Utilizing administrative data for the census: Promising, but are we ready?

Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses
30 September – 1 October 2024

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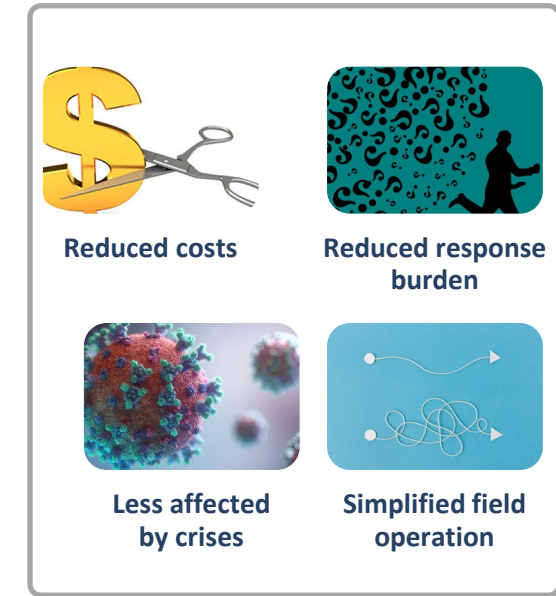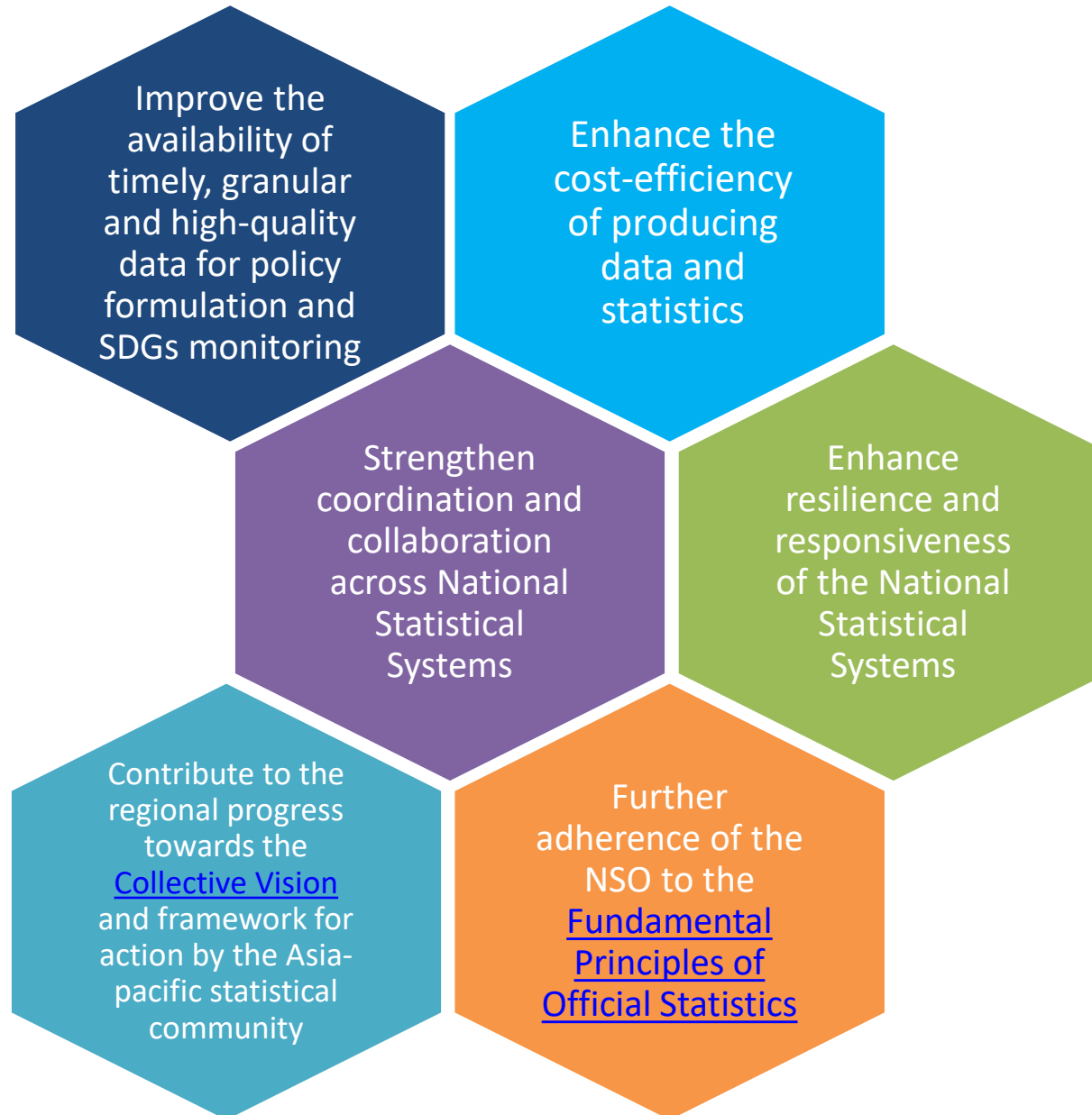Statistician, ESCAP Statistics Division

