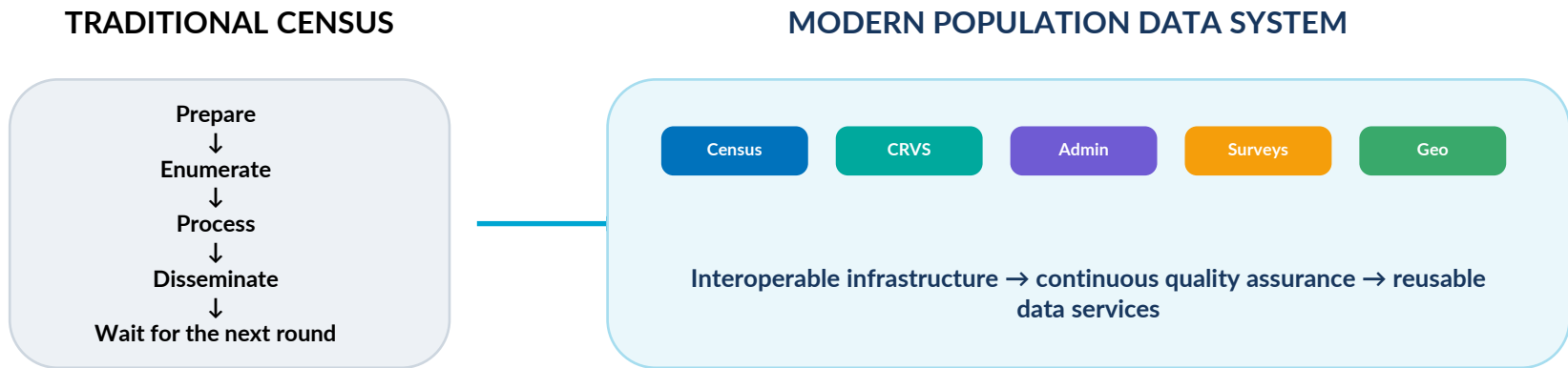
Revision 4



United Nations

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# The strategic shift



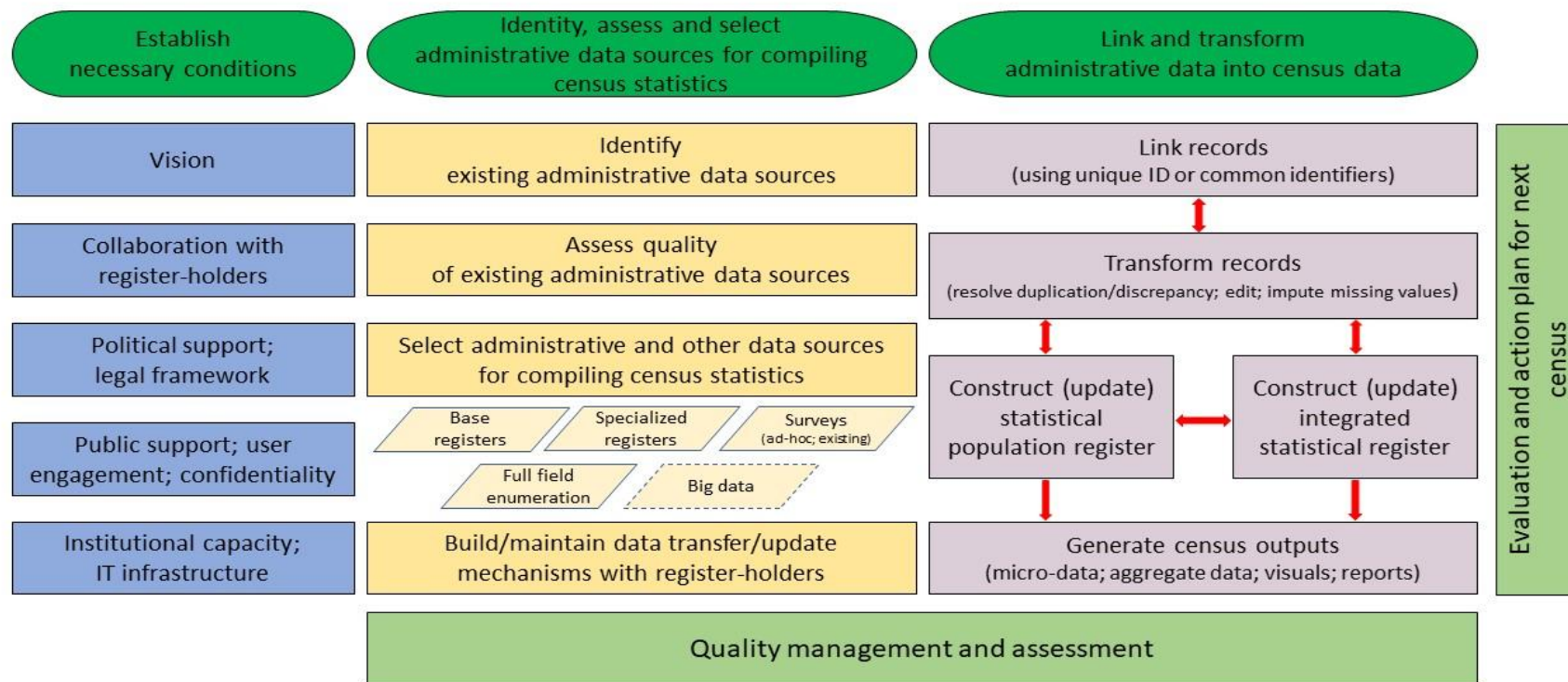
Modernization is a shift from periodic data collection to sustainable population data infrastructure.

