Implementing Inequality Assessments and Strengthening Demographic Analysis Capacity

Petra Nahmias
Statistics Division, ESCAP
What does it mean in the context of CRVS?

Giving EVERYONE a legal identity

- Intrinsic value: SDG Target 16.9

- Facilitates access to social protection and economic empowerment – unlocking the other SDGs

Inclusion in statistics

- Development indicators which are directly measurable through CRVS

- To be able to disaggregate population-based development indicator
Who might be left out?

Factors affecting civil registration include:
- Gender
- Education level
- Place of birth (hospital/community)
- Income
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Geographic location

Hard-to-reach and marginalized populations include:
- People living in rural, remote, isolated or border areas
- Minorities
- Indigenous people
- Migrants
- Non-citizens
- Asylum seekers
- Refugee
- Stateless people
- People without documentation
- People with disabilities
Overlapping vulnerabilities

- Vulnerabilities and marginalization intersect and can be compounded to intensify exclusion
- Not mutually exclusive
- Can magnify risks for women and girls
Building on the agreements from 2014 to achieve our shared vision:

“...by 2024, all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive CRVS systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development”
The regional ambition for the Decade

Goal 1: Universal registration of births, deaths & other vital events

Goal 2: All individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events, as necessary, to claim identity, civil status and ensuing rights

Goal 3: Accurate, complete and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death) are produced based on registration records and are disseminated
Regional Action Framework and Midterm Review

“Assess inequalities related to CRVS experienced by subgroups of the population, including among hard-to-reach and marginalized populations and particular geographic areas and administrative subdivisions, and, where appropriate, set national targets to address those inequalities”

- No clear standards or guidance as to what is meant
- Few countries implementing (as reported in midterm review)
Implementation Steps: Midterm review

Figure XIV: Status of implementation steps

- Coordination mechanism: 38 completed, 11 plans to complete, 13 not completed, 13 no data
- Comprehensive assessment: 31 completed, 9 plans to complete, 9 not completed, 13 no data
- National targets set: 41 completed, 21 plans to complete, 9 not completed, 13 no data

Inequality assessment

- 6 completed
- 4 plans to complete
- 38 not completed
- 14 no data

- Focal point assigned: 53 completed, 9 not completed
- Reporting to the secretariat: 43 completed, 19 not completed
Inequality assessments

- As shown, few countries have conducted inequality assessments.
- Difficult to measure not only completeness but also coverage (WHO is being left out).
- Assessments of inequalities experienced by subgroups of the population are needed to make sure every one gets in the picture.
- Universal means 100%, not 99%.
- Impact of exclusion can increase as coverage and completeness increase.
COVID19

Spotlight on mortality statistics
Inequality in impact of pandemic
- Sex
- Income
- Ethnicity
Overlaps with inequality in death registration
Less of an issue for Samoa but lesson for preparedness for future shocks
ESCAP support: 2021

- Series of Expert Group Meetings and webinars held in 2021 to provide guidance for countries on inequality assessments
  - Qualitative assessments and the Bali Process toolkit [https://tinyurl.com/2ymdjyp9](https://tinyurl.com/2ymdjyp9)
  - Quantitative assessments using secondary data sources and indirect demographic methods [https://tinyurl.com/ehss9kmz](https://tinyurl.com/ehss9kmz)
  - Information note on inequality assessments in the region [https://tinyurl.com/d6spkntn](https://tinyurl.com/d6spkntn)
Current project: 2022/3

- Facilitate the implementation of CRVS inequality assessments using secondary data sources
- Refine further guidance which can be used in other countries in the region and globally
- Build capacity to allow countries to undertake inequality assessments in the future
- Two countries finalized, two countries in progress, two countries in inception phase
- Project website: https://tinyurl.com/ft7htas5
**Current project: national components**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>Fiji</th>
<th>Lao PDR</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Samoa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception workshop</td>
<td>Sept 22</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>April 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st training</td>
<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Aug 22</td>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd training</td>
<td>Planned May 23</td>
<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing workshop</td>
<td>Planned July 23</td>
<td>Feb 23</td>
<td>Dec 22</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current project: regional components

- Regional workshop conducted on Estimating Completeness of Civil Registration of Births and Deaths (Apr ‘22)
- Regional workshop on demographic evaluation of age and sex data (May ‘22)
- Regional workshop on implementing inequality assessments (August ‘22)
- Lesson learning workshop of project countries (May ‘23)
What we’ve learnt so far

- It’s not easy!
  - Training well received
  - Difficulties in coordination on many different levels
- Context is everything
- Compromises are needed
- Capacity strengthening is essential
- Need the national champions – but also need to institutionalize
- Need to support the jump into use
- Countries learn a lot from one another
Broad focus areas for discussion

- How to choose groups to include in the assessment?
- Are there any glaring data gaps?
- Can data sources be integrated?
- Are existing data sources being sufficiently exploited? If not, what is needed to make it happen?
- How do we go from evidence to action and policy change to ensure inclusion?
Thank you!

For more information, please visit:
https://getinthepicture.org/

CRVS Insight
https://getinthepicture.org/crvs-insight-newsletter