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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Census in the Digital Age

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statssa.gov.za



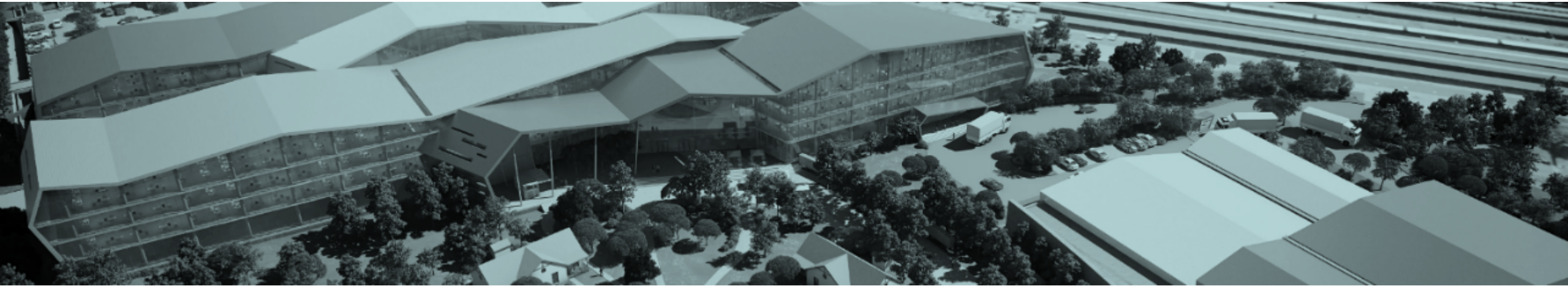
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Who are we?

- National government department
- Accountable to the minister in the Presidency
- Mandated to collect information to produce official statistics
- Activities regulated by the Statistics Act 1999 (Act No 6 of 1999) as amended (Act No. 29 of 2024) which provides for independence, oversight by a council, and confidentiality of respondents
- Stats SA publishes social and economic statistics



