

**Special Report of the World's Women 2005:  
Progress in Statistics\***

**Focusing on sex-disaggregated statistics on population, births and deaths**

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for

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Interactive panel discussion on remaining challenges  
in relation to statistics and indicators

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## Executive summary

The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, requested producers of statistics to *generate and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation*. Since then, the demand for sex-disaggregated data and the integration of a gender perspective in data collection, analysis and presentation has increased tremendously. In addition, the Platform for Action specifically requested the United Nations to prepare a new issue of *The World's Women* at five-year intervals and to disseminate it widely.

In response to these demands, the United Nations Statistics Division is preparing a publication *The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*, to be released in September 2005. The report will analyze the current state and progress over the years of gender statistics at the national level, in particular official statistics relevant to monitoring progress towards achieving gender equality, as embodied in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. The current report, which presents the first results, focuses on sex and age-disaggregated statistics on population, births and deaths.

Overall, there has been very little progress in the official reporting of sex-disaggregated data in the past three decades, for the three topics examined in this report: population, births and deaths. The countries or areas that reported sex-disaggregated statistics on population, births and deaths in the 2000 decade were in the most part already doing so since the 1980 decade, while those that did not report these statistics in the 1980 decade tended to remain non-reporting up to the present.

In the most extreme cases, 14 countries or areas have reported no official data to the United Nations in all of the three topics aforementioned. Of these 14 countries or areas, six conducted a census in the 2000 decade, although the results have yet to be communicated to the United Nations.

There is a slightly brighter picture for census coverage compared to civil registration systems: 85 per cent of the world population is in a country or area that has conducted a census in each of the three decades under review, while only 30 per cent of the world population is in a country that is currently able to report births from a complete or near complete civil registration system.

A population and housing census is a very costly and labour-intensive endeavor. However, because it provides reliable and detailed population data necessary for planning and implementing economic and social programmes, and is a primary source of basic benchmark socio-economic statistics, many countries have expended tremendous efforts and resources to conduct a population census at least once every ten years. Institutional and international support of population and housing censuses has also been a factor in making the conduct of censuses possible in some of the countries in the less developed regions. This is a positive picture for gender specialists, as the census provides a wealth

of statistics on the situations of women and men. In those countries where alternative data sources are rare, the information that is provided by the census is particularly valuable.

The lack of a well-functioning civil registration system hampers a country's ability to produce vital statistics and consequently its ability to monitor demographic changes that can greatly impact the situation of women and men, for example sharp fertility declines or increased mortality in certain population subgroups. The Beijing Platform of Action recognized the importance of vital statistics and called on national statistical services and relevant governmental agencies to strengthen national vital statistics systems. At present, many countries are not yet able to provide timely vital statistics from a civil registration system that is complete or nearly complete. This shortcoming is particularly glaring because it affects most of the more populous countries of the world. An effective civil registration and vital statistics system is very costly and has to be developed very carefully. It requires a strong and sustained commitment by Government, as well as leadership and direction at the highest level.

A finding revealed over and over in this analysis is that sex-disaggregated statistics on even the most basic topics are most lacking in those very countries that need them the most. For example, women remain the vast majority of the poor, in both economic and non-economic terms, in the least developed countries. But in these countries, there is also a lack of reliable information from which to effectively allocate resources, and to plan and implement policies and programmes to improve the situation of women.

Given the findings of this report, and their implications for monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals, countries in the less developed regions, especially the least developed countries, need to ensure that at the minimum, population censuses are conducted every decade and that results are disseminated in a way that accurately reflects the differences between women and men, and between girls and boys. The setting up of a civil registration system, an extremely difficult process for many countries in the less developed regions, can proceed incrementally. Support from the international community would further these efforts.

Users also have a role to play in the improvement of gender statistics. By engaging producers of statistics in dialogue, they can increase the latter's awareness of user needs and influence decisions on statistics that they produce and disseminate. A strong and sustained demand and input from women's groups for the collection and dissemination of relevant statistics, together with a call for improved methods that ensure mainstreaming of gender into countries' data collection processes, is a step in improving gender statistics at the national level.

The overall message is clear: far more needs to be done by both producers and users of gender statistics to ensure the collection and dissemination of data needed for planning and formulating policies aimed at improving women's lives throughout the world.

## 1. Introduction

The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 by representatives from 189 countries of the world, called on producers of statistics to *generate and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation*.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the Platform for Action urged producers of statistics at the national, regional and international levels to:

(a) ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analyzed and presented by sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society;

(b) collect, compile, analyze and present on a regular basis data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic and other relevant variables, for utilization in policy and programme planning and implementation; and

(c) develop and test appropriate indicators and research methodologies to strengthen gender analysis and to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the goals of the Platform for Action.

Since Beijing, the need for sex-disaggregated data and for the integration of a gender perspective in data collection has surfaced over and over; for example, in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, in the road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Declaration, and in the high-level round table “Gaps and challenges in measuring progress in the context of the review and appraisal and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly” held during the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session in 2004 in collaboration with the Statistical Commission.

As part of its response to the above, the United Nations Statistics Division is preparing *The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*. The full report, to be released in September of 2005, will examine countries' progress over three decades (from 1975 to 2004) in their ability to produce and report to the international statistical system sex and age disaggregated statistics that are needed to monitor the implementation of the Beijing Plan for Action and to measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

The present report is prepared especially for the Interactive Panel Discussion “Remaining challenges in relation to statistics and indicators”, held during the forty-ninth session of Commission on the Status of Women. It is an interim report focusing on population, births and deaths, and will form part of the first chapter of the forthcoming publication.

This report consists of four sections: an introduction, a presentation of the current state and progress in statistics on population, births and deaths, the sources of data and a conclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic Objective H.3 of the Platform for Action, in *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), annex II, chapter IV.

## 1.1 Definitions and methods used in this report

### *Period covered*

Considering that national statistical capacity takes a long time to develop, this report analyses progress in statistics over a thirty-year period, from 1975 to 2004. This period is subdivided into three decades as follows:

1980 decade: 1975 – 1984

1990 decade: 1985 – 1994

2000 decade: 1995 – 2004

In this report, information for the 2000 decade covers the years 1995-2003, as the information for 2004 has not yet been collected by the United Nations at the time of preparation of the report. Furthermore, it is possible that some data for the more recent years have not yet been reported by countries to the United Nations due to a time lag in data processing and dissemination. Therefore, in terms of the likelihood of reporting by countries, the most recent period has a slight disadvantage compared to the two earlier decades.

### *Countries or areas included*

The analysis includes all Member States of the United Nations as of 31 December 2004, and other countries or areas with a population of at least 150,000 in the year 2000. Thus a total of 204 countries or areas are analyzed in the report. For convenience, countries or areas were grouped into six continents (Africa, North America, South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania) or into three development groups in the presentation and analysis.

The three development groups used throughout the report are the more developed regions, the less developed regions excluding the least developed countries, and the least developed countries (for the countries or areas included in each group, see annex 4). The least developed countries (abbreviated as LDC or LDCs) number 50 as of December 2004<sup>2</sup>, following the decision by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2003 to add Timor-Leste to the list of LDCs.

The terms “more developed regions” and “less developed regions” are introduced for statistical convenience only and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

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<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrlls/ldc/list.htm>

### ***Statistical capacity and reporting to the United Nations***

This report reviews the levels of reporting, and infers from these the statistical capacity of countries or areas to produce and disseminate sex-disaggregated data. The review is based on data reported by countries or areas to the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system<sup>3</sup>. If a country has a well-developed and established system for collecting sex and age-disaggregated statistics, but did not report them to the United Nations, the review will not consider that country as having data. Thus, the numbers shown in the report represent the numbers of countries or areas that reported official national statistics to the United Nations, rather than the numbers that *have* these statistics. The difference between reporting and availability may be small or large, depending on the type of data collected. For the demographic statistics covered in this special report, this difference is expected to be small.

In examining a country or area's reporting of statistics to the United Nations, a country or area that was part of an entity (country) before that entity dissolved into several countries is counted as having reported its statistics, if the former entity of which it was part reported statistics to the United Nations. This would apply, for example, to the countries or areas that were formerly part of the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia or the former Ethiopia. Thus, since the U.S.S.R. conducted a population and housing census in 1989, countries or areas like Lithuania, Latvia, Kazakhstan and others that were part of the U.S.S.R. are all considered as having conducted a census in 1989.

On the other hand, a country that resulted from the union of two former entities (countries) is considered as having reported its statistics only if *all* of its constituent entities individually reported statistics to the United Nations before unification. This is the case with Yemen and Germany.

### ***Percentage of population covered***

Because of the wide variation in population size among countries, it was decided to present not just the number of countries or areas with a given characteristic, but also the proportion of the world, continental or regional population that these countries or areas represent. The latter gives a better sense of the reach of the characteristic studied, among the world, continental or regional population.

For calculating the percentage of population covered, population estimates<sup>4</sup> prepared by the United Nations Population Division were used.

