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

Qualitative inequality assessments for CRVS systems (Webinar)
25 January 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. In particular, the assessment of inequalities in death registration is weak compared with birth registration for which more information tends to be available. 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 the CRVS along with inequality assessments, are strengthened and improved, to respond better to any future pandemic, and have a better understanding of the ensuing mortality and morbidity.

This session will hear experts discuss the Bali Process Civil Registration Assessment Toolkit and how this is currently implemented in Thailand, Pakistan and Viet Nam. Likewise, experts from Australia, Philippines, and New Zealand will share how they have successfully performed related studies on who is left behind. Additionally, there will be discussion of assessments on differences in coverage and completeness by other characteristics such as sex and socioeconomic status by drawing on other available materials and how the Bali Process toolkit can be improved and expanded to other populations. Sharing their experiences and perspectives, the session will explore questions such as:

(a) What are the challenges in implementing a qualitative assessment of CRVS systems? How can they be addressed?
(b) What is the Bali process toolkit process all about? How can it be improved? Can it be extended to capture inequalities in the wider population?
(c) What must be considered when adopting a qualitative framework for inequality assessments in CRVS?

This is the first activity 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 will comprise 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. The unmeasurable can be measured if one starts somewhere. (pilot countries)
2. The underlying methods and approaches of the Bali Process Toolkit may be explored to develop similar tool for other marginalized groups.
C. Presenters/Discussants*/Moderator

1. Part 1: The Bali Process Toolkit
   a. Mr. Matthias Reuss  
      Senior Statelessness Officer, UNHCR  
      reussm@unhcr.org
   b. Dr. S. M Mursalin  
      Ministry of Planning, Pakistan  
      mursalin831@gmail.com
   c. Dr. Sripapha Petcharamesree  
      Consultant, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Thailand  
      sripraphapet@gmail.com
   d. Mr. Nguyen Cong Khanh  
      Director General, Department of Civil Registration Nationality and Authentication  
      Ministry of Justice, S.R. Vietnam  
      khanhnc@moj.gov.vn; vuanh@unhcr.org
   e. Ms. Ni Ni Aung*  
      Regional Support Office, Bali Process  
      nini.aung@rso.baliprocess.net

2. Part 2: Other qualitative assessment frameworks
   a. Mr. Jeff Montgomery  
      Registrar-General, Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand  
      jeff.montgomery@dia.govt.nz
   b. Dr. Claire Brolan  
      Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Futures  
      Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Queensland  
      c.brolan@sph.uq.edu.au
   c. Ms. Irina Dincu*  
      Senior Programme Specialist, Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems  
      International Development Research Centre (IDRC)  
      idincu@idrc.ca

Moderator: Ms. Petra Nahmias, Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section  
Statistics Division, 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 of work.)

2. Speakers will present in the same order as listed in Item C of this document.

3. Each initial presentation will be for 7 minutes (total of ~50 minutes for all presentations)
Part 1: The Bali Process Toolkit
UNHCR will provide the overview followed by country experiences. Each country presentation will reflect on the following key questions:
Q 1. Why did you embark on this project/pilot study and how was it implemented? (~1 min)
Q 2. What were the main challenges (~2 mins)?
Q 3. What are the key learnings from using the Bali Toolkit? (~2 mins)
Q 4. Can you share related framework and tool you use to compliment your work on assessing inequality in CRVS, (if any)? (~2 mins)

Part 2: Other qualitative assessment frameworks
Speakers will reflect on the following key questions:
Q 5. Why did you undertake these studies and how were they implemented (~1.5 mins)?
Q 6. What populations did you assess inequalities for and why? (~1.5 mins)
Q 7. What were the main challenges involved? (~2 mins)
Q 8. What are the key points from these studies? (~2 mins)

4. Discussant: reflections on what was heard and sharing of own experience at the end of each part (5 mins)

5. Question and answer from participants to the panelists will follow right after the reflections of the last discussant. (Time allotted: 15 minutes)

6. Closing Remarks and Wrap up of the webinar by the moderator. (2 minutes)

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 one, half-day session of three hours, also conducted together with partners.

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