

Protocol - Manhiça atlas of health and wealth

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Introduction

There has been a great deal of academic work on the geospatial analysis of the incidence and prevalence of diseases. However, few projects have addressed the spatial components of *protective* and *risk* factors for disease at the granular level. The lack of geographic analyses relating to the disease's preventive and risk-related components is a notable missing piece of the puzzle, as it has important implications for disease control, management, and elimination.

Objectives and context

Primary objective

This project has one primary objective: to calculate and visualize area-specific rates educational attainment, migratory flow, hygiene and socioeconomic status throughout the district of Manhiça.

Secondary objectives

Secondary objectives include:

- Understand the temporal and spatial components of disease risk and protective factors through the application of geospatial smoothing/interpolation and time series analysis.
- Facilitate an understanding of the association between public health campaigns, disease control behavior, and the incidence of disease
- Identify exemplary and underperforming, as well as underserved, areas of public health resources expenditure.
- Disseminate knowledge via both digital and printed media for use by other research, health care workers and policy-makers.
- Build an open-source software “toolkit” to enable both the future reproducibility of this atlas as well as to facilitate the production of similar projects elsewhere.

Potential implications

In addition to its specific scientific objectives and knowledge products (above), this project has the potential to have important implications for public health. These include:

- The opening of new pathways of research in epidemiology and economics, enabled by the standardization and accessibility of granular but anonymized area- and time-specific data.
- Improved targeting of public health interventions and government allocation of resources, as a result of a better understanding of the behavioral and social components of disease control campaigns.
- The establishment of historical “benchmarks” to gauge the effectiveness of both past and future disease control campaigns.
- The validation of external demographic data sources in regards to representative estimates (ie, USAID’s DHS) versus direct counts (census).

Methods and approach

Data

The datasets required for the carrying out of this project are:

- The Manhiça health district census data from 1996 to present
- Spatial datasets from the GADM (open access / already obtained)

Methodology

Analysis

In order to understand the spatial and temporal components and distribution of disease risk and protective factors, we will conduct descriptive, model-based, and visualization-oriented analyses.

- **Descriptive:** We will aggregate data into gridded areas at the most granular level possible (while remaining large enough to preserve anonymity) and calculate year-specific rates of all available and relevant indicators provided in the census (use of WC, migratory in- and out-flows, etc.).
- **Model-based:** We will generate estimates for areas and periods with missing, incomplete or unreliable data using Kriging and multi-dimensional kernel density estimation (interpolation), so as to construct a unitary “surface” and contiguous dataset for the whole of the district.
- **Visualization:** In order to observe trends in both time and space, we will compile an “atlas” of all relevant indicators, containing visualizations (maps and charts) of specific indicators, as well as composite “indices” (ie, a hygiene index, an HIV susceptibility index, etc.).

Products

The products of this research project will be academic, informational, and computational:

- **Academic:** We will produce a research paper, for review and publication in an academic journal, and in partnership with those who carry out and direct the census in Manhiça, describing the methodology employed for spatial interpolation, and discussing its generalizability.
- **Informational:** We will produce, in both electronic (online) and printed (booklets) formats, the “Manhiça Atlas of Health and Wealth”. This will consist of maps and charts visualizing the last 20 years of data collection in the district.
- **Computational:** In order to make our work accessible and efficiently reproducible, we will build an API which allows public health practitioners, clinicians and researchers to supply geographic coordinates, and programmatically/automatically get a time-indexed rates for all indicators for that area. This will not only help guide clinical decision-making, it may also influence health promotion campaigns, and should help facilitate future research in the area. This will include cascading access credentials, from “open” to “authorized clinician”, so that the appropriate balance between information-sharing and data-protection is achieved.

Research team

- **Elisa Sicuri** is a health economist and assistant research professor at ISGlobal. Her research focuses on the economic dimensions of infectious disease, specifically malaria. She has ample work experience in Manhiça.
- **Joe Brew** is an epidemiologist and statistician. He is carrying out his PhD in Transdisciplinary Global Health at ISGlobal.

