



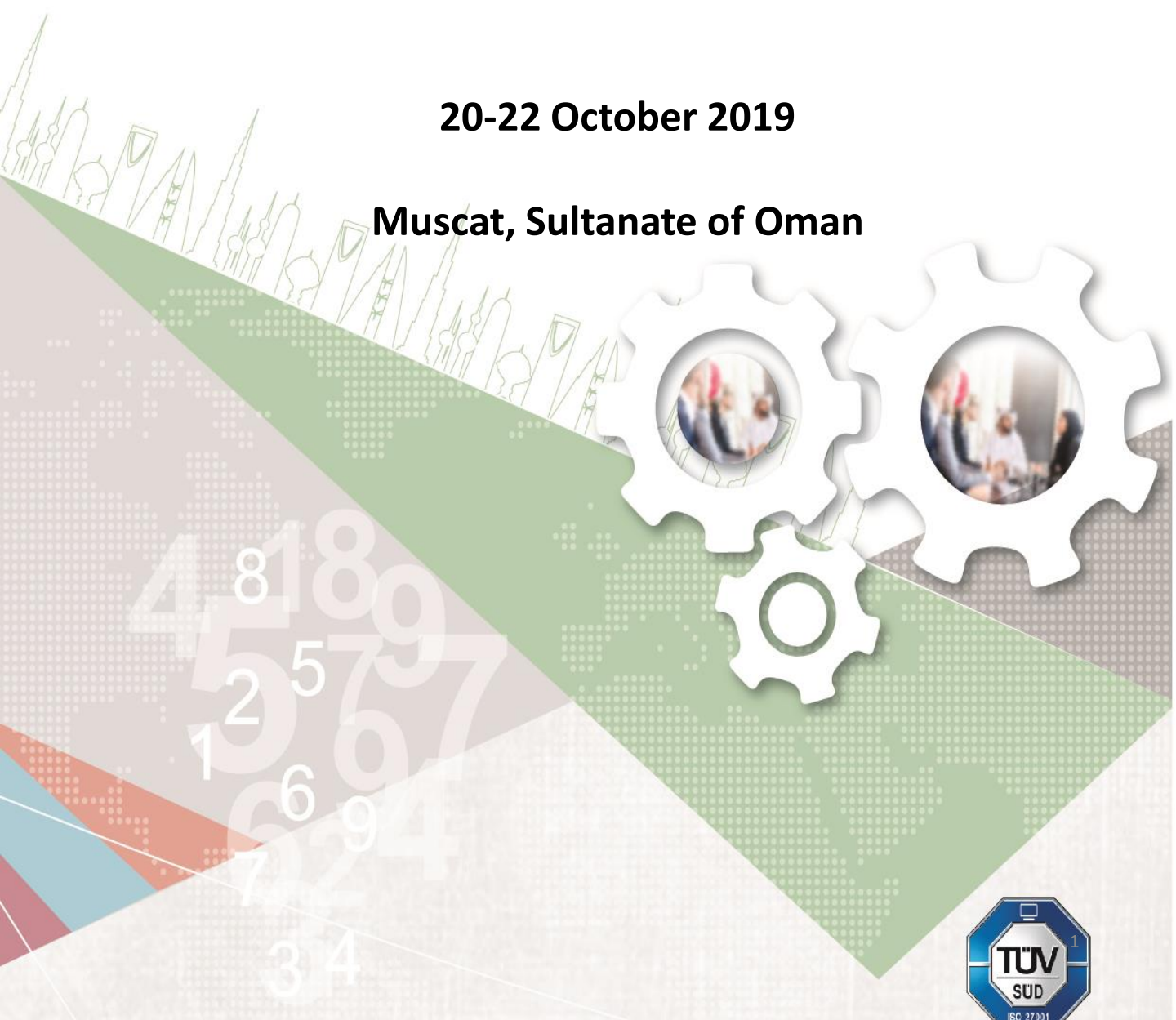
المركز الإحصائي
لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية
GCC-STAT



Regional Consultative Meeting on Population Estimates and Projections

20-22 October 2019

Muscat, Sultanate of Oman





Preface

GCC-Stat, together with the relevant UN agencies, has organised this consultative meeting to ensure a better understanding of the different assumptions and methodologies to be used in preparing population estimates and projections in the GCC.