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<sup>3</sup> The United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system collects, compiles and disseminates official national statistics on a wide range of topics.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *World Population Prospects, the 2002 Revision, Volume I: Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XIII.8).

### *Frequency of reporting*

To analyze the ability of countries or areas to report data regularly to the United Nations, three categories were established: countries or areas that reported for at least five years within a decade (representing regular reporting), those that reported for one to four years, and those that did not report in the decade. These categories are also referred to in the report as “frequent”, “infrequent” and “not reporting”.

## **2. Sex and age-disaggregated demographic statistics: Current state and progress**

### **2.1 On statistics of population**

The size and sex-age composition (numbers of females and males in various age groups) of a population and how they change over time have important implications for the situation of women and men, girls and boys. They determine to a great extent the current needs of the population and needs that are likely to arise in the future.

Information on population by sex and age is essential for another purpose: the calculation of rates, ratios and other indicators, which is done extensively to facilitate comparison across countries or areas or population subgroups within a country.

To understand population dynamics and how they affect the lives of women and men, it is essential that a country ascertains periodically its population size and composition. Population censuses are traditionally conducted for this purpose; however, most countries or areas are only able to conduct a population census every ten years. National statistical offices also prepare estimates of their population (see Box 1. National population estimates), ideally annually and disaggregated by sex and age. Estimates are essential because current data is necessary for use in planning and policy formulation. National population estimates prepared by national statistical authorities are collected and disseminated by the United Nations on an annual basis. The results reported below are based on responses by countries or areas to the United Nations data collection effort.

#### ***What is the current state of reporting of population by sex and age?***

Of the 204 countries or areas of the world included in this analysis, 189 countries or areas reported total population for at least one year during the period 1995-2003 (also referred to in the report as the 2000 decade). As the breakdowns become more detailed, fewer countries or areas are able to provide the information. In the 2000 decade, 189 countries or areas reported total population for at least one year, but only 179 reported population *by sex* for at least one year<sup>5</sup>, and a much fewer 151 reported population *by sex and age* for at least one year.

Table 2.1 shows the breakdown of the 151 countries or areas that reported population by sex and age. It shows the number of countries or areas, as well as the combined population of these countries or areas by development group and continent (as a proportion of the population of the corresponding development group or continent).

It is notable that among continents, Africa and Oceania lag behind the others in terms of the relative number of countries or areas reporting any data. In Africa, only 23 of

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<sup>5</sup> The ten countries that reported total population not disaggregated by sex are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Nauru and Senegal.

### **Box 1. National population estimates**

To produce a population estimate one needs information or benchmark population data for a specified date, for example, data from a census, a population register, compulsory registration or a large-scale national population survey. Additional information is then used to adjust or bring the benchmark population data to a current estimate. Some of the more common adjustment methods that are used by countries are given below. (1) Adjustment by continuous registers is possible in countries that have comprehensive civil or population registration systems. Such systems serve as a basis for producing national population estimates or for evaluating estimates produced on the basis of other methods; (2) Adjustment based on the calculated balance of births, deaths and migration is another method that some countries use to produce estimates. This method involves adding births and immigrants and subtracting deaths and out migrants to the last population count or the latest previous estimate; (3) Adjustment by assumed rate of population increase is a method used by some countries that have no reliable information of population change. In this case, the base population may be from a census, a partial registration system or an estimate from a sample survey. To produce current population estimate, the base population is updated using an assumed rate of population increase.

The following are some types of estimates national statistical offices prepare: the total population of a country or area, or particular groups of the population in the area classified by sex, age, marital status, employment status, educational attainment, ethnicity, etc. Estimates of total population disaggregated by sex and age are the most common estimates of population prepared by countries. Such estimates are usually produced at national level and major administrative subdivisions. An estimate may be evaluated by comparing it with another estimate produced by a different method and, at times, using different information.

55 countries or areas ever reported data on population by sex and age in the 2000 decade. The combined population of the reporting countries or areas comprises merely 59 per cent of the continent's population. In Oceania, 9 out of 17 countries or areas reported the same, the combined population of these 9 countries or areas amounting to 79 per cent of the continent's population. For each of the other continents, the proportion of countries or areas that reported such data at least once in the period was much higher and the combined population of reporting countries or areas exceeded 90 per cent of the respective continent's population.

The disparity in reporting is very stark when one looks at the least developed countries (LDCs) as a group vis-à-vis the other two development groups. Between 1995 and 2003 only 17 out of 50 LDCs (comprising only 38 per cent of the population of LDCs) reported population by sex and age for at least one year. In comparison, 90 out of

107 countries or areas in the rest of the less developed regions, comprising 95 per cent of the regions' population, reported data for at least one year. In the more developed regions, only three countries did not report even once in the period 1995-2003: Albania, Andorra and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Table 2.1.** Total number of countries or areas, and number of countries or areas that reported population by sex and age at least once in the 2000 decade (1995-2003).

	Total		Reported population by sex and age at least once in the 2000 decade	
	Number of countries or areas	Population in 2000 (millions)	Number of countries or areas	Population <sup>1</sup> (per cent)
<b>World</b>	204	6,069	151	90
<b>Development group</b>				
More developed regions	47	1,193	44	99
Less developed regions <sup>2</sup>	107	4,208	90	95
Least developed countries	50	668	17	38
<b>Continent</b>				
Africa	55	796	23	59
North America	27	488	26	100
South America	13	347	11	98
Asia	50	3,679	43	93
Europe	42	728	39	99
Oceania	17	31	9	79

<sup>1</sup>As a percentage of the total population shown. <sup>2</sup>Excluding LDCs.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

To inform policy and planning, population data should be current, and it is best that countries or areas prepare population estimates annually. Only 83 countries or areas, which together comprise 66 per cent of the world population, reported annual population estimates by sex and age to the United Nations frequently, i.e. for at least five of the nine years, in the 2000 decade (Table 2.2).

### ***What changes have occurred in the last three decades?***

As mentioned in the previous section, 83 countries or areas representing 66 per cent of the world population reported population by sex and age frequently (i.e. for at least five of the nine years) in the 2000 decade (Table 2.3). Compared to the 1990 decade, this represents a decline in the number of countries or areas but an increase in the

proportion of the population covered. This is in large part attributable to populous countries, such as China, having improved their reporting to at least five years in the 2000 decade. Overall, between the 1990 and 2000 decades, 19 countries or areas progressed from infrequent to frequent reporting.<sup>6</sup> An additional 3 countries (Cambodia, Grenada and Mongolia) progressed from not reporting in the 1990 decade to reporting frequently in the 2000 decade.

**Table 2.2.** Number of countries or areas that reported population by sex and age at least once, and number that reported at least five years in the 2000 decade.

	Reported population by sex and age at least once in the 2000 decade		Reported population by sex and age at least five years in the 2000 decade	
	Number of countries or areas	Population (per cent)	Number of countries or areas	Population (per cent)
<b>World</b>	151	90	83	66
<b>Development group</b>				
More developed regions	44	99	37	85
Less developed regions <sup>1</sup>	90	95	41	69
Least developed countries	17	38	5	16

<sup>1</sup> Excluding LDCs.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

**Table 2.3:** Distribution of countries or areas by frequency of reporting population by sex and age, for three decades.

	1980		1990		2000	
	Number of countries or areas	Population (per cent)	Number of countries or areas	Population (per cent)	Number of countries or areas	Population (per cent)
<b>Frequency of Reporting</b>						
At least 5 years	76	48	87	51	83	66
1-4 years	99	48	89	45	68	24
Not reported	29	4	28	4	53	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

<sup>6</sup> The 22 countries or areas that progressed are: Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Estonia, Grenada, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Lithuania, Macao Special Administrative Region of China, Malawi, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Slovakia, Tonga, Turkey and Uruguay.

On the other hand, 21 countries or areas went from reporting frequently in the 1990 census round to reporting infrequently in the 2000 census round. Another five regressed from frequent reporting to not reporting at all.

A large number of countries or areas—53—have not reported population by sex and age to the United Nations even once since 1995. This number is considerable compared to the 1980 and 1990 decades (29 and 28 countries or areas, respectively). In terms of population, this also represents a sharp increase, from 4 per cent in the 1980 and 1990 decades to 10 per cent in the 2000 decade. Thirty-eight out of the 196 countries or areas that reported at least once in the 1990 decade have not yet reported any data for the 2000 decade.<sup>7</sup> Of this number, five were frequent reporters in the 1990 decade (Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad and Eritrea).

### ***What are the challenges ahead?***

In the period 1995-2003, a total of 53 countries or areas did not report even once the most basic of demographic statistics, population by sex and age, to the United Nations. The breakdown of these 53 countries or areas is as follows: 15 did not report even the total population data, 10 reported population by sex but not by age, and 28 provided population by age but did not disaggregate by sex. Clearly, efforts are needed to improve the situation and stress to the countries or areas the importance of disaggregation by sex and age of this most basic of statistics.

Another challenge is to have all countries or areas prepare—and report—estimates of population by sex and age more regularly, if possible annually, to the United Nations. In the period 1995-2003, merely 83 countries or areas reported at least five years. In other words, 121 countries or areas have yet to report at all or report more regularly their population estimates by sex and age.