# Support Technical Excellence and Innovation

- Twin-Track support
  - Technological innovations (eg AI and machine learning)
  - Transitions to register-based systems
- Improving data access and use



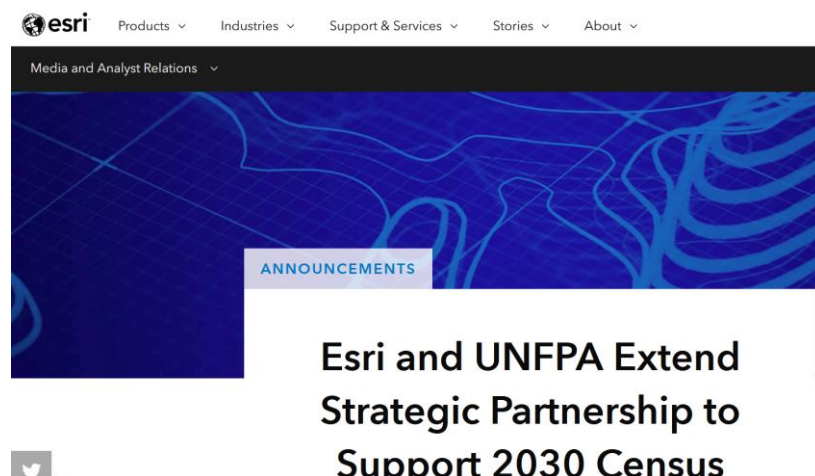
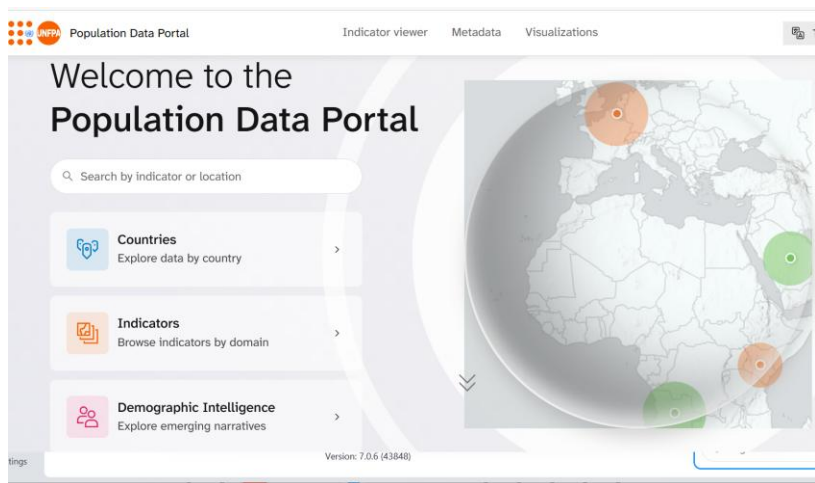
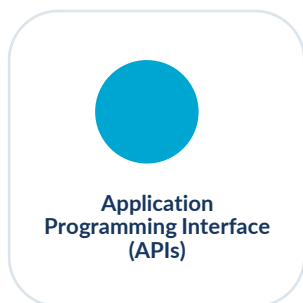
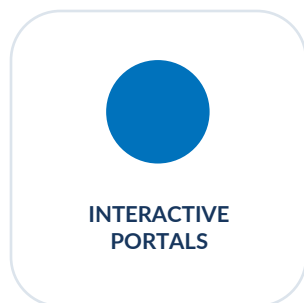
# Support gradual transition from traditional to register-based census approaches



