

“Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Closing Workshop for Assessing Inequalities in Registration”

24 November, 2023

Apia, Samoa

A well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system helps ensure that every person has a legal identity, facilitating access to the benefits and protections of the State. It is also the preferred data source for many demographic statistics with numerous indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) directly related to mortality and fertility while others rely on population data as the denominator. To know who is being left behind, the relevant disaggregated population data needs to be available.

Many countries experience lower civil registration completeness rates among certain marginalized and hard-to-reach population groups or geographic areas. Despite these inequalities and their negative impact, this problem often remains a blind spot. The groups affected remain largely invisible if the matter is not specifically investigated.

To ensure progress in registration is truly universal and fully inclusive, the Ministerial declaration to “Get Every One in The Picture” in Asia and the Pacific recognized the need to address disparities in civil registration completeness and coverage of these groups. Hence, the Regional Action Framework (RAF) on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific calls upon countries to assess any CRVS-related inequalities experienced by population subgroups.

Due to its well-developed CRVS system and keen interest of stakeholders, Samoa has been selected as one of the countries in the region to receive support to undertake an inequality assessment. The inequality assessment project seeks to provide technical support and capacity strengthening to the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and other relevant national stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of CRVS inequality assessments using secondary data sources in Samoa. This will involve building capacity for demographic analysis to undertake inequality assessments in the future as well as dialogue with policy-makers to ensure the results are used for policy formulation.

The closing workshop will bring together a variety of stakeholders engaged in the Samoa’s CRVS system. Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) will present and share findings in inequalities in birth registration from the first and second national capacity building workshops. Stakeholders will have opportunities to discuss the findings, ask questions, as well as discuss policy implications and next steps to ensure disparities in registration are addressed.

Agenda: Findings in inequalities in birth registration

Time	Program	Speaker
9:00 – 9:30	ARRIVAL REGISTRATION	
9:30 – 10:00	OPENING AND WELCOME	Opening prayer
		Samoa Bureau of Statistics – TBD
		ESCAP – Ms. Chloe Harvey
10:00 – 10:30	Program for the day and housekeeping	Samoa Bureau of Statistics – Mr. Tupai Silapela
	TOUR DE TABLE	Introductions by all participants
	Background and progress on the inequality initiative (Why important, what’s been achieved, status report of other countries, Samoa leading the way, where we are now)	ESCAP – Ms. Chloe Harvey
10.30 – 10:45	Overview of the current CRVS system in Samoa, summary of known needs, and the role of SBoS	Samoa Bureau of Statistics – Mr. Ponifasio Vasa
10:45 – 11:10	Tea break and group photo	
11:10 – 11:30	Presentation 1: Findings in inequalities in birth registration completeness– Findings from the MICS, census, and SBoS registered birth data. Analysis by mother’s wealth quintile, mother’s age group, age of the child the child at registration, sex of the child)	Samoa Bureau of Statistics – TBD
11:30 – 12:00	Group discussion of presentation 1	
12:00 – 12:30	Plenary discussion of presentation 1	
12:30 – 1:30	LUNCH	
1:30 – 1:50	Presentation 2: Findings in inequalities in birth registration completeness– Findings from the MICS, census, and registered birth data. Analysis by mother’s district/area of residence	Samoa Bureau of Statistics – TBD
1:50 – 2:20	Group discussion of presentation 2	
2:20 – 2:45	Plenary discussion of presentation 2	
2:45 – 3:15	TEA BREAK	
3:15 – 3:30	Presentation 3: Unknowns, and the need for future research, continuing the investigative process	Samoa Bureau of Statistics – TBD
3:30 – 4:00	Group discussion of presentation 3	
4:00 – 4:30	Plenary discussion of presentation 3	

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Time	Program	Speaker
4:30 – 4:45	Moderated discussion – how to address some key challenges, next steps, timeline etc.	ESCAP – Ms. Chloe Harvey
4:45 – 5:00	Closing: Summary and Next steps	Samoa Bureau of Statistics – TBD
		ESCAP – Ms. Chloe Harvey
5:00 END OF WORKSHOP AND DINNER		