"Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) 1st National Capacity Building Workshop for Assessing Inequalities in Registration"

5-6 June, 2023
Appia, 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 first national capacity building workshop will be examining data from the recent MICS to further assess inequalities in birth registration. This workshop will be a participatory hands-on workshop to build skills in analyzing MICS 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.

Agenda

Day 1: Understanding the MICS, and MICS analysis

Time	Program	Speaker
9:00-9:30	**ARRIVAL REGISTRATION**	
9:30 – 9:45	OPENING AND WELCOME	Opening prayer
		Samoa Bureau of Statistics – Mr. Ponifasio Vasa
		ESCAP –Statistics Division
9:45 –10:00	Program for the day and housekeeping	Samoa Bureau of Statistics – Mr. Tupai Silapela
	Tour de table	Introductions by all participants
10:00 – 10:10	Background and progress on the inequality initiative (Importance, what's been achieved, status report)	ESCAP consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
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	
10:30 – 11:00	**Tea break and group photo**	
11:00 – 11:15	Lecture 2: Assessing published data – understanding results from the recent Samoa MICS	ESCAP consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
11:15 – 12:00	Exercise 1: Analyzing the MICS – what do the findings mean and what do we still not know	
12:00 – 12:15	Plenary – discussion of MICS findings and what do they mean for inequalities of birth registration	
12:15 – 12:30	Lecture 3: Using MICS records for assessing registered births – understanding the dataset	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch break**	
13:30 – 14:00	Tutorial: Excel 101 refresher	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
14:00 – 14:30	Exercise 2: Assessing MICS records for assessing registered births – Excel pivot tables, weights, and understanding the data set (under 5 data)	
14:30 – 15:00	**Tea break**	
15:00 – 15:30	Exercise 2 continued	
15:30 – 15:45	Plenary – discussion of MICS records for assessing registered births – digging deeeper	
15:45 – 16:00	Lecture 4: Disaggregating further by age with MICS unit record data	
16:00 – 16:30	Exercise 3: Disaggregating further by age with MICS unit record data	
16:30	Closing	

Day 2: Going deeper with MICS unit record data

Time	Program	Speaker
9:00-9:30	**ARRIVAL REGISTRATION**	
9:30 – 9:45	Opening prayer	
	Recap of Day 1	ESCAP consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
	Plenary of exercise 3	
9:45 –10:00	Lecture 5: Disaggregating further with MICS unit record data: age, region, and area	
10:00 – 10:30	Exercise 4: Disaggregating further with MICS unit record data: age, region, and area	
10:30 – 11:00	**Tea break**	
11:00 – 11:30	Exercise 4 continued	
11:30 – 11:45	Plenary – discussion of MICS findings and what do they mean for inequalities of birth registration	
11:45 – 12:00	Lecture 6: Disaggregating further with MICS unit record data: age, wealth, area, and region	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
12:00 – 12:30	Exercise 5: Disaggregating further with MICS unit record data: age, wealth, area, and region	
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch break**	
13:30 – 14:00	Exercise 5 continued	
14:00 – 14:15	Plenary – discussion of MICS findings and what do they mean for inequalities of birth registration	
14:15 – 14:30	Lecture 7: The case of small numbers – can we use ethnicity?	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
14:30 – 15:00	**Tea break**	
15:00 – 15:15	Lecture 8: Presenting our findings for policy makers	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
15:15 – 16:00	Exercise 6: Summarizing our findings for policy makers – draft policy brief	
16:00 – 16:30	Plenary – presentation of draft policy briefs	
16:30	Closing and next steps	