ValDemo:
Enhancing the use of national demographic data

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Background

Population censuses and national surveys are often underexploited, especially in the South, for various reasons:

* **Availability**: some countries have had only a single census for example, but *most have much more data*

* **Accessibility**: sometimes difficult due to work pressure on NSO agents, lack of dissemination policy, political/ethical issues in disseminating data

* **Loss of data** has happened in some places, for specific data collection operations

* **Quality** is often contested, as always when data is not disseminated

* **Comparability** is hampered by lack of harmonisation at a regional scale
CEPED is a University-based Research centre on Population and Development with 2 major specificities:
* Its Documentation Center
* A Research Support Bureau

**Preserving and enhancing the use of Population Censuses** since its creation (1988)

(see GDA publications; Gubry, Lefranc and Vallin, 1996; Gubry and Moriconi-Ebrard, 2007; Gubry and Gendreau, 2009; Golaz, Gubry and Gendreau, 2009)

In 2005, under the methodological activities of CEPED, in tight relationship with our documentation centre, collaboration with IPUMS-International started.

In 2007, the **Quebec City Declaration** underlined the need to support the preservation and dissemination of African census data
The philosophy behind ValDemo

ValDemo promotes access to and use of demographic surveys and population censuses, for local, national and international research projects.

Contributing to cooperation between Stats Offices and Research Centres

In order to help preserve the past monuments and build the future ones…
Activities in ValDemo

* Facilitating relationships between countries using different languages around the issues of preserving, disseminating, or using census and survey data

* Holding and participating in Seminars, Conferences and International workshops on these issues

* Developing training sessions in partnership with Southern Institutions
  - Cartomatics / spatial analysis
  - Multilevel analysis

* Publishing research results based on national demographic data

* Gathering and locating documentation on national demographic data collection operations (the IREDA project)
IREDA

An inventory of population censuses and demographic surveys in Africa – in collaboration between the academic community and statistical agencies

IREDA is a web-site that facilitates access to metadata for all demographic surveys and censuses:

- Through an up-to-date search engine, respecting the ddi norm to provide harmonized information and facilitate exchanges
- Through a web-gate with links pointing at relevant on-line resources

Project leader: F.Gubry, CEPED, and F.Gendreau

In partnership with PARIS21 Secretariat, INSEE, IPUMS-Int., SEDET.

Opening soon with pilot countries
Will provide rich and handy metadata on all demographic operations, to enhance the enlightened use of the available micro-data.

Will point to NSO documents as well as research documents based on original analyses of national demographic data.

Will point to on-line documents, provide numerised documents when agreed upon by producers, or indicate places where the paper documentation is available.

Will point to NSOs, IPUMS-International and other data providers, so that any user can find the ways and places where to access micro-data.
Population censuses

Pyramids of knowledge from individual to country level
IPUMS International offers a fast and secure access to the tops of these pyramids.

Available today on Asia and Africa:

Asia:

- Maghreb-Middle East: 7 samples / 5 countries
- Africa: 12 samples / 6 countries

Representative samples

- Respecting confidentiality issues
- With a great harmonization effort

These are the reasons why CEPED supports IPUMS International and is pleased to provide French-English interpretation in this workshop.
Disseminating data through IPUMS – International does not fulfill the needs of all users.

So

Countries should also develop their own dissemination policies for finer scale census data and survey material…

Thank You!

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