

Needs and capabilities of demographic centres

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Outline

- About CICRED
- Population centres worldwide
- Demographic experts in the South (IUSSP/IEE)
- Needs and capacities of demographic institutions
- Data needs: a survey for the Rabat meeting

Sources used for this presentation

- CICRED sources:
 - Database, 2006
 - Survey of centres, 2001-03
 - Short survey on needs, 2005
 - Evaluation of four leading population centres for UNFPA, 2006
 - Rabat questionnaire, 2007
- Other sources
 - IIE directory of experts 2003
 - IUSSP database 2005
 - Internet search, 2007

CICRED Council

■ Member Centres

1. *African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)*, Nairobi, Kenya.
2. *Carolina Population Center*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, U.S.A.
3. *Centre Interuniversitaire d'Études Démographiques (CIED)*, Université de Montréal, Canada.
4. *Escola Nacional de Ciencias Estatísticas (ENCE)*, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
5. *Institut de Démographie*, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.
6. *Institute of Population Research*, Peking University, Beijing, China.
7. *Population Institute (UPPI)*, University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines.

CICRED programmes

- *INSTITUTIONAL NETWORK MONITORING AND ADVOCACY*
- *PROMOTING RESEARCH*
- *BUILDING CAPACITIES*

Monitoring population and demographic centres around the world





Population centres worldwide

- Number of research centres in the world

Table 2: Change in the geographic repartition of Centers (1973-2003) / Evolution de la répartition géographique des Centres (1973-2003)

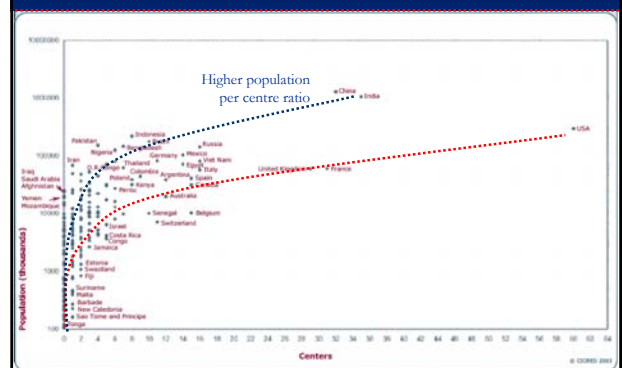
Continent	Continent	N	%	N	%
Africa	Afrique	13	8	147	21
North America	Amérique du Nord	22	14	76	11
Latin America and the Caribbean	Amérique latine et Caraïbes	24	15	86	12
Asia and Pacific	Asie et Pacifique	61	38	182	25
Europe	Europe	61	25	247	33
Total		160	100	738	100

Source : ACIRD

Population centres across the world



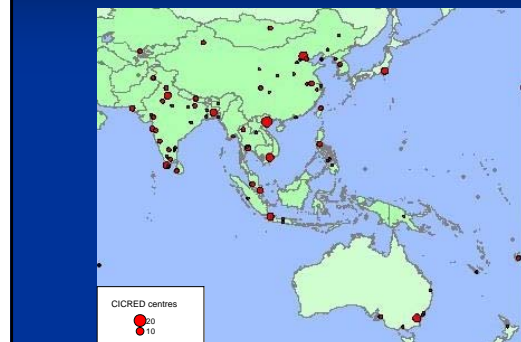
- Number of research centres and corresponding population



L. America, Caribbean, W. Asia and Africa



Asia



Population experts in the South

Two sources on the number of population experts in the South

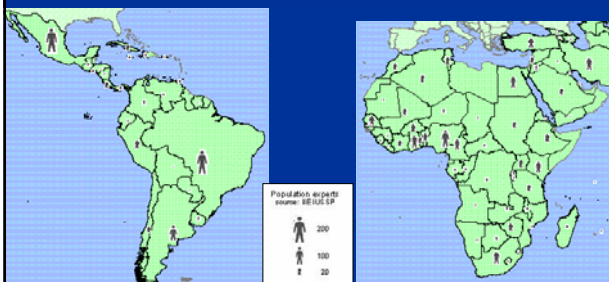
- *Population Experts in Developing Countries: A Directory*: 2003-2004 census by the **Institute of International Education** of population experts currently working in developing countries. (n= 1187)
- Supplemented by 825 more scientists from the IUSSP
- Total sample used experts



