

Cell phone data and census microdata to model human movement and migration

A. Sorichetta et al.

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

world
pop



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Lao People's
Democratic Republic.

Thailand

Cambodia

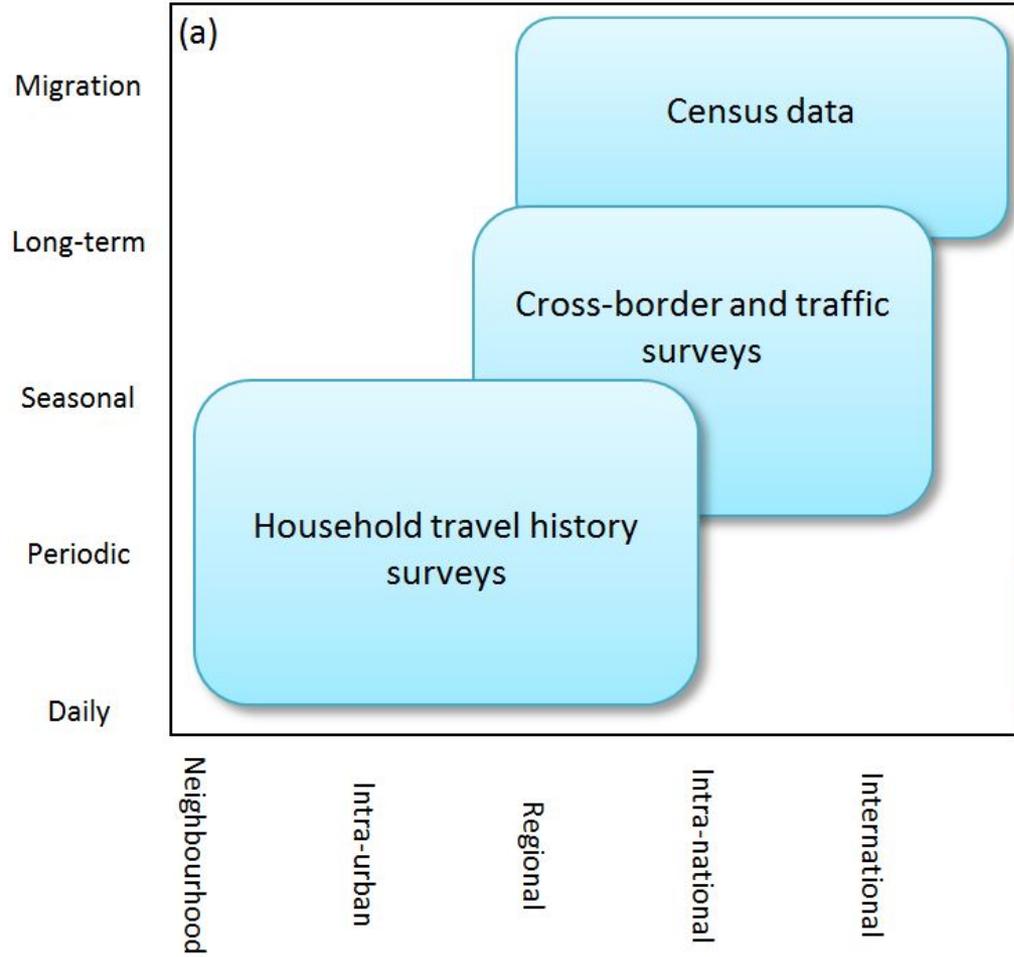
Vietnam

Kilometers
0 50 100



Modeling Human Mobility in Space and Time

“Traditional”



Cellphone Call Data Records (CDRs)

User makes a call from location X



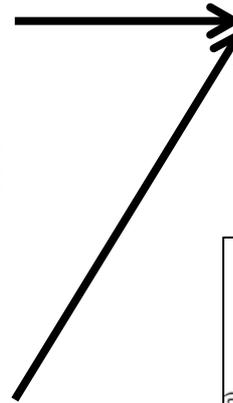
Call routed through nearest tower



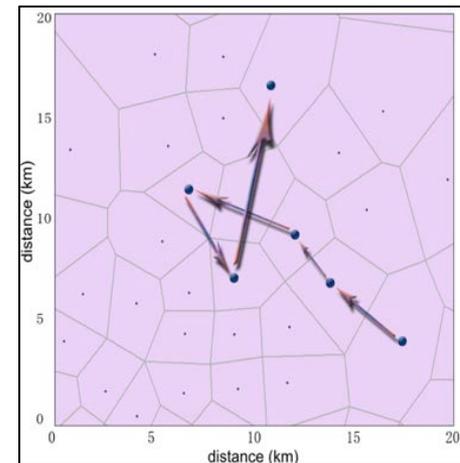
Network operator records time and tower of call for billing



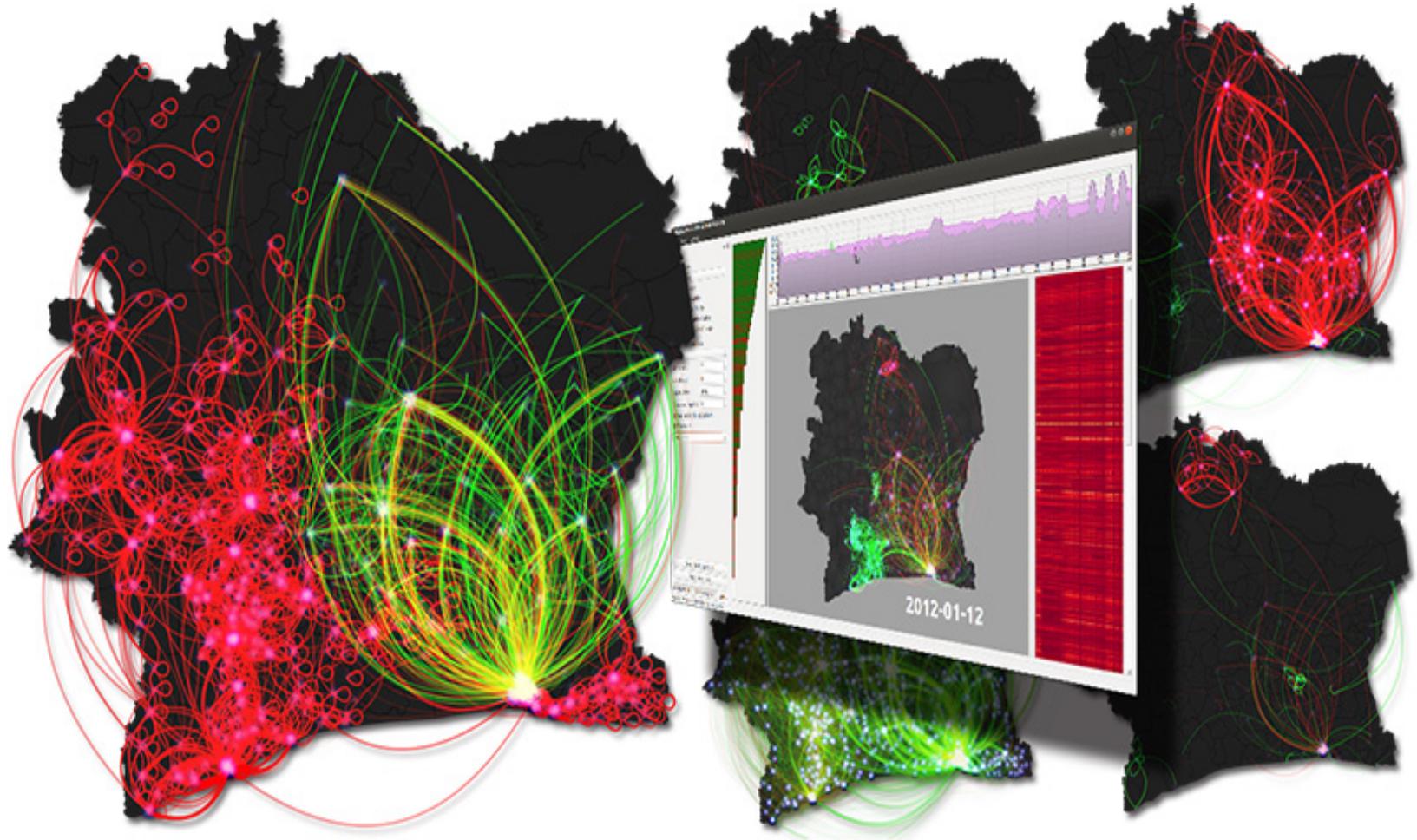
Call routed through nearest tower



User travels to Y and makes a call



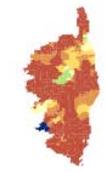
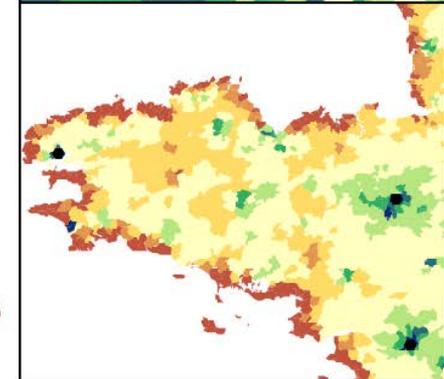
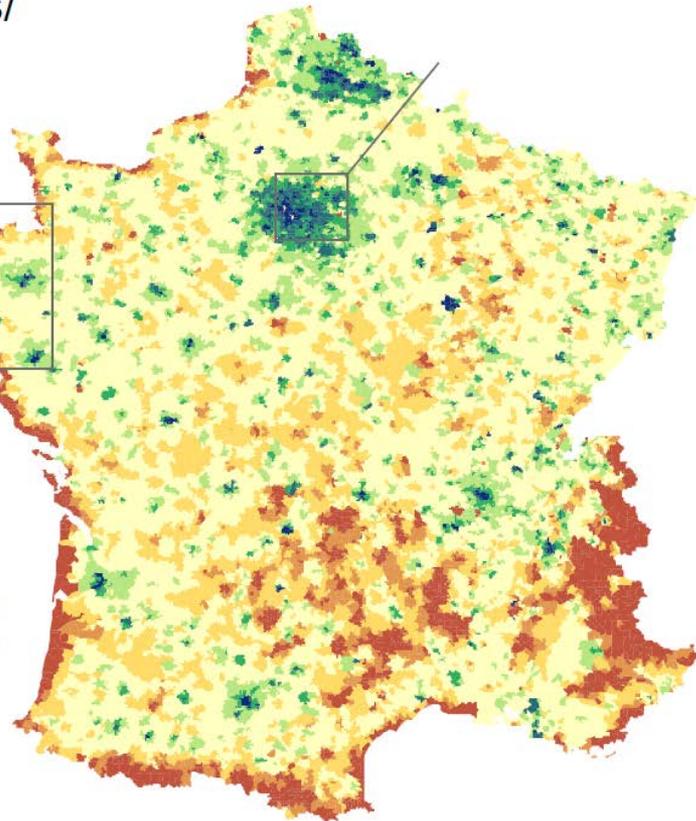
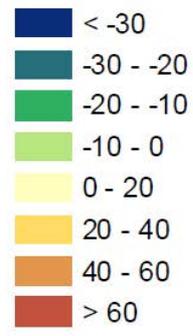
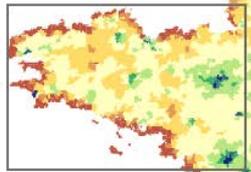
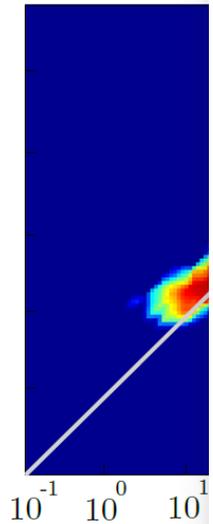
Cellphone Call Data Records (CDRs)