The meeting will bring together relevant senior demographers and other senior officials from all GCC countries, UN Population Division, UN Statistics Division, UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) and GCC-Stat.

1. Background

Consistent and reliable measures of the current and future size and composition of the population of GCC countries (UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait) are fundamental to effective decision making in countries. Demographers and statisticians identify the different population measures as:

- Population Estimates – the calculation of the current population based on current or recent conditions
- Population Projections – forecasts for what the population might be in the future, based on different scenarios

Both Estimates and Projections are regularly prepared at the country, regional and global (world) level. In addition, some GCC countries also produce estimates and projections at sub-national levels.

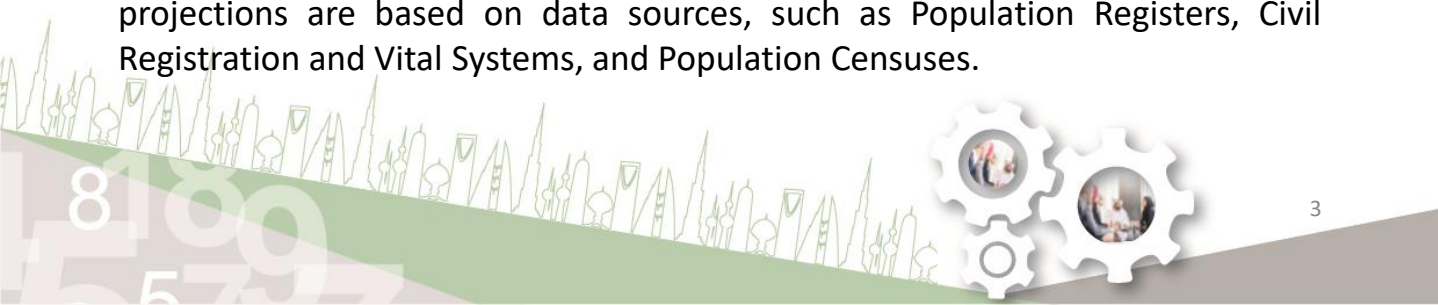
Projections and estimates are also required for different sub-populations, such as different age groups. Labour force projections and other specialist projections are also very important for understanding the impact of demographic events on the future demand and supply of the labour force.

In all cases, preparing population estimates or projections requires:

- robust assumptions about the current population and its composition, fertility, mortality and migration (movement of people between and within countries)
- range of quality data sources, and
- appropriate technical expertise.

Estimates and projections also need to consider specific local conditions. For example, there are major demographic differences between the Citizen and Non-Citizen populations in GCC countries. Changes in Citizen populations are driven primarily by natural increase (births minus deaths), while changes in the Non-Citizen populations are predominantly driven by the arrival and departure of temporary workers. The methodologies used in preparing estimates and projections need to reflect these differences.

Some countries also produce Population Projections. These estimates and projections are based on data sources, such as Population Registers, Civil Registration and Vital Systems, and Population Censuses.



All GCC countries produce and publish Population Estimates. Some countries also produce Population Projections. These estimates and projections are based on data sources, such as Population Registers, Civil Registration and Vital Systems, and Population Censuses.

International and regional organisations also produce official statistics about the population of GCC countries. These include estimates published by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) in annual publications such as the *Population and Vital Statistics Report* and *Demographic Yearbook*¹. The UN Population Division (UNPD) publishes annual population estimates and projections in the *World Population Prospects*² GCC-Stat regularly publishes Population Estimates ³of GCC member countries and the total GCC, based on NSO data. In addition, the ESCWA also regularly produces population statistics⁴.

Where there are differences in the published figures, there can be confusion among users, particularly if these differences are large. A possible factor is the different assumptions and methodologies. GCC-Stat has organised this consultative meeting to ensure a better understanding of the different assumptions and methodologies. The meeting will bring together relevant senior demographers and other senior officials from all GCC countries, UN Population Division, UN Statistics Division, ESCWA and GCC-Stat, to review the assumptions and methodologies used in the preparation of Population Estimates and Projections for GCC countries.

