Session 3. Introduction to the United Nations methodological framework

Srdjan Mrkić
UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION
Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand 18-20 October 2017
United Nations Statistics Division mandated to develop the methodological framework for civil registration and vital statistics

Mandate dates back to 1950 by the Economic and Social Council and was renewed regularly

The framework is extended to cover guidelines for holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management
Vital events

- Vital events proper
  - Live births
  - Deaths, including foetal deaths

- Dual events – occurring simultaneously in the lives of two individuals which cannot occur again in the life of either individual without a previous change
  - Marriage (legal partnership, where appropriate)
  - Divorces (legal dissolution of partnership, where appropriate)
  - Annulment
  - Judicial separation

- Vertical family events involving a descendant
  - Adoption
  - Legitimation
  - Recognition
The original version in 1953

- vital statistics system was defined as including the legal registration, statistical recording and reporting of the occurrence, and collection, compilation, analysis, presentation and distribution of statistics pertaining to vital events, which in turn include live births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages, divorces, adoptions, legitimating, recognitions, annulments and legal separations

- essentially civil registration was defined as a part of vital statistics system
The first revision - 1973

- vital statistics system, irrespective of how it is organized, is defined as the total process of (a) collecting by registration, enumeration or indirect estimation, of information on the frequency of occurrence of certain vital events, as well as characteristics of events themselves and of the person(s) concerned, and (b) compiling, analysing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form

- introducing enumeration and indirect estimation – recognizing the reality of the lack of civil registration in many countries
The second revision - 2001

- vital statistics system as the total process of (a) collecting information by civil registration or enumeration on the frequency of occurrence of specified and defined vital events, as well as relevant characteristics of the event themselves and of the persons or persons concerned, and (b) compiling, processing, analysing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form

- omits indirect estimation – as *ad hoc* and temporary methods
The third revision - 2015

- In the context of defining a system as a set of interacting or independent components forming an integrated whole and for the purposes for which these principles and recommendations are to be applied, the components of a vital statistics system are: (a) legal registration, (b) statistical reporting of, and (c) collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics pertaining to vital events

- Focus on civil registration, back to 1973
Definition of a vital statistics system

Vital Statistics System

Live births  
Deaths  
Fetal deaths  
Marriages  
Divorces  
Annullments  
Judicial separations  
Adoptions  
Legitimation  
Recognition

Health services  
Certification of cause of death  
Authorized institutions

Courts  
Judicial institutions

Civil Registration, including population registers  
Principles:  
1. Compulsory  
2. Universal  
3. Continuous  
4. Confidentiality

Vital Statistics  
Compilation  
Processing  
Validation  
Quality control  
Dissemination

Complementary/Interim sources  
Population census  
Surveys  
Sample registration areas

Additional administrative sources  
Coronary Police Registries  
Health records

National IDs'  
Electoral lists  
Passports

Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific  
Bangkok, Thailand 18-20 October 2017
Methodological framework

Principles and Recommendations, Revision 2 (2001)


Principles and Recommendations, Revision 3 (2015)


Integrated in the new version as a separate chapter
Methodological framework

- **Handbook on Developing Information, Operation and Maintenance (1998)** → **Under revision, expected release date fall 2018**
- **Handbook on Legal Framework (1998)** → **Annotated outline adopted, under revision, expected release date fall 2018**

Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand 18-20 October 2017
Methodological framework

- New component – *Guidelines for Assessing the Quality and Completion of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics*
  - In its final stages of completion
  - Dimension 1 – Evaluation of quality assurance systems and processes
    - Civil registration structural design
    - Business processes
    - Infrastructure
    - Management and operations
    - Internal audits
    - Overall assessment
Methodological framework

- Dimension 2 – Data quality assessment
  - Accuracy
  - Relevance
  - Comparability
  - Timeliness
  - Accessibility

- National examples and experiences
- Online live document, regularly updated
- End of November 2017
UNSD activities in the region by end of 2017


- Participating countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam

- Representatives from civil registration/identity management, health and national statistical office

- Curriculum based on revised *Handbook on Operation, Management and Maintenance*