

**2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses:
Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the UNESCWA Region**

Venue: Cairo, Egypt

Time: 3-6 December 2007 – (4 days meeting)

Announcement

Purpose/background:

The civil registration system is considered the best source for generating accurate, reliable and timely vital statistics. Not all national civil registration systems are fully in place in terms of coverage of vital events, effectiveness and their linkage with national statistical systems, thus preventing their use for producing reliable vital statistics. Consequently, alternative data sources such as censuses and sample surveys are then used to obtain these statistics.

In that context, the main purpose of the workshop is to provide guidance to countries on the implementation of the United Nations recommendations for the collection and compilation of vital statistics at national level through civil registration system, at the same time providing full overview of international statistical standards and requirements. The workshop will analyze procedures to obtain vital statistics by maximizing the use of multiple data sources: population censuses, sample surveys and incomplete civil registration. The workshop will also aim at identifying the components of civil registration and vital statistics systems that are in need of improvement, providing a basis for developing technical assistance project to countries in the region.

Objectives:

The specific objectives of the meeting are as follows:

- Introduce the UN guidelines¹ for the collection and compilation of vital statistics
- Assess the current status of civil registration and vital statistics system in the country and identify gaps to be filled
- Identify strategies for the improvement of civil registration
- Review national experience on the production of vital statistics through incomplete civil registration systems, population censuses and sample surveys
- Identify good practices that countries might follow (a) to collect data, (b) to calculate vital statistics, (c) to evaluate their quality
- Examine the availability of data that countries are able to provide to UNSD through the Demographic Yearbook data collection and look for ways for further improvement.

¹ See the section on Preparation/Requirements later in this document for the list of UN recommendations and manuals.

Expected output:

The major output refers to the guidance provided to participants in terms of international statistical standards and their implementation at national level. A report documenting countries' experiences on the collection and compilation of vital statistics, and identifying strategies for improving data collection systems for vital statistics will be produced and will serve as a framework for assisting countries in building up their statistical capacities.

Participants:

Representatives from national statistical offices and civil registrars responsible for the collection and/or compilation of vital statistics will be invited from each country in Western Asia.

Organization of meeting sessions:

Each session of the meeting will consist of introductory presentations on the topic of the session, followed by presentations of country experiences and plenary discussion. In addition, there will be group discussions and presentation of conclusions of the group work in plenary.

Preparation/Requirements:

Each participant will be provided in advance with a copy of:

- Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2, United Nations (2001).
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Computerization, United Nations (1998)
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Developing Information, Education and Communication, United Nations (1998)
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance, United Nations (1998)
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Policies and Protocols for the Release and Archiving of Individual Records (United Nations) (1998)
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Preparation of a Legal Framework, United Nations (1998)
- Handbook on the Collection of Fertility and Mortality Data, United Nations (2003)
- Manual X Indirect Techniques for Demographic Estimation, United Nations (1983)
- United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* (DYB) questionnaire on vital statistics

In preparation for the workshop and to enable sharing of experiences and knowledge among countries, participants will be requested to provide several inputs, in the form of a pre-workshop assignment, following an outline provided by UNSD:

- A report on country experience in the compilation of vital statistics
- Filling a questionnaire on data sources and techniques used to obtain vital statistics.

Assignments should be completed and sent back to the United Nations Statistics Division before 16 November, 2007 at the following address via email if possible or by fax, mail:

Att. Ms. Haoyi Chen
2, UN Plaza DC2-1536
10017 New York, NY, USA
Tel. 1 212 963 4375
Fax. 1 212 963 1940
chen9@un.org
cc: mrkic@un.org

Participation in the workshop will entail to give a short presentation in plenary (7-10 minutes) followed by group discussion on civil registration and vital statistics system in his/her country. In addition, participants are expected to actively participate in group discussions.

A draft report of the meeting will be circulated among participants for comments before being finalized.