More Accurate and Dynamic Assessments of Population Distributions

*The com
covariate
are relat*

Holidays/
Work



that

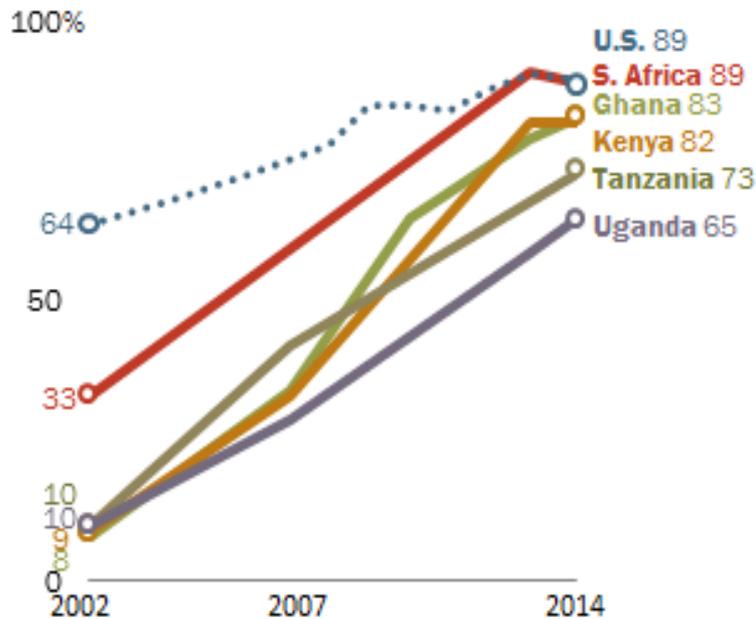
Population density
(/km²)

0
5,000
10,000
15,000

Cell Phone Ownership

Cell Phone Ownership Surges in Africa

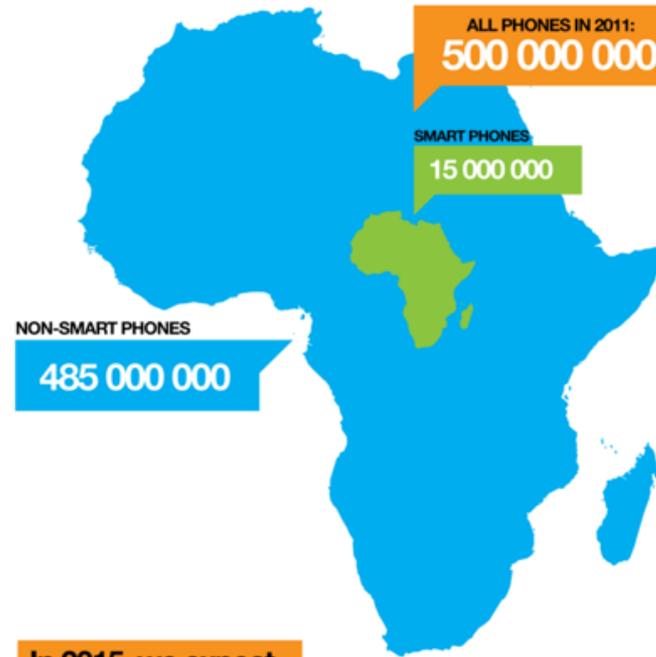
Adults who own a cell phone



Note: U.S. data from Pew Research Center surveys.

Source: Spring 2014 Global Attitudes survey. Q68.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



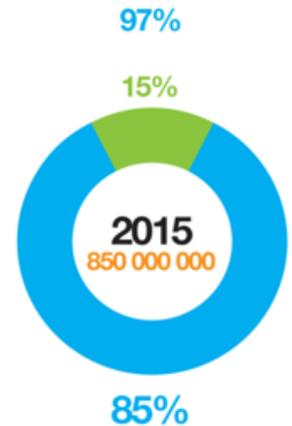
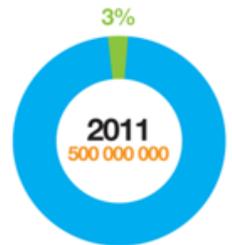
In 2015, we expect Africa to have:

722 500 000
non smart phones

127 500 000
smart phones

In 2015, there will be **5.6 non-smart phones** for every **1 smart phone**

In 2011, there are **32 non-smart phones** for every **1 smart phone**

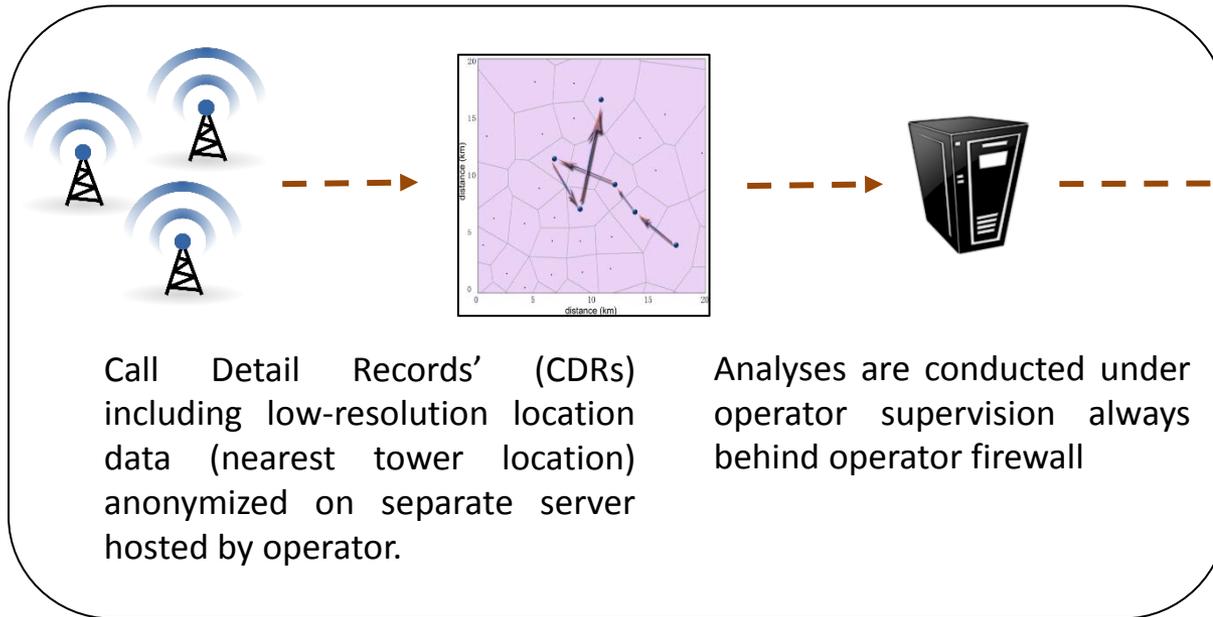


Mobile Phone Data Access

PARTNERS



Preserving Confidentiality!

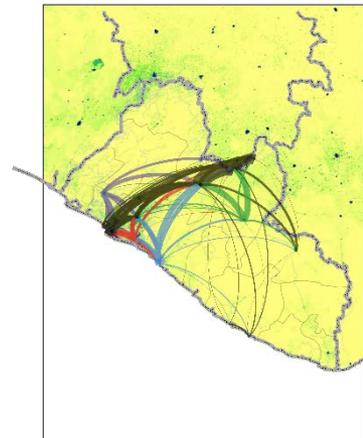


Call Detail Records' (CDRs) including low-resolution location data (nearest tower location) anonymized on separate server hosted by operator.

Analyses are conducted under operator supervision always behind operator firewall

Mobile operator firewall

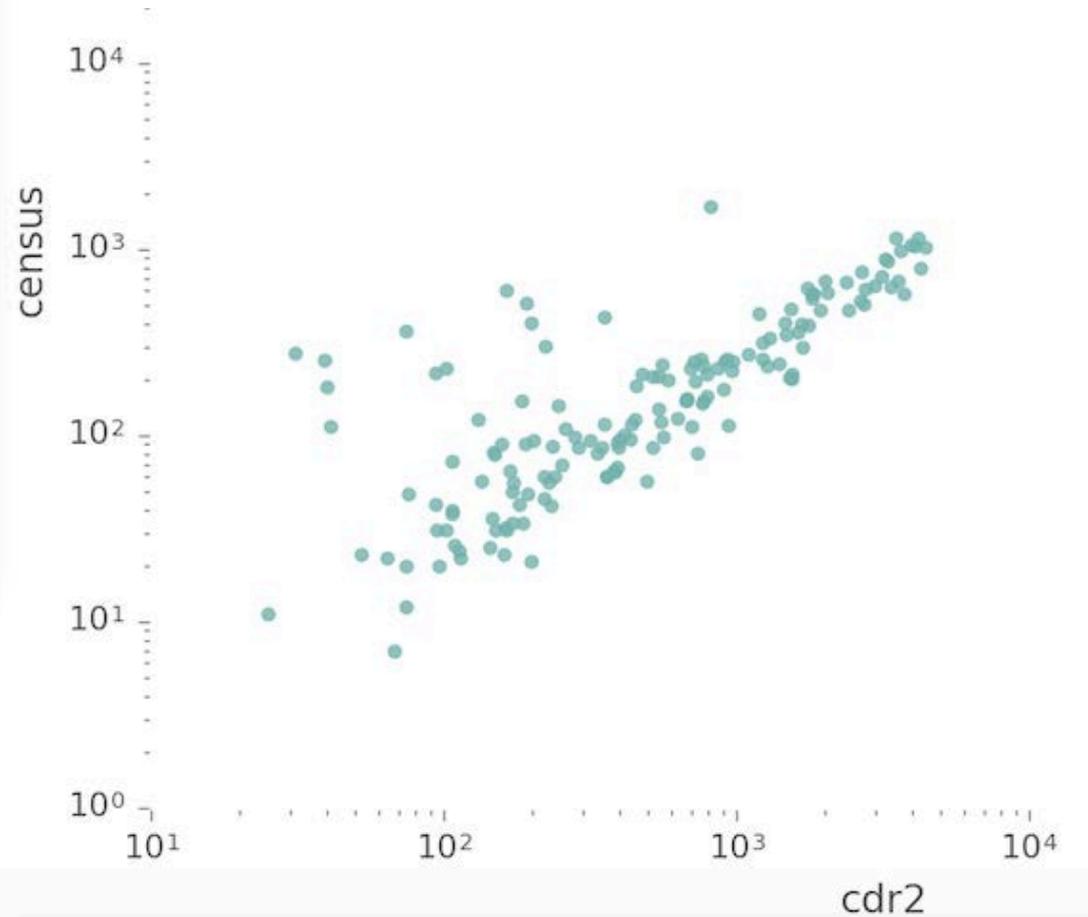
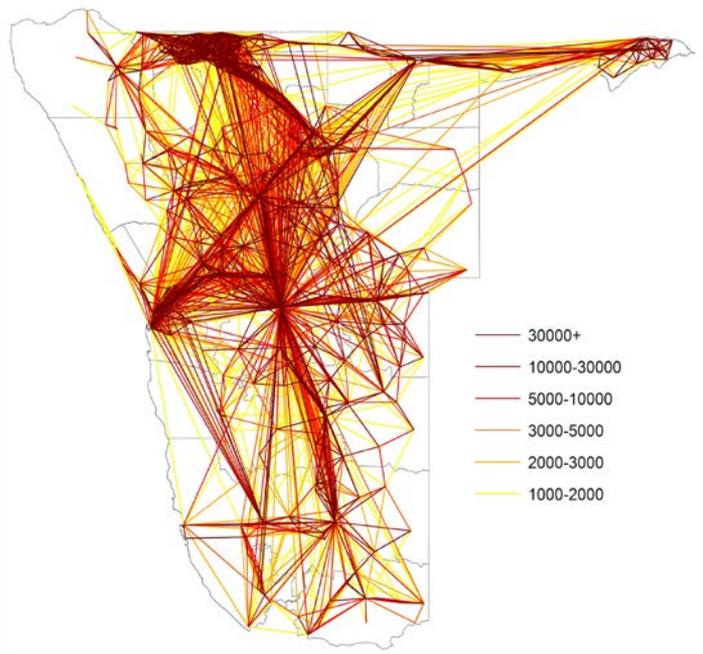
FLOWMINDER.ORG