Given the importance of information on population composition for effective policy planning, and the role of population by sex and age as a denominator in the calculation of a wide range of rates and indicators, efforts should be made to assist countries or areas to develop the capacity to produce and report this information on a regular basis. It is in the least developed countries that data are most lacking. Efforts to increase statistical capacities should be stepped up in these countries, making sure that the importance of producing these data disaggregated by sex is appreciated.

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<sup>7</sup> The 38 countries that reported at least once in the 1990 decade but have not yet reported in the 2000 decade are: Afghanistan, Andorra, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, D. R. of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Nauru, Niger, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

## 2.2 On statistics of births

Because fertility is one of the key determinants of population change, policy makers have a strong interest in knowing the number of births within their territory. Both high and low fertility countries or areas monitor births for informed policy planning. Apart from the total number of births, there is also strong interest in the characteristics of the persons involved in each birth, such as the age, marital status and occupation of the mother (and father), and the sex, birth weight and place of birth of the child (see also Box 3, Civil registration and vital statistics, section 3).

Accurate knowledge of fertility rates and age of childbearing is essential for projecting future population growth, and contributes to a better understanding the status of women relative to men. Early childbirth among young girls is often associated with further limited opportunities for schooling and employment for the young mother and for her infant. Lower rates of fertility and later ages of childbearing are often associated with increased status of women and also with population decline. Poor or inadequate statistics of fertility and age at childbirth may result in flawed information for use in policy formulation, planning, and monitoring and evaluation of programmes necessary to improve the well-being and status of women.

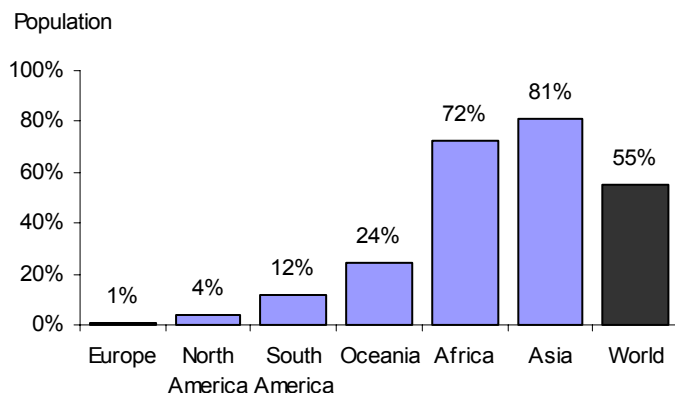
An area of concern in some countries or areas is the practice of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide, owing to a strong preference for sons. Prenatal selection may lead to many more boys than girls born. In addition, the practice of female infanticide and discriminatory practices that result in more infant girls than infant boys dying, despite the biological advantage of infant girls, may contribute to an abnormally higher number of boys born relative to girls, in so far as these births subjected to early death are not officially registered. Evidence of the above practices may be provided by the number of registered births by sex. The relative number of male and female babies being born (sex ratio at birth) provides information about the potential existence of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide.

In general, information about births comes from the civil registration system of a country; however, if the civil registration system is poor, as is the case in many countries and areas in less developed regions, fertility or demographic surveys may also be used to help ascertain the information. The analysis that follows relates to statistics on births reported by countries or areas to the United Nations from different sources including civil registration (regardless of coverage) and estimates based on information from censuses and surveys. Typically, countries or areas that have an established civil registration system derive number of births from vital statistics based on the registration system, even if the civil registration system is known to be deficient. Other countries or areas in the less developed regions, may estimate total number of births from surveys or other alternative sources. In this analysis, as long as a country reports, they are counted as having data regardless of the completeness of birth registration or the quality of the alternative source used.

### ***What is the current state of reporting of births by sex?***

In the 2000 decade, only 153 out of 204 countries or areas in the world reported information for at least one year on the total number of births, and only 120 countries or areas were able to report births by sex of child for at least one year. In other words, a total of 51 countries or areas did not report total number births even once in the nine-year period, and 84 countries or areas did not report births by sex of child.

**Figure 2.1.** Percentage of the population in countries or areas that have *not* reported births by sex of child in the 2000 decade, by continent.



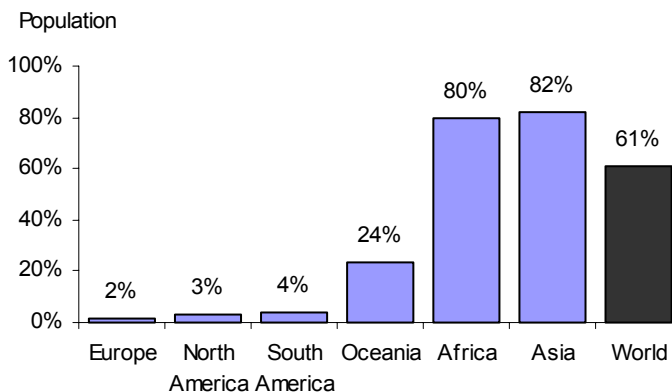
**Source:** United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004..

In Asia, 20 of the 49 countries or areas, including the three most populous countries or areas in the continent (China, India and Indonesia), did not report births by sex of child, comprising 81 per cent of the population of the continent (Figure 2.1). In Africa, the picture is similarly bleak. Forty-one out of 55 countries or areas representing 72 per cent of the region's population did not report births by sex of child during this period.

### ***What is the current state of reporting of births by age of mother?***

Between 1995 and 2003, 91 countries or areas representing 61 per cent of the world population did not report births by age of mother to the United Nations. By continent, Africa and Asia stand out each with over 80 per cent of their populations in countries or areas not having reported such data (Figure 2.2). In Asia, 22 of the 49 countries or areas representing 82 per cent of the continent's

**Figure 2.2.** Percentage of the population in countries or areas that have *not* reported births by age of mother in the 2000 decade, by continent.



**Source:** United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

population have not reported births by age of mother. In Africa, 47 of the 55 countries or areas representing 80 per cent of the continent's population have not reported. These are in stark contrast to two per cent in Europe, three per cent in North America and four per cent in South America.

The proportion of population covered by reporting at least five years differed widely across development groups. In the 2000 decade, thirty-eight of the 47 countries or areas in the more developed regions, comprising 86 per cent of the population in those regions, reported births by age of mother frequently. The proportion is much lower in less developed regions excluding LDCs (48 countries or areas comprising 15 per cent of the population in those regions) and nil in the LDCs. It is notable that the countries or areas where women's status is often reported to be lower and further exacerbated by poverty are the ones where data are scarcest.

### ***What changes have occurred in the last three decades?***

The predominate trend over the three decades in reporting births is consistency. Most countries or areas (111) reported births for at least five years in each of the three decades. Twenty-nine countries or areas did not report once throughout the three decades.

As far as births by sex of child, 70 countries or areas reported this information for at least five years in each of the three decades. An additional thirteen reported frequently in the 1980 and 1990 decades, and have reported at least once in the 2000 decade. Fifty-three countries or areas have not reported births by sex of child throughout the three decades.

Reporting of births by age of mother follows a similar pattern: 61 countries or areas reported frequently in all three decades, while 60 have not reported births by age of mother once in the three decades.

### ***What are the challenges ahead?***

At present, the picture of global reporting of births is quite bleak. As late as the current period (1995-2003), only 124 countries or areas regularly reported total number of births to the United Nations. Fewer countries or areas were able to regularly report data disaggregated by sex of child and age of mother: only 95 for births by sex of child and 86 for births by age of mother.

Clearly, much needs to be done, if accurate and current information is to be obtained. The need is especially urgent in the LDCs, where data on births is acutely lacking and appears to have deteriorated with time.

### 2.3. On statistics of deaths

The health status of a population is, ironically, often reflected and measured by its death rates. Differential death rates by sex and age reflect, among other things, the effects of differences in living conditions and the possible effects of gender inequality in terms of access to food, health care and other sources of well-being.

Data on deaths by sex and age are used to calculate *age and sex specific death rates* and *life expectancies*. Age and sex specific death rates are the annual number of deaths in each age-sex group per 1000 population in the same age-sex group. The age and sex specific death rates are used in calculating life expectancy at birth, defined as the average number of years of life a newborn person/ female/ male is expected to live.

Death events are usually recorded in national civil registers. Not all are, however, of the same quality in all countries or areas. When data from civil registers is poor or unavailable, estimates can be made from population censuses and sample surveys<sup>8</sup>. The total number of deaths is typically reported annually to relevant international institutions. Countries or areas are encouraged to report all data disaggregated by sex and age.

However, at the international level, the total number of deaths by sex and age still remains unreported for a considerable number of countries and areas worldwide. The next sections present an analysis of the current status of the reporting of deaths by sex and age and the trends observed in three decades: 1980, 1990 and 2000.

