

“Civil Registration Vital Statistics (CRVS) Inception Workshop for Assessing Inequalities in Registration” – 4 April 2023

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 inception workshop will be a participatory workshop to introduce the project, further develop relationships among relevant stakeholders (data providers, data users, and policy makers), discuss challenges with doing such an inequality assessment, and collaboratively develop a plan for the way forward.

Please find the proposed draft agenda on the following page.

Draft Agenda

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKER
9:00-9:30	ARRIVAL REGISTRATION	
9:30 – 9.45	OPENING AND WELCOME	Opening prayer
		Samoa Bureau of Statistics
		ESCAP – Director of Statistics Division
9:45 –10.05	INTRODUCTION – Short briefing on the concept of the project as well as outline of the program for the day and housekeeping.	Samoa Bureau of Statistics
	TOUR DE TABLE	Introductions by all participants
10.05 – 10:25	Overview of the current CRVS system in Samoa, summary of known needs, and the role of SBS	Samoa Bureau of Statistics
10.25-10.45	TEA BREAK	
10.45-11.00	BACKGROUND – Why do an inequality assessment and how will the results inform policy?	ESCAP – Ms. Petra Nahmias
11.00-11.20	High level methodology of the inequality assessment, what variables could be assessed to study inequality, possible data sources including what roles other line ministries would play, and known issues with data availability and or quality	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
11.20 – 11.30	Presentation by MoH: Data challenges in regards to inequality assessments	MOH
11.30-11.50	Open discussion – questions or comments from participants	
11.50-12.50	Break out groups – identifying possible populations of policy interest (e.g. place of birth, age, sex, , sources of data, and capacity building needs for the project	Group work – prepare guiding questions

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKER
12.50-13.50	LUNCH	
13.50-14.30	Plenary – group presentations on marginalized populations, data sources for investigation and needs	Group members
14.30-15.00	Presentations by 2 countries on their IA experience plus Q and A	Fiji and LPDR (TBD)
15.00-15.20	TEA BREAK	
15.20-15.40	Moderated discussion – how to address some key challenges, next steps, timeline etc.	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
15.40-16.00	Closing: Summary and Next steps	CRVS Consultant – Ms. Renee Sorchik
END OF WORKSHOP		