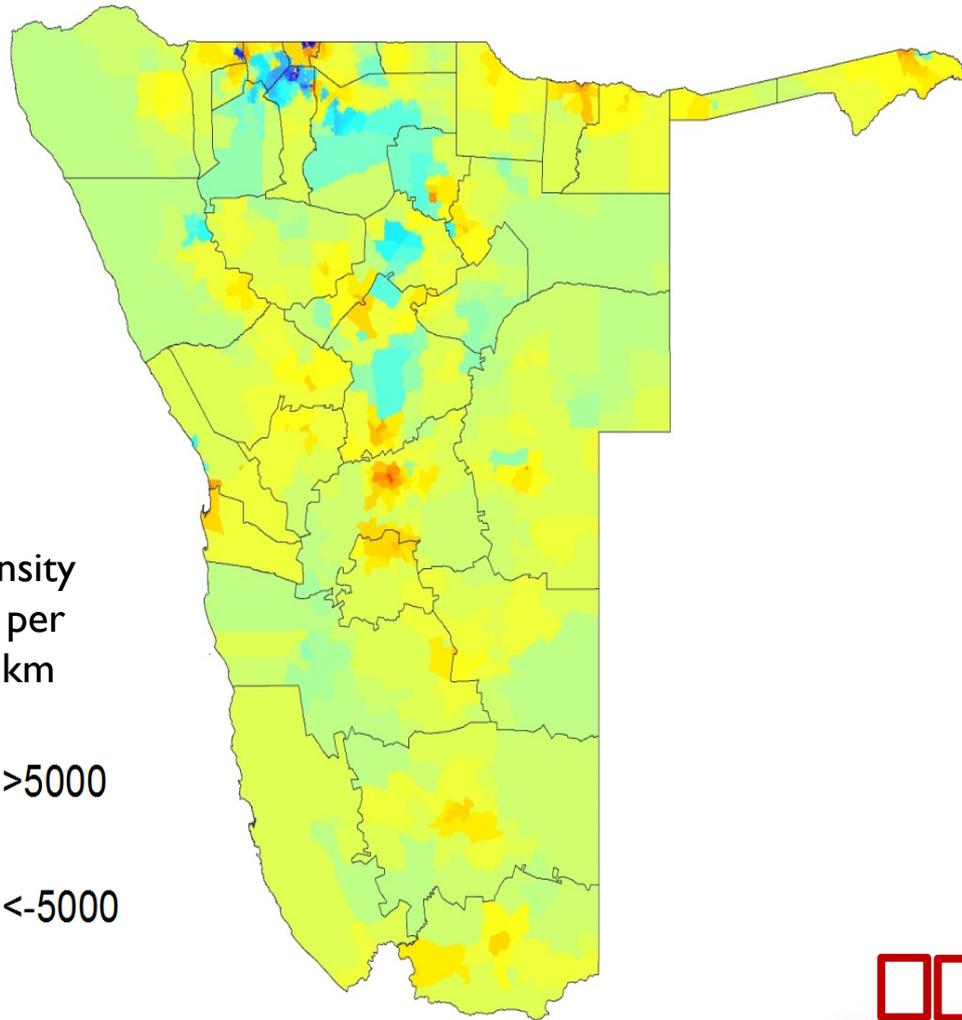
Aggregated mobility estimates are exported and made open access for being potentially used with other mobility estimates and epidemiological data

Compliance with GSMA data integrity guidelines: Data never leaves mobile operator's system to avoid any privacy and/or commercial concerns

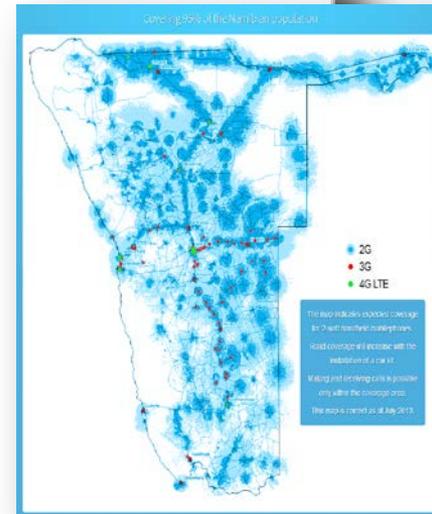
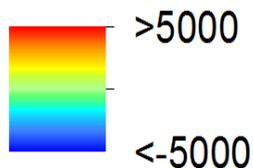
Measuring migration



Seasonal Population Mapping



Pop density
change per
square km

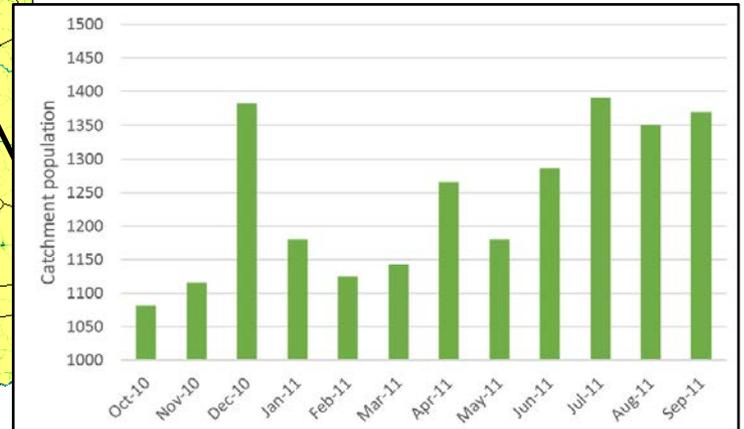
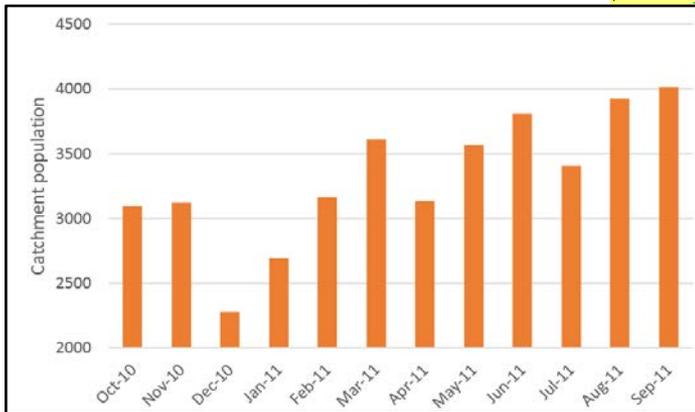
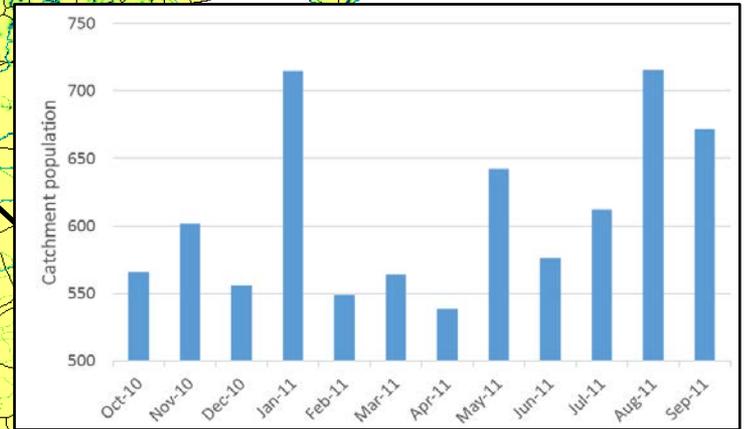
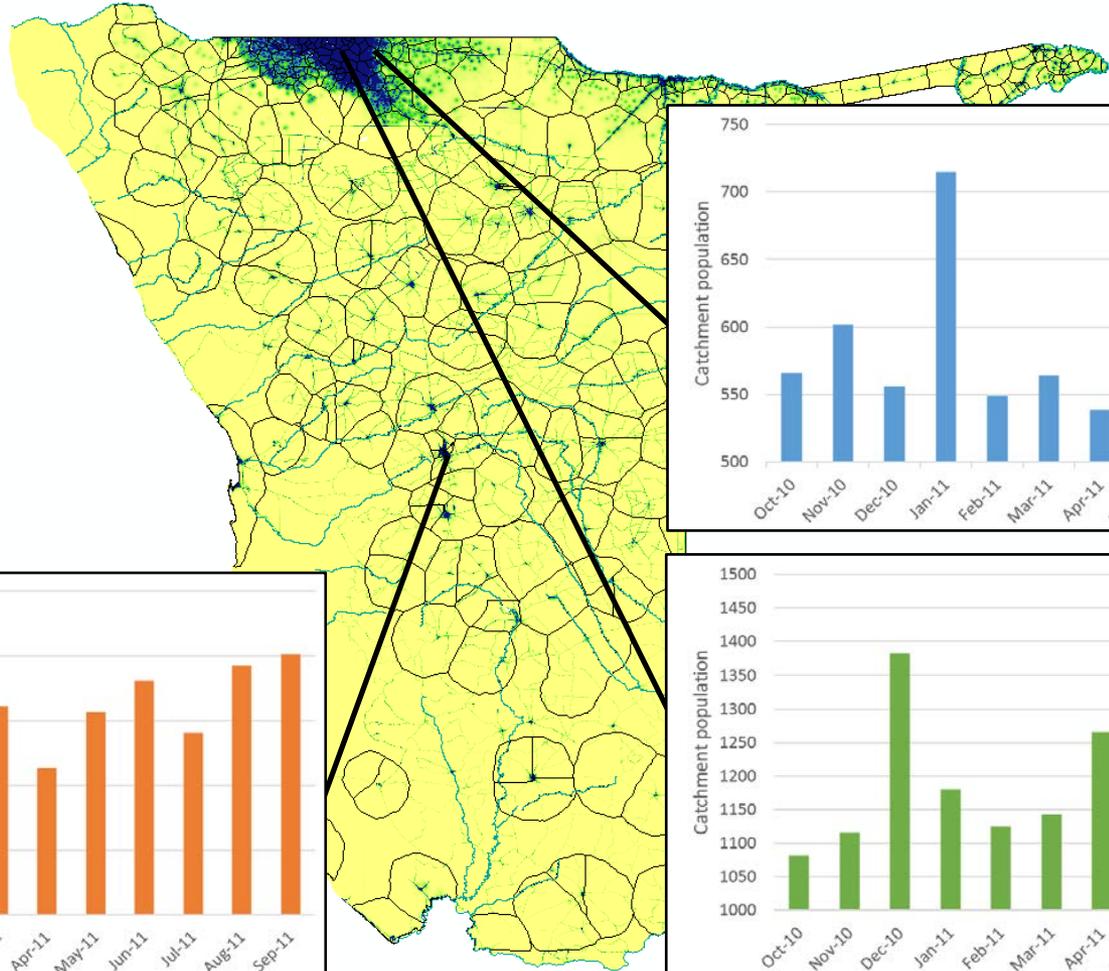


