



Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



Training workshop on demographic methods for assessing the quality and completeness of civil registration data and their uses

Amman - Jordan, 28-30 June 2022

Concept Note



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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 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 (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.

As a result, the civil registration data (one of the main sources of information for producing vital statistics including fertility and mortality estimates) are often unavailable for use in statistics or incomplete for use in demographic estimation. Therefore, it is useful to assess the vital registration data and select demographic methods for calculating demographic indicators.

Since 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has regularly organized workshops and expert group meetings to develop the analytical capacity of member states to assess registration systems and data using indirect demographic methods and direct record linkage studies and to produce high-quality vital statistics reports¹. Technical advisory missions have also been undertaken in selected member states as part of the civil registration and vital statistics component of the UN Development Account Programme.

¹ Training Workshop on Demographic Methods for Assessing the Completeness of Death Registration, ESCWA, WHO/EMRO, and UNFPA/ASRO (Cairo, 2014). Expert Group Meeting on Death Registration Systems and Mortality Statistics in the Arab Region (Beirut, 2015). Expert Group Meeting on Record Linkage Studies to Assess Completeness of Death Registration Data (Beirut, 2017). Training Workshop for Developing Vital Statistics Reports from Civil Registration (Beirut, 2018).



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Moreover, ESCWA and regional partners (WHO/ Eastern Mediterranean Regional office EMRO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNICEF, Norwegian Refugee Council, and International Development and Research in 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, adopted 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 vital statistics of high quality in accordance with international standards.

To this end, ESCWA and regional partners conducted an assessment of CRVS in Arab countries through a literature review and a questionnaire that was sent to all countries and was completed by 12 of them. Several Arab countries that are going through unfavorable conditions were contacted for more information about the challenges and opportunities that these countries face in completing the construction and activation of the civil registry. The assessment indicated that only six countries have >95% level of death registration and have conducted an evaluation of births and deaths data. Moreover, in countries undergoing political or humanitarian crises, particularly, Somalia and Yemen, the level of completeness of births and deaths registration is very poor. The results of the survey mentioned the need for capacity development in demographic statistics and mainly in advanced demographic training, record linkages, and completeness of civil registrations data.

In addition, within the coordination efforts of CRVS, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) produced a methodological guidance note based on an analysis of Maternal, Perinatal Deaths Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) and CRVS systems in the region to assess the level of and opportunities for linkage. These systems were developed to help avoid preventable maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity through the identification of critical failures in the care pathway and taking action to prevent similar deaths from occurring in the future. MPDSR draws on the health management information system (HMIS) of a country and can be strengthened by linkages with the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system

Within the framework of the efforts made so far in compiling, analyzing, and disseminating vital statistics data, and as a follow-up to the implementation of the CRVS strategic framework, ESCWA in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), is organizing a training workshop on **“demographic methods for assessing the quality and completeness of civil registration data and their uses”** during the period 28 to 30 June 2022 in Amman, Jordan.



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A. Objectives

The workshop will enhance the capacities of member countries in assessing the quality and completeness of civil registration data.

The workshop is expected to accomplish the following:

- a) Train/Enhance statistical capacities of participants in concepts and methodologies of producing demographic indicators based on CR data;
- b) Train/Enhance statistical capacities of participants from countries undergoing political or humanitarian crises, in demographic estimation using alternative methods;
- c) Enhance statistical capacities of participants in concepts and methodologies of CR data quality mainly calculation the completeness of birth and death data;
- d) Enhance participants capacities on handling missing and incomplete CR data and comparing with alternative data sources;
- e) Discuss linkages between CRVS and MPDSR and potential opportunities for mutual strengthening of both systems.

Outputs of the workshop

To apply different techniques in assessing the quality and completeness of civil registration data in order to:

- Identify required resources for CRVS development;
- Strengthen capacity to promote a Culture of Vital Statistics Production.

B. Participants and Trainers

Participants: Statisticians and demographers employed by National Statistical offices; Civil Registration Authorities, and Ministries of Justice/ marriage and divorce registration entities in Arab countries.

Trainers: Regional and International experts working in demographic analysis filed

C. Documents

- Training materials provided by the trainers.

Documents will be posted on the meeting's website: <https://www.unescwa.org/events>



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D. Language

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

E. Venue and time of the workshop

Participants are requested to take the necessary precautions and health physical preventive measures due to Covid-19

The meeting will be held in-person (face to face) training in Amman, Jordan, during the period 28-30 June 2022.

F. For further information, contact:

For logistics matters:

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