



Regional Training on Assessing Inequalities in Civil Registration

Completeness

11-15 September, 2023

Bangkok, Thailand

Concept Note (21 July 2023)

Background

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.

Another goal of the RAF is the production of accurate, complete and timely vital statistics based on civil registration records. Vital statistics based on civil registration records require a thorough assessment of the completeness of civil registration records with the aim of identifying potential gaps in these records and possibly adjust the data.

Given the importance of inequality assessments and the demand from countries for support (see [ESCAP resolution 71/14](#) and [report of 72nd Commission](#) for example), ESCAP developed [guidelines for estimating completeness of civil registration of vital events](#). The guidelines result from a seminar series between February-March 2021 on the assessment of inequalities related to civil registration. Country inputs during this seminar series highlighted the need for increased support in conducting CRVS inequality assessments and strengthening the production and use of inclusive vital statistics. A regional training workshop was carried out in March-April 2022 and this workshop will build on the presentations and exercises in that workshop with more hands-on practical work.

Objectives



The regional training aims to provide relevant officials from selected countries from Asia and the Pacific with practical knowledge to assess the completeness of birth and death registration records using secondary sources of data. More specifically, the training aims to address these objectives:

- a. Facilitate use the tools and data sources to assess inequalities related to civil registration.
- b. Provide participants with demographics skills necessary to initiate inequality assessments.
- c. Train participants in computation of completeness rates of birth and death registration.
- d. Discuss how to initiate inequality assessments and ensure their findings lead to policy recommendations.

Format of the meeting

The training will take place in person in Bangkok, Thailand. It will combine:

- Presentations, during which facilitators will provide information on general approaches and techniques for analysing the completeness of civil registration records.
- Practical sessions, during which participants will calculate the applicable indicators.
- Feedback sessions, during which participants present material developed in the practical sessions and where facilitators and other participants provide comments and suggestions for improvements or future analyses.

Participants are expected to engage in the training, including by conducting analyses, drafting reports and sharing experiences with other workshop participants.

Language

The training will be conducted in English with Russian interpretation.

Participants

Three per country: one from the National Statistics Office, one from the Civil Registry Office, and one from the Ministry of Health.

Participants are expected to have at least a basic knowledge of Excel.

The Director of the National Statistical Office (NSO) is kindly invited to nominate one representative from the NSO and to liaise with the other two agencies to ask them to nominate one representative each.

Alternatively, the Director may nominate different representatives if better suited for the country-specific context (e.g., the national CRVS focal point, a representative from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Planning, etc.). However, all nominees are actively involved in the practical work of collecting and analysing data.



Participation (travel and subsistence) of the three selected representatives will be covered by ESCAP.

Preparation

Country representatives are asked to compile the information needed for these assessments. This includes:

1. Recent anonymized datasets on births and deaths from civil registration records. Data should be on micro/individual level but can be a representative sample of the total vital events, ideally for the last three to five years if available. At a minimum, the datasets should include data on:
 - Births by date of birth and date of registration;
 - Births by place of occurrence (locality or urban/rural);
 - Births by type of place of occurrence (hospital/other health facility/home);
 - Births by sex of the new-born;
 - Births by age of the mother;
 - Births by marital status of the mother;
 - Deaths by data of death and data of registration;
 - Deaths by place of occurrence (locality or urban/rural);
 - Deaths by type of place of occurrence (hospital/other health facility/home);
 - Deaths by sex of the deceased;
 - Deaths by age of the deceased.If available, the datasets should also include:
 - Births by education attainment of the mother;
 - Births by citizenship of the mother;
 - Births by ethnic and/or national group of the mother;
 - Births by country of birth of the mother;
 - Deaths by education attainment of the deceased;
 - Deaths by citizenship of the deceased;
 - Deaths by ethnic and/or national group of the deceased;
 - Deaths by country of birth of the deceased;
 - Any other variables of interest of your country.
2. Data on births and deaths from the health sector for the same variables as the ones mentioned above for the civil registration system.
3. Fertility, mortality and birth registration data from the latest DHS or MICS survey.
4. Fertility and mortality data from the latest census and/or population projections.

Instructions for practical exercises will be provided using MS Excel. However, if participants prefer using other software, this can be accommodated.

Countries without national data will be provided with practice data by the organizers.



Organizers of the workshop will reach out to participants to discuss preparations ahead of the workshop.

Potential follow-up

Countries interested in further support for conducting an inequality assessment and publishing the results in a report will be invited to express their interest to ESCAP following the training.