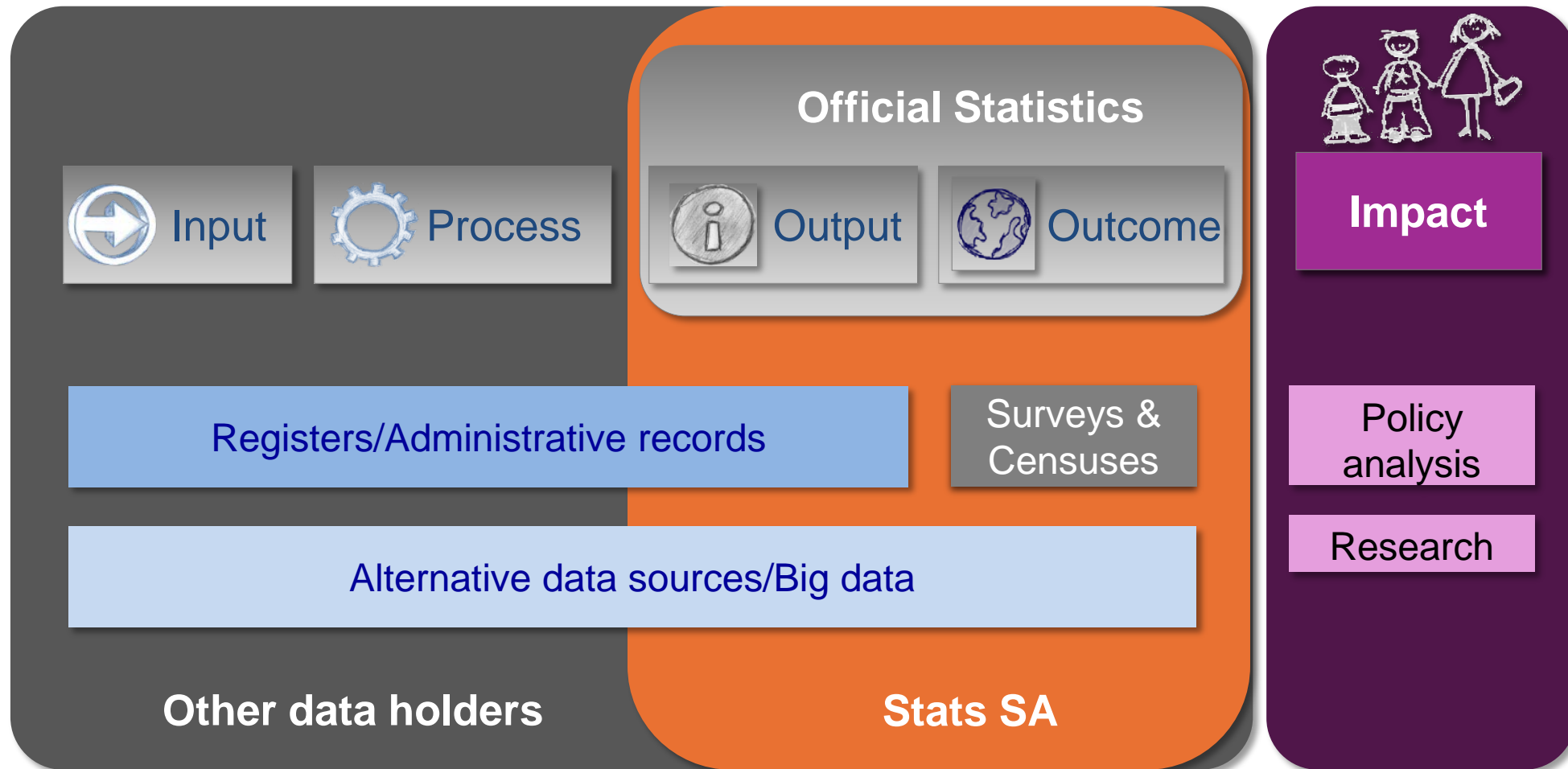
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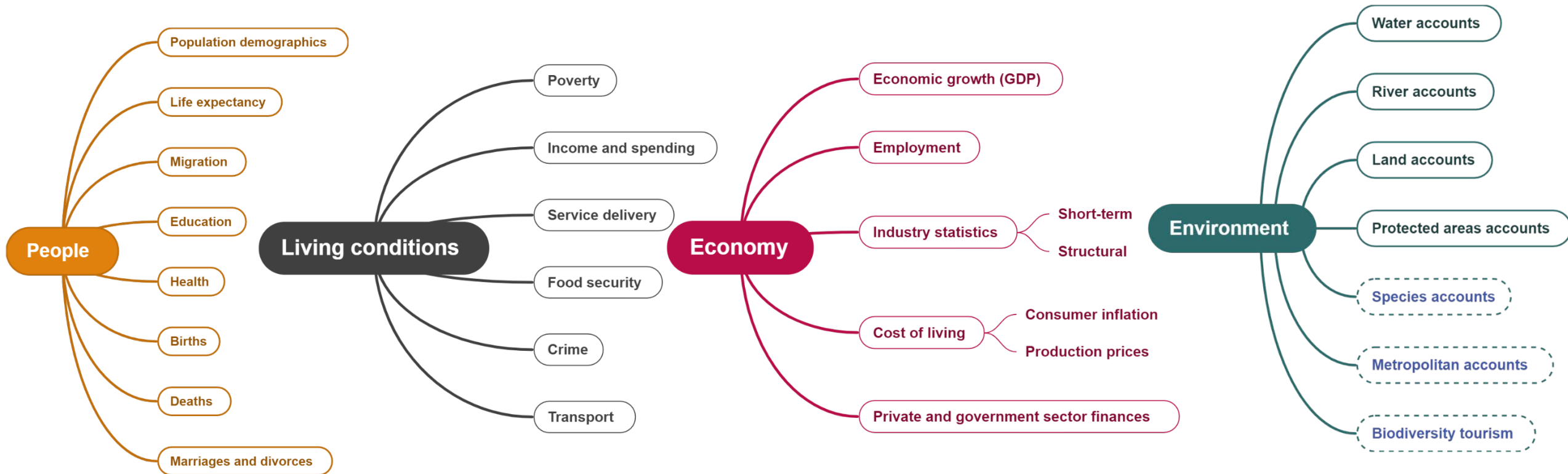
IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