#### ***What is the current state of reporting of deaths by sex and age?***

In the 2000 decade, 154 countries or areas, representing 69 per cent of the world population, reported its total number of deaths at least once. Among these, 24 countries or areas, representing about seven per cent of the world population, did not report the data disaggregated by sex; and another 11 countries or areas, representing less than one per cent of the world population, did not report the data disaggregated by sex and age. This leaves 119 countries or areas that reported deaths disaggregated by sex and age at least once in the nine-year period. Together the 119 countries or areas constituted 61 per cent of the world population.

There are major differences in the reporting of deaths by sex and age across development groups and continents (Table 2.4). Almost all countries or areas in developed regions reported data on deaths by sex and age at least once in the 2000 decade. In less developed regions excluding the LDCs, only 70 countries or areas, representing 58 per cent of the population in this development group, reported data on deaths by sex and age. The lowest reporting is among the LDCs: only 5 countries representing 13 per cent of the population of all LDCs.

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<sup>8</sup> *Handbook on the Collection of Fertility and Mortality Data* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XVII.11), p. 2, para. 9.

**Table 2.4.** Total number of countries or areas, and number of countries or areas that reported deaths by sex and age at least once in the 2000 decade.

	Total		Reported data on deaths by sex and age <i>at least once</i> in the 2000 decade	
	Number of countries or areas	Population in 2000 (millions)	Number of countries or areas	Population <sup>1</sup> (per cent)
<b><u>World</u></b>	204	6,069	119	61
<b><u>Development group</u></b>				
More developed regions	47	1,193	44	100
Less developed regions <sup>2</sup>	107	4,208	70	58
Least developed countries	50	668	5	13
<b><u>Continent</u></b>				
Africa	55	796	15	33
North America	27	488	21	96
South America	13	347	10	96
Asia	50	3,679	28	52
Europe	42	728	39	100
Oceania	17	31	6	76

<sup>1</sup> As a percentage of the total population shown. <sup>2</sup> Excluding least developed countries.

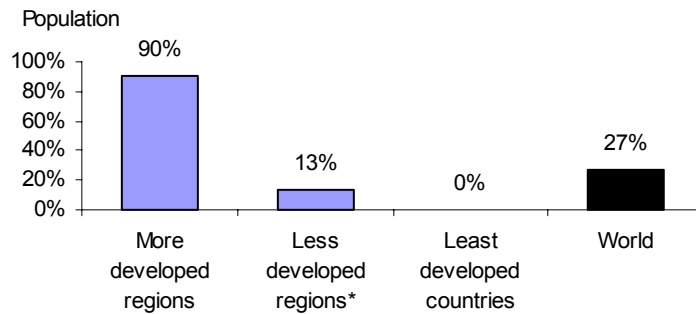
Source: United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

The continent with the lowest proportion of countries or areas reporting deaths by sex and age is Africa. Only 15 countries or areas, comprising 33 per cent of the continent's population, has reported data on deaths by sex and age at least once in the 2000 decade. In Asia, the corresponding figure is only 28 countries or areas, representing 52 per cent of the continent's population. In Oceania, only six countries or areas reported data on deaths by sex and age at least once in the 2000 decade, but they represent 76 per cent of the population in this continent. This latter value reflects mainly the reporting from Australia and New Zealand, two countries which account for about three quarters of the population of Oceania. In the other continents, the number of countries or areas that reported data on deaths by sex and age at least once in the 2000 decade accounts for above 95 per cent of the population.

Ideally, data on deaths by sex and age should be current and periodically reported to be of use to policy makers and planners. However, a considerable number of countries or areas do not do so. Of the 119 countries or areas aforementioned (as having reported at least once during the decade), only 82 reported data for at least five years in the period.

Important differences exist between development groups. Most countries or areas in more developed regions reported for at least five years: 39 countries or areas representing 90 per cent of the population in more developed regions (Figure 2.3). This is not the case in less developed regions excluding least developed countries, in which only 42 countries or areas representing about 13 per cent of the population in this group reported frequently.

**Figure 2.3.** Percentage of the population in countries or areas that reported deaths by sex and age for at least five years in the 2000 decade.



\* Excluding least developed countries.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

Only one LDC reported for at least five years. This association between reporting and level of development may, at least partially, be a consequence of the lack of well-functioning civil registration systems in less developed regions.<sup>9</sup>

### ***What changes have occurred in the last three decades?***

About half the countries or areas reported deaths by sex and age either frequently in all three decades or not at all in any decade: 60 countries or areas representing 22 per cent of the world population reported for at least five years in each three decades; 56 countries or areas representing 33 per cent of the world population have not reported any data in any of the three decades. Few countries or areas have regressed or improved their reporting of deaths by sex and age in the last decades.

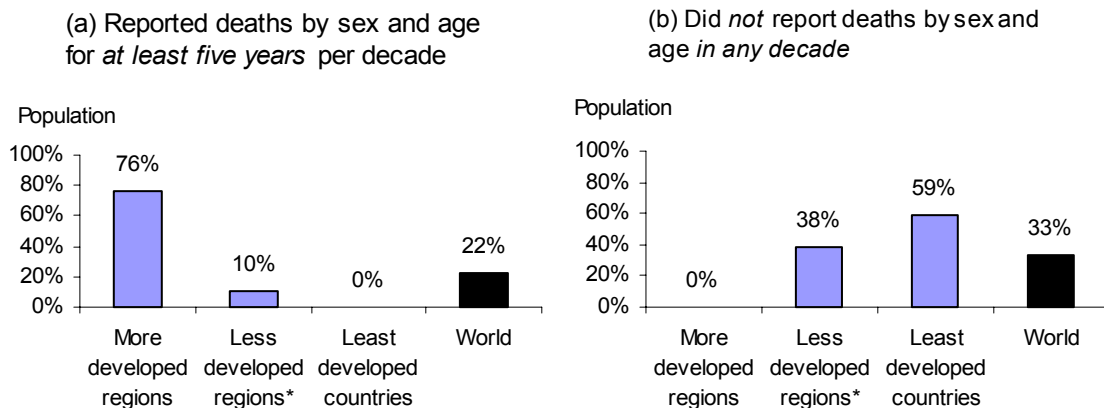
Countries or areas in most developed regions tend to report deaths by sex and age more often than countries or areas in less developed regions excluding LDCs. The majority of countries or areas in more developed regions reported deaths by sex and age for at least five years in all three decades (33 countries or areas representing 76 per cent of the population of more developed regions, see Figure 2.4). Apart from a few exceptions, declines or improvements are not observed in this group.

In less developed regions excluding the LDCs, some countries or areas consistently reported at least five years per decade in the last three decades (26 countries or areas representing 10 per cent of the combined population of this group). Others in the same development group have not reported data on deaths by sex and age in any of the three decades (19 countries or areas representing 38 per cent of the population in all less developed regions excluding the LDCs). It is worth noting that three countries in this group, China, South Africa and Zimbabwe, did not report any data on deaths by sex and

<sup>9</sup> Cf. Section 3 in this report.

age in the 1980 decade, but reported up to four years per decade, in the 1990 and the 2000 decades. These three countries together account for 22 per cent of the world population.

**Figure 2.4.** Percentage of the population in countries or areas that (a) reported deaths by sex and age for at least five years in all three decades and (b) did *not* report deaths by sex and age in any of the three decades.



\* Excluding least developed countries.

**Source:** United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

The majority of the current LDCs did not report deaths by sex and age in any decade (37 countries or areas representing 59 per cent of the combined population of all LDCs). In this group, very few countries or areas improved or regressed in their reporting of deaths by sex and age in the period 1975-2003. They are mentioned below.

Improvements were achieved in Mozambique, Nepal and the Sudan, which did not report data on deaths by sex and age in the 1980 nor the 1990 decade but reported data for a few years in the 2000 decade. These three countries account for 2 per cent of the world population and 11 per cent of the population of LDCs.

On the other hand, three other countries among the LDCs reported some data in the 1980 and 1990 decades, but have not so far reported data in the 2000 census round: Bangladesh, Cape Verde and Mali.

### ***What are the challenges ahead?***

The lack of reporting of deaths by sex and age means that there is unlikely to be relevant timely data available in many parts of the world to effectively make evidence based policy decisions. Efforts must be made to improve the availability of such data, as well as to ensure this information is being collected through civil registration systems with universal coverage and disseminated to the relevant authorities.

### 3. Sources of statistics relevant for monitoring gender issues

#### 3.1 Overview of sources of data

Different sources of information can be used for gender statistics, but they generally fall into one of the following three broad classes of sources: population and housing censuses; administrative record systems; and sample surveys. These sources of information should be used complementarily to fully exploit their benefits. Used in concert, these sources of information provide considerable amount of data for planning, administration and research on issues relevant to the situation of women and men. It should be noted that basic sources differ markedly between less developed and more developed regions with the latter having more established options than the former.

#### *Population and housing censuses*

A population and housing census is probably the most comprehensive source of social data in most countries (see Box 2. Definition of population census). It is a rich source of data for examining differences between women and men, girls and boys, and for studying specific population subgroups such as elderly women and men, the foreign-born population and disabled women and girls, among others.