2. Objectives

The objective is to share knowledge in the assumptions and methodologies used in the regular production of population estimates and projections for GCC countries and the GCC region, with the aim of improving the quality of the statistics.

¹ Population and Vital Statistics Report

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/vitstats/default.htm> and [Demographic Yearbook https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2.htm](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2.htm)

²The 2019 World Population Prospects - <https://population.un.org/wpp/>

³See for example, Population Statistics in GCC countries 2010 -2014, published in 2016

https://www.gccstat.org/images/gccstat/docman/publications/160-gcc-population-gcc-countries-2010-2014_1.pdf

⁴For example, ESCWA Compendium of Demographic and Social Statistics

<https://www.unescwa.org/publications/arab-society-compendium-social-statistics-issue-no-13>

The specific aims of the meeting are:

- Understand the methodologies and related assumptions used by UN agencies in producing Population Estimates and Projections for GCC countries
- GCC countries share their knowledge and experience in the preparation of population estimates and projections
- Identify common assumptions that can be used in the preparation of population estimates and projections for GCC countries and for the GCC region.
- Identify options for production of specialist estimates and projections (e.g. sub-national projections, labour force projections)
- Identify areas for closer cooperation and/or quality improvements in methods and sources.
- Identify implications for other GCC population statistical fields such as the GCC 2020 Harmonised Census project, enhancements to Civil Registration and Vital Registration statistics.

3. Meeting Themes

The meeting will have five themes

- Introduction
- Population Estimates
- Population Projections
- Improving Sources and Methodologies
- Next Steps



4. Meeting Outcomes

The meeting will identify the main assumptions for Population estimates and projections in the GCC states, areas for closer cooperation, and areas for improvement.

The outcomes will be formally considered by the GCC Standing Committee on Population and Social Statistics, from 23- 24 October 2019

5. Meeting Participants

The meeting participants will be as follows:

- Officials in National Statistical Offices responsible for the technical preparation and production of population estimates and projections
- Senior officials in National Statistical Offices responsible for the management of population statistics.
- Representatives of United Nations Statistics Division, United Nations Population Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)
- GCC-Stat managers, experts and statisticians involved in the production of population statistics

NSOs, UN agencies, ESCWA and GCC-Stat will all chair assigned sessions of the meeting, as well as provide presentations and actively contribute to discussions.

6. Pre-meeting Preparation Within Countries

All NSOs will need to share experiences in preparing Population Estimates, including assumptions, data sources and methodologies. Where countries produce Population Projections, they will also need to be prepared to discuss the assumptions and methodologies used in this work.

Presentations from NSOs (in Arabic or English) should be sent to GCC-Stat by **8 October 2019**. Specific requirements for country presentations will be provided by mid -September 2019.



7. Organisation

The meeting has been organised by GCC-Stat with active participation from the relevant UN agencies and GCC countries.

To support the key objectives, all participants (GCC countries, UN agencies and GCC-Stat) will be required to present and share information on the data sources, constraints, assumptions and methodologies used in the preparation of population estimates and projections in the GCC region.

The meeting will also allow time for individual country consultations with the relevant UN and regional organisations.

The meeting will be held at GCC-Stat, Muscat, Oman.

8. Language

The workshop will use both Arabic and English, with simultaneous Interpretation.

9. Contact Information

For further technical information, please contact

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Agenda – 20 October 2019

Time	Speakers	Topic
9.15 – 9.00		Registration
		Workshop Opening
9.15 – 10.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening Remarks - Introductions and Expectations of Participants - meeting Objectives and Organisation

Theme 1: Introduction

Chair Country A

10.00- 10.30	UNSD UNPD
	ESCWA GCC-Stat

Session 1 Roles and Responsibilities

- International Agencies
- Role of UN Statistics Division (UNSD)
 - Role of UN Population Division (UNPD)
- Regional Agencies
- ESCWA
 - GCC-Stat

10.30- 10.45

Coffee Break

Chair Country B

10.45 – 11.45	UNPD
	UNSD

Session 2 Conceptual Framework for Estimates and Projections

- Conceptual Base
- Concepts and Definitions
 - Link between Estimates and Projections
 - Role of UN Demographic Yearbook
 - UN World Population Prospects
- Measuring Population
- Census
 - Vital Statistics
 - Population Estimates
 - International Frameworks and Best Practice
- Discussion