Context

➢ Increasing and evolving demands for quality, timely, and granular data and statistics

➢ Challenges of traditional Population and Housing Censuses:

 ➢ Significant time and resource commitments

 ➢ Prolonged data collection intervals (every 5/10 yrs.)

 ➢ Declining response rates

 ➢ Vulnerability to crisis-related disruptions (e.g. Covid19)

➢ Technological advancements, the availability of new data sources and the feasibility of applying more complex approaches.

A widely acknowledged approach is the use of administrative data for census purposes, which in its most advanced form is the fully register-based census.

Utilizing administrative data for census: Potential benefits

Bridging data gaps

More granular statistics

Increased timeliness

Improved coverage

Improve the availability of timely, granular and high-quality data for policy formulation and SDGs monitoring

Enhance the cost-efficiency of producing data and statistics

Strengthen coordination and collaboration across National Statistical Systems

Enhance resilience and responsiveness of the National Statistical Systems

Contribute to the regional progress towards the Collective Vision and framework for action by the Asia-pacific statistical community

Further adherence of the NSO to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Reduced costs

Reduced response burden

Less affected by crises
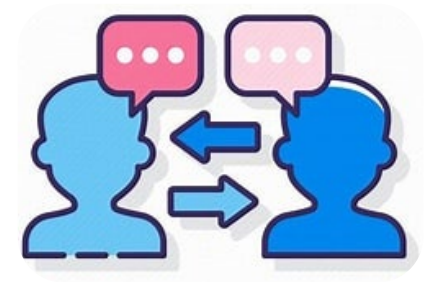
Simplified field operation

