

# Improving registration coverage for better health statistics

## TUVALU



- Tuvalu has undertaken a national CRVS assessment and formed a national CRVS committee.
- A key priority identified through this process included capacity building in analysis and data reporting.
- The quality of birth and death data in Tuvalu has previously been affected by under-reporting from the outer islands and poor collation of records, resulting in duplicate copies of data sets which then need to be reconciled.

### CRVS in the Tuvalu

Tuvalu is an atoll country with one main island, and 8 outer islands. Health services in the outer islands are provided through island health centres, with support visits from the main health centre every few months.

Birth and Death registrations are collated at the national registry office, with the actual registration being carried out at the island / local council level, although registration is less than 100% complete. Records are primarily managed through a hard copy filing system with data entered electronically in spreadsheets by type of event and island.

### What was done

- In April 2014, staff from the Ministry of Health and the National Statistics Office attended a data analysis and report writing workshop organised by Brisbane Accord Group partners.
- Civil registry and national health system data on births and deaths were analysed
- It was noted that files derived from the same source data differed, and that the data from both sources was incomplete due to missing events from the outer islands.
- As a result, the HIS manager undertook a series of supervisory visits to outer island clinics and registry offices to cross check and update the health system records.
- A review of the electronic files was also conducted to ensure that there was one complete master-file which will continue to be updated.

### Next Steps

- Tuvalu is currently working on completing the analysis of vital registration data for publication, with results anticipated to be released soon.
- Further steps are being considered to improve data quality across the registry and health collections, including data verification and reconciliation.
- Training to engage nurses more closely in the death notification process was given in October, including introductory training in a verbal autopsy process for the outer islands which will be trialled in 2015.
- Formalisation of the national committee and national CRVS improvement plan is a high priority for Tuvalu.



Engagement with local health and council (registry) offices is essential for ensuring that births and deaths in the outer islands are recorded and formally registered.

As vital events are more likely to be known to the health system, linking the Ministry of Health data collections to the formal registration system is essential for improving CRVS.



Even in a relatively small system, good record management practices are essential for collecting high quality birth and death data.

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