Agenda – 20 October 2019

Time	Speakers	Topic
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Theme 1 : Introduction (continued)

Chair UNSD

Session 3 Specific GCC Population Concepts

11.45 -12.15	GCC-Stat	<p>GCC Population Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Usual Resident Population in GCC - Citizens and Non-Citizens
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Discussion

Chair Country C

Session 4 User Requirements

12.45- 12.15	UNSD	<p>International Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDGs - International Reporting
	GCC-Stat	<p>GCC User Requirements, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GCC Population Strategy - GCC Common Market, Labour Policies
	Countries	<p>Country Requirements</p>

12.45 – 1.15 Prayer Break

Theme 2 : Population Estimates

Chair Country D

Session 5 International and Regional Population Estimates

1.15- 2.45	UNSD	<p>UNSD Population Statistics</p> <p>UNPD Population Estimates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assumptions - Methodologies - Treatment of Missing Data
	UNPD	
	ESCWA	<p>Measuring Population in ESWCA region</p>
2.45 – 3.00	GCC-Stat	<p>GCC Population Estimates</p> <p>Discussion</p>
		<p>Review of Day 1</p>

Lunch

Country Specific Discussions with UN Agencies

Agenda – 21 October 2019

Time	Speakers	Topic
Theme 2 : Population Estimates (continued)		
	Chair UNPD	Session 6 Country Experiences in Producing Population Estimates
8.30- 10.15	Countries	Country Presentations Discussion
10.15- 10.30	Coffee Break	
	Chair ESCWA	Session 7 Common Assumptions in Preparing Population Estimates in GCC States
10.30-11.15	Discussions UNSD/UNPD Countries	Regional Standard Assumptions Implications for International Estimates Country Implications
Theme 3: Population Projections		
	Chair GCC-Stat	Session 8 Standard Projection Methodologies
11.15 – 12.00	UNPD	Standard processes – including introduction to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fertility - Mortality - Migration (movement of people)
	Chair UNSD	Session 9 Population Projections in GCC
12.00 - 12.45	Countries ESCWA GCC-Stat	Country Presentations Comments from Regional Agencies Discussion
12.45 – 1.15	Prayer Break	



Agenda – 21 October 2019

Time	Speaker	Topic
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Theme 3 : Population Projections (continued)

Chair Country E

Session 10 International Agency Perspectives on Projections

1.15- 2.45

UNPD

UNPD Procedures and Assumptions

- Procedures
- Assumptions
- Treatment of Missing Data

Discussion

2.45 – 3.00

Review of Day 2

Lunch

Country Specific Discussions with UN Agencies



Agenda – 22 October 2019

Time	Speakers	Topic
Theme 3 : Population Projections (continued)		
8.30- 10.30	Chair ESCWA Discussions UNPD Countries	Session 11 Common Assumptions for Population Projections Regional Standard Assumptions - Citizens/Non-Citizens - Fertility - Mortality - Migration Implications for International Projections Country Implications Discussion
10.30- 10.45	Coffee Break	
Theme 4: Improving Data Sources and Methodologies		
10.45 – 11.45	Chair UNPD GCC-Stat UNSD Countries	Session 12 Improving Methods and Sources in GCC Countries Harmonised Initiatives to improve Population Sources in GCC Countries Outcomes of Workshop on Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics System, Revision 3 for Arabic Speaking Countries:2016 Country Activities Discussion
11.45-12.45	Chair GCC-Stat Countries ESCWA GCC-Stat	Session 13 Enhancing Methodologies – International and Regional experiences Country Presentations Comments from Regional Agencies Discussion
12.45-1.15	Prayer Break	



Agenda – 22 October 2019

Time	Speaker	Topic
Theme 5 : Next Steps		
Chair Country F		Session 14 Action Plans
1.15- 2.00		Country Actions Regional and International Agency Actions Discussion
Chair GCC-Stat		Session 15 Next Steps
2.00 -2.30		Outcome Statement
2.30-2.45		Summary
2.45 – 3.00		Closing Ceremony
Lunch		



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