Namibia Pop:
2.3 mill
MTC active
subscriptions:
2.1 mill

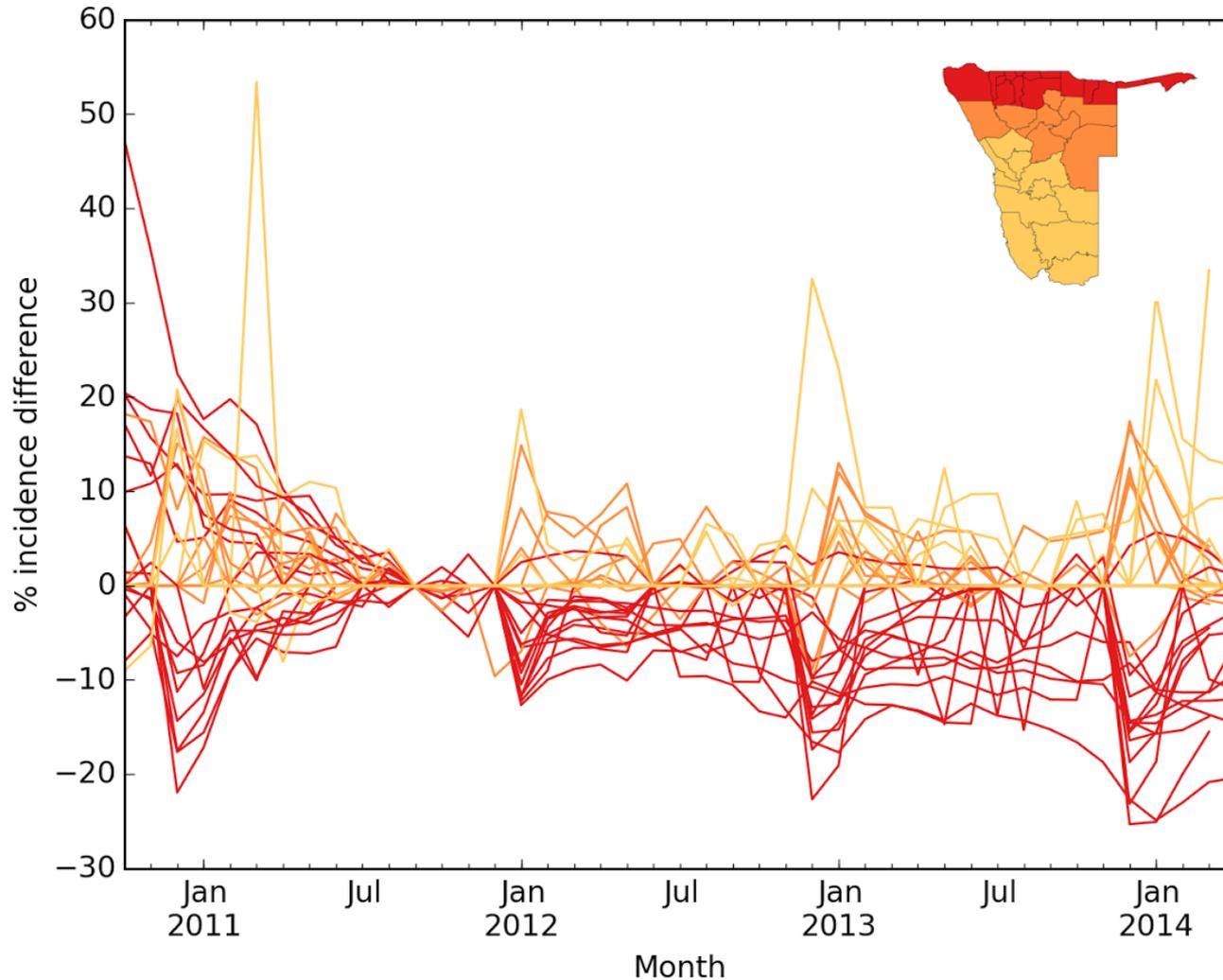


NOV_12
DEC_12
JAN_13
FEB_13
MAR_13
APR_13
MAY_13
JUN_13
JUL_13
AUG_13
SEP_13

Dynamic facility catchment populations



Namibia closer to elimination than previously assumed?



% change in health district incidence through the year after accounting for dynamic catchment populations

Areas in red may have lower incidence than currently assumed using static catchment denominators

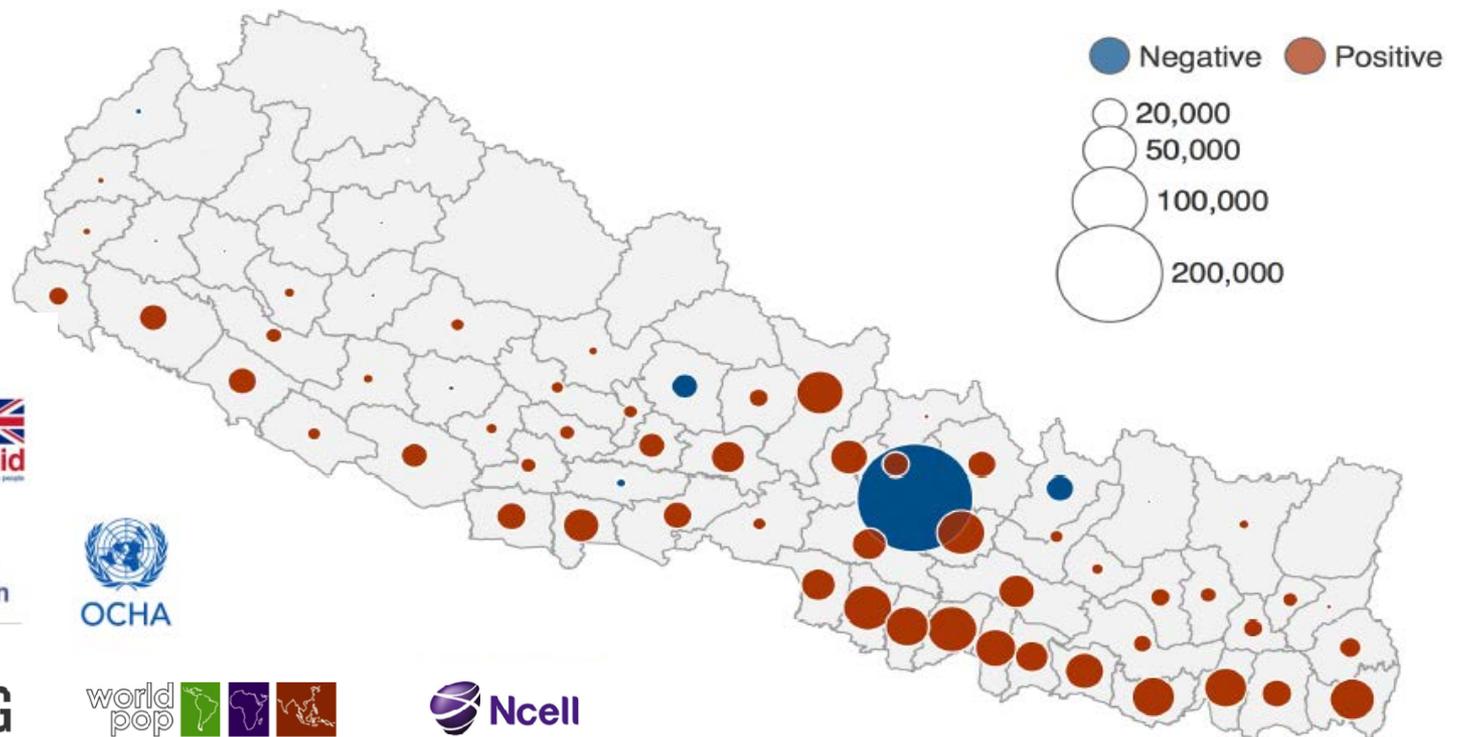
Understanding short term mobility

Landslides and displacement in earthquake affected areas
Bi-weekly update
27 July 2015



Nepal Earthquake
Assessment Unit

Above normal inflow to each district
(negative numbers indicate less incoming people than normal)



FLOWMINDER.ORG



Very large flows from Kathmandu to other districts immediately after the earthquake...

