

## Population Distribution: Geographic Areas



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### Last Week's Assignment

- Moktar Awaleh Wais (Djibouti)
- Amal Girgis (China) – De Jure
- Elham Taha (Sudan)
- Mahmoud Awad (Egypt) – More thank required
- Hanaa Hamed (Kuwait)
- Ahmed Saied (Syria)
- Nosiphiwo Macaula (South Africa)
- Venant HABARUGIRA and Michel RUGAMBWA NDAKIZE (Rwanda)
- Manal Fathy Abdelaziz (Nigeria) – Very short – no narratives
- AUGUSTINE JONGTEY (File was not attached)
- Ayad suleiman fath (Iraq)
- Omar Abdulrahim (Bahrain) – De Jure
- ABDUL-MAJID RAMADHAN (Tanzania)
- Stephen Wadok (South Sudan)





## **Geographical Areas**

- In this lecture, we are going to discuss the geographic distribution of the population by political areas and other types of geographic areas.
- We are going to discuss the following topics:
  - Administrative or political areas
  - Statistical areas



## **Administrative or Political Areas**

- Primary Divisions
- Special Units
- Secondary and Tertiary Divisions
- Municipalities



- **Primary Divisions**
- What are the primary geographic divisions in your country?
  - Regions
  - Economic Regions
  - Development Regions
  - Cities and Towns
  - Municipalities
  - Governorates



- **Special Units**
- In some countries, distinguished areas are considered as special unites.
  - Islands
  - Special regions of ethnic minorities
  - Independent/semi-independent regions
- These unites are considered primary unites but with a special status.



- **Secondary and Tertiary Divisions**
  - Cities
  - Districts
  - Frontier Districts
  - Municipalities
  - Rural Districts
  - Urban Districts
  - Union Territories
  - Capital
  - Villages
  - Local Union
- Note that according the primary division, secondary and tertiary divisions are determined



- **Towards a Standard Classification of Geographical Area**
- It is difficult to find a universal, precise term for the type of political/geographic area.
- Each country applies its own classification
- Even in the same country classification may differ.
- The organization of large municipalities differ from small municipalities (Governorates)



- **Where to find the geographic classification of a country?**
- In the census results
- In the local administration and/or the government's publications or website (if available)



- **Quality of Statistics on Geographic Divisions**
- Most of what can be said about the accuracy of total national population applies also to the country's geographic divisions.
- But regional variations in the quality of data may be expected.



- **Uses of statistics on the distribution of the population among political/geographic areas**
- Statistics on the distribution of the population among geographic areas are useful for many purposes.
  - They may be used to meet legal requirements for determining the apportionment of representation in legislative bodies.
  - They are needed for studies of internal migration and population distribution in relation to social, economic, and other administrative planning.
  - They provide base data for the computation of sub-national vital statistics rates and for preparing local population estimates and projections.



- **Limitation of Geographic Data**
- The boundaries may be rather arbitrary and may not consider economic or social factors.
- Moreover, the areas officially designated as cities may not correspond very well to the actual physical city in terms of population settlement or to the functional economic unit.



## Statistical Areas

- For many purposes, data are needed for areas other than those recognized as geographic/political entities.
- Non-geographic areas, commonly used for statistical purposes, include both combinations and subdivisions of geographic areas.
- The most general objective in defining such statistical areas is to *attain relative homogeneity within the area*, and, depending on the particular purpose of the definition, the homogeneity sought may be with respect to geographic, demographic, economic, social, historical, or cultural characteristics.
- Also, groups of non adjacent areas meeting specified criteria, such as all the *urban areas within a state*, are frequently used in presentation and analysis of population data.



## Statistical Areas

- Egypt Demographic and Health Survey classification
- The EDHS classifies Egypt into six regions:
  1. Urban Governorates (Cairo, Alex, Port Said and Suez)
  2. Urban Upper Egypt (Urban areas in the governorates of Upper Egypt)
  3. Rural Upper Egypt (Rural areas in the governorates of Upper Egypt)
  4. Urban Lower Egypt (Urban areas in the governorates of Lower Egypt)
  5. Rural Lower Egypt (Rural areas in the governorates of Lower Egypt)
  6. Frontier Governorates (S. and N. Sinai, New Valley, Red Sea, and Matrouh)
- This is not a geographical distribution, it's a functional or purposive distribution).

## Statistical Areas



- **International Recommendations and National Practices**
- There are several types of such statistical areas; for example, regions or functional economic areas; metropolitan areas, urban agglomerations, and localities.



- Regions or Functional Economic Areas
- Large Urban Agglomerations
- Localities
- Urban Census Tracts





### **Regions or Functional Economic Areas**

- The terminology for this kind of geographic area is not too well standardized, but as used here, a “region” means a large area.
- A region may represent a grouping of a country’s primary divisions (e.g., states or provinces) or a grouping of secondary or tertiary divisions that cuts across the boundaries of the primary divisions.
- Among the factors on which regions are delineated are geography, climate, type of soil, type of farming, culture, and economic activities.
- The cultural and economic factors include ethnic or linguistic differences, type of economy, and standard of living.
- The objective may be to create “uniform” (or “homogeneous”) regions—which are defined so as to minimize differences within regions.



### **Large Urban Agglomerations**

- The concept of an *urban agglomeration* is defined by the United Nations as follows: “*A large locality of a country (i.e., a city or a town) which comprises the city or town proper and also the suburban fringe or thickly settled territory lying outside of, but adjacent to, its boundaries.*”
- The urban agglomeration is, therefore, not identical with the locality but is an additional geographic unit that includes more than one locality”



### **Localities**

- A “locality” is a distinct population cluster the inhabitants of which live in closely adjacent structures.
- Localities are not necessarily the same as the smallest civil divisions of a country.
- The urban agglomeration is, therefore, not identical with the locality but is an additional geographic unit that includes more than one locality”



### **Urban Census Tracts**

- The urban census tract is a statistical subdivision of a relatively large city.
- Known in Egypt as *Shiakhas*.
- Once their boundaries are established, not only census data but also other kinds of data, such as vital and health records, can be assembled for these areas.



## Next Week



- **Readings:**
- Siegel, J. & Swanson, D. Chapter 6 ; pp :105-124 .
- **Assignments:**
- In no more than **one page**, describe the geographical areas definition in your country, or a country of your choice.