Generic model for the transition from a traditional census to register-based approaches
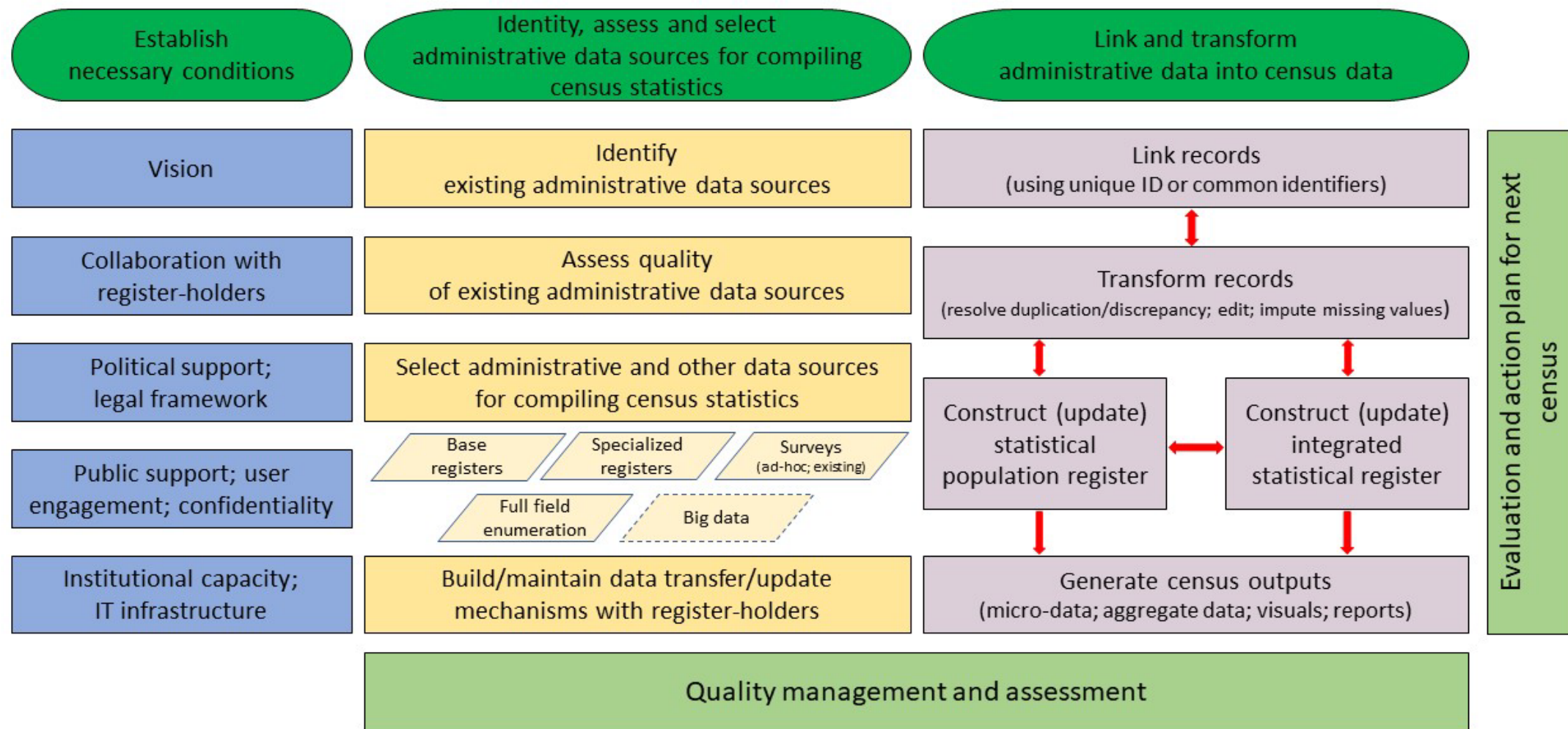
Source: UNSD Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses

General preconditions for a register-based statistical system

Appropriate legal framework

Stakeholder and Political Support

Appropriate Resources and Expertise

Political support | Public support | User support | NSO/Register Owner Cooperation

Specific operational requirements and processes for a register-based statistical system

Assessment of administrative data sources

Ensuring the availability of needed data

Adoption of Appropriate Methods, Systems and Processes

Ensuring the availability of base and supplementary registers

Initial Assessment | Assessment for Topics Covered | Coverage | Identifier | Data access and transfer | Digital format | Register Quality Assessment | Transformation methods | Data protection and privacy methods

Source: UNFPA Register-Based Census eLearning Course

Where to start?
...where are we?

Self-Assessment Tool on the Readiness to Use Administrative Data for Census (SATRAC)

Development steps:

➢ **2023:** initial draft, pilot with countries participating in [Regional Training Workshop on Transition to Register-based Approaches for Population and Housing Censuses](), Ankara, 12-15 June 2023

➢ **2024:**
- revise based on the feedback received from the above-mentioned workshop
- pilot with participating countries in two Regional Workshops (ESCAP and ECE region) in late September and early October
- revise and conduct a global consultation

➢ **Early 2025:** Launch of the tool

Self-Assessment Tool on the Readiness to Use Administrative Data for Census (SATRAC)

- ➢ **Objective:** to assist countries in self-assessment of their current institutional and technical capacity for utilizing administrative data sources in their censuses.