Nepal Population Estimates as of 10th June 2015

Pre-earthquake population

2.8m

Population outflow (above normal)

+180,000

(110,000 ~ 250,000)

Population inflow (above normal)

-55,000

(-33,000 ~ -77,000)

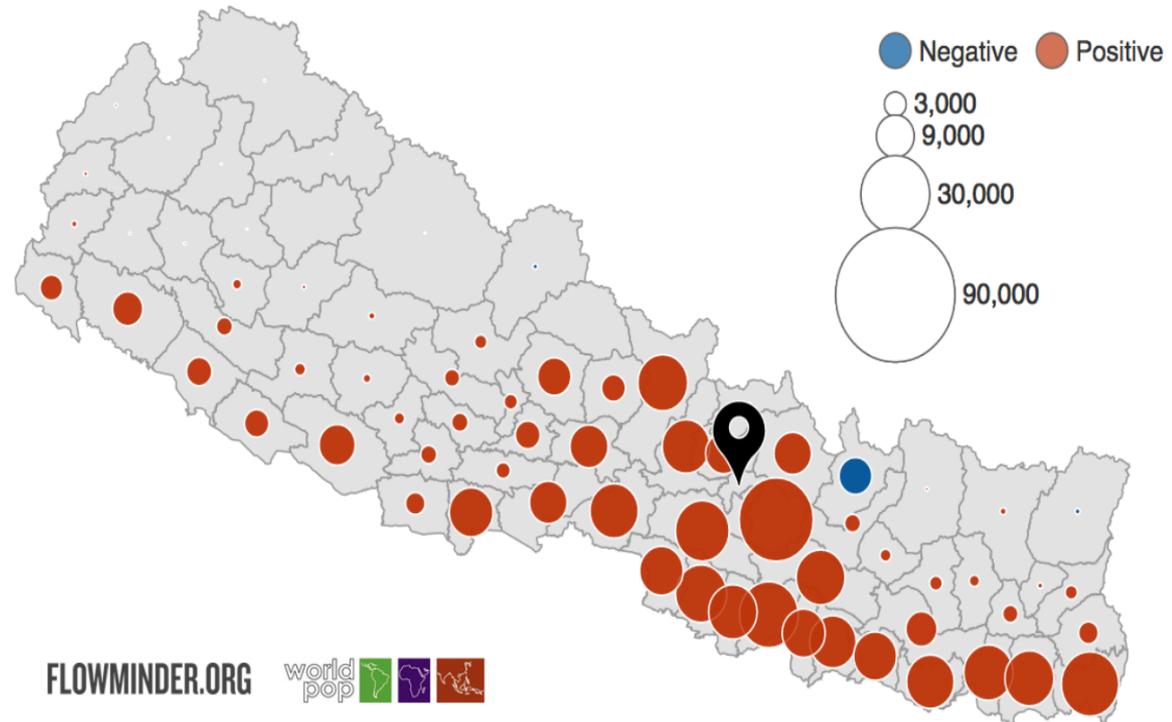
2. Kathmandu Valley

Kathmandu Valley is here defined as the districts Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur. Kathmandu Valley is one of the most densely populated areas in Nepal and home to ca 2.8 m people [1].

Key findings:

- An estimated 390,000 people more than normal had left the Kathmandu valley - comparing May 1 with the day before the earthquake April 24 (ratio to the population: 14%).
- An estimated 247,000 persons less than normal had come into the area during the same period (ratio to the population: 8.8%)
- People leaving Kathmandu Valley went to a large number of areas, notably the populous areas in the south and the Central and West Development Regions.

Above normal flows from Kathmandu Valley to other districts



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Population Displacements



Haiti: Hurricane Matthew

Estimated Population Movements as of 22 November 2016

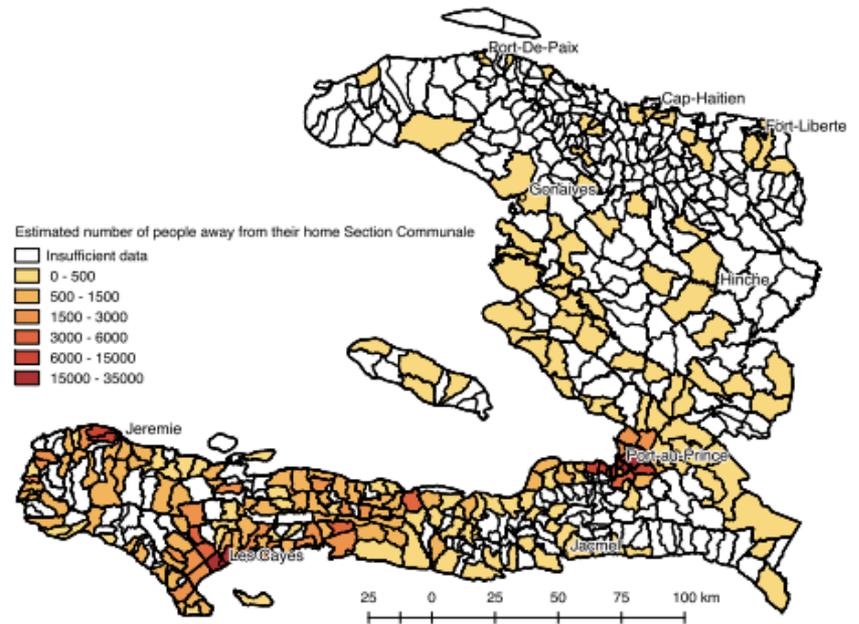
Flowminder Foundation - Digicel Haiti - World Food Programme

Produced on 24 November 2016

Estimated population away from their home Section Communale^[2]:

HOME DEPARTMENT:	GRANDE ANSE	SUD	NIPPES
POPULATION AWAY FROM HOME:	77500	132000	51000
% AWAY FROM HOME:	18%	17%	15%

24 October 2016, location of people away from their home Section Communale (out of those living pre-hurricane in Grande Anse, Sud and Nippes only)^[3]



[2] Of the people normally resident within the given Département, we estimate the total number away from their home Section Communale on the given day.
 [3] Section Communales are left blank where insufficient data is available.

CDRs Pros and Cons

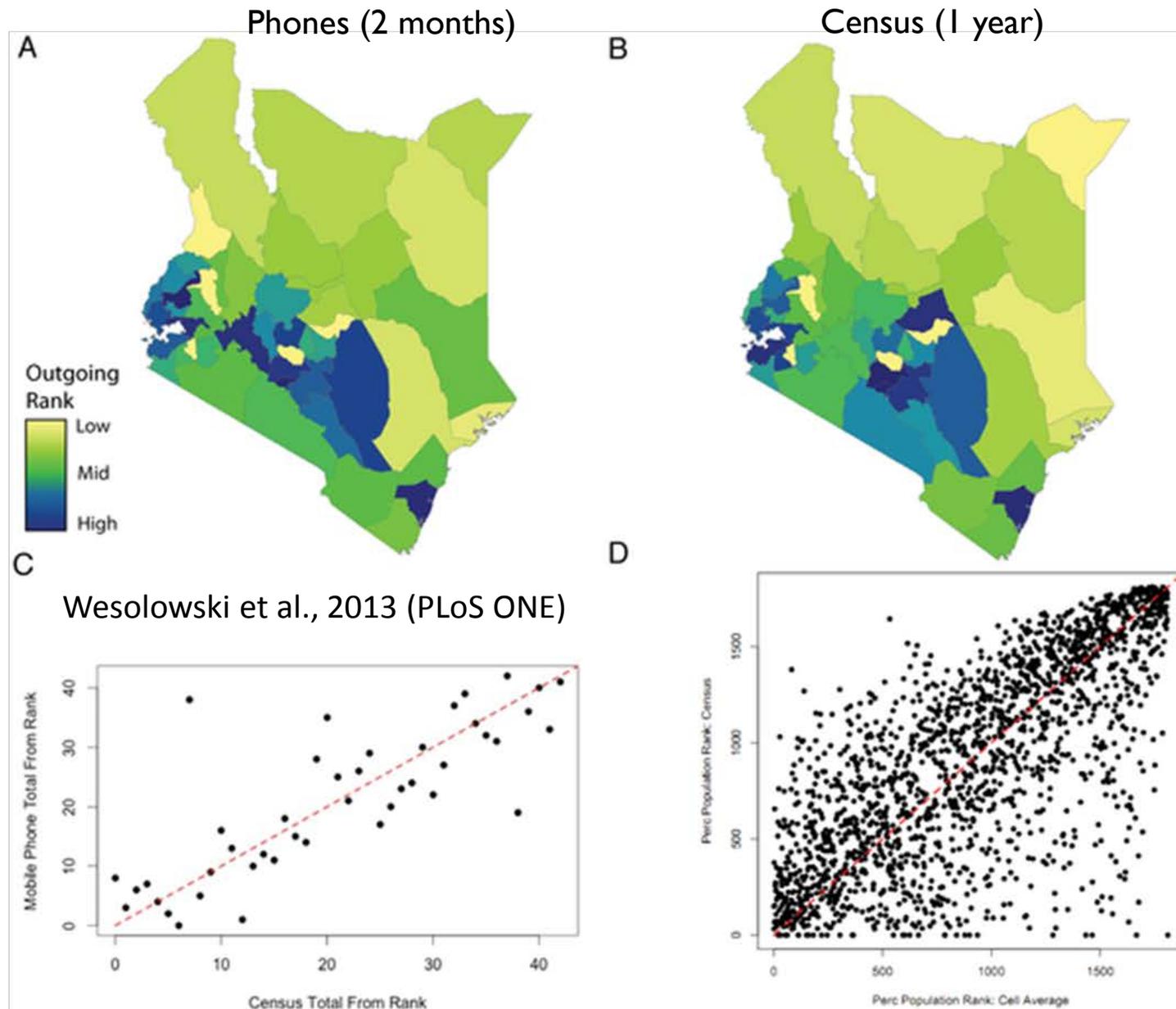
Advantages

- Massive sample size, impossible to achieve with travel history surveys
- Multiple scales
- Relatively reliable
- Length of stay

Alternative datasets are required in order to quantify and map mobility across continental scales

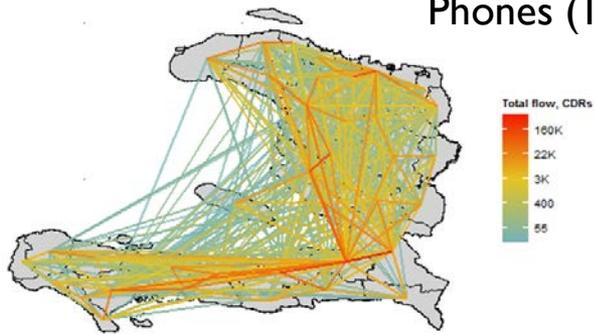
- Bias in representation
- Coverage of areas
- No demographic information
- Cross-border measurements feasible but not easy
- Difficulties in sharing and accessing (mostly due to commercial and privacy concerns)

A comparison of the ranked estimates of movement (I)