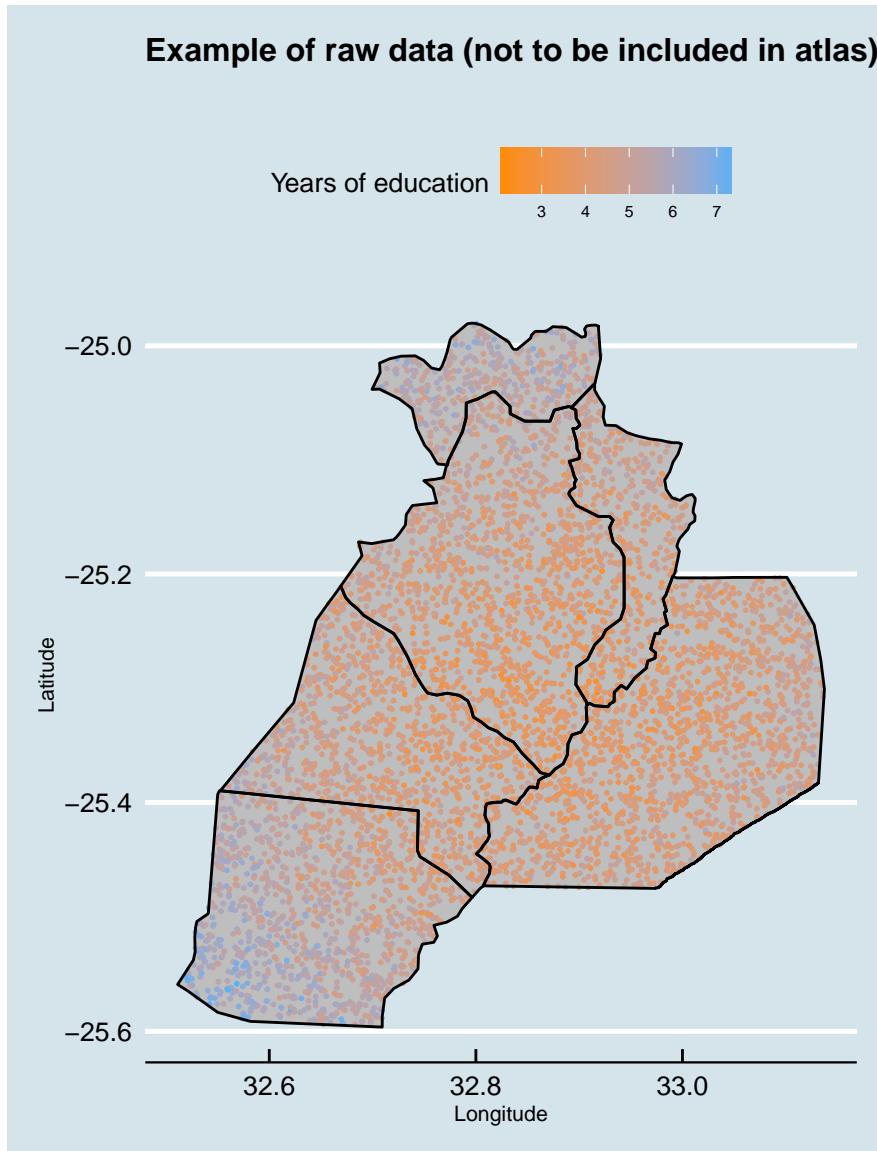
Ethical considerations

This project relies exclusively on retrospective data. Though identifiable in its raw form, the analysis will deal entirely in its non-identifiable components. All analysis will be at the aggregate level. Accordingly, informed consent is not necessary.