- ➢ **The tool:**
  - ▪ highlights different institutional and technical aspects that should be considered before/while using administrative data for the census
  - ▪ assists countries in:
    - ➢ identifying their areas of strength, weakness and shortcomings,
    - ➢ evaluating their progress made over time
    - ➢ improve communication between the NSO and relevant administrative data holders
  - ▪ Provides valuable information for developing/updating the roadmap

Self-Assessment Tool on the Readiness to Use Administrative Data for Census (SATRAC)

Content of the SATRAC

➤ Targeting both NSOs and Admin data-holders

- NSO module contains seven sections, with a total of 52 questions

- Admin data-holder module contains six sections, with a total of 28 questions

➤ Multiple response categories with the option to provide explanations and any details as relevant

- **"yes", "no", "partially", "don't know"**

Self-Assessment Tool on the Readiness to Use Administrative Data for Census (SATRAC)

➢ NSO module:

- Political support and legal framework
- Collaboration with administrative data holders
- Availability of administrative data sources
- Unified identification system
- Human and IT Resources
- Methodological matters and quality assessment
- Data confidentiality

To be completed by a cross-functional team comprised of different relevant units of NSOs

Self-Assessment Tool on the Readiness to Use Administrative Data for Census ([SATRAC](#))
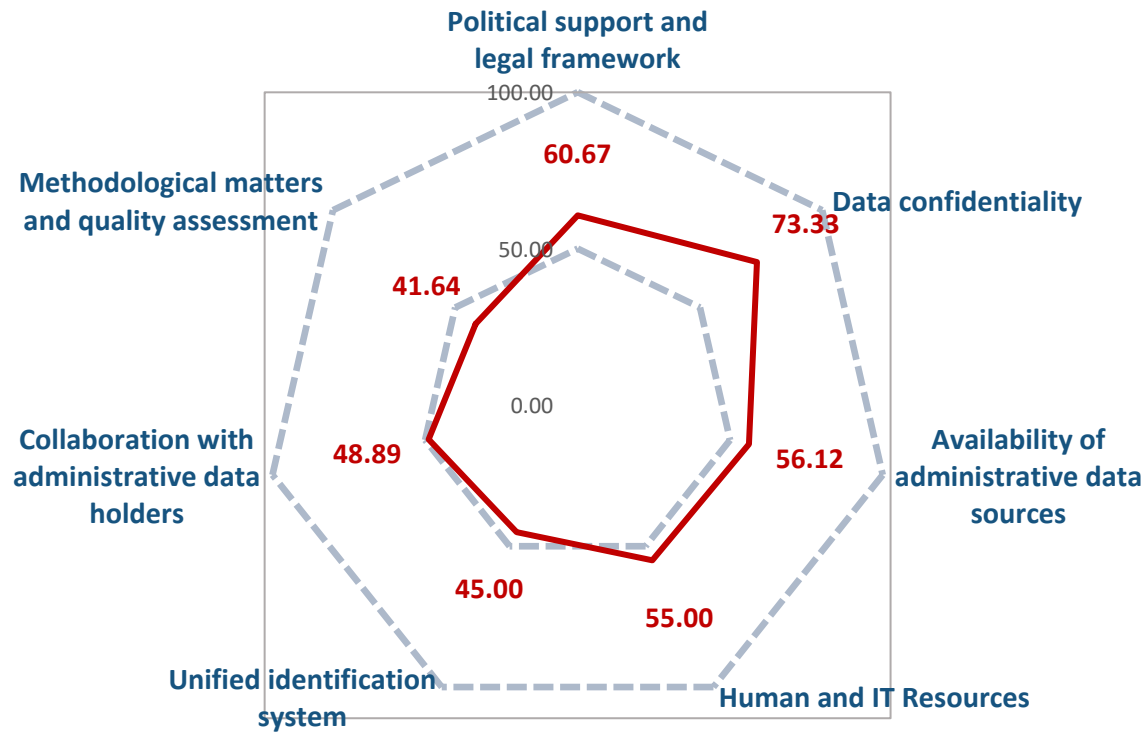
➢ **Administrative data holders' module:**

