

Advancing Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Service of Refugees

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Outline

1. Overview of Analysis of UNHCR Yemen Data
2. Project to assess & improve CRVS for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon

Overview of UNHCR Yemen Data Analysis

Objectives of UNHCR Yemen project:

1. to provide a description of UNHCR registration process;
2. assess whether the completeness of birth and death registration data collected by UNHCR are consistent with the mortality patterns of the surrounding area;
3. evaluate the plausibility of the cause-specific mortality fractions

UNHCR Registration

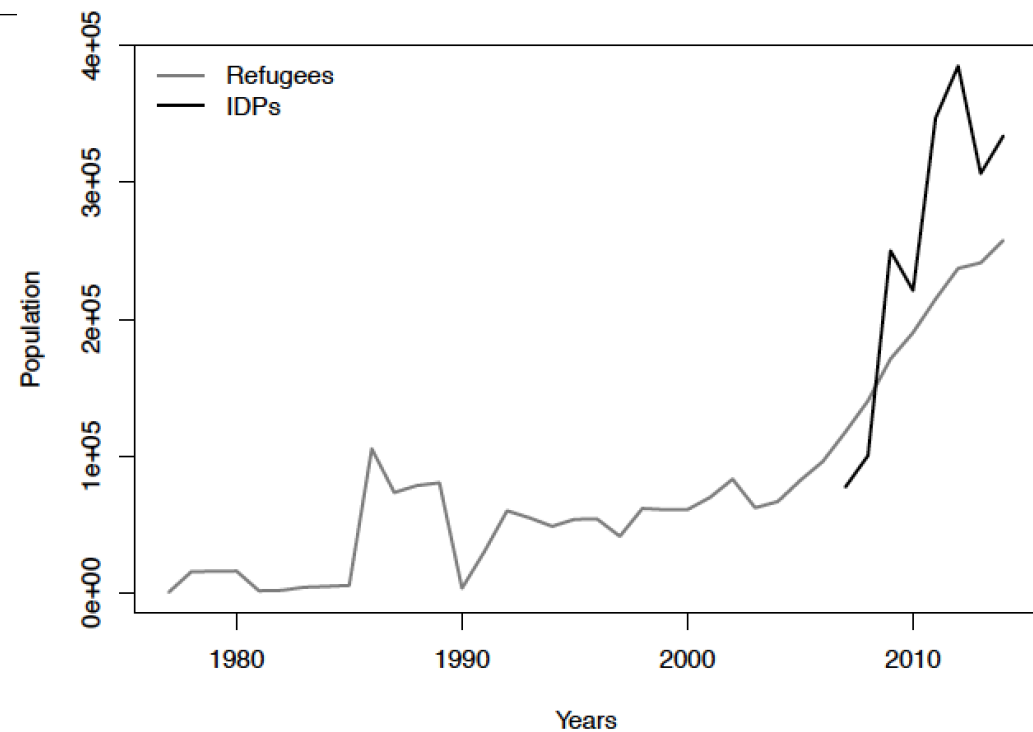
- UNHCR registration covers changes in the refugee population: births, deaths, new arrivals and departures;
- Three main providers of data: governmental agencies, UNHCR field offices and NGOs;
- Registration of refugees and asylum seekers is the responsibility of host states. Operational role assumed by UNHCR if needed;
- Refugee registration can be kept at the local level and not always centralized;
- UNHCR's registration system was revised in 2001 to ensure that the approach is comprehensive and unified (Registration Handbook).