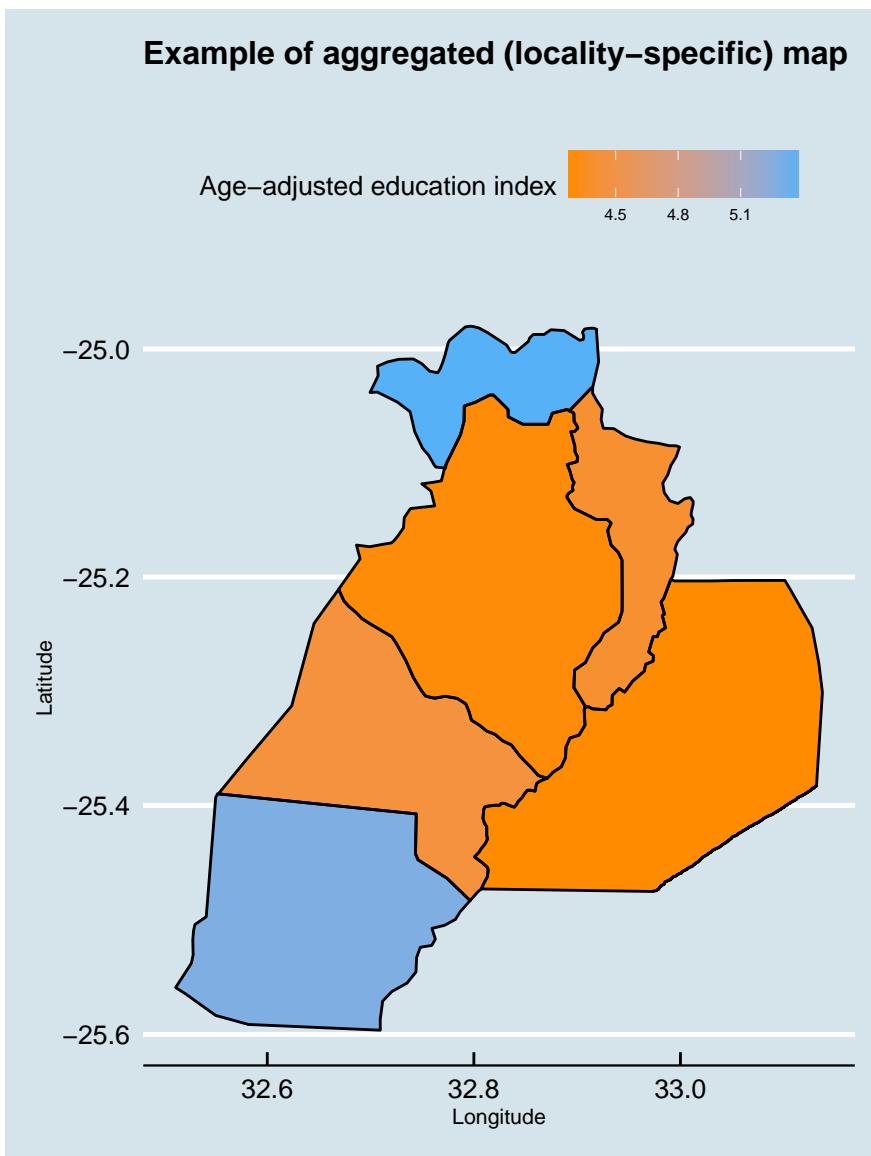
Appendix

Examples of product

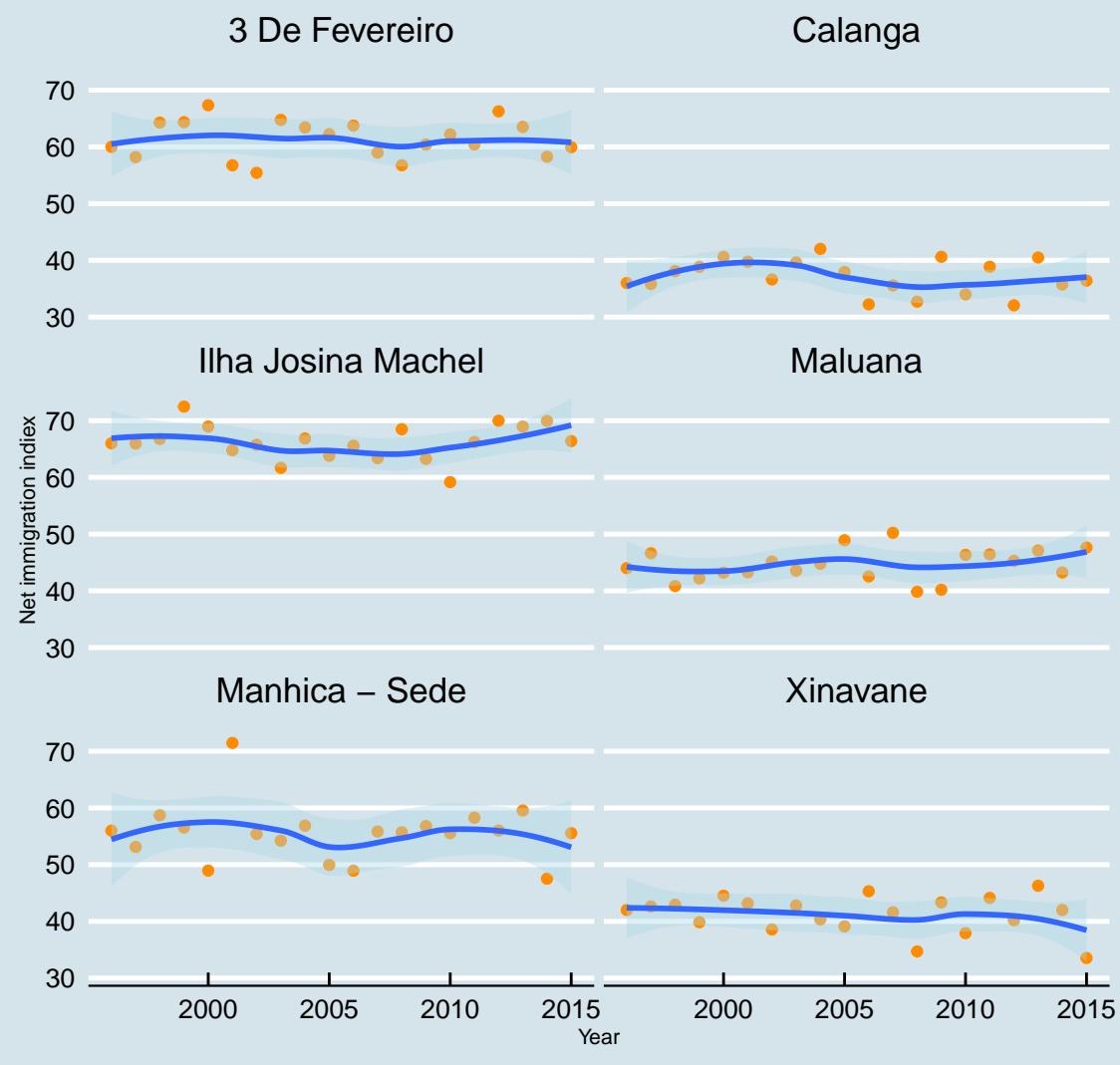
The following maps and charts are intended to show examples of the kinds of