

United Nations Regional Workshop on Improving Statistics on Fertility, Mortality and Disability in Africa

Venue: Tentatively Ghana

Time: Tentatively 14-18 June 2004 – (5 day workshop)

DRAFT **Note to participants**

Purpose/background:

In most Sub-Saharan African countries, civil registration is not used as a source of vital statistics due mainly to the low level of registration coverage. Alternative data sources such as population censuses and sample surveys are then used to obtain these statistics. The workshop will analyse procedures to obtain fertility and mortality statistics by maximizing the use of multiple data sources: population censuses, sample surveys and incomplete civil registration. Strategies for improving civil registration in the region will also be discussed and a plan of actions in the medium and long term identified. It will also review national approaches to the collection of disability statistics. In addition, collection and dissemination of fertility, mortality and disability statistics at the international level will be addressed through the presentation and discussion of the *Demographic Yearbook* system.

Objectives:

The specific objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- Review national experience in the production of fertility, mortality and disability statistics
- Assess major techniques used for estimating fertility and mortality statistics, and the required data sources
- Consider major problems encountered in the collection and compilation of fertility, mortality and disability statistics and implications in the dissemination of consistent estimates at national and international level, with particular reference to the *Demographic Yearbook* system
- Identify good practices that countries might follow (a) to collect data, (b) to calculate fertility, mortality and disability statistics, (c) to evaluate their quality
- Identify strategies for improving the use and quality of fertility and mortality statistics obtained from civil registration
- Build a network of experts to exchange information on good practices and provide mutual support in the development of fertility, mortality and disability statistics.

Expected output:

The expected output is a report on the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop, identifying strategies for improving data collection systems for fertility, mortality and disability statistics.

Participants:

Statisticians and demographers responsible for fertility, mortality and disability statistics, from national statistical offices, offices responsible for population censuses, regional institutions such as RIPS, AFRISTAT, and other international agencies, will be invited to participate in the workshop.

Organization of workshop sessions:

Each session of the workshop 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:

In order to prepare for the workshop, participants are asked to complete pre-workshop assignments consisting of: (a) a review of data sources and techniques used to obtain fertility and mortality statistics in their respective countries; (b) the regular annual United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaire on Vital Statistics; and (c) a Draft questionnaire on Disability Statistics, which is currently being tested. The *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires will be discussed in session 6 of the meeting to highlight major difficulties and concerns felt by countries when requested to fill it in. For more information on the workshop, please see URL: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/workshop/Ghana2004/index.htm> .

Assignments should be completed and sent back to the United Nations Statistics Division before May 31, 2004 at the following address via email if possible or by fax, mail:

Demographic Statistics Section
Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
United Nations Statistics Division
Attn. Ms. Francesca Coullare
2, UN Plaza DC2-1534
10017 New York, NY, USA
Tel. 1 212 963 4950
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Experts' participation in the workshop will entail: a) the submission of the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires by May 31 2004, b) to give a short presentation in plenary (7-10 minutes), c) to actively participate in group discussions on data and techniques used to obtain fertility, mortality and disability statistics in his/her country.

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