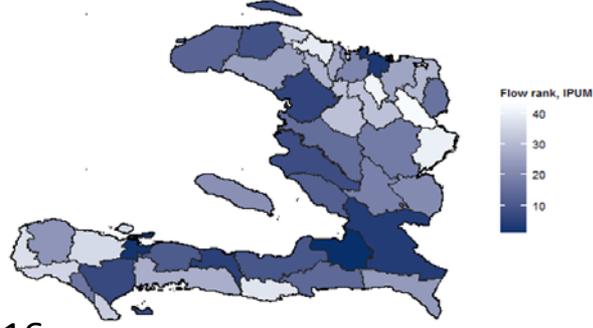
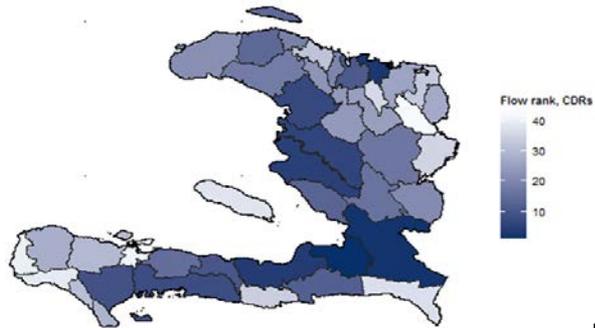
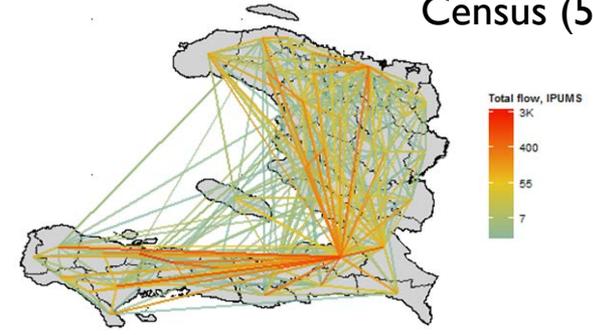


A comparison of the ranked estimates of movement (II)

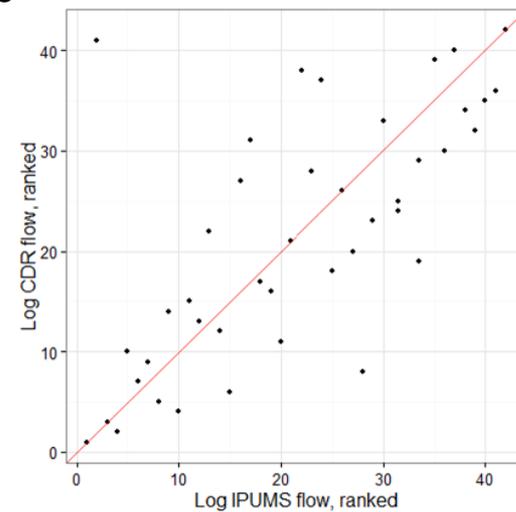
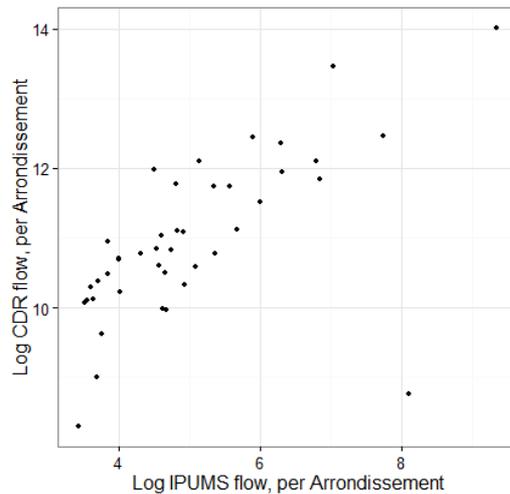
Phones (1 month)



Census (5 years)



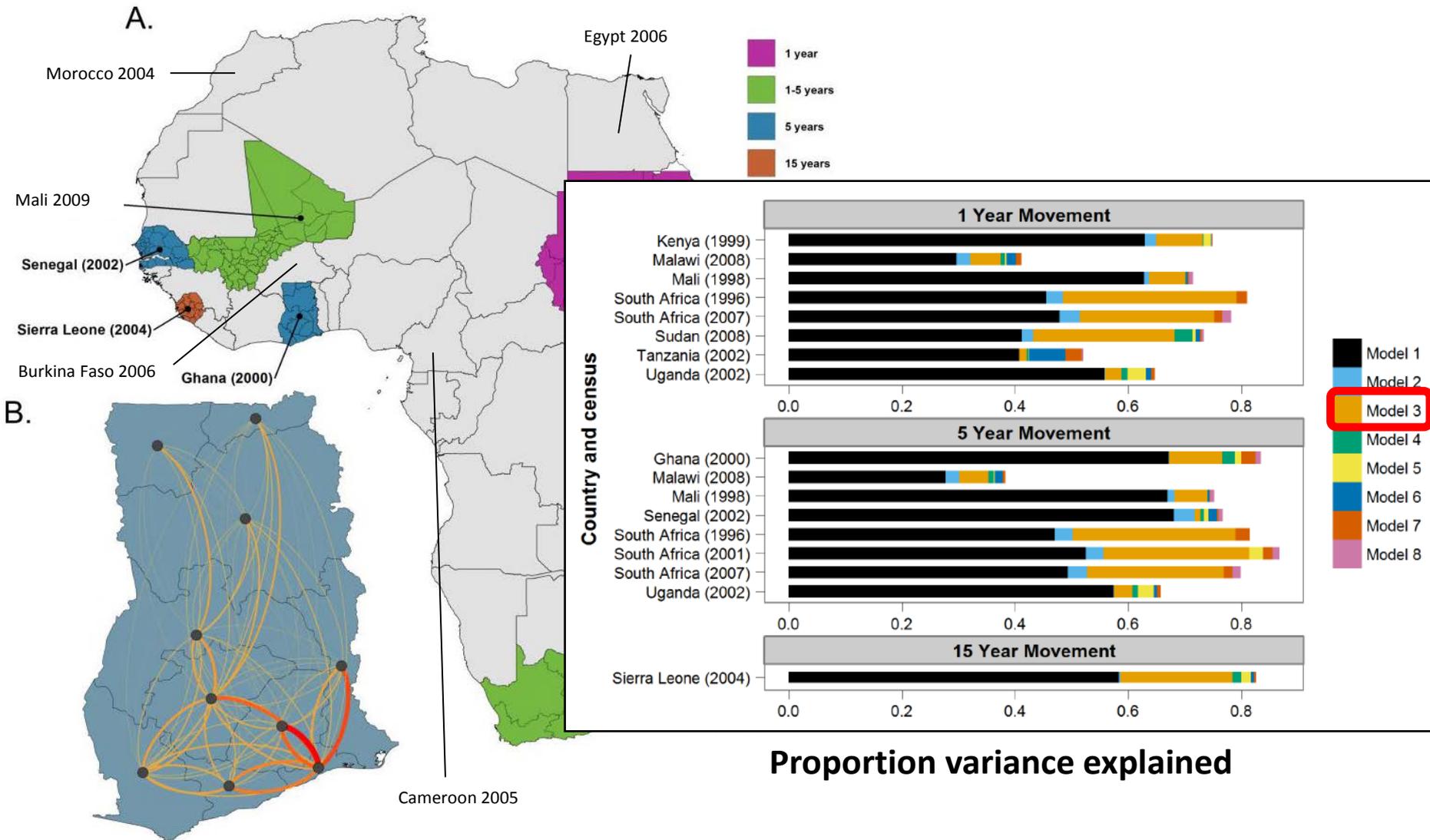
Ruktanonchai et al., 2016
(Malaria Journal)



Modelling Internal Migration Using IPUMSI Census Microdata

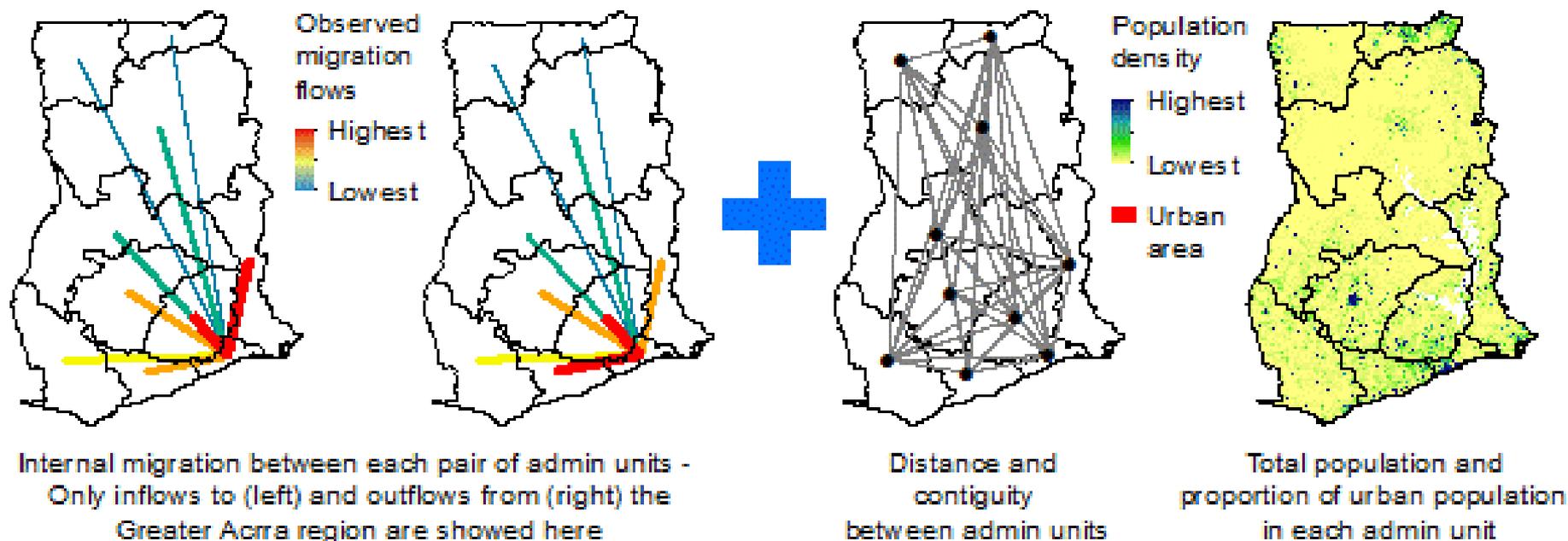
MINNESOTA POPULATION CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA			
			
Home Select Data FAQ Contact Login			
PROJECT	<h2>Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, International</h2> <p>census microdata for social and economic research</p> <hr/> <p>IPUMS-International is a project dedicated to collecting and distributing census data from around the world. Its goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect and preserve data and documentation• Harmonize data• Disseminate the data absolutely free! <hr/> <p>62 countries - 185 censuses - 397 million person records</p>	IPUMSI News	
About IPUMS-I How to Cite IPUMS-I User Registration and Login		June 2011 data release 2010 award winners Improved web interface IPUMS Havana workshop June 2010 data release Mortality and fertility data NIH extends IPUMS-I ... All news items	
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International Partners World Data Inventory Microdata Handbook Bibliography			
Funding provided by: National Science Foundation , National Institutes of Health , and Sun Microsystems . Copyright © Regents of the University of Minnesota . All rights reserved.			

Modelling Internal Migration in Africa



Response Variable and Covariates

In order to consistently model internal migration across all countries only globally available datasets proving to be able to explain most of the variance in the gravity models of Garcia et al. were explored.