Unified and standard refugee registration: ProGRES

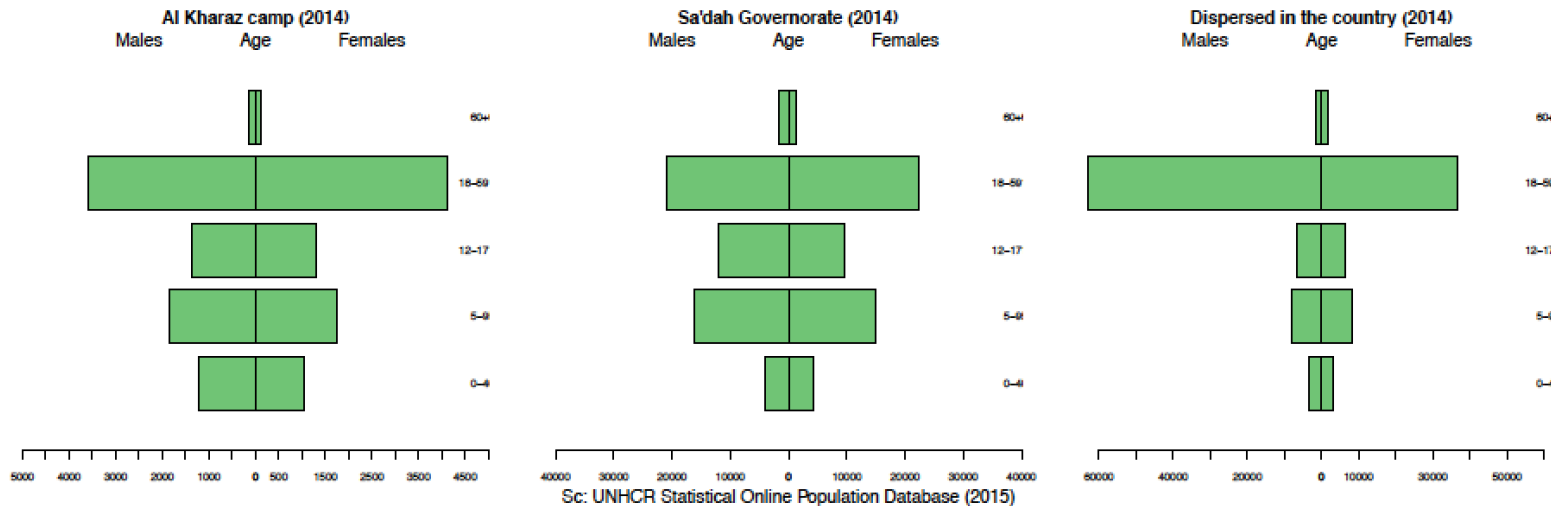
- Introduced in 2004
- Used in more than 300 refugee camps.
- Track process of application as a refugee (interviews, reviews, etc.)
- Issues identification cards, record addresses (for those living outside camps)
- Includes photos and individual details (dob, marital status, etc.), and biometrics

Aggregate data available through the UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database (but population counts only).

UNHCR Registration Data

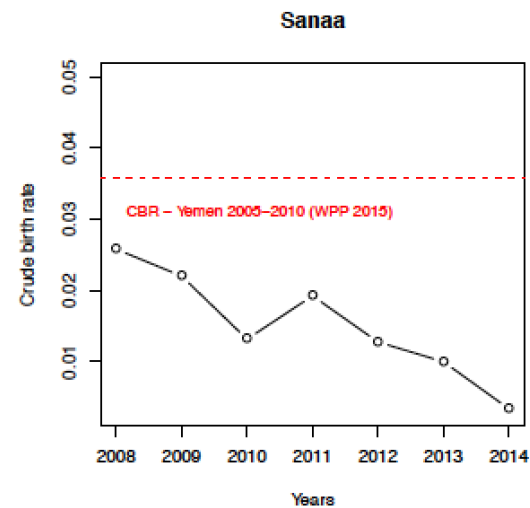
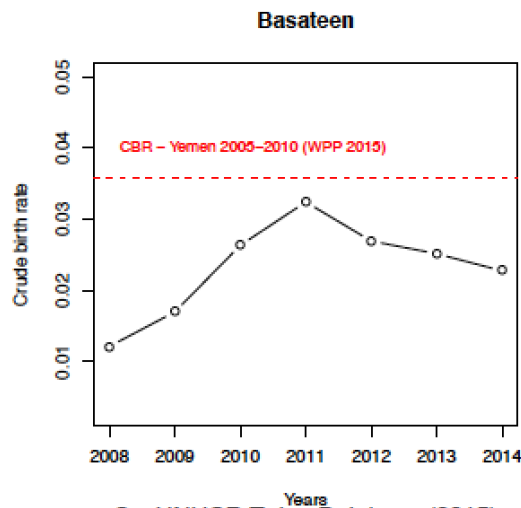
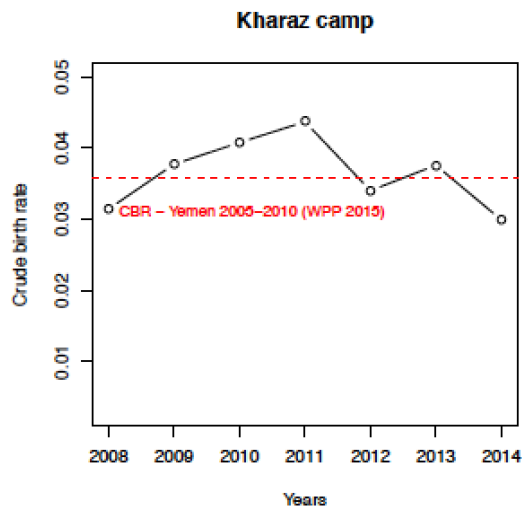