Statistical production system



Our products



1996 Traditional face-to-face census visiting households with paper questionnaire

2001 Census enumerators visiting households with paper questionnaire

2011 Traditional face-to-face census visiting households with paper questionnaire, Questionnaire scanning

2022 100% digital, multi-mode options of data collection:

- Face to face (CAPI)
- Telephonic (CATI)
- Web-based (CAWI)

Image Credit:
<https://www.uneca.org/events/data-and-statistics/experience-sharing-on-the-modernization-and-use-of-administrative-data>



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Monitor your fieldwork.... + Modes Concurrently



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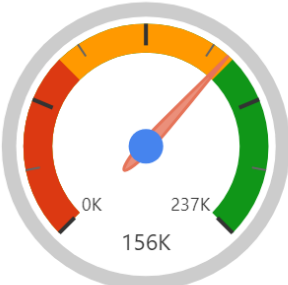
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CENSUS 2022 ENUMERATION DASHBOARD: CAWI / CATI

% Completed DU & SDI



65.68%

172,897

Complete Questionnaires

Feature Category

All

Collection Mode

All

237,197

Total DU & SDI

155,797

Completed DU & SDI

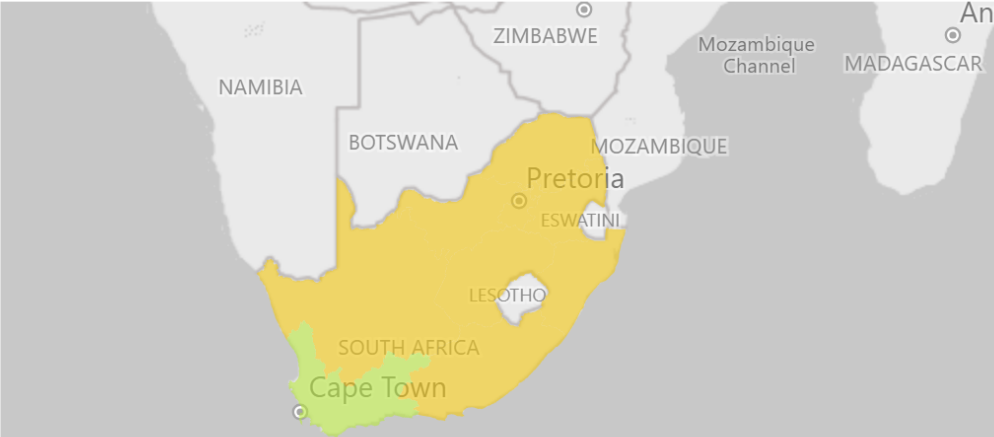
31,886

In-Progress DU & SDI

49,514

Untouched DU & SDI

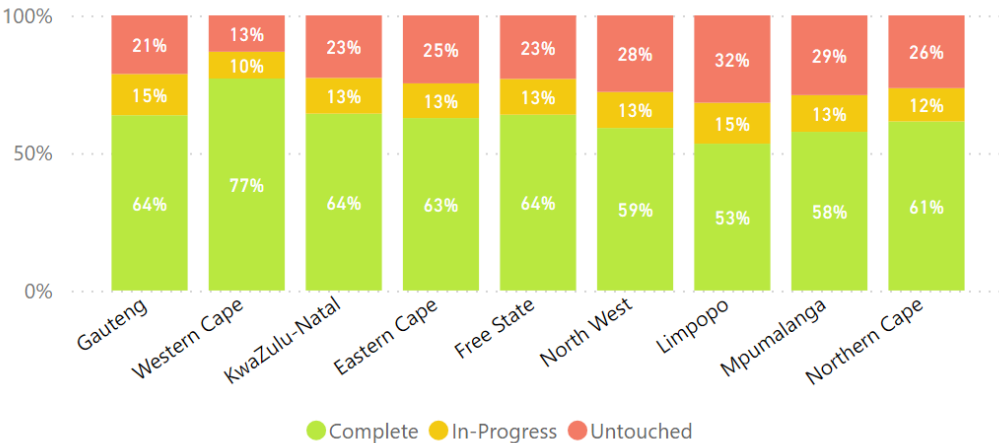
% Completed DU & SDI



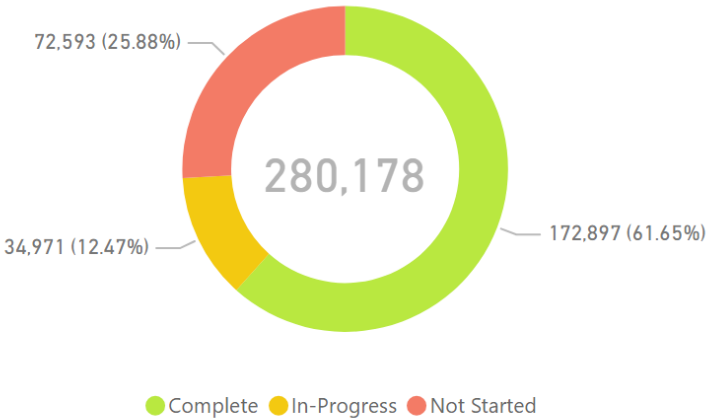
Microsoft Bing

© 2025 TomTom, © 2025 Microsoft Corporation, © OpenStreetMap Terms

DU & SDI Enumeration Progress



Questionnaires Progress



KEY CENSUS 2022 INNOVATIONS

This was South Africa's first digital census with real time, computer aided data collection using hand held devices



• Localised Recruitment with Integrated Google Maps and Coordinates

Budget Tracking System

Vehicle Tracking Systems

Inhouse CAPI Systems

Dashboard Reporting Systems

Fieldworker Verification System



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South Africa's Population on 2 February 2022

62 027 503



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2031 Digital Census



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Predictive Analytics and Early Warning Systems



Automated Anomaly Detection



Natural Language Processing (NLP) for Queries and Insights



Intelligent Resource Optimization



Use of administrative records



Deployment of Drones for Geo-Frame Updating



QR Codes for fieldworker verification

Key aspects of the 2031 Digital Census



Online Platforms:

Respondents can complete questionnaires via websites or mobile apps, allowing for self-enumeration and reducing the need for in-person interviews.



Mobile Devices:

Fieldworkers will use tablets to collect data in the field, streamlining the process and enabling real-time data entry and transfer.



Data Analytics:

Advanced tools will be used to analyze census data, providing insights into demographics, social conditions, and economic trends.



Reduced Costs:

Digital methods will lower the costs vs traditional census



Improved Accuracy:

Digital tools can minimize errors associated with manual data entry and improve the overall quality of the collected data.



Real-time Data:

Data can be collected and processed in real-time, enabling quicker analysis and reporting.



Big Data and Data science:

Using big data sources like MPD (Mobile Phone Data) as a means to count people will be potentially a game changer in the future.



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**CSIR**science & innovation
Department of Science and Technology
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National Policy Data Observatory Analytics & Modelling Platform

The National Policy Data Observatory (NPDO) is a government-led, national policy data observatory currently incubated at the [Council for Scientific and Industrial Research](#) (CSIR). The Data and Decision Support Centre, which is housed in a secure facility at the CSIR, provides data collection and storage services, analytics, trends and dashboards on various socio-economic indicators. The data and insights generated by the Data Centre are already a significant input to [NATJOINTS](#), [Inter-Ministerial Committee](#) (IMC) on Vaccination and other departments such as [Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation](#) (DPME) and [Government Communication and Information System](#) (GCIS).

DATA & DECISION SUPPORT CENTRE CAPABILITIES

Oversight and Monitoring


Support the IMC on vaccine-rollout including conducting research on various aspects and data collection, monitoring of indicators, modelling, and forecasting.

Global Trends and Development Indicators

Research and monitoring of global trends on various socio-economic interventions such as vaccinations, COVID-19, national development indicators and other topics as required.