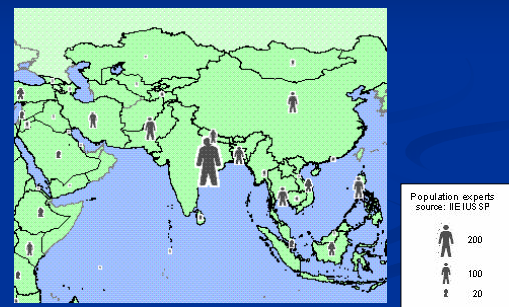
Population experts in the South. Global view



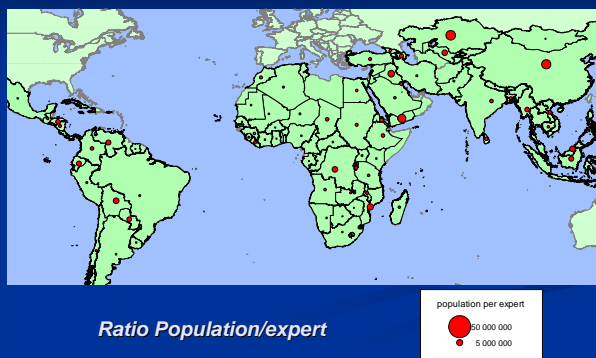
L. America, Caribbean, W. Asia and Africa



Asia



Missing population experts ?

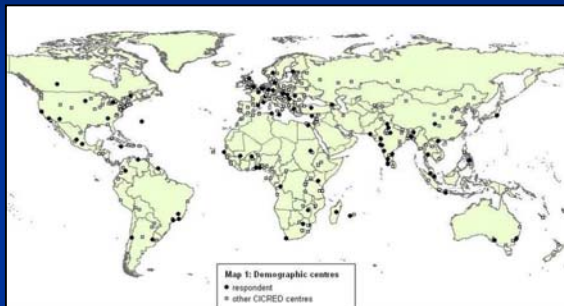


Needs and capabilities

Short survey

- Conducted mid-2005
- First announcement sent by the email addresses from the CICRED database
- Web-based survey
- 7 components: identification, description and resources, training needs, training facilities and capabilities, other training centres
- 98 responses were processed

Survey respondents



Survey results

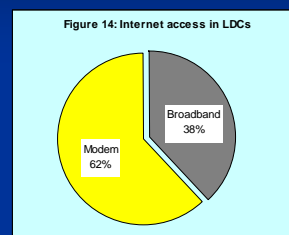
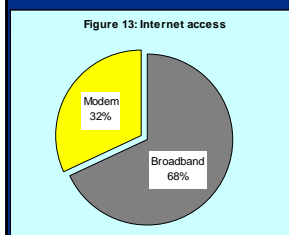
- Synthetic indicators of needs and capacities (factor analysis)
- Internet connectivity
- Software equipment
- Training needs

A synthetic indicator

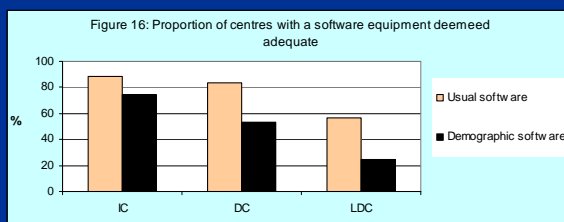
Synthetic indicators	IDs N=36	DCs N=30	LDCs N=32	Total N=98
Size (staff, space)	-0.29	0.58	-0.22	0.00
Training infrastructures	-0.18	0.22	-0.00	0.00
IT and Internet	0.46	0.33	-0.83	0.00
Evaluation of resources	0.86	-0.02	-0.95	0.00
Evaluation of training needs	-0.81	-0.45	1.33	0.00
Training capabilities	0.17	0.07	-0.27	0.00
Net needs*	-0.99	-0.52	1.60	0.00