Modelling Framework

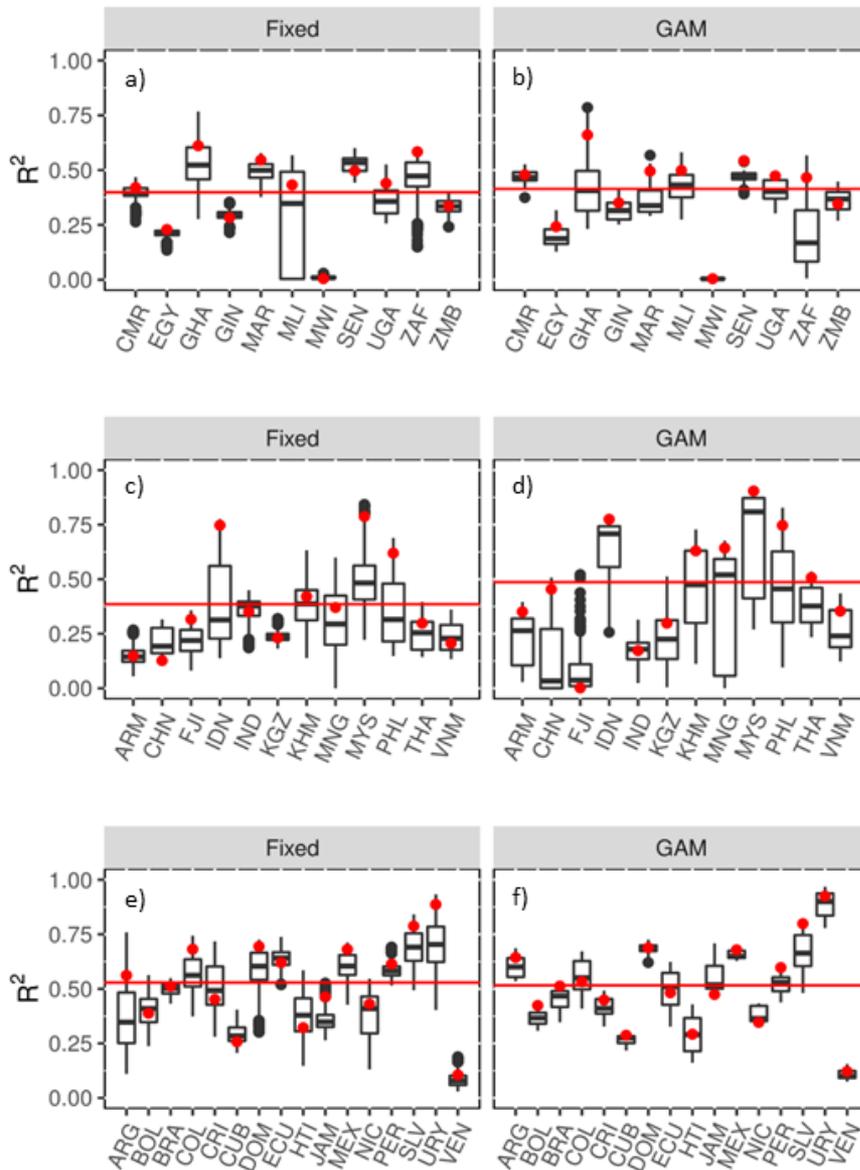
$$MIG_{ij} = \frac{P_i^\alpha P_j^\beta}{d_{ij}^\gamma}$$

With α , β , and γ being parameters, used to indicate the magnitude of the effect for each covariate, that are typically estimated in the statistical modelling framework

$$p_{ij} = \frac{e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 P_i + \beta_2 P_j - \beta_3 d_{ij}}}{1 + e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 P_i + \beta_2 P_j - \beta_3 d_{ij}}}$$

where $p_{ij} = MIG_{ij}/TOT_j$; with MIG_{ij} and TOT_j representing the number of people residing in j in the census year that were in i 5 years prior to the census and the total population residing in j in the census year, respectively

Models Common Across all Countries

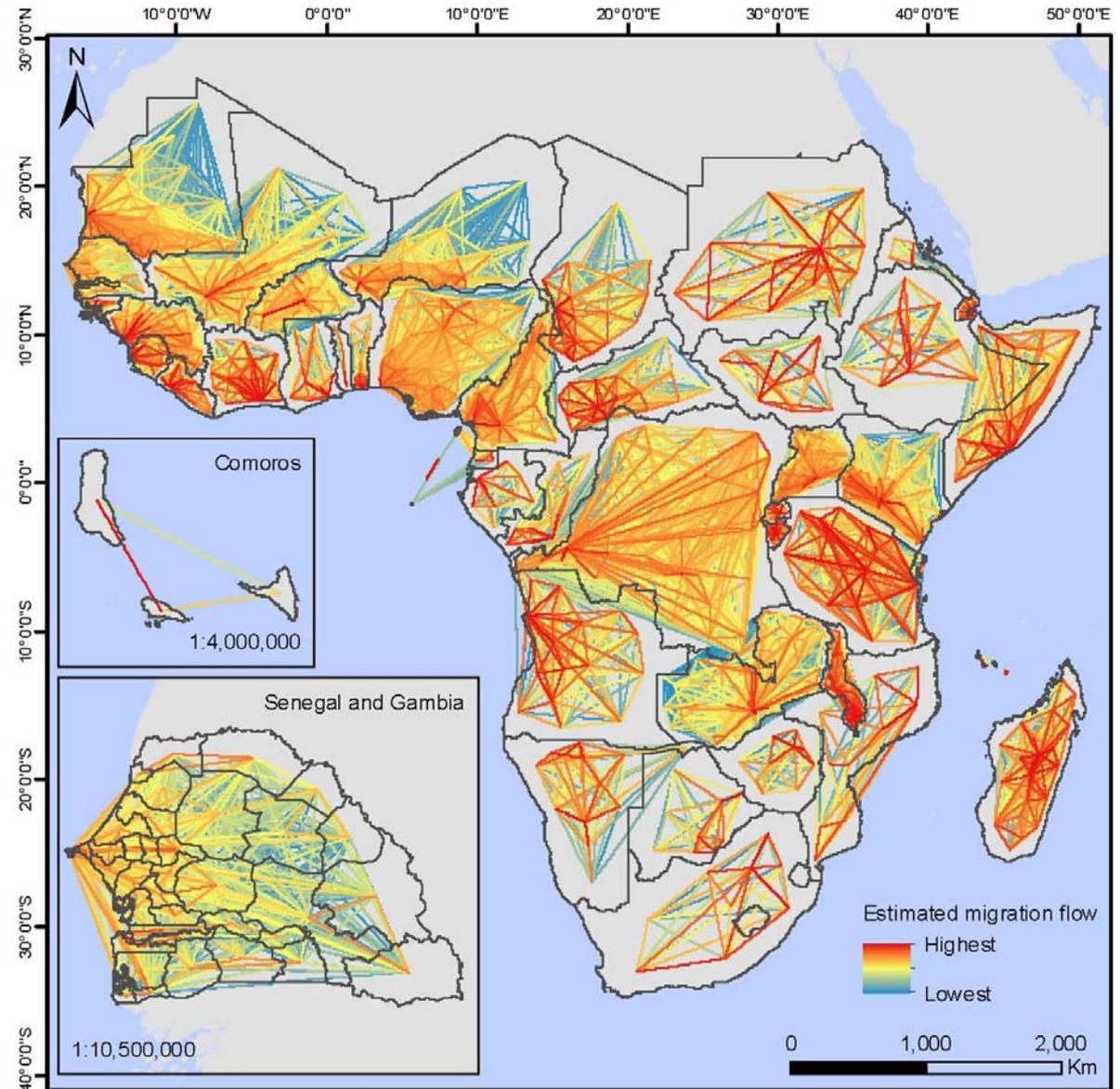


Multi-step approach to identify the model with the greatest predictive power

Best model was then selected using a **leave-one-out cross-validation approach**

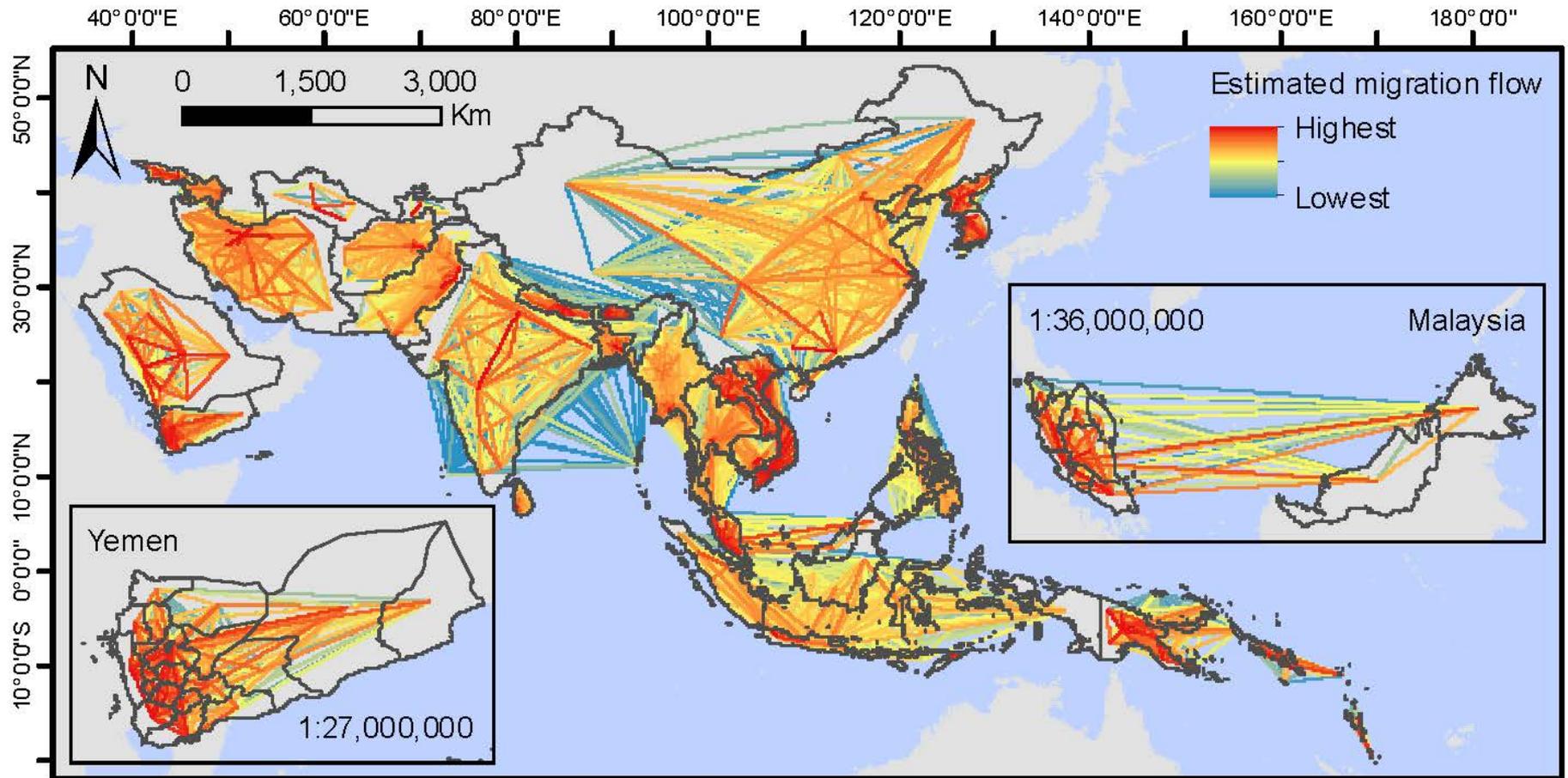
R^2 values for all withheld countries were averaged and used to rank each models according to their predictive power averaged across all withheld countries.

