Introduction to Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Workshop on Vital Statistics for North and Central Asian Countries

7-11 October 2019, Bishkek- Kyrgyzstan

Helge Brunborg
Statistics Norway
What is CRVS?

- Civil Registration (CR) is the *recording* of vital events:
  - Live births
  - Deaths
  - Marriages and divorces
  - Causes of death (?)

- Vital Statistics (VS) constitute the collection, analysis, and publication of *statistics* on vital events


- Migration is not considered a vital event
  - Immigrations
  - Emigrations
  - Internal moves *to* an area
  - Internal moves *from* an area
Principles of a Vital Statistics System

• Universal coverage
• Continuity
• Confidentiality of personal information
• Regular dissemination

Why is CRVS important?

- Human rights
- Administrative use
- Population registers
- Statistics for monitoring, planning, health, local administration ....
Why Civil Registration?

- **Legal, human rights**
  - The recording of a birth is usually accompanied by the issuance of a birth certificate
  - To prove age, name, parents, nationality, country of birth ...
  - To obtain a passport and other identification documents
  - To fight child labour, under-age marriage, health, human trafficking, child prostitution ...
  - To obtain health and education services, voting rights ...
  - Death certificates also needed for legal reasons (burial rights, inheritance, remarriage ...)

- **Statistical, administrative**
  - To produce Vital Statistics
  - To establish population registers for administrative and statistical purposes
CRVS: Births

- 62% of countries register at least 90% of births
CRVS: Deaths

- 57% of countries register at least 90% of deaths
- 85 countries produce high-quality COD data
CRVS Subprocesses

- Notification of vital event (VE)
- Validation of VE
- Registration of VE
- Certification of VE
- Storage and archiving of VE
- Compilation of VS
- Quality control of VS
- Generation of VS
- Dissemination of VS
Why Vital Statistics?

• Essential for setting targets and evaluating social and economic plans and programmes (UNSD 2014)
• To derive fundamental demographic and epidemiological measures needed in national planning for health, education, labor ... (WHO 2010)
• For government activities (population registers and other administrative registers ...)
• For commercial enterprises (life insurance, marketing of products ...)
• Core of a country’s health information system (HIS)
Vital Statistics

• Produced by the national statistical office in most countries
• Produced by the national CR agency in some countries
• The two national institutions are combined in a few countries

• The third related institution is the national Identity management office (ID cards)
Data flows on vital events

- Micro data or Aggregate data

- Civil Registration system
- Vital statistics

- National Statistical Institute
- National Identity Management

flows to:
- administration
- research
- other use
Sustainable Development Goals
17 SDGs with 169 targets and over 230 global indicators

Examples

Indicator 3.7.2: “Adolescent birth rate (10-14 years; 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group”
Target 16.9: “By 2030 provide legal identity for all, including birth registration”

- CRVS usually the best data source to estimate the SDG indicators
- 40 per cent of all SDGs may be estimated in full or in part using data originating from a well-functioning CRVS system