Other Research Data Sources

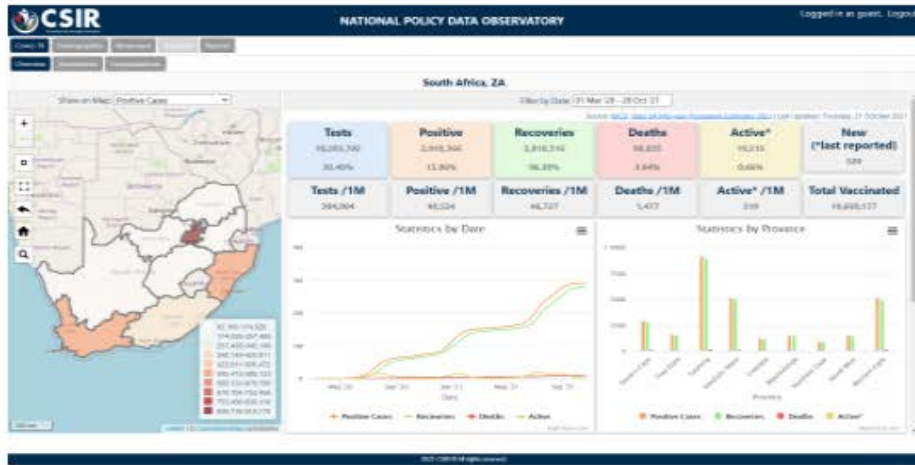
Collates myriad of R&D reports including data for different types of analysis and decision-making.



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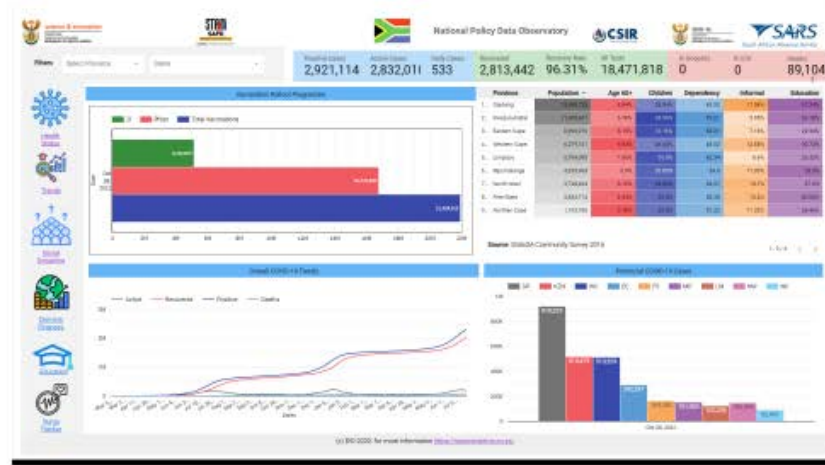
NATIONAL POLICY DATA OBSERVATORY