visualizations which will eventually constitute the body of the atlas. These use entirely fake data.



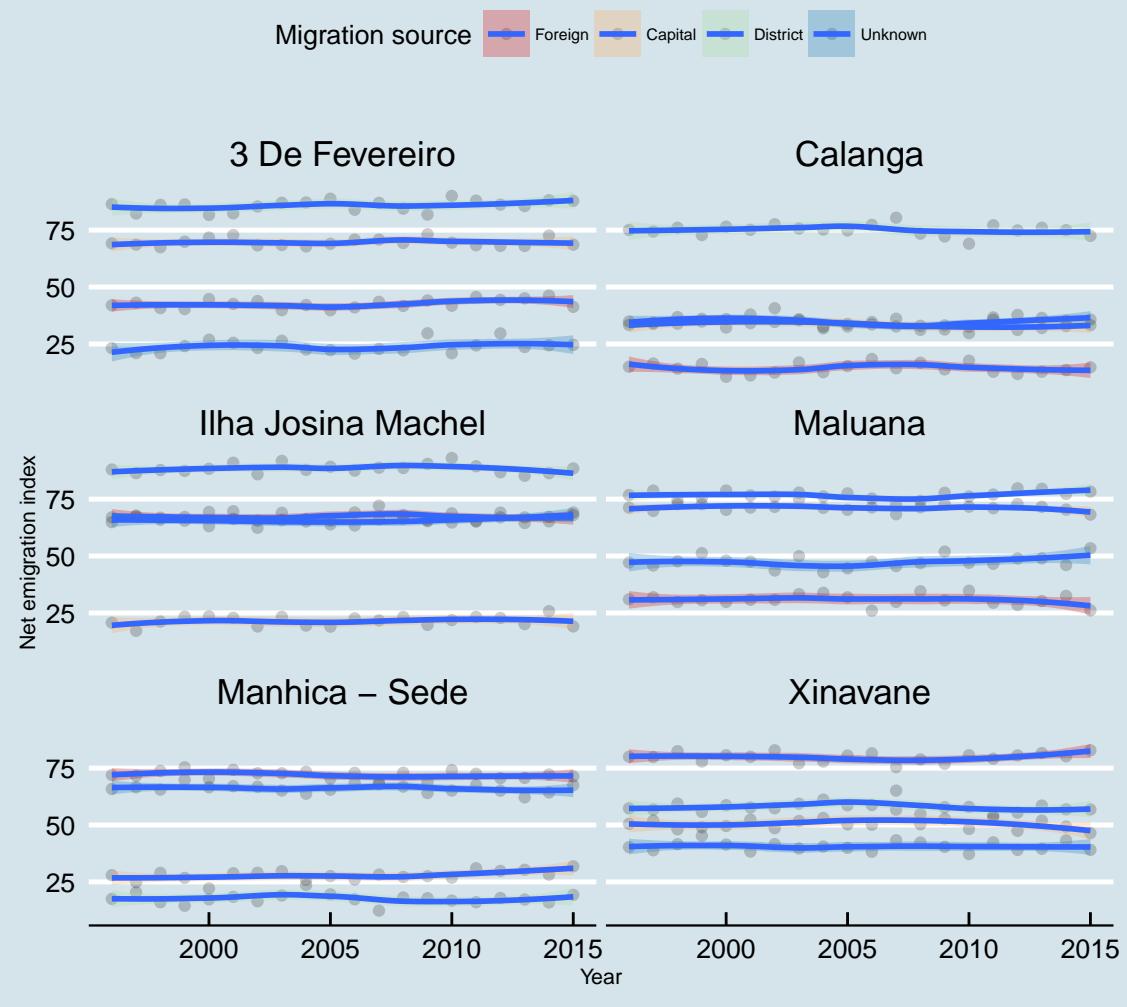
Example of aggregated (locality-specific) map