A census presents a snap shot of the whole country by providing, at a particular point in time, comprehensive information on size, composition, geographic distribution as well as socio-economic characteristics of the population. Because of its universal coverage (a census aims at enumerating all members of the population), a census can provide statistics on the smallest geographical subdivision, therefore allowing gender analysis at local levels.

A population census collects data on demographic and social characteristics of members of the population, such as age, sex, marital status, place of birth, place of usual residence, literacy, school attendance, educational attainment, activity status, occupation, place of work, commuting time, number of children ever born, among others. Potential uses of the data are immense, with countless possibilities for the cross-classification of available population characteristics.

**Box 2.**  
**Definition of population census**

A population census is defined as the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specific time, to all persons in a country or in a well delimited part of a country.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.8), para. 1.1.

However, censuses are carried out at long intervals, usually 10 years, because of the scale of operations and costs involved. For continuous data, one has to look to other sources, such as administrative records

### ***Administrative record systems***

Administrative records are a rich source of information for studying issues and questions related to women and men. If a system operates throughout the country, it can provide data both at national and sub-national levels. Employment and unemployment statistics, education statistics, health statistics, criminal justice statistics, vital statistics, and a myriad other statistics are periodically produced from administrative records.

One of the most widely used administrative record systems, and the source of most of the statistics analysed in this report, is the civil registration system. Although the primary purpose of civil registration is to meet legal and civil requirements, it is a source of information on births, deaths and marriages (see Box 3, Civil registration and vital statistics).

Complete civil registration systems allow countries to produce periodic reports on vital statistics, such as number of live births by sex; number of deaths by sex and age; number of deaths by cause; marriages by characteristics of bride and groom; and many more.

In many countries in the less developed regions, civil registration systems face serious under-coverage owing mainly to cost constraints associated with the establishment of comprehensive registration systems. Notwithstanding the above, even in cases where registration of vital events is not complete, indirect estimation procedures have been developed that can enable gender analysts to adjust some sets of incomplete registration information and make reasonably good estimates.

### ***Sample surveys***

In sample surveys, part of the population of interest (the target population) is selected, or sampled. From the sample, information is collected and the results of the survey generalised to the target population.

Population sample surveys are useful sources of socio-economic information. The sample survey generally allows more time for each interview than is possible in a census such that any single topic can be explored in greater depth. Thus they are often used to obtain comprehensive information on a topic of interest or a level of detail not practicable for collection from censuses or administrative records.

It should, however, be pointed out that surveys may not be able to provide results for small local administrative units in the way that censuses and administrative records can. There are many types of sample surveys including those conducted on an occasional

basis and those conducted as part of a regular survey programme. In some cases surveys are conducted as part of a census.

### **Box 3. Civil registration and vital statistics**

Statistics on births, deaths and marriages are collectively referred to as *vital statistics*. In most countries, they are compiled from birth certificates, death certificates or marriage certificates that are issued by civil authorities when individuals report births and deaths or apply for a marriage license. The recording of these events is called *civil registration*. Civil registration is defined as the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of occurrence and characteristics of vital events, most notably, births, deaths and marriages.<sup>11</sup>

Governments have a vested interest in the proper functioning of the civil registration system: documents issued by civil registrars are legal tenders that entitle the bearer to a number of services such as school enrolment, medical care, family-benefit programmes, social protection, pension and inheritance, among others.

An effective civil registration system provides a continuous and important source of information on fertility, mortality and marriage. For example, the civil registration system, in issuing a birth certificate, may require information on the characteristics of (a) the mother: age, marital status, nationality, place of birth, place of usual residence, number of previous births, date of last birth, date of marriage, occupation; (b) the father: age, marital status, nationality, place of birth, place of usual residence, occupation; and (c) the child: sex, birth order and date of birth. All of this information is transferred to official statistics, which removes individual identifiers (name, personal identification number), and aggregates them into a set of vital statistics. For vital statistics to be most effective as policy tools, there needs to be a well-functioning civil registration system that is universal (i.e., with coverage of at least 90 per cent of all events), and a vital statistics system that produces and disseminates statistical information about births, deaths and marriages in a timely manner.

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<sup>11</sup> *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.10), p. 50, para. 301.

### 3.2. Trends in census taking

It is recommended that countries conduct at least one population and housing census every ten years<sup>12</sup>. Unfortunately, not all countries or areas manage to conduct censuses with regularity. This section provides an overview of the current status and global trends in census taking. Three decades were analysed: 1980, 1990 and 2000 decades. For each decade, countries or areas were classified as having or not having conducted at least one population census in the decade.

#### *How many countries or areas have conducted a population census in the 2000 decade?*

Among the 204 countries or areas analysed worldwide, 178 conducted a population census in the 2000 decade. These 178 countries or areas comprise 91 per cent of the world population (Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1.** Total number of countries or areas and number of countries or areas that have conducted a population census in the 2000 decade.

	Total		Conducted a population census in the 2000 decade	
	Number of countries or areas	Population in 2000 (millions)	Number of countries or areas	Population <sup>1</sup> (per cent)
<b>World</b>	204	6,069	178	91
<b>Development group</b>				
More developed regions	47	1,193	46	100
Less developed regions <sup>2</sup>	107	4,208	98	94
Least developed countries	50	668	34	58
<b>Continent</b>				
Africa	55	796	39	57
North America	27	488	26	99
South America	13	347	11	80
Asia	50	3,679	44	97
Europe	42	728	41	99
Oceania	17	31	17	100

<sup>1</sup> As a percentage of the total population shown. <sup>2</sup> Excluding least developed countries.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

<sup>12</sup> *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.8), p. 3, para.1.9.

A more detailed analysis by development group and continent indicates that considerable differences exist among groups. Almost all countries or areas in more developed regions and less developed regions excluding LDCs, conducted a population census in the 2000 decade, but a much smaller number of LDCs conducted a census in the same period. In fact, only 34 out of the 50 LDCs conducted a census in the 2000 decade. These 34 countries comprise 58 per cent of the population of all LDCs.

In Africa, 39 out of 55 countries or areas conducted a census in the 2000 decade. These countries or areas together comprise only 57 per cent of the population of Africa. In South America, all countries or areas but two (Colombia and Peru) have conducted a census in the 2000 decade.

In each of the other continents, more than 95 per cent of the population are covered by a population census in the 2000 decade. In North America, only one country did not conduct a census: El Salvador; in Asia, six countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lebanon and Uzbekistan; in Europe, only one country: Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Oceania, all countries or areas conducted a census in the 2000 decade.

### ***When was the most recent census conducted?***

If not all countries or areas were able to conduct a census in the last decade, when was the most recent census conducted? Among the 26 countries or areas in the world that did not conduct a census in the 2000 decade, 15 conducted their last census in the 1990 decade, and 9 in the 1980 decade<sup>13</sup> (Table 3.2). Two countries or areas have not conducted a population census since 1975 (Lebanon and Western Sahara).

**Table 3.2.** Number of countries or areas, and number of least developed countries, by decade in which most recent census was conducted.

Decade in which the most recent census was conducted	World		Least developed countries	
	Number of countries or areas	Population <sup>1</sup> (per cent)	Number of countries or areas	Population <sup>2</sup> (per cent)
<b>2000</b>	178	91	34	58
<b>1990</b>	15	7	7	20
<b>1980</b>	9	2	9	22
<b>Not conducted in 1975-2004</b>	2	< 1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup> As percentage of the world population (in 2000).

<sup>2</sup> As percentage of the population in all least developed countries (in 2000).

**Source:** *United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.*

<sup>13</sup> Angola, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Djibouti, Liberia, Myanmar and Togo.

Most of the countries or areas which did not conduct a census in the 2000 decade are LDCs. Nine countries, comprising about 22 per cent of the population in this development group, conducted their last census in the 1980 decade. Another seven countries, comprising about 20 per cent of the population in this development group, conducted their last census in the 1990 decade.

Despite the non-regularity of their censuses, all of the current LDCs conducted at least one census in the last thirty years, and more than half of them did so in the 2000 decade.

### ***What changes have occurred in the last three decades?***

Some progress has been made. Three countries or areas (Cambodia, Nicaragua and the Occupied Palestinian Territory) conducted a population census for the first time in more than 20 years. Another 10 countries or areas that did not conduct a census in the 1980 decade, conducted one in both in the 1990 and the 2000 decades<sup>14</sup>. Mention must be made of 11 “comeback” countries or areas. These countries or areas conducted a census in the 1980 decade, failed to do one in the 1990 decade, but “came back” to conduct a census in the 2000 decade<sup>15</sup>. Four of these countries or areas are in Africa: Ghana, Guinea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Mozambique; three are in North America: Costa Rica, Cuba and Haiti; one is in South America: Suriname; and the other three are in Asia: Israel, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

### ***How many countries or areas conducted censuses in all three decades?***

Overall, the vast majority of countries or areas were able to conduct at least one population census in each of the three decades: 153 countries or areas, comprising 85 per cent of the world population (Table 3.3).

Population censuses were conducted in all three decades in most countries or areas of the more developed regions (43 countries or areas, or 91 per cent of the population in more developed regions) and the less developed regions excluding LDCs (82 countries or areas, or 88 per cent of the population in this group). In contrast, just over half of the current LDCs managed to conduct a population census in all three decades (28 countries representing 50 per cent of the population of all LDCs).

