






PARTICIPANTS' BIOS



Karoline Schmid, Population Division, DESA. Ms. Karoline Schmid, Chief, Fertility and Population Ageing Section, Population Division/DESA. Karoline Schmid has been working in the United Nations system since 1995 in various capacities serving at different duties stations. She is currently heading the Fertility and Population Ageing Section in the Population Division and leads the Division's work related to adolescent fertility in the context of SDG monitoring and reporting. Her portfolio also covers overseeing the Division's work on population ageing. Prior to joining the Population Division, she served as Interregional Advisor in the Division for Inclusive Social development where she led the development of the MISA (Multi Indicator Survey on Ageing) in sub-Saharan Africa. Karoline holds a diploma in sociology from the University of Bamberg (Germany) and a Ph. D. in sociology from the University of Marburg (Germany).



Patrick Gerland, Population Division, DESA. Chief, Population Estimates and Projections section, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Patrick Gerland, has over 26 years of work experience with the United Nations. In his current position, he oversees in the Population Division the preparation of the World Population Prospects, and the preparation of technical and substantive reports on population estimation and projection. Patrick first worked in the UN Statistics Division on international demographic statistics, data collection/management/analysis and IT/GIS capacity-building in developing countries, and for the past decade in the UN Population Division as analyst with increasing responsibilities and contributions to population estimates and projections, database and IT development, and methodological research. During this time, he provided technical training and assistance to population data-related projects in over 30 countries in Africa and Asia; collaborated in numerous inter-agency substantive and methodological expert groups; and has been collaborating with several academic research groups to develop new state-of-the-art statistical methods to incorporate uncertainty in demographic modeling, population reconstruction and probabilistic projections relevant to the UN work, and to improve existing methods and empirical datasets to measure child, adult and old-age mortality. Patrick holds a DESS d'expert démographe from the University of Paris (IDUP, Paris-I Pantheon-Sorbonne) and a PhD in Population Studies from Princeton University (Office of Population Research). Over the years, he (co)authored over 50 publications/papers and serves as referee for various demographic and public health journals.

	<p>Stephen Kisambira, Population Division, DESA. Stephen Kisambira holds a PhD in Population and Development from Cornell University. He joined the Population Division in 1995 in the then Mortality and Migration Section. He has since served in the Fertility and Family Planning Population Section, Population and Development, and Fertility and Population Ageing Section. His research transferred to the Population and Development Section. His research interests include infant and child mortality, fertility and family planning, migration and population ageing.</p>
	<p>Bruno Schoumaker is Professor of demography, UCLouvain (Belgium). He obtained his PhD from UCLouvain in 2001, and spent two years as a postdoc at the Université de Montréal. He has interests in demographic methods, data collection, fertility, and international migration, mainly in developing countries, and especially in sub-saharan Africa. He has participated in the MAFE project (Migration between Africa and Europe), and been actively involved in the design and data collection of migration surveys. He has also been actively involved in the Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHIYA) for the monitoring and evaluation of projects on adolescents' sexual and reproductive health. His work on fertility includes research on data quality, methods for analyzing birth histories, estimates of adolescent fertility and of male fertility.</p>
	<p>Adriana Skenderi, Statistician, Demographic Statistics Section, Statistics Division, DESA. Adriana holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Tirana and a Master of Science degree in Statistics at the University of Western Ontario. Since 2001 she works as a Statistician at the Statistics Division of UN DESA, and from 2009 she leads the team that is responsible for the collection, compilation and dissemination of data of the Demographic Yearbook Collection.</p>
	<p>Clémentine Rossier, Chercheuse associée, Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED) Paris. Clémentine Rossier has alternated quantitative and qualitative approaches to study induced abortion, contraception, and fertility trends in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. From 2008 to 2013, she helped launch an urban demographic and health surveillance system in Burkina Faso. In 2013, she received a professorship from the Swiss National Science Foundation to investigate the slow fertility decline in sub-Saharan Africa at the University of Geneva. Today, she collaborates with the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques in Paris on new ways to promote demographic statistics in Africa, and with the Unit of Research in Reproductive Health at the World Health Organization on the measurement of induced abortion. She also works since 2015 on family ties and well-being in Switzerland in the frame of the Swiss National Center of Competence in Research LIVES.</p>