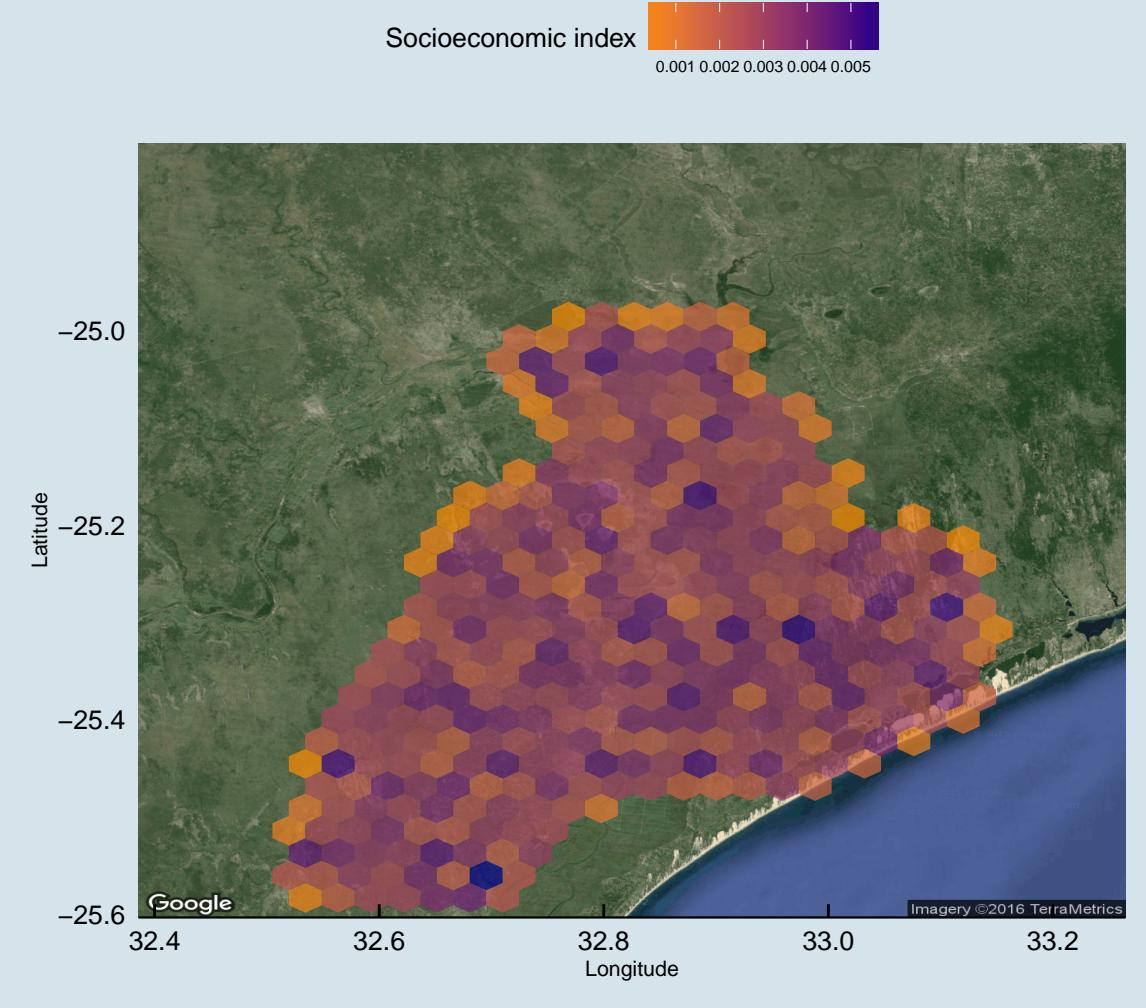
Example of locality-specific temporal migration chart