* Net needs = training needs – training capabilities

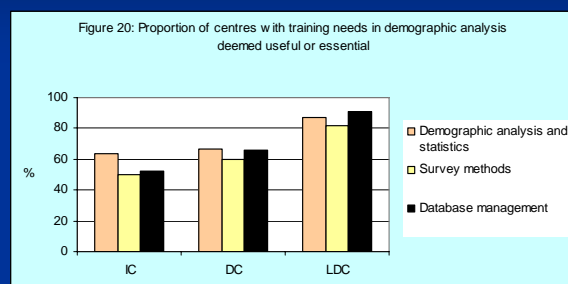
Internet connectivity



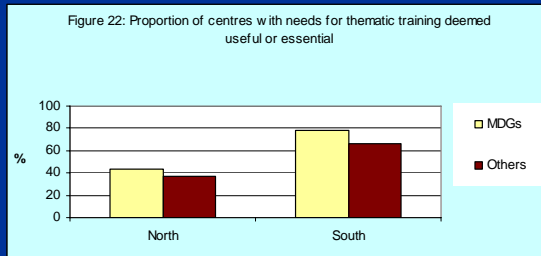
Software equipment



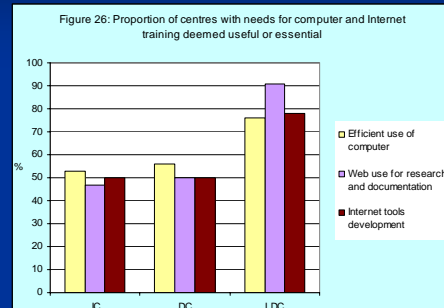
Training needs in demographic analysis



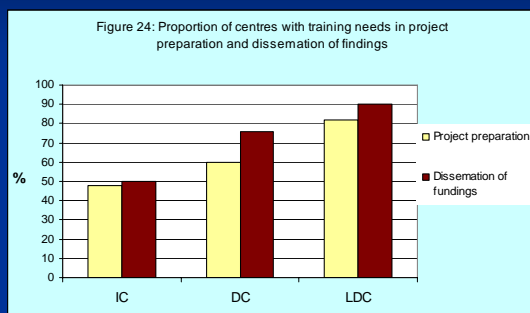
Thematic training needs



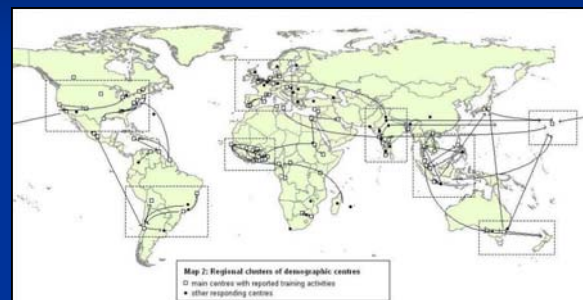
Training needs in Internet use



Other training needs



Regional training clusters



Some centres offering short-term training courses in demography in the South

Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée	Abidjan
The University of Pretoria	Pretoria
Demographic Training and Research Centre	Addis Ababa
Cairo Demographic Center	Cairo
Centro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Demografía (CELADE)	Santiago de Chile
National Institute of Public Health (INSP)	Mexico
Centro Centroamericano de Población (CCP) - Universidad de Costa Rica	San José, Costa Rica
Institute of Public Health - University of Makerere	Kampala, Uganda
Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG)	Dakar
Institute for population and Social Research-Mahidol University	Nakhon Pathom, Thailande
International Institute for Population Sciences	Mumbai India

Rabat survey

- Qualitative survey sent in January through email
- Sent to CICRED population centres in the South
- Sent in French, English or Spanish

Questionnaire contents

1. **Data needs:** What are the most crucial population-related data and variables for your region in relation to development goals?
2. **Data collection:** What are the major technical challenges to collect such data?
3. **Estimation:** What the major technical challenges to process or to estimate such data or variables?
4. **Dissemination:** What are the major challenges to disseminate such data and findings?
5. **Training:** What are your main training needs related to these issues?

Replies

- 32 responses (as of January 23, 2007)
- Origin of respondents:
 - **Africa (6):** DR Congo, Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Gabon, Burkina Faso
 - **Arab States (3):** Lebanon, Jordan, Algeria
 - **Asia/Pacific (12):** Fiji, China, India, Indonesia (2), Vietnam (3), Nepal, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand
 - **Latin America and Caribbean (7):** Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica (2), Paraguay,
 - **Central and West Asia (1):** Georgia
 - **International Organization (1):** West Asia and North Africa Region Office
- Most frequent issue mentioned: financial constraints

Data needs

DATA SOURCES

- All African centres studied suffer from weak or nonexistent national systems of data collection covering basic vital data
- Census: absent, outdated, unreliable, incomplete, does not allow annual monitoring of progress
- Civil registration data (births, deaths, mobility, marriages): incomplete, unreliable, inaccessible, inexistent
- Survey/census dates are as frequent as required to monitor demographic changes and to assess policy impact.

