Webinar on Inequalities in CRVS:
*Let’s really get every one in the picture!*

**Area 2. Using secondary sources to assess inequality in civil registration**

**Our experience with administrative records**

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Inequalities in access to civil registration services affect human rights, service delivery, and appropriate analysis of vital statistics.

Identification of vulnerable groups and accurate quantification of inequalities is essential to guide interventions to correct such patterns, and monitor their impact.

Common vulnerable groups include:
- Refugee populations
- Ethnic minorities
- Economically vulnerable members of society
- Residents in remote areas

A range of administrative records that potentially exist for these groups could be used to evaluate inequalities in access to civil registration services.
**Advantages and disadvantages of using administrative data for assessing inequality in birth registration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative data source</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
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</table>
| Health records             | • Birth registers  
                             • Immunization records  
                             • Nutritional support programs | • Unbiased recording of all service recipients  
                             • Timely recording | • Excludes private/informal sector data, hence incomplete coverage |
| Local records              | • Village HH register/family book  
                             • Family planning programs  
                             • School enrolment records | • Socially accepted norms  
                             • Locally verifiable data | • Limited data variables  
                             • Paper based records  
                             • ? Data accuracy |
| Government programs        | • Income support programs  
                             • Identity management programs  
                             • Social insurance schemes | • Potentially good population coverage  
                             • Electronic records | • Could exclude marginalized groups / migrants  
                             • ? Validity of records |
| International programs     | • Refugee population registers  
                             • UNHCR records  
                             • Aid program records  
                             • NGO service registers | • Specific focus for recording  
                             • Data accuracy | • Limited population coverage  
                             • Data timeliness and continuity affected by program uncertainty |
**Inequality assessment methodology**

- Comparison of total numbers/rates for population of interest between CRVS and admin source to identify likelihood of inequality

- Evaluate actual extent of inequality through record matching

- Individual record linkage across two or more sources

- Estimate potential total number of events for denominator through:
  - data reconciliation
  - Capture recapture methods
  - Combination

- Use CRVS events as numerator to evaluate proportion of registered events for population of interest
When are such data sources appropriate to be used?

- For geographical inequalities - health / local records

- For socio economic inequalities – government program data / NGO records

  (Health and local records usually do not include SES variables)

- For marginalized groups – refugee / aid / NGO records
Administrative data sources for assessing completeness of death registration

• Health data sources
  • Hospital mortality registers
  • Community health center death registers
  • Disease-specific surveillance systems (TB, Malaria, Maternal/child health (partial coverage))
  • Cancer registries

• Police records for deaths from injuries

• Health insurance databases (difficult to get access)

• National identity management programs

• Similar measurement methods (i.e aggregated analysis/record linkage)
Recommended improvements

- Need for continuous efforts to improve data quality from each administrative data source

- Promote data matching, reconciliation and verification at local level on a routine basis, which will reduce inequalities while enhancing overall data completeness