Sc: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database (2015)



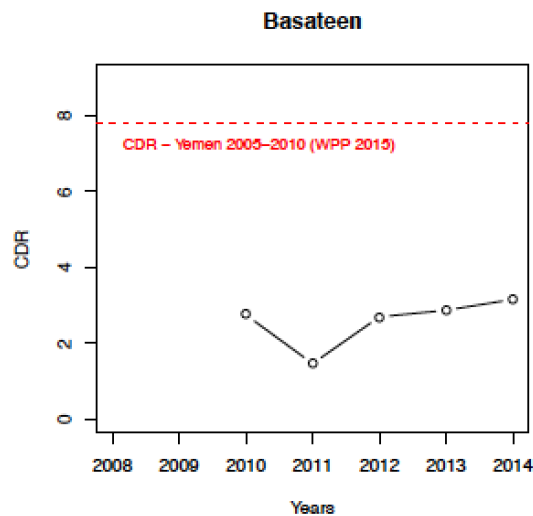
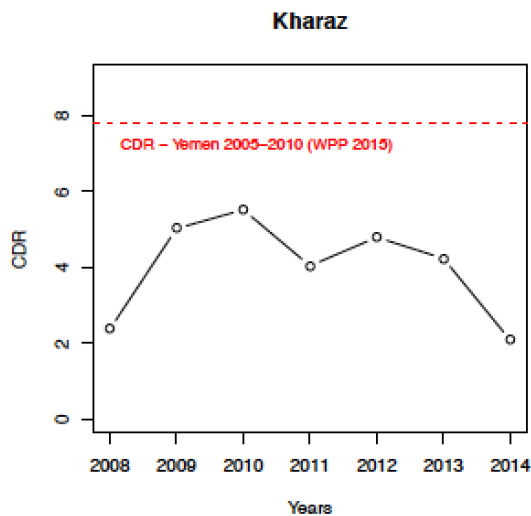
Sc: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database (2015)

Figure 2 – Age and sex distribution of refugees in Al Kharaz camp and IDPs/refugees/asylum seekers dispersed in the country (UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database)



Sc: UNHCR Twine Database (2015)

Figure 4 – Crude birth rates estimates from the HIS in Kharaz camp, and Basateen and Sanaa urban refugee settlements



Sc: UNHCR Twine Database (2015)

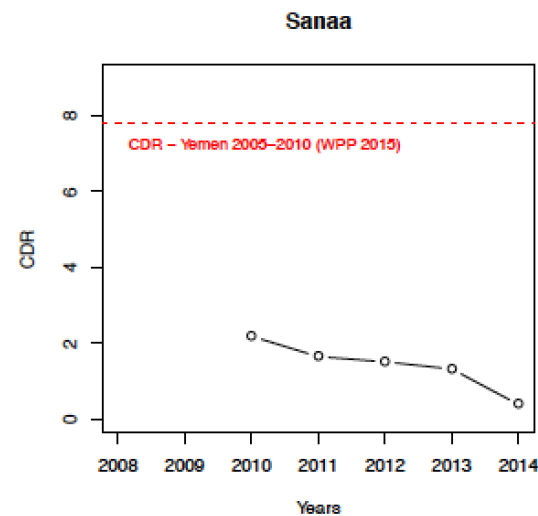


Figure 5 – Crude death rates estimates from the HIS in Kharaz camp, and Basateen and Sanaa urban refugee settlements

