

Inequalities in CRVS: Let's really get every one in the picture!

Using secondary sources to assess inequality in civil registration (Webinar 2)

08 February 2021, 12:00 – 13:30 (Bangkok time, GMT +7)

A. About the session

A well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system helps to ensure that every person has a legal identity, facilitating access to the benefits and protections of the State. Despite national and universal efforts to “get every one in the picture”, disparities in coverage of hard-to-reach and marginalized populations remain. Therefore, the Regional Action Framework on CRVS goes beyond the measurement of civil registration completeness at the national level and includes inequality assessment as part of the essential tools for achieving universal and well-functioning civil registration systems.

While many countries expressed willingness to undertake inequality assessments, they often struggle to understand how these should be undertaken, especially where capacity is low. The COVID-19 pandemic and the disparities in its impact have highlighted the importance of death registration to be able to measure and report on this. The pandemic underscored the importance of ensuring that CRVS systems are strengthened and improved to respond better to any future pandemic and have a better understanding of the ensuing mortality and morbidity. Assessing inequalities in civil registration is required to strengthen CRVS systems.

This session will hear experts discuss the secondary sources which might be used to assess inequality in civil registration. These sources can include population and housing censuses, household surveys and administrative data such as that from health and education information systems, health and demographic surveillance sites and sample registration sites. Sharing their experiences and perspectives, the session will explore questions such as:

- (a) What are the advantages and disadvantages of the different data sources for assessing inequality in civil registration?*
- (b) What are the criteria for determining which data sources are the most appropriate, when are they appropriate to be used, which assumptions are made and do those assumptions hold?*
- (c) How may these data sources be improved to be a better resource for assessing inequality?*

This is the second webinar of a three-seminar series which aims to provide practical and clear guidance for countries in Asia and the Pacific on measuring the inequalities in CRVS with the ultimate goal of narrowing the gap in civil registration. Each seminar comprises of a webinar which is open to all, and a subsequent Expert Group Meeting on the same topic which will be by invitation only.

B. Key messages:

1. There are different data sources which may be exploited under different conditions
2. Each data source has advantages and disadvantages under different conditions and varying assumptions made.

C. Presenters:

1. Part 1: Population and Housing Censuses
 - a. UNSD (tbc)

- b. Country example (Philippines, Mr. Joseph Cajita, tbc)
2. Part 2: Household surveys
 - a. UNICEF (MICS, tbc)
 - b. Country example (Lao PDR, tbc)
3. Part 3: Administrative data
 - a. UNPD (tbc)
 - b. Australia (Linda or Loren, tbc)
4. Part 4: Sample surveillance/registration sites:
 - a. STPH (Health and Demographic Surveillance Sites, tbc)
 - b. Country example (India, tbc)
5. Discussant: Carla Abou Zahr
6. Moderator: UNESCAP

D. Programme and Mechanics:

This webinar series be held virtually in Microsoft Teams application.

Presenters are encouraged to prepare five slides based on the outline to be provided by the organizer to highlight the key messages.

1. Welcome Remarks & introduction of speakers and discussant by Ms. Petra Nahmias (5 minutes) *(Ms Nahmias to briefly describe the central focus of the discussion and background to work.)*
2. Presentations:
 - Part 1: Census (14 mins)
 - Part 2: Survey (14 mins)
 - Part 3: Administrative data (14 mins)
 - Part 4: HDSS and SRS (14 mins)
3. Discussant (10 mins)
4. Question and answer from participants to the panelists will follow right after the reflections of the last discussant. (16 mins)
5. Closing Remarks and Wrap up of the webinar by Section Chief (2 mins)

Duration: 90 minutes

E. Remarks:

Following this webinar, an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) will be held with a targeted number of experts, with the focus to synthesize and develop the material and discussions from the webinar to clear and provide practical guidance to countries on how to better assess completeness and coverage, including disaggregation for subgroups to inform inequality assessments.

The EGM will consist of two half days sessions of three hours, also conducted together with partners.