

“Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) 2nd National Capacity Building Workshop for Assessing Inequalities in Registration”

23-25 October, 2023

Apia, Samoa

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.

Due to its well-developed CRVS system and keen interest of stakeholders, Samoa has been selected as one of the countries in the region to receive support to undertake an inequality assessment. The inequality assessment project seeks to provide technical support and capacity strengthening to the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and other relevant national stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of CRVS inequality assessments using secondary data sources in Samoa. This will involve building capacity for demographic analysis to undertake inequality assessments in the future as well as dialogue with policy-makers to ensure the results are used for policy formulation.

The second national capacity building workshop will be examining data from the civil registry’s Life Data System in comparison to estimated births from the recent 2021 census and EPI and birth notifications from MOH. This workshop will be a participatory hands-on workshop to build skills in analyzing real-world administrative data.

All stakeholders are welcome, but each participant should come with their own laptop which runs excel and can connect to wifi. Some experience in Excel is recommended.

Please find the proposed draft agenda on the following page.

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Agenda

Day 1: Understanding birth data quality

Time	Program	Speaker
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival Registration	
9:30 – 9:45	OPENING AND WELCOME	Opening prayer
		Samoa Bureau of Statistics
		ESCAP – Ms. Chloe Harvey
9:45 – 10:00	Housekeeping	SBoS
	Tour de table	Introductions by all participants
10:00 – 10:10	Background and progress on the inequality initiative (Why important, what's been achieved, status report of other countries, Fiji leading the way, where we are now)	ESCAP – Ms. Chloe Harvey
10:10 – 10:30	Lecture 1: High level methodology of the inequality assessment, what variables could be assessed to study inequality, possible data sources, what data we will use for this workshop	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
	Lecture 2: Birth registration completeness – how to think about measuring. Complexities around late registration and measurement	
10:30 – 11:00	Tea break and group photo	
11:00 – 11:15	Lecture 3: Understanding birth data quality – assessing registered birth data, birth notifications, and EPI data	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
11:15 – 11:30	Tutorial: Excel 101 refresher, Assessing data quality for registered births	
11:30 – 12:30	Exercise 1: Assessing data quality for births	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 14:00	Plenary – discussion of quality of birth data	
14:00 – 14:15	Lecture 4: Assessing timeliness of birth registration	
14:15 – 14:30	Tutorial: Recoding and calculating variables	
14:30 – 15:00	Tea break	
15:00 – 16:00	Exercise 2: Assessing data quality of timeliness of birth registration	
16:00 – 16:30	Plenary – discussion of findings around timeliness of registration	
16:30	Closing	

Day 2: Assessing inequalities in registration using census data

Time	Program	
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival Registration	
9:30 – 9:35	Recap and questions from Day 1	
9:35 – 10:00	Lecture 5: Using the census to estimate births, advantages and limitations	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
	Lecture 6: Assessing inequalities in registration by sex and district of residence	
10:00 – 10:30	Exercise 3: Assessing birth registration completeness by sex and district of residence	
10:30 – 11:00	Tea break	
11:00 – 11:30	Exercise 3 Continued: Assessing birth registration completeness by sex and district of residence	
11:30 – 12:00	Plenary – Assessing birth registration completeness by sex and district of residence	
12:00 – 12:15	Lecture 7: Assessing inequalities in registration by age of mother	
12:15 – 12:30	Exercise 4: Assessing birth registration completeness by age of the mother	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 14:30	Exercise 4 Continued: Assessing birth registration completeness by age of the mother	
14:30 – 15:00	Tea break	
15:00 – 15:30	Plenary Assessing birth registration completeness by age of mother	
15:30 – 16:15	Exercise 5: Putting it all together, age of mother by district	
16:15 – 16:30	Plenary: Where do we see the largest inequalities in birth registrations?	
16:30	Closing	

Day 3: Assessing inequalities in registration using MOH data and using data for policy

Time	Program	
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival Registration	
9:30 – 9:35	Recap and questions from Day 2	
9:15 – 9:30	Lecture 8: Assessing data quality for MOH birth data – is our data usable?	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
9:30 – 10:00	Exercise 6: Assessing data quality for MOH birth data	
10:00 – 10:30	Plenary – discussing usability of MOH birth data	
10:30 – 11:00	Tea break	
11:00 – 11:15	Lecture 9: Assessing inequalities in registration by sex and district of residence	
11:15 – 12:30	Exercise 7: Assessing birth registration completeness by sex and district of residence	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 14:00	Plenary Assessing birth registration completeness by sex and district of residence	
14:00 – 14:15	Lecture 10: How to determine reliability? Comparing to other data sources, graphing over time, putting it all together	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
14:15- 14:30	Exercise 8: Comparing our findings with the MICS, census and other sources	
14:30 – 15:00	Tea break	
15:00 – 15:30	Plenary Comparing our findings	
15:30 – 15:45	Lecture 11: Using our findings for policy	
15:45 – 16:15	Exercise 9 :Summarizing for policy makers	
16:15 – 16:30	Plenary Summarizing for policy makers	
16:30	Next steps and workshop closing	