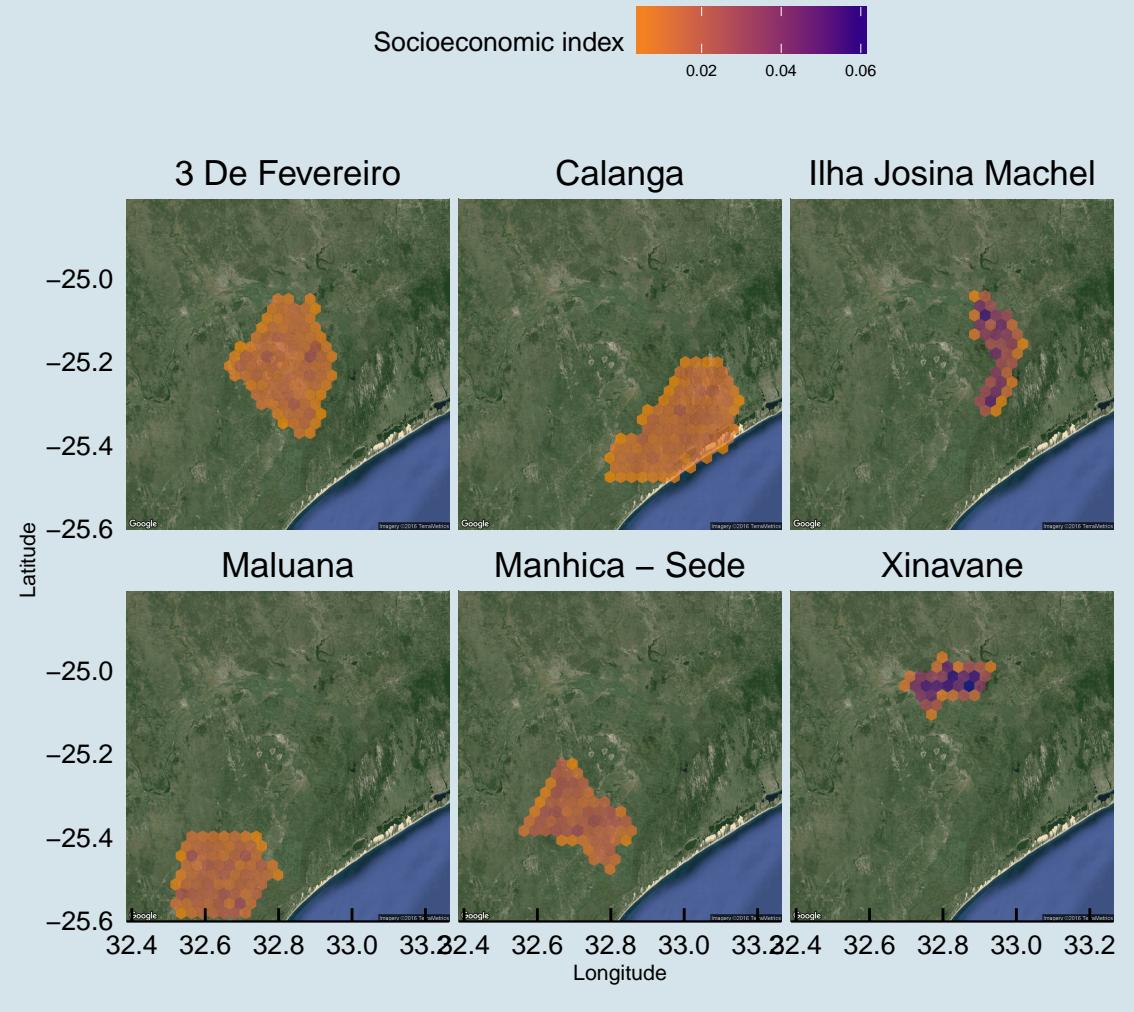
Example of locality- and method-specific migration chart