Source: UNSD [Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses](#)

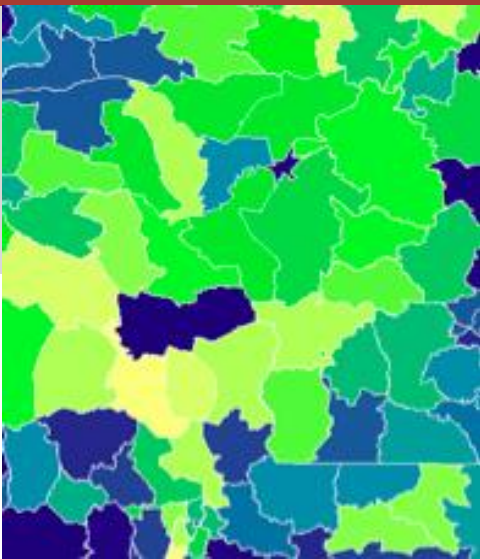
# Support modernization of data access and use

Developing custom datasets, pre-built tables, interactive content and visualizations expanding how users can explore census results.



# Population modeling in complex settings

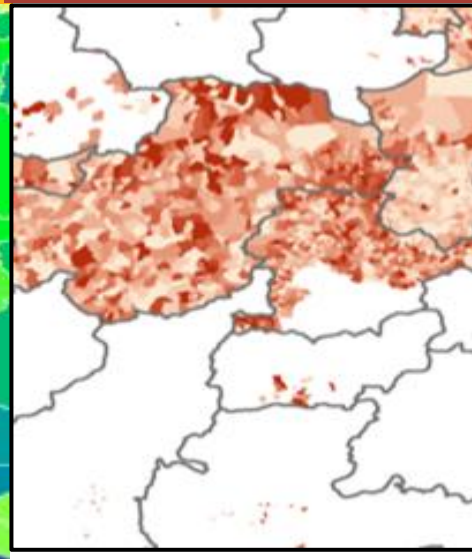
Coarse resolution-  
high level aggregates