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<sup>14</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Cyprus, Honduras, Malta, Oman, Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone and the area corresponding to the former Democratic Yemen.

<sup>15</sup> Costa Rica, Cuba, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Israel, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Suriname.

**Table 3.3.** Total number of countries or areas and number of countries or areas that have conducted a census in all three decades (1980, 1990 and 2000).

	Total		Conducted a population census in all three decades	
	Number of countries or areas	Population in 2000 (millions)	Number of countries or areas	Population <sup>1</sup> (per cent)
<b><u>World</u></b>	204	6,069	153	85
<b><u>Development group</u></b>				
More developed regions	47	1,193	43	91
Less developed regions <sup>2</sup>	107	4,208	82	88
Least developed countries	50	668	28	50
<b><u>Continent</u></b>				
Africa	55	796	34	50
North America	27	488	20	92
South America	13	347	10	80
Asia	50	3,679	34	91
Europe	42	728	38	86
Oceania	17	31	17	100

<sup>1</sup> As a percentage of the total population shown. <sup>2</sup> Excluding least developed countries.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

### 3.3. Trends in civil registration

Civil registration systems were analysed on the basis of births reported by countries or areas from a civil registration system with an estimated coverage of at least 90 per cent. Countries were classified according to their capacity to report such data at least once in a decade.

Countries or areas that report births derived from a civil registration system covering at least 90 per cent of all births tend to also report deaths from the same source and with the same degree of completeness. For brevity, this section will thus focus on only one of these systems, the civil registration of births. In general, the conclusions also apply to civil registration of deaths.

#### *How many countries or areas currently have a civil registration system that is at least 90 per cent complete?*

In the 2000 decade, more than half of the countries or areas in the world reported to have a civil registration system covering at least 90 per cent of all births (Table 3.4). However, these countries together comprise only 30 per cent of the world population.

**Table 3.4.** Total number of countries or areas, and number of countries or areas that reported births from a civil registration system covering at least 90 per cent of all births in the 2000 decade.

	Total		Reported births from a civil registration <sup>1</sup> in the 2000 decade	
	Number of countries or areas	Population in 2000 (millions)	Number of countries or areas	Population <sup>2</sup> (per cent)
<b>World</b>	204	6,069	111	30
<b>Development group</b>				
More developed regions	47	1,193	47	100
Less developed regions <sup>3</sup>	107	4,208	62	15
Least developed countries	50	668	2	0.1
<b>Continent</b>				
Africa	55	796	9	18
North America	27	488	19	74
South America	13	347	6	23
Asia	50	3,679	26	13
Europe	42	728	42	100
Oceania	17	31	9	79

<sup>1</sup> With coverage of at least 90 per cent of all births. <sup>2</sup> As a percentage of the total population shown.

<sup>3</sup> Excluding least developed countries.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

Considerable differences exist by continent and by development group. All countries or areas in more developed regions have a civil registration system that covers at least 90 per cent of all births. In contrast, not all countries or areas in less developed regions excluding LDCs appear to have a similarly complete civil registration of births: only 62 countries or areas out of 107. Notably, the more populous countries or areas (China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria and Mexico) are not included amongst them, so that the 62 countries or areas comprise a mere 15 per cent of the population of the less developed regions excluding LDCs. This would seem to suggest that the high cost of establishing a good civil registration system and translating the records to vital statistics is particularly difficult for countries with a large population (see Box 4. Setting up a civil registration system: a major commitment).

In Africa, South America and Asia, the percentage of population covered by a complete birth registration system is very low. The populations in North America and Oceania seem to be better covered but are still far from having full coverage. Europe is the only continent in which virtually all countries or areas have reported births from civil registration systems that are at least 90 per cent complete.

***What changes have occurred in the last three decades?***

An analysis over the three decades indicates that there are almost no changes. Most countries or areas either had a 90 per cent or better registration of births in all three decades or did not have it in any decade (Tables 3.5 and 3.6).

Nearly all the population of the more developed regions is in a country with complete civil registration for births since the 1980 decade (Table 3.5); whereas more than 90 per cent of the population of the LDCs and more than 80 per cent of the population of the less developed regions excluding LDCs, have not been covered by a complete civil registration for births since 1975, as far as can be gleaned from country reporting to the United Nations (Table 3.6).

**Box 4.  
Setting up a civil registration system: a major commitment**

Setting up and maintaining a civil registration system requires a major commitment by the government, if the system is to be continuous and universal for the whole nation. For many countries, this is an incremental process. Colombia, for example, set up and started a civil registration system in January 1998, after years spent in its development. However, the system has yet to achieve 90 per cent coverage for births and deaths. In Accra, Ghana, all births and deaths are registered when they take place in major hospitals in the country, but not when the events take place elsewhere. At present, the coverage of births in the country does not exceed 30 per cent.

**Table 3.5.** Total number of countries or areas, and number of countries or areas that reported births from a civil registration system covering at least 90 per cent of all births in all three decades (1980, 1990 and 2000).

	Total		Reported births from a civil registration of births <sup>1</sup> in all three decades	
	Number of countries or areas	Population in 2000 (millions)	Number of countries or areas	Population <sup>12</sup> (per cent)
<b>World</b>	204	6,069	98	26
<b>Development group</b>				
More developed regions	47	1,193	45	100
Less developed regions <sup>3</sup>	107	4,208	51	9
Least developed countries	50	668	2	0.1
<b>Continent</b>				
Africa	55	796	8	15
North America	27	488	18	73
South America	13	347	6	23
Asia	50	3,679	20	7
Europe	42	728	40	100
Oceania	17	31	6	79

<sup>1</sup> With coverage of at least 90 per cent of all births. <sup>2</sup> As a percentage of the total population shown.

<sup>3</sup> Excluding least developed countries.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

A considerable number of countries or areas in Africa, Asia and South America, including the most populous ones, have not reported births from a complete civil registration system in the entire period 1975-2003. Consequently, up to now a large percentage of the population in these continents still are not covered by a complete civil registration system: 79 per cent in Africa, 87 per cent in Asia and 77 per cent in South America.

There are some improvements in the derivation of birth statistics from a complete or near complete civil registration system. Eight countries or areas worldwide were able to report for the first time to the United Nations in the 1990 decade birth statistics from a complete or near complete civil registration system, and continued to do so in the 2000 decade. Another four countries or areas did so for the first time in the 2000 decade.

**Table 3.6.** Total number of countries or areas, and number of countries or areas that have not reported births from a civil registration system covering at least 90 per cent of all births, in 1975-2003.

	Total		Have <i>not</i> reported births from a civil registration system <sup>1</sup> in 1975-2003	
	Number of countries or areas	Population in 2000 (millions)	Number of countries or areas	Population <sup>2</sup> (per cent)
<b><u>World</u></b>	204	6,069	85	69
<b><u>Development group</u></b>				
More developed regions	47	1,193	0	0
Less developed regions <sup>3</sup>	107	4,208	41	85
Least developed countries	50	668	44	93
<b><u>Continent</u></b>				
Africa	55	796	42	79
North America	27	488	6	26
South America	13	347	6	77
Asia	50	3,679	23	87
Europe	42	728	0	0
Oceania	17	31	8	21

<sup>1</sup> With coverage of at least 90 per cent of all births. <sup>2</sup> As a percentage of the total population shown.

<sup>3</sup> Excluding least developed countries.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, DESA, Demographic Yearbook System, November, 2004.

## 4. Conclusion

To monitor progress and guide policy, it is crucial that quality statistics be available. Yet official national data on basic demographic and social statistics relevant to gender are at times deficient, out-of-date, fragmented or simply unavailable. The present report reviews the current state of statistics on population, births and deaths, and summarizes progress in these statistics in the last thirty years.

Overall there has been very little progress in the official reporting of sex-disaggregated data in the past three decades, for the three topics examined in this report: population, births and deaths. The countries or areas that reported sex-disaggregated statistics on population, births and deaths in the 2000 decade were in the most part already doing so since the 1980 decade, while those that did not report these statistics in the 1980 decade tended to remain non-reporting up to the present.

In the most extreme cases, 14 countries or areas<sup>16</sup> have reported no official data to the United Nations in all of the three topics aforementioned. Of these 14 countries or areas, six conducted a census in the 2000 decade, although the results have yet to be communicated to the United Nations.

There is a slightly brighter picture for census coverage compared to civil registration systems: 85 per cent of the world population is in a country or area that has conducted a census in each of the three decades under review, while only 30 per cent of the world population is in a country that is currently able to report births from a complete or near complete civil registration system. The lack of a well-functioning civil registration system hampers a country's ability to produce current (annual) population estimates and consequently its ability to monitor demographic changes that can greatly impact the situation of women and men.

A population and housing census is a very costly and labour-intensive endeavour. However, because it provides reliable and detailed population data necessary for planning and implementing economic and social programmes, and is a primary source of basic benchmark socio-economic statistics, many countries have expended tremendous efforts and resources to conduct a census at least once every ten years. Institutional and international support of population and housing censuses has also been a factor in making the conduct of censuses possible in some of the countries in the less developed regions.

