







'Use of Gridded Population Data' 6 -7 September, 2022

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India Ankit Sikarwar and Valérie Golaz (Ined, Aubervilliers, France)

Final report

Training background

Data availability and reliability are fundamental concerns for demographic research. Conventional demographic data sources such as population censuses and surveys exist with the critical limitations of temporal scale (estimated at 5- or 10-years intervals) as well as with difficulties of geographical coverage (inaccurate or no data for difficult regions, local representativeness). Thus, there is a strong need for timely and complete population data, particularly in developing countries. India is the second most populous country in the World, covers a huge geographical area, and its population census is decadal. Therefore, India needs an alternative source of demographic data which can provide timely population estimates. Gridded population data provide estimates of population counts, density, and age-sex structures. These estimates can be processed at various spatial scales (Country, State, District, etc.) for the year of interest.

Training objectives

- To introduce the participants to the basics of gridded population data and to elaborate on their merits, limitations, sources, and methods.
- To provide hands-on experience on retrieval, processing, and extraction of gridded population data at different spatial scales.

Programme

Day 1: 6 Sept 2022

Part 1: Overview of gridded population data (2.15 pm - 3.45 pm)

- Overview
- Need
- Merits and limitations

Part 2: Retrieving gridded population data (4.15 pm to 5.45 pm)

- Techniques of estimation
- Various sources and components of data
- Downloading steps

Day 2: 7 Sept 2022

Part 1: Processing gridded population data (2.15 pm - 3.45 pm)

- Opening gridded data in GIS environment
- Reading data
- Geo-processing at desired administrative levels

Part 2: Extraction of gridded population data (4.15 pm to 5.45 pm)

- Raster calculations
- Exporting data in desired format
- Closing remarks and interaction

Participants:

There were 36 participants in the workshop (31- prePhD & PhD students, 1 post-doc, 3 project researchers, 1 assistant professor).

Feedback

A large majority of participants were beginners in the field of spatial analysis and had little knowledge of the potential of gridded data, only one being very familiar with the key concepts presented during the workshop (see Chart below). The first thought the hands-on training was extremely useful. Their comments underlined their satisfaction with our step-by-step approach. For instance, "Well first of all it really did gave me comprehensive knowledge being a beginner. Everything was told from basic which was the best thing" or "I had no knowledge about the portal and data extraction. Now, I can explore the various sources and use of the available dataset. The workshop introduced me to the gridded data use both conceptually and technically. I think in future I will be able to include gridded datasets in my research works. Thanks for providing me the opportunity". Others, more conversant with geospatial data, particularly enjoyed the in-depth approach of gridded population sources and are directly planning to use them in their research: "Though I knew a little bit about gridded population data, but this workshop made me understand the fundamentals of the kind of data very deeply. Now I am ready to use this kind of data for my research work." Two participants regretted not having been offered more contents: "The workshop was at a very basic level. It could have been of a longer duration with emphasis on practical work - collecting & cleaning extreme climatic event data, merging it with DHS geospatial data, performing geospatial analysis and constructing & reporting the maps"; or "It would be great if such kind of workshop can be arranged for at least one week on practical hands on". Most suggest a follow-up training as a second step, to go further in practice and guidance: "More workshops like this for at least one week should be organized"; "I hope later more workshop like this will come up and we may explore more geospatial tools and techniques"; "I am looking forward to attending more workshops based on advanced techniques of gridded population data".



Organizers:

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India The Gender Project, IIPS French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED), France