Sarah Neal is currently an Associate Professor in Global Health at the University of Southampton. She originally trained as a nurse before studying social policy and social research at the Universities of Bristol and Bath. She has worked on a number of public health programmes in developing countries (and particularly in fragile states), and also spent time as a UK-based adviser for maternal and child health with DFID. She completed a PhD on the determinants of neonatal mortality in developing countries at Southampton University in 2009 before further postgraduate work on maternal and child health, including initial work estimating fertility rates for younger adolescents aged 12-14 and 12-15, which was published in 2012. Between 2012 and 2016 she held a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship to research very early adolescent motherhood (aged 12-15) in developing countries and has published a number of papers on the distribution, determinants and outcomes of very early adolescent births, as well as quality of data. She has worked closely with colleagues at WHO to develop evidence and promote the disaggregation of adolescent fertility data by age as well as socio-economic factors. Her broader current research interests include sexual health of adolescents in conflict-affected and displaced communities and dual protection and the expansion of non-barrier methods for adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa. She is also programme lead for the MSc in Global Health at the University of Southampton.



Jorge Rodriguez Vignoli. Sociologist (University of Chile, 1992), with a post-degree in Population and Development policies (CELADE, 1990), Doctoral studies in Economic and Social History (University of Santiago, Chile) and PhD in Demography (Cordoba National University, Argentine, 2019). From 1994 he has been working as Research Assistant at the Population and Development Area of CELADE/Population Division of ECLAC. He has conducted courses and training activities in CELADE as well as several Universities and other academic institutions in Latin America. He has carried out more than 100 technical assistance missions to countries of the region. He has published dozens of documents (both, official publications of ECLAC and articles or chapters in specialized and well-known journals and books), about Latin American and the Caribbean socio-demographic issues, including adolescent fertility and reproductive behaviour.



Neneh Conteh Khali, NSO Sierra Leone. Neneh Conteh-Khali is a Fulbright alumna who holds a Master of Arts degree in Demography from Bowling Green State University (BGSU), Ohio, USA. She is head of Demographic Statistics Section in the Demographic, Health & Social Statistics Division of Statistics Sierra Leone. Her demographic work experience ranges from data collection, supervision, analysis, report writing and teaching. Her thesis, “Socio-economic and Cultural Factors Influencing Desired Family Size in Sierra Leone” is published online via the Ohio universities consortium website - “Ohiolink”.

	<p>Francis Fonanyeneh Wreh is a Professor of Demography at the Institute of Population Studies, University of Liberia (2001-2018). Director-General of the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) (2018 – present) managing the National Statistics System of Liberia comprising the National Statistics Office (NSA) and line ministries and agencies. A well trained African Traditional Demographer from the United Nations Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) at the University of Ghana (Legon) – 1995. A Child Labour Statistician from the International Training Center of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO) in Turin, Italy (2014). Attended high level profile meetings of Directors-General of African Statistics and was recently elected as the First Vice Chairman of the Committee of Directors-General of Statistics in Tunisia in November 2019.</p>
	<p>Dr Mohammad Bellal Hossain is working as a Professor at the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka. He was the Chairman of the same department for the period of March 2012 to March 2015. He has obtained his first post-graduate degree in Sociology from the University of Dhaka and then obtained another post-graduate degree in Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV Related Medicine from the University of Sydney, Australia. He has obtained his PhD in Public Health and Policy from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK. He has around 20 years of teaching and research experience on various aspects like sexual and reproductive health and rights, child marriage, gender-biased sex selection, and the older population. He has work experience in Australia, Bangladesh, and the UK. He has published more than 40 journal articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and reports both at home and abroad, and presented many papers in various international conferences. He is a British Commonwealth Scholar and also received the AusAID award.</p>