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Concept Note

Measuring Adult Mortality Community of Practice (MAM-CoP) Webinar Series - Session 1

Measuring coverage of death registration: Innovative approaches with surveys and censuses

(register here**)**.

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Date: 6th September 2023 **Time:** 8.30 -10.00 am NY time (check your time).

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has increased the demand for data on adult mortality and causes of death. This includes improving data coverage for different age groups, identifying risk factors and disparities, and assessing the completeness of death registration systems[1]. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need for reliable mortality estimation tools in countries with weak registration systems. As countries work towards strong statistical systems, estimating disaggregated mortality levels from surveys and census data is essential to address inequalities in registration and ensure comprehensive death counting, particularly for those most affected by the pandemic.

In countries which have well-established civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems, estimates of adult mortality are regularly generated from data collected through death registration. This allows tracking changes in population health, as well as the impact of epidemics and other crises, in near real-time. In other parts of the world, however, these systems may be deficient and seldom yield reliable monthly or annual series of vital statistics. Achieving high levels of death registration data that are at least 75 percent complete is one of the key indicators of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 17.19.2)[2]. Efforts to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS)[3] through a holistic approach in accordance with the Legal Identity Agenda and to ensure a Legal Identity for ALL (SDG 16.9) in countries remain a priority.

While continuous efforts and investment to improve the functioning and completeness of CRVS systems for countries where these are incomplete or unreliable are necessary, in the short term, surveys and censuses can help orient strategies for CRVS improvements. They can also help fill key data gaps. The United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3, recommends the collection of information on household deaths in the past 12 months and on maternal and paternal orphanhood[4]. Surveys and censuses generate mortality data primarily by asking respondents to report the survival status of (some of) their close relatives. These data are then used to reconstruct periodic snapshots of recent mortality levels[5].

By incorporating a death registration status question in surveys and censuses, valuable information can be obtained on the completeness and reliability of official death registration systems.

This is the first of a webinar series on innovative methods to measure adult mortality for the MAM-CoP. The event will focus on the use of surveys and censuses to measure the completeness and gaps in death registration and health information systems. Discussion in the event will inform further work

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[1] United Nations Statistics Division. 2022. "Improving Adult Mortality Data Collection through Household Surveys and Population Censuses: A Set of Recommendations." https://unstats.un.org/iswghs/documents/egm-on-innovative-methods-to-measure-the-impact-of-C19-on-mortality/Background-paper-adult-mortality-20220817.pdf

[2] Sustainable Development Goals: 17 Goals to Transform Our World. Retrieved from https://sdgs.un.org/goals

[3] UN Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3. Retrieved from https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles_and_Recommendations/CRVS/M19Rev3-E.pdf

[4] United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3. Retrieved from https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/Series_M67Rev3en.pdf

[5] Hill, K., Choi, Y., & Timaeus, I. (2005). Unconventional approaches to mortality estimation. Demographic Research, 13, 281-300.

and guidance to countries on innovative and comprehensive measurement and collection of statistics on adult mortality.

Objective

The objective of the webinar series is to facilitate knowledge sharing and innovative methods for measuring adult mortality. The specific objectives of this webinar are as follows:

1. To share experiences and best practices, including the data quality and use, of select countries that have successfully incorporated a question on death registration status in their surveys and censuses.

2. To discuss the importance of incorporating death registration status questions in surveys and censuses (including recommending this topic in the next revision of the UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses) for improving mortality data accuracy and informing public health policies.

Agenda:

Time allocation	Agenda item	Speakers
5 mins	Opening remarks	**John Wilmoth**, Director of the UNDESA Population Division
15 mins	Measuring Coverage of death registration in Surveys and Censuses for Adult Mortality Measurement	**Jenny Alejandra Garcia Arias** - Postdoc Institut National d'Études Démographiques INED Venezuela &UNDESA-WHO Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment (TAG)
30 mins	Country Experience in incorporating Death Registration Status Questions in Surveys and Censuses (Senegal and Palestine) - Sharing insights on national experience in the collection of death registration data, including the quality and use of such data **Moderator:** Rachael Beaven, Director ESCAP Statistics Division	**Atoumane Fall**, Directeur, par intérim, des Statistiques démographiques et sociales (DSDS), Senegal **Mohammed Draidi**, Assistant to Under-Secretary of Statistical Affairs, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics **Nandita Saikia,** Professor, International Institute for Population Sciences, India
30 mins	Discussion	
10 mins	Closing remarks and next steps	**Francesca Grum**, Assistant Director, UNSD and Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch

Note: Countries which have incorporated a question on death registration in their 2020 census questionnaires in their last census include - Jordan (2015), Cambodia (2019), Philippines (2015), Palestine (2017), Sierra Leone (2015) and Kenya (2019).