



Regional Workshop on: “A strategic framework for improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in the Arab region 2021-2025: progress made and way forward”.

Amman - Jordan, 28-29 May 2024

I. Introduction

Vital statistics are essential to understanding population dynamics, informing government planning, and monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Vital statistics require a well-functioning civil registration system in terms of completeness, accuracy, availability, and timeliness, which entails the continuous, permanent, compulsory, and universal recording of events such as births, marriages, divorces, adoptions, and deaths. Moreover, civil registration is critical to establishing individual legal identities for all individuals including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and to developing evidence-based policy, effective economic and social planning, and accountability in public resource management.

In the Arab region, despite previous efforts by international and regional organizations, civil registrations systems still face several challenges especially in countries that suffer from humanitarian crises and instability. This results in a wide variation in the completeness, quality of civil registration systems and in the capacity of some Arab States to produce vital statistics reports. Among the challenges faced are the lack of comprehensiveness in registering vital events, such as birth and death, causes of death, marriage and divorces, and the weak technical capabilities for exchanging information between civil registry entities, which limits optimal use of such data in development planning programs and monitoring sustainable development goals.

ESCWA and regional partners (WHO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNICEF, Norwegian Refugee Council, and International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada developed a regional strategic framework to enhance the civil registration and vital statistics system (CRVS) in the Arab region for the period 2021-2025. The framework, as a guiding document for developing a national action plan at a regional workshop held in July 2021, aims at improving and updating civil registration systems, in line with CRVS priorities in each country. This will enable the production of quality vital statistics according to international standards.

In addition, the regional organizations and countries undertook several initiatives to strengthen capacity for birth, death, marriage and divorce registrations, improve coordination and support digitation towards the production of vital statistics and related SDG indicators.

After two years of its adoption, there is a need for an inclusive mid-term review of progress made in the implementation of the strategic framework by countries and related organizations and identify experiences that can be leveraged to accelerate the realization of its objectives in the coming two years at both regional and national levels.

To this end, ESCWA, AITRS and UNFPA in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, are organizing a regional workshop on “A strategic framework for improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in the Arab region 2021-2025: progress made and way forward”, in Amman – Jordan, during the period 28-29 May 2024.



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II. Objectives

The main objective of the workshop is to monitor and review the progress made in the implementation of the Arab CRVS regional strategic framework (2021-2025) and share experiences that can be leveraged to accelerate the realization of its objectives over the remaining period.

The ultimate objectives are to:

1. Review progress made in the implementation of the Arab Region's CRVS strategic framework, 2021-2025;
2. Identify challenges faced;
3. Provide update on new developments related to CRVS, including the UN guidance, and how they can be incorporated in the implementation of the strategic framework;
4. Promote exchange of expertise among the countries, incorporating experiences from relevant UN agencies and other international organizations and;
5. Discuss a common way forward for accelerating the implementation of strategic framework during the remaining period at countries and regional levels.

III. Expected outcomes.

- Exchange of experiences and lessons learned in the field of civil registration and vital statistics enhanced among member countries and other stakeholders;
- New developments related to CRVS incorporated into the implementation of the CRVS strategic framework;
- A regional action plan for accelerating the implementation of the CRVS strategic framework developed;
- Propose action plans to improve CRVS system in line with the priorities of countries and partners.

IV. Main topics to be covered.

- Presentation of a summary of the strategic framework for improving civil registration and vital statistic system in the Arab region for the period (2021-2025);
- An overview of new developments relevant to the implementation of the CVRS framework;
- Availability of and gaps in technical resources for CVRS implementation in the Region";
- Member countries' progress in implementation of the CRVS framework-facilitating and hindering factors;
- Partners agencies' support to the implementation of the strategic framework achievements and challenges;
- Direction for the implementation of the RVS framework based on national priorities.



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V. Documents

- The strategic framework for improving civil registration and vital statistics system in the Arab region for the period 2021-2025;
- Legal agenda;
- UNFPA, UNICEF, UN DESA, WHO main CRVS documents/guidance.

VI. Participants

- Representatives from selected national statistical offices and civil registration authorities (ministry of health, ministry of justice, ministry of interior).
- Regional and international organizations, WHO regional office, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNRWA, UNHCR, NRC, GCC-Stats, League of Arab States and AITRS.

VII. Language of the workshop

The language of the workshop will be in Arabic and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be made available.

VIII. Date and Venue of the workshop:

The workshop will be held in-person in Amman – Jordan, during the period 28-29, May 2024. (exact venue to be determined later)

IX. Administrative arrangements

- Participants are requested (1) to register by clicking on the link <https://forms.office.com/e/FhqjWC1aES> (2) to send a scanned copy of their passport and the attached registration form after completion to Ms. Zeina sinno and Mr. Hayder Janabi at the following e-mails: sinnoz@un.org and hayder@aitrs.org
- Participants are kindly requested to make their own arrangements to get the visa from the Jordanian embassy in their home country (if needed).
- Upon their arrival to the airport in Amman, participants need to take a taxi to reach the hotel.
- ESCWA will make the necessary administrative and logistical arrangements to cover the participation attending the workshop at ESCWA expenses (contact provided below) as per UN rules and regulations.
- AITRS/UNFPA will make the necessary administrative and logistical arrangements for the participants attending the workshop at their expenses (contacts provided below)
- Name of hotel will be sent to the participants for ease of reference to make their own arrangements for hotel accommodation or can be assisted by the organizer.



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X. For further logistics information, please contact:

ESCWA

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