SPECIFIC DATA

- Incomplete coverage of non-demographic social, qualitative issues by traditional surveys (Asia, Africa, Caribbean).
- MDG-related data often given as detailed list of data requirements
- Severe lack of HIV/Aids data in most regions (except South America)
- Local issues: inadequacy between MDG indicators and local reality, local importance of specific data (sex ratio, abortion, refugees, temporary urban migration, etc.)

Data collection issues

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

- Poor information system with little standardization and lack of coordination between involved agencies (including at the regional level for topics like migration flows)
- Non-computerized data collection systems (Africa, Caribbean)
- Budget constraints reducing sample size (samples too small for meaningful estimates, e.g. maternal mortality)

TECHNICAL ISSUES

- Difficulties in reaching out specific subpopulations due to sampling, mapping or fieldwork constraints
- Hostile political environment or cultural sensitivity obstacles to specific data collection (abortion in several countries, maternal mortality in Arab states, HIV/aids etc.)

Estimation issues 1/2

Shortage in skilled personnel at national level (Africa, Jordan, Vietnam)

DATA PROBLEMS:

- Problems of quality, adequacy, accuracy, reliability, regularity, representativeness, transparency
- Estimations relying on outdated sources (e.g. Africa, Nepal)
- Estimations from heterogeneous sources: critical need for data linkage and standardization

Estimation issues 2/2

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS:

- Difficulties for estimating indicators pertaining to lower-level administrative (local) units, specific subpopulations, vulnerable groups, minorities, slum populations etc.
- Lack/cost of software or other tools to generate estimates or projections (Africa, Caribbean), specially for estimates incorporating HIV/AIDS effects
- More generally: needs for methods to process incomplete data and to generate indirect estimates
- Specific know-how required in multivariate analysis, multilevel analysis, GIS, etc.
- Estimation of non demographic indicators (gender, poverty, epidemiology, nutrition, environment etc.)

Data Dissemination 1/2

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

- Communication skills and constraints:
 - report-writing skills
 - dominant English/French used vs. local languages
 - technical jargon vs. common parlance.
- Printed publications remain the most preferred medium for dissemination in the South, although Asia (India, Indonesia, China) has developed efficient web-based tools for dissemination. But paper-based solutions raise cost and severely restrict dissemination flows.
- Web distribution:
 - Lack of experience in website development and management
 - Lack of expertise to archive and share demographic data sets
- Need for more flexible access to data at local, regional or transnational level (many centres have access only to national data).

Data Dissemination 2/2

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

- Problems of dissemination across the different administrative levels (national, regional, local) or across the different stakeholders
- Limited access to some data (from Governments, International Organizations, etc...).
- Need for stronger national coordinating body in charge of centralizing dissemination operations (Jamaica mentioned as a success story)

OUTREACH

- Local officials often not involved in dissemination
- Lack of interest from decision-makers for demographic data and research.
- Reluctance from officials and policy makers to accept unfavorable findings
- Weak links between research outputs and end users
- Need for mass media involvement in dissemination.

Training Needs 1/2

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

- Wide variations in expressed needs for training across centres (each research centre has often specific needs).
- Expressed needs are often very general and non technical: training administrative staff, training officials, raising awareness on demography's importance for development and planning, needs for training more demographers, training in implementation and monitoring capabilities
- Cost of existing training may be also a problem

TRAINING ON SPECIFIC THEMES

- Generally speaking, training needs on cross-cutting issues were expressed by many centres. Three main themes emerge: *HIV/AIDS, Environment, Gender*

Training Needs 2/2

TECHNICAL TRAINING

- Critical need for training on **indirect estimation methods** in countries with incomplete vital statistics.
- Training in innovative techniques: e.g. mapping of mobile population, HIV/AIDS estimation, GIS, multilevel modeling, respondent-driven sampling, etc.
- Training to handle/estimate local or micro-level data
- Training in information technology
- Training in statistical or demographic software

COMMUNICATION

- How to communicate with the media and the public (Tv programme, educational booklet, etc.?)
- How to sensitize government officials to demographic issues?
- How to use research findings to respond to policy makers' needs?
- How to provide data to local administration ?
- How to monitor and evaluate development plans and policies?

Challenges ahead

- Needs
 - Systematic census of needs
 - Prioritization of needs on a regional basis
- Training modules
 - Design of training modules (blueprints)
 - Regionalized modules (language, data, regional priorities etc.)
- Delivery, dissemination, follow-up
 - Delivery through regional instructors and node institutions
 - Further dissemination to local institutions
 - Web-based toolkit (documentation, training materials, discussion boards, etc.)

Merci de votre attention!

CICRED

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