Many countries are not yet able to report timely vital statistics from a civil registration system that is complete or nearly complete. This shortcoming is particularly glaring because it affects most of the more populous countries of the world. An effective civil registration and vital statistics system is very costly and has to be developed very carefully. It requires a strong and sustained commitment by Government, as well as leadership and direction at the highest level.

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<sup>16</sup> Angola, Comoros, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Togo and Western Sahara.

Given the findings of this report, and their implications for monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals, countries or areas in the less developed regions, especially the least developed countries, need to ensure that at the minimum, population censuses are conducted every decade. The setting up of a civil registration system, an extremely difficult process for many countries or areas in the less developed regions, can proceed incrementally. A strong commitment by Government is a first step in this direction.

The Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 recognized that in the poorest of the world's countries, "women remain the vast majority of the poor in both economic and non-economic terms"<sup>17</sup>. In these countries, there is also a lack of reliable information from which to effectively allocate resources, and to plan and implement policies and programmes to improve the situation of women. It therefore called on the international community to "support the efforts of the least developed countries in creating and promoting a comprehensive and integrated information base, including through strengthening of national statistical systems." The evidence presented here demonstrates the need for such support.

Users can contribute to the improvement of gender statistics by engaging producers of statistics in dialogue, thereby increasing the latter's awareness of user needs. A strong and sustained demand from women's groups for the collection and dissemination of relevant statistics, together with a call for improved methods that ensure mainstreaming of gender into countries' data collection processes, is another step in improving gender statistics at the national level.

The overall message is clear: far more needs to be done to ensure the collection and dissemination of data needed for planning and formulating policies aimed at improving women's lives throughout the less developed world, and for monitoring the implementation of the Beijing platform for Action and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

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<sup>17</sup> The Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels on 20 May 2001, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001.

## **Annexes**

## Annex 1. Indicators of demographic statistical capacity by country or area, 1995-2003.

Country or area	Conducted 2000 population census	Civil registration system, with at least 90 per cent coverage <sup>1</sup>	Frequency of reporting to the United Nations									
			Population			Births			Deaths			
			Total	By sex	By sex and age	Total	By sex	By age of mother	Total	By sex	By sex and age	
<b>AFRICA</b>												
Algeria	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	
Angola	No	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Benin	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	
Botswana	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	
Burkina Faso	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Burundi	No	No	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	○	
Cote d'Ivoire	Yes	No	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○	
Cameroon	No	No	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Cape Verde	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	
Central African Republic	Yes	No	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Chad	No	No	●	○	○	●	○	○	●	○	○	
Comoros	Yes	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Congo	Yes	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	No	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Djibouti	No	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Egypt	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Equatorial Guinea	Yes	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Eritrea	No	No	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Ethiopia	No	No	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○	
Gabon	Yes	No	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Gambia	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Ghana	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Guinea-Bissau	No	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Guinea	Yes	No	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Kenya	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Lesotho	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	
Liberia	No	No	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Yes	Yes	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	

● Data reported for 5 or more years between 1995-2003

● Data reported for 1-4 years between 1995-2003

○ Data not reported between 1995-2003

**Annex 1. Indicators of demographic statistical capacity by country or area, 1995-2003 (cont).**

Country or area	Conducted 2000 population census	Civil registration system, with at least 90 per cent coverage <sup>1</sup>	Frequency of reporting to the United Nations									
			Population			Births			Deaths			
			Total	By sex	By sex and age	Total	By sex	By age of mother	Total	By sex	By sex and age	
Madagascar	No	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Malawi	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	●
Mali	Yes	No	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Mauritania	Yes	No	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○	○
Mauritius	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Morocco	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mozambique	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
Namibia	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Niger	Yes	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Nigeria	No	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Reunion	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rwanda	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Sao Tome and Principe	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Senegal	Yes	No	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Seychelles	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
Sierra Leone	Yes	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Somalia	No	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
South Africa	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sudan	No	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●
Swaziland	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●
Togo	No	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Tunisia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Uganda	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
United Republic of Tanzania	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Western Sahara	No	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Zambia	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Zimbabwe	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	●

- Data reported for 5 or more years between 1995-2003
- Data reported for 1-4 years between 1995-2003
- Data not reported between 1995-2003

**Annex 1. Indicators of demographic statistical capacity by country or area, 1995-2003 (cont).**

Country or area	Conducted 2000 population census	Civil registration system, with at least 90 per cent coverage <sup>1</sup>	Frequency of reporting to the United Nations								
			Population			Births			Deaths		
			Total	By sex	By sex and age	Total	By sex	By age of mother	Total	By sex	By sex and age
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>											
Antigua and Barbuda	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bahamas	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Barbados	Yes	No	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	○
Belize	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Canada	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cuba	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Dominica	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Dominican Republic	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
El Salvador	No	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Grenada	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Guadeloupe	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Guatemala	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Haiti	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Honduras	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Jamaica	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	○
Martinique	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
Mexico	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Netherlands Antilles	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Nicaragua	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Panama	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Puerto Rico	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Saint Lucia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Trinidad and Tobago	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
United States of America	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

- Data reported for 5 or more years between 1995-2003
- Data reported for 1-4 years between 1995-2003
- Data not reported between 1995-2003

**Annex 1. Indicators of demographic statistical capacity by country or area, 1995-2003 (cont).**

Country or area	Conducted 2000 population census	Civil registration system, with at least 90 per cent coverage <sup>1</sup>	Frequency of reporting to the United Nations								
			Population			Births			Deaths		
			Total	By sex	By sex and age	Total	By sex	By age of mother	Total	By sex	By sex and age
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>											
Argentina	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bolivia	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Brazil	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chile	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Colombia	No	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ecuador	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
French Guiana	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Guyana	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	○
Paraguay	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Peru	No	No	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
Suriname	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Uruguay	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Venezuela	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>ASIA</b>											
Afghanistan	No	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Armenia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Azerbaijan	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bahrain	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bangladesh	Yes	No	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○
Bhutan	No	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Brunei Darussalam	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cambodia	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
China	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●
Hong Kong SAR	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Macao SAR	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cyprus	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	No	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

- Data reported for 5 or more years between 1995-2003
- Data reported for 1-4 years between 1995-2003
- Data not reported between 1995-2003

**Annex 1. Indicators of demographic statistical capacity by country or area, 1995-2003 (cont).**

Country or area	Conducted 2000 population census	Civil registration system, with at least 90 per cent coverage <sup>1</sup>	Frequency of reporting to the United Nations								
			Population			Births			Deaths		
			Total	By sex	By sex and age	Total	By sex	By age of mother	Total	By sex	By sex and age
Georgia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
India	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Indonesia	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	○
Iraq	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	○
Israel	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Japan	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Jordan	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○
Kazakhstan	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Kuwait	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Kyrgyzstan	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○
Lebanon	No	No	○	○	○	●	○	○	●	○	○
Malaysia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●
Maldives	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mongolia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Myanmar	No	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Nepal	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	●
Occupied Palestinian Territory	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●
Oman	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	○
Pakistan	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Philippines	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Qatar	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Republic of Korea	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Saudi Arabia	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Singapore	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sri Lanka	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Syrian Arab Republic	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○

- Data reported for 5 or more years between 1995-2003
- Data reported for 1-4 years between 1995-2003
- Data not reported between 1995-2003

**Annex 1. Indicators of demographic statistical capacity by country or area, 1995-2003 (cont).**

Country or area	Conducted 2000 population census	Civil registration system, with at least 90 per cent coverage <sup>1</sup>	Frequency of reporting to the United Nations								
			Population			Births			Deaths		
			Total	By sex	By sex and age	Total	By sex	By age of mother	Total	By sex	By sex and age
Tajikistan	Yes	Yes	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○
Thailand	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Timor-Leste	Yes	No	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Turkey	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	○
Turkmenistan	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
United Arab Emirates	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Uzbekistan	No	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Viet Nam	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Yemen	Yes	No	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
<b>EUROPE</b>											
Albania	Yes	Yes	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○
Andorra	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	○
Austria	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Belarus	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Belgium	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No	Yes	●	○	○	●	○	●	●	●	●
Bulgaria	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Croatia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Czech Republic	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Denmark	Yes <sup>3</sup>	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Estonia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Finland	Yes <sup>3</sup>	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
France	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Germany	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Greece	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Hungary	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Iceland	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ireland	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

- Data reported for 5 or more years between 1995-2003
- Data reported for 1-4 years between 1995-2003
- Data not reported between 1995-2003