Internal Migration Flows in Africa

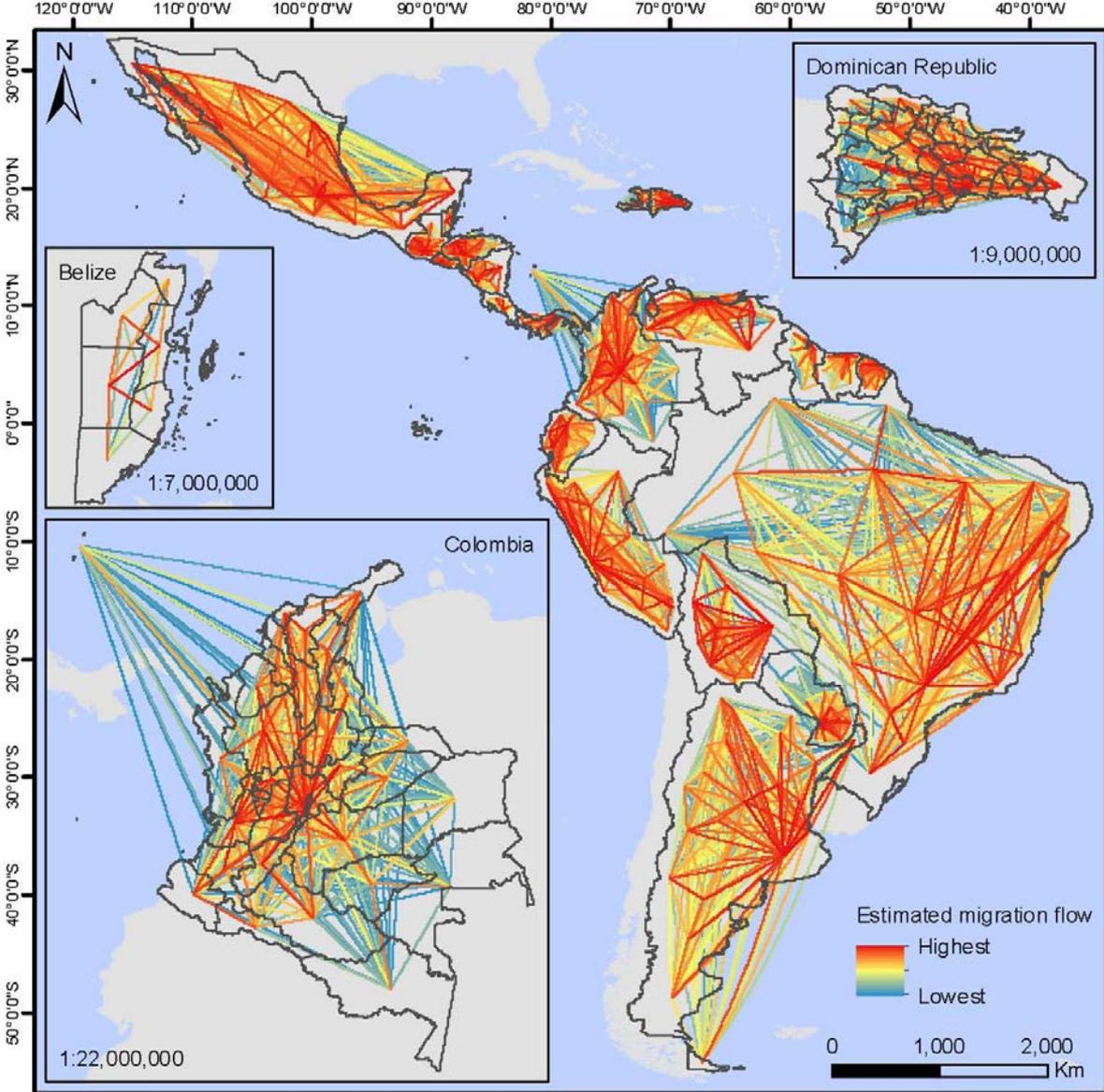


Sorichetta et al., 2016
(Nature Scientific Data)

Internal Migration Flows in Asia



Internal Migration Flows in LAC



Sorichetta et al., 2016
(Nature Scientific Data)

Validation/Uncertainty

Continent	ISO code	R ²	Error p-value
AFRICA	CMR	0.60	0.07
AFRICA	EGY	0.21	0.20
AFRICA	GHA	0.68	0.21
AFRICA	GIN	0.39	0.09
AFRICA	MAR	0.52	0.14
AFRICA	MLI	0.51	0.14
AFRICA	MWI	0.02	0.06
AFRICA	SEN	0.54	0.12
AFRICA	UGA	0.50	0.11
AFRICA	ZAF	0.49	0.23
AFRICA	ZMB	0.37	0.22
ASIA	ARM	0.11	0.16
ASIA	CHN	0.08	0.19
ASIA	FJI	0.16	0.28
ASIA	KGZ	0.23	0.08
ASIA	IND	0.11	0.15

Error p-value is here defined as the average probability that predicted migration values do not belong to the observed migration dataset.

Sorichetta et al., 2016 (Nature Scientific Data)

Limitations and Caveats (I)

- For consistency, internal migration flows were estimated using a fixed set of pull and push factors common to all countries;
- Use of census data from many years ago for some countries may have generated inaccurate estimates for the period considered in this study (i.e., 2005-2010).
- The model fit varied between countries and could be improved by considering additional locally-specific migration drivers ;

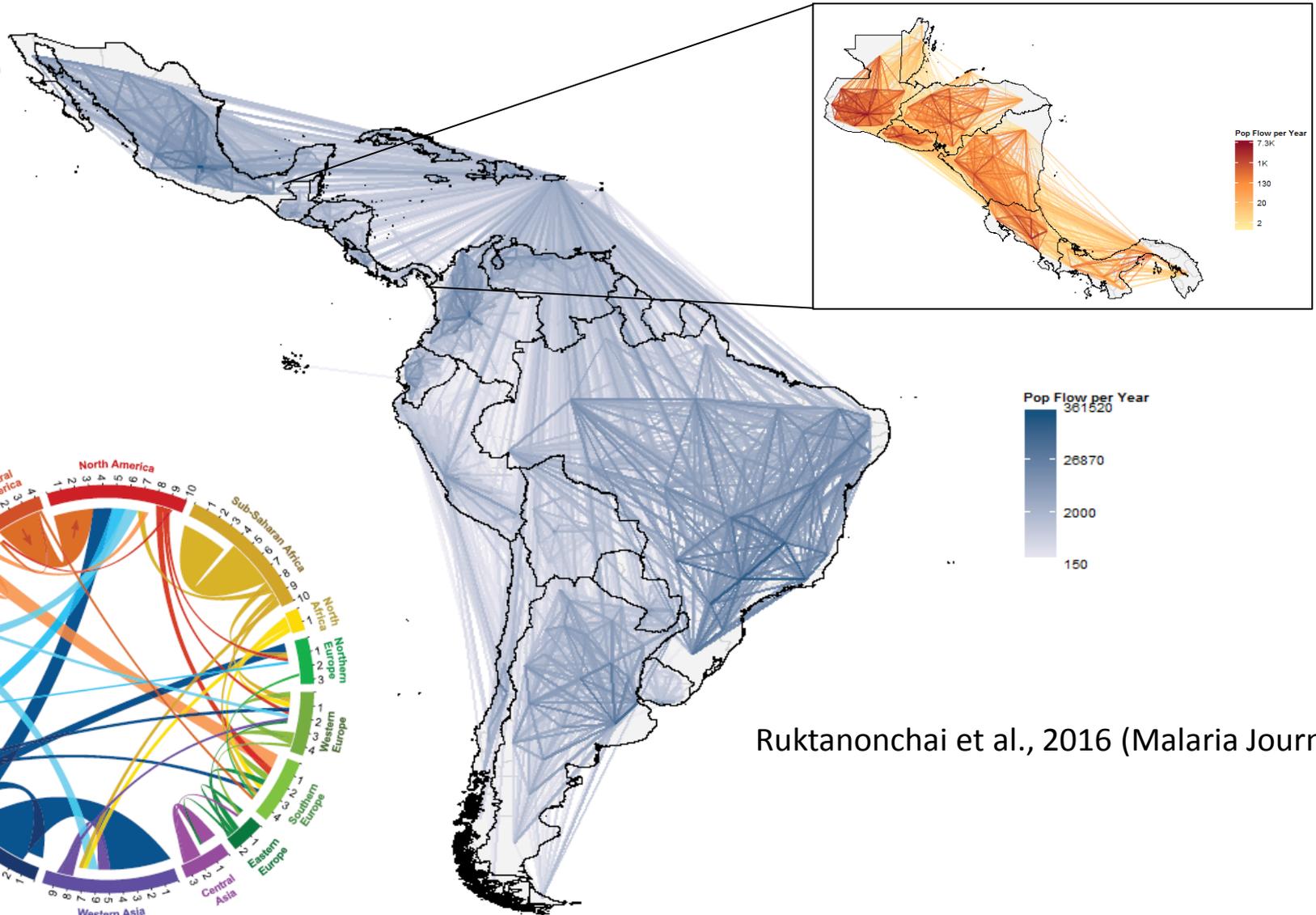
Limitations and Caveats (II)

- Migration models were fitted using only a small sample (ranging between 0.07% and 10%) of the full census for each country;
- The spatial detail at which migration is captured and summarized varies by country;
- The role of some of the pull and push factors, may not have been captured at the spatial level at which they influence internal migration as recorded in the census;

Limitations and Caveats (III)

- Ancillary datasets used to represent pull and push factors are modelling outputs in themselves having a degree of uncertainty that will carry over into the migration estimates;
- Other types of migrations, such as seasonal movements and forced displacements, may be not captured by the model.

Integrating International and Internal Migration Data



Ruktanonchai et al., 2016 (Malaria Journal)

Abel & Sander, 2014 (Science)

Next Step

- **Modelling international migration among subnational administrative units** in Africa, Asia, and LAC as a function of distance using an **(Iterative Proportional Fitting) double-constrain multilevel spatial interaction modelling framework** as described in Dennett & Wilson, 2013 (Environment and Planning A);
- Using IPUMSI-based estimates for internal migration;
- Using Abel & Sander, 2014 (Science) for international migration between countries.

Acknowledgements



For Further Information



www.worldpop.org

 @WorldPopProject

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www.flowminder.org

 @Flowminder