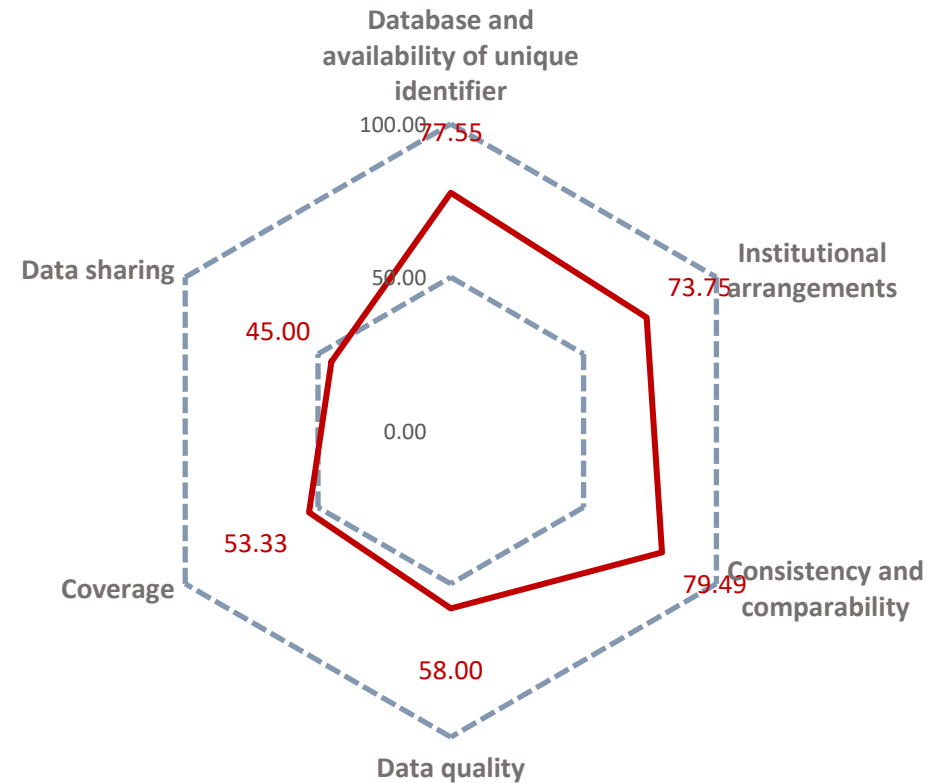- ▪ Institutional arrangements

- ▪ Data sharing

- ▪ Database and availability of unique identifier

- ▪ Data quality

- ▪ Coverage

- ▪ Consistency and comparability

NSO to coordinate with key administrative data holders to complete

Score of the readiness -- based on the "YES" responses to the questions (%)

NSO

Political support and legal framework — 60.67
Data confidentiality — 73.33
Availability of administrative data sources — 56.12
Human and IT Resources — 55.00
Unified identification system — 45.00
Collaboration with administrative data holders — 48.89
Methodological matters and quality assessment — 41.64

Admin data holder

Database and availability of unique identifier — 77.55
Institutional arrangements — 73.75
Consistency and comparability — 79.49
Data quality — 58.00
Coverage — 53.33
Data sharing — 45.00

Your feedback?

- ➢ How was your experience with completing the questionnaire?
    - ▪ What modules/sections were easy to answer?
    - ▪ What modules/sections were difficult to answer, please explain why?
    - ▪ What sections should be added (if any)? Please suggest questions/sections?
    - ▪ Which questions or sections can be removed (if any)- please explain reasons
    - ▪ Which questions were not clear and require clarification?
    - ▪ Any other proposed changes?
- ➢ Did the questionnaire help you to assess your country's readiness to use administrative data for census purposes?