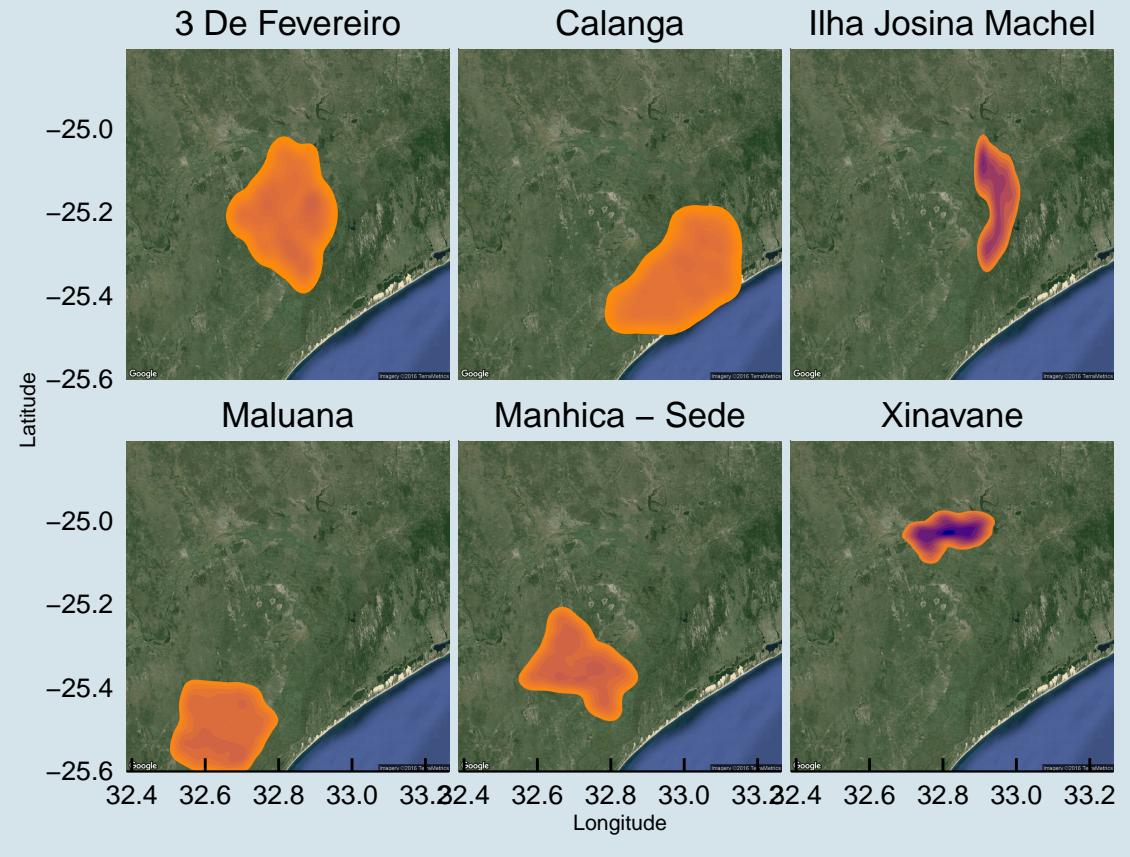
Satelite-based maps (full country gridding)



Satelite-based maps (locality-specific gridding)



Satelite-based maps (for CHWs)



Small area satelite-based maps (for CHWs)

