



Workshop on Vital Statistics for North and Central Asian Countries Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 7-11 October 2019

Concept Note

Background

Reliable, responsive and complete vital statistics provide essential information on populations critical for sustainable and inclusive development. Particularly for the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, vital statistics is required to measure and monitor all population-based targets and indicators.

In Asia and the Pacific, many member States are struggling to produce and disseminate high quality vital statistics on a timely basis in compliance with international standards and recommendations. This challenge stems from the lack of institutional capacity to integrate civil registration records, as well as survey and census data to produce reliable vital statistics.

Recognizing this issue and the importance for countries to use civil registration records as a data source for producing high-quality vital statistics, the Asia-Pacific Statistical Community has called for a coordinated and systematic regional approach resulting in the 2014 Ministerial Declaration to “Get Every One in the Picture” in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/71/14), through which member States made a commitment to improve Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems, including the accurate, complete and timely production and dissemination of vital statistics based on registration records.

Introduction

The European Free Trade Association, Statistics Norway and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) are holding a workshop to improve the capacity of national CRVS systems in the production and dissemination of vital statistics.

The workshop specifically supports the implementation of Goal 3 the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific which stipulates that accurate, complete and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death) are produced based on registration records and are disseminated. The workshop will run between 7 and 11 October 2019 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Objectives

The workshop will strengthen countries’ capacity of national statistical systems to produce, disseminate and communicate vital statistics, based on civil registration records and other data sources, and thus support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The key objectives are:

- Countries to develop or improve vital statistics publications
- Improved collaboration between agencies working on CRVS and data/statistics
- Improved knowledge among experts on CRVS and on user friendly data dissemination

Participants

ESCAP will issue generalized invitation letters, along with this concept note and blank nomination forms, to the relevant Directors of the National Statistical Offices (NSO) requesting nominations of up to three people from the country.

Ideally, we are requesting the Directors nominate representatives from across the spectrum of stakeholders participating in the production or use of vital statistics. In other words, for example, the Director could nominate at least be one representative from the NSO, one from the Civil Registration Authority (CR), as well as one from the Ministry of Health (MoH). Moreover, if the country has a national CRVS focal point in relation with ESCAP, this person should ideally be one of the three participants.

Alternatively, the Director could nominate three different representatives that s/he feels are best suited for the country-specific context (i.e., the national CRVS focal point, a representative from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Planning, etc.). Regardless of who the Director of the NSO decides to nominate though, *it is important that all nominees are actively involved in the practical work of collecting and analyzing data.*

After receiving the completed nomination forms for three people, ESCAP will then draft invitation letters and address them to the specific individuals nominated by the Director.

Facilitators

The organizers will arrange for providing technical support and guidance by leading experts on the key aspects of the data processing and analysis, including: managing files on Vital Statistics records; applying data quality procedures; using fertility and mortality data analysis methods; presenting, interpreting and summarizing data results; preparing write-ups and graphs; and enhancing distribution of the reports.

Preparation

Countries will be asked to compile information on current vital statistics reports, including all recent reports, data sources and any other relevant documentation before the workshop.

As a result, country teams are expected to come to the workshop with:

- Recent datasets from Civil Registration records, and possibly other linkable data. Data should be on micro/individual level but can be an extract of the total population.
- Their last vital statistics reports if these are available, preferably in electronic format.

Countries are expected to produce a draft Vital Statistics report within six months after the workshop. The workshop facilitators (or other experts) may be consulted for advice on this.

Deliverables

The workshop organizers will make all documents used during the workshop available online to ensure other countries and people can benefit from the event and participants can refer to them if needed.

Participants will go home with clear knowledge and guidance to update and improve their national vital statistics report. For countries that have not published a report yet, participants will be able to use the knowledge and guidance gained during the workshop to conduct the data analysis and start developing their national vital statistics report. All participants will also be expected to share the lessons with their colleagues in their countries.

Workshop Programme

The workshop will combine:



Statistisk sentralbyrå
Statistics Norway



- Presentations, during which facilitators will provide information on general approaches and techniques for analyzing vital statistics data;
- Working sessions, during which participants will calculate the applicable indicators, as well as use their national data to start creating tables for use in their vital statistics reports; and
- Feedback sessions, during which participants present material developed in the working sessions and facilitators and other participants provide comments and suggestions for improvements or future analyses.

The workshop will be conducted in English and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation provided. Participants are expected to engage in the training, including by conducting analysis, drafting reports, sharing experiences with other workshop participants and by leading discussions with facilitators.

Dates & Location

7 – 11 October 2019

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