Check our Dashboards



NPDO Dashboard

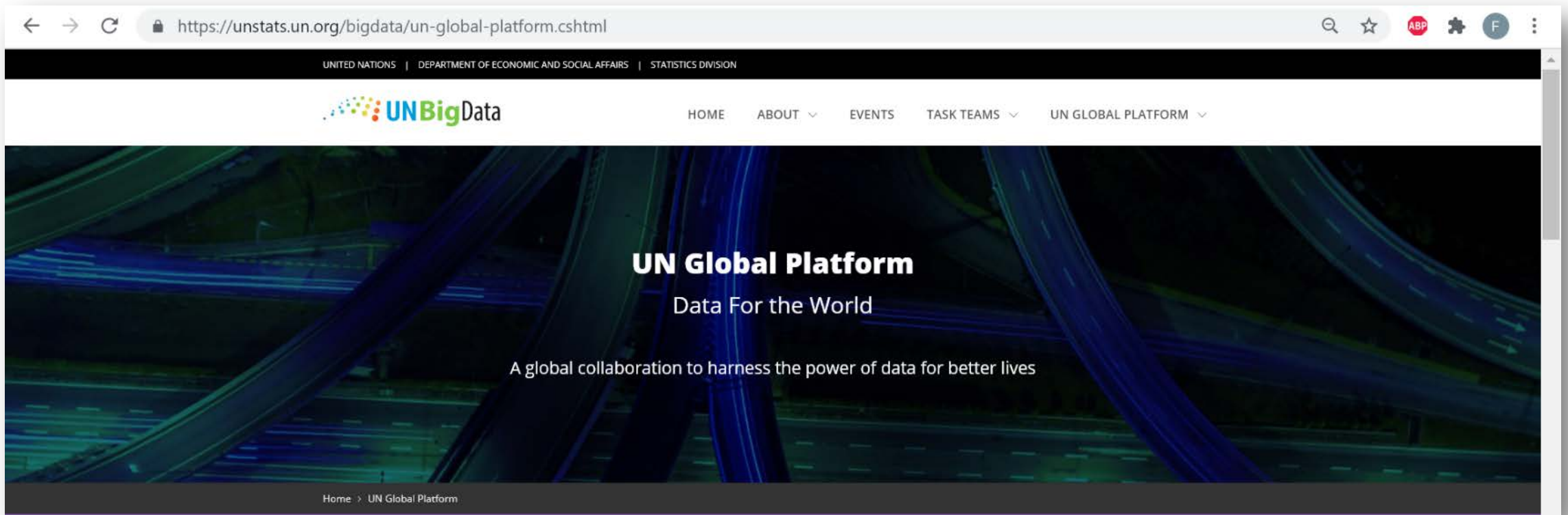
Dashboard that contains Covid-19, Demographic, Mobility, Financial, Report data and more.



Google Studio Dashboard

Dashboard that contains Covid-19 data analysis, insights and more.

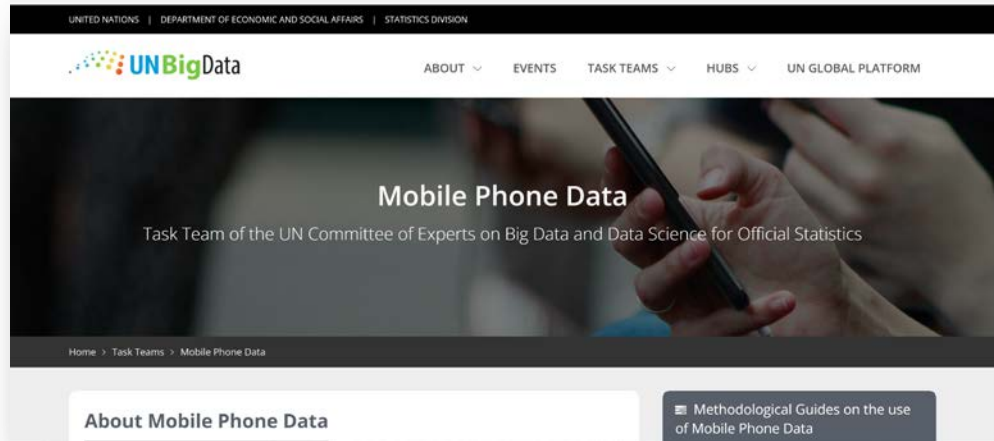
The Global Platform lives in the Cloud..



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Deliverables

The Task Team aims to achieve the following goals in 2025:

1. **Review and elaborate the methodological guides on migration, tourism, and transport.**
2. **Develop guides on new areas included under research and innovation.**
3. **Continue the development of synthetic data for various applications of MPD for official statistics**, such as migration patterns, population mobility, tourism, transport, information society.
4. **Finalize the training materials for the MPD Project Manager.**
5. Develop a **pseudocode** guide for using MPD in official statistics outlining clear, step-by-step procedures across the six key areas defined in the published MPD Guides.
6. **Delivery of capacity building in countries.** Key topics will include technical methodologies ensuring that countries can integrate MPD into their statistical systems. This can be done in the context of the GDF-MPD Cohort 1 countries.
7. **Build a comprehensive repository** of country use cases of use of MPD for official statistics or other applications in policymaking.

<https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/task-teams/mobile-phone/>



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Census 2022

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