Outdated- no recent  
census



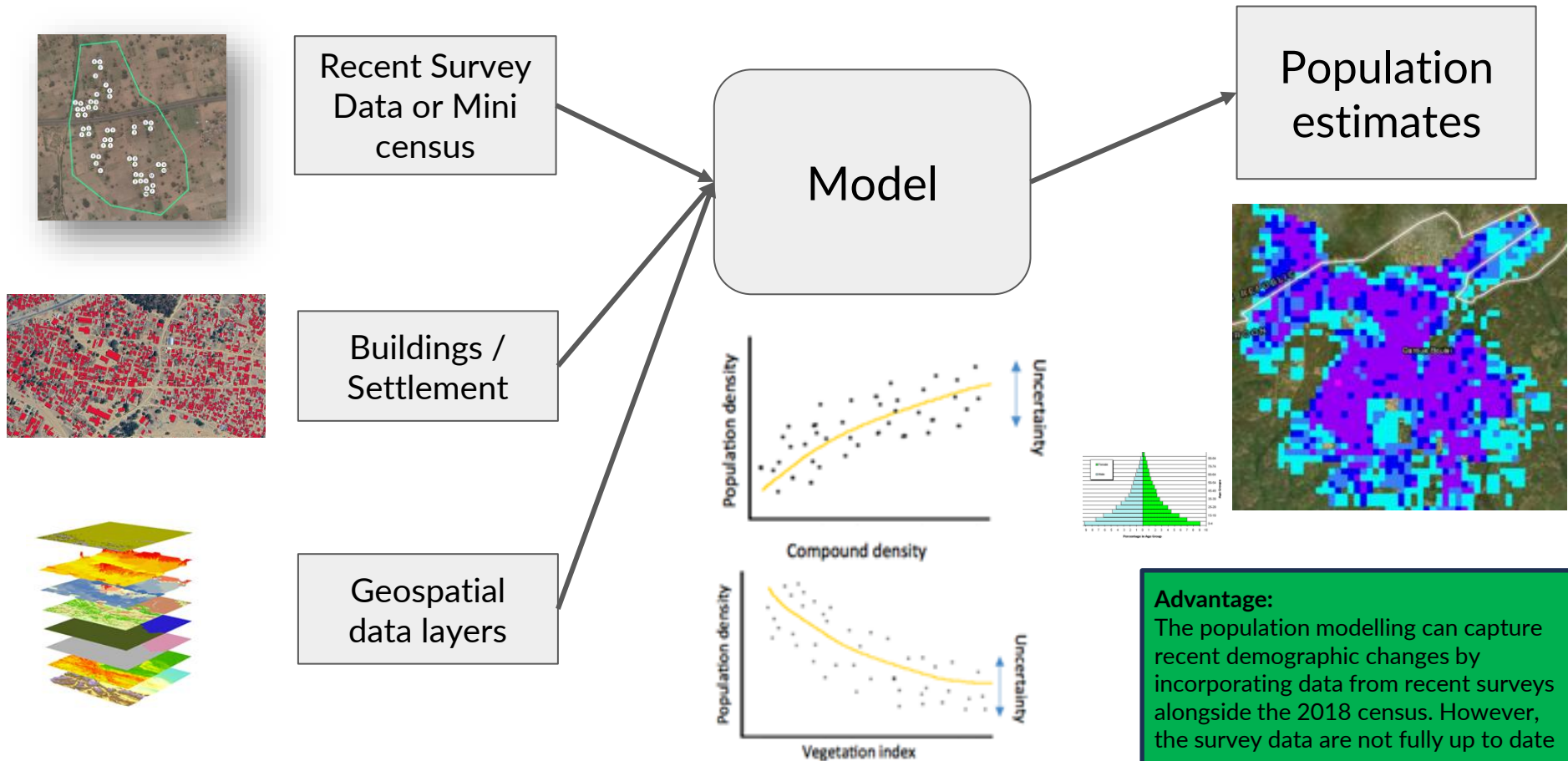
Incomplete census  
coverage



Inaccuracies,  
missing populations

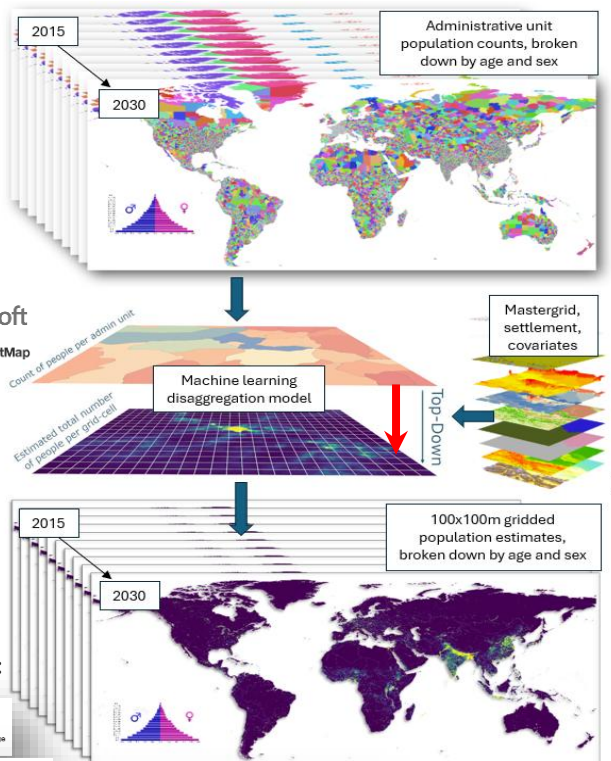


# Population modeling input data



# Geospatial population estimation approaches

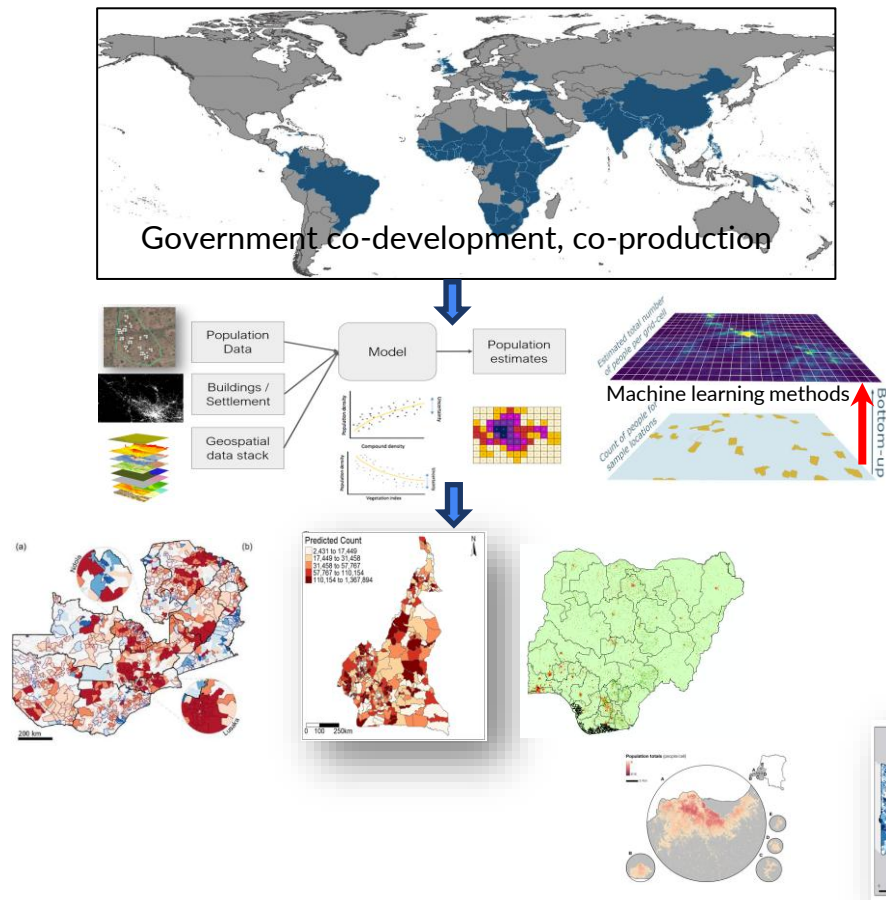
**"Top down"  
modelling approach**



Available:



**"Bottom-up"  
modelling approach**



# Strengthen Institutional Capacity & Sustainability



- Investment in administrative data integration and interoperability
- Training and South-South Cooperation
- Institutionalization of knowledge management and sharing
- Formalized institutional partnerships and expanded digital/tech expert rosters
- Rolling out eLearning modules



Population Data

**UNFPA Transitioning to a Register-Based Census (RBC)**

# Support Contingency Planning and Risk Management



**Cash Shortages**



**Public Health  
Emergencies**



**Misinformation**



**Natural Disasters**



**Conflict & Instability**



**Exclusion & Vulnerability**

# Strengthen Monitoring, Quality Assurance & Learning



- End to end QA
- Independent monitoring & technical reviews
- Post Enumeration Surveys & Demographic Assessments
- Systematic documentation & sharing of lessons learned





**BECAUSE  
EVERYONE  
COUNTS**