**Annex 1. Indicators of demographic statistical capacity by country or area, 1995-2003 (cont).**

Country or area	Conducted 2000 population census	Civil registration system, with at least 90 per cent coverage <sup>1</sup>	Frequency of reporting to the United Nations									
			Population			Births			Deaths			
			Total	By sex	By sex and age	Total	By sex	By age of mother	Total	By sex	By sex and age	
Italy	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Latvia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Liechtenstein	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lithuania	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Luxembourg	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Malta	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Monaco	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	○
Netherlands	Yes <sup>3</sup>	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Norway	Yes <sup>3</sup>	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Poland	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Portugal	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Republic of Moldova	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Romania	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Russian Federation	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
San Marino	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Serbia and Montenegro	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Slovakia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Slovenia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Spain	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sweden	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Switzerland	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
TFYR Macedonia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ukraine	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>OCEANIA</b>												
Australia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fiji	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○	○

- Data reported for 5 or more years between 1995-2003
- Data reported for 1-4 years between 1995-2003
- Data not reported between 1995-2003

**Annex 1. Indicators of demographic statistical capacity by country or area, 1995-2003 (cont).**

Country or area	Conducted 2000 population census	Civil registration system, with at least 90 per cent coverage <sup>1</sup>	Frequency of reporting to the United Nations								
			Population			Births			Deaths		
			Total	By sex	By sex and age	Total	By sex	By age of mother	Total	By sex	By sex and age
French Polynesia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Guam	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Kiribati	Yes	No	●	●	○	●	○	●	○	○	○
Marshall Islands	Yes	No	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Yes	No	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○
Nauru	Yes	Yes	●	○	○	●	○	○	●	○	○
New Caledonia	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
New Zealand	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Palau	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
Papua New Guinea	Yes	No	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○
Samoa	Yes	No	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○
Solomon Islands	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Tonga	Yes	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tuvalu	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Vanuatu	Yes	No	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

- Data reported for 5 or more years between 1995-2003
- Data reported for 1-4 years between 1995-2003
- Data not reported between 1995-2003

<sup>1</sup> For births as reported to the United Nations.

<sup>2</sup> Detailed population statistics provided by continuous population registers.

<sup>3</sup> Census taken from administrative registers.

**Annex 2. Reporting of population, births and deaths in the 2000 decade: distribution of countries and areas.**

	<b>Number of countries or areas</b>									
	World	Africa	North America	South America	Asia	Europe	Oceania	More developed regions	Less developed regions <sup>1</sup>	LDCs
<b>Total</b>	204	55	27	13	50	42	17	47	107	50
<b><u>DATA REPORTING</u></b>										
<b>Total population</b>	189	43	27	13	47	42	17	47	103	39
- by sex	179	35	27	13	47	41	16	46	100	33
- by sex and age	151	23	26	11	43	39	9	44	90	17
- by sex and age for at least five years	83	8	12	6	21	32	4	37	41	5
<b>Total births</b>	153	22	25	11	39	42	14	47	91	15
- by sex	120	14	21	9	30	40	6	45	69	6
- by age of mother	113	8	22	10	27	38	8	43	68	2
- total births for at least five years	124	13	22	10	32	39	8	44	76	4
<b>Total deaths</b>	154	22	25	12	40	42	13	47	93	14
- by sex	130	18	22	11	31	41	7	46	75	9
- by sex and age	119	15	21	10	28	39	6	44	70	5
- by sex and age for at least five years	82	4	15	5	19	34	5	39	42	1
<b><u>THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM</u></b>										
<b>Population censuses</b>										
- conducted a census in 1995-2004	178	39	26	11	44	41	17	46	98	34
- conducted a census in three decades (1980, 1990 and 2000)	153	34	20	10	34	38	17	43	83	27
<b>Vital statistics from civil registration</b>										
- reported births with 90% or better coverage, 2000 decade	111	9	19	6	26	42	9	47	62	2
- reported births with 90% or better coverage, all decades (1980, 1990 and 2000)	98	8	18	6	20	40	6	45	51	2

<sup>1</sup> Excluding least developed countries.

**Annex 3. Reporting of population, births and deaths in the 2000 decade: distribution of the world, continental and regional populations.**

	<b>Population (per cent)</b>									
	<b>World</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>North America</b>	<b>South America</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Oceania</b>	<b>More developed regions</b>	<b>Less developed regions<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>LDCs</b>
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b><u>DATA REPORTING</u></b>										
<b>Total population</b>	98	87	100	100	99	100	100	100	99	85
- by sex	97	80	100	100	99	100	100	100	99	80
- by sex and age	90	59	100	98	93	99	79	99	95	38
- by sex and age for at least five years	66	18	73	68	74	76	75	85	69	16
<b>Total births</b>	68	43	97	98	60	99	100	100	63	41
- by sex	40	28	96	88	19	99	76	86	21	1
- by age of mother	39	20	97	96	18	98	76	99	28	0
- total births for at least five years	60	26	95	96	52	99	77	99	58	3
<b>Total deaths</b>	69	46	97	98	61	100	98	100	64	47
- by sex	62	35	96	96	53	100	76	100	59	15
- by sex and age	61	33	96	96	52	100	76	100	58	13
- by sex and age for at least five years	27	12	94	21	10	83	75	90	13	0
<b><u>THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM</u></b>										
<b>Population censuses</b>										
- conducted a census in 1995-2004	91	57	99	80	97	99	100	100	94	58
- conducted a census in three decades (1980, 1990 and 2000)	85	50	92	80	91	86	100	91	88	50
<b>Vital statistics from civil registration</b>										
- reported births with 90% or better coverage, 2000 decade	30	18	74	23	13	100	79	100	15	0.1
- reported births with 90% or better coverage, all decades (1980, 1990 and 2000)	26	15	73	23	7	100	79	100	9	0.1

<sup>1</sup> Excluding least developed countries.

## Annex 4. List of countries or areas<sup>1</sup> by development group.

### More developed regions (47 countries or areas)

Albania	Finland	Malta	Slovenia
Andorra	France	Monaco	Spain
Australia	Germany	Netherlands	Sweden
Austria	Greece	New Zealand	Switzerland
Belarus	Hungary	Norway	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Belgium	Iceland	Poland	Ukraine
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ireland	Portugal	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Bulgaria	Italy	Republic of Moldova	United States of America
Canada	Japan	Romania	
Croatia	Latvia	Russian Federation	
Czech Republic	Liechtenstein	San Marino	
Denmark	Lithuania	Serbia and Montenegro	
Estonia	Luxembourg	Slovakia	

### Less developed regions excluding least developed countries (107 countries or areas)

Algeria	Dominica	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Republic of Korea
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominican Republic	Malaysia	Reunion
Argentina	Ecuador	Marshall Islands	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Armenia	Egypt	Martinique	Saint Lucia
Azerbaijan	El Salvador	Mauritius	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Bahamas	Fiji	Mexico	Saudi Arabia
Bahrain	French Guiana	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Seychelles
Barbados	French Polynesia	Mongolia	Singapore
Belize	Gabon	Morocco	South Africa
Bolivia	Georgia	Namibia	Sri Lanka
Botswana	Ghana	Nauru	Suriname
Brazil	Grenada	Netherlands Antilles	Swaziland
Brunei Darussalam	Guadeloupe	New Caledonia	Syrian Arab Republic
Cameroon	Guam	Nicaragua	Tajikistan
Chile	Guatemala	Nigeria	Thailand
China	Guyana	Occupied Palestinian Territory	Tonga
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	Honduras	Oman	Trinidad and Tobago
Macao Special Administrative Region	India	Pakistan	Tunisia
Colombia	Indonesia	Palau	Turkey
Congo	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Panama	Turkmenistan
Costa Rica	Iraq	Papua New Guinea	United Arab Emirates
Cote d'Ivoire	Israel	Paraguay	Uruguay
Cuba	Jamaica	Peru	Uzbekistan
Cyprus	Jordan	Philippines	Venezuela
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Kazakhstan	Puerto Rico	Viet Nam
	Kenya	Qatar	Western Sahara
	Kuwait		Zimbabwe
	Kyrgyzstan		
	Lebanon		

<sup>1</sup> Comprising all United Nations Members States and other countries or areas with a population of at least 150,000 in 2000.

#### Annex 4. List of countries or areas<sup>1</sup> by development group (cont).

##### Least developed countries (50 countries or areas)

Afghanistan	Djibouti	Malawi	Somalia
Angola	Equatorial Guinea	Maldives	Sudan
Bangladesh	Eritrea	Mali	Timor-Leste
Benin	Ethiopia	Mauritania	Togo
Bhutan	Gambia	Mozambique	Tuvalu
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Myanmar	Uganda
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Nepal	United Republic of
Cambodia	Haiti	Niger	Tanzania
Cape Verde	Kiribati	Rwanda	Vanuatu
Central African Republic	Lao People's	Samoa	Yemen
Chad	Democratic Republic	Sao Tome and Principe	Zambia
Comoros	Lesotho	Senegal	
Democratic Republic	Liberia	Sierra Leone	
of the Congo	Madagascar	Solomon Islands	

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<sup>1</sup> Comprising all United Nations Members States and other countries or areas with a population of at least 150,000 in 2000.

Regularly updated statistics and indicators on women and men are available at  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwm/indwm2.htm>.

Population by sex and single years of age, by country or area, for the period 1985 to 2003, may be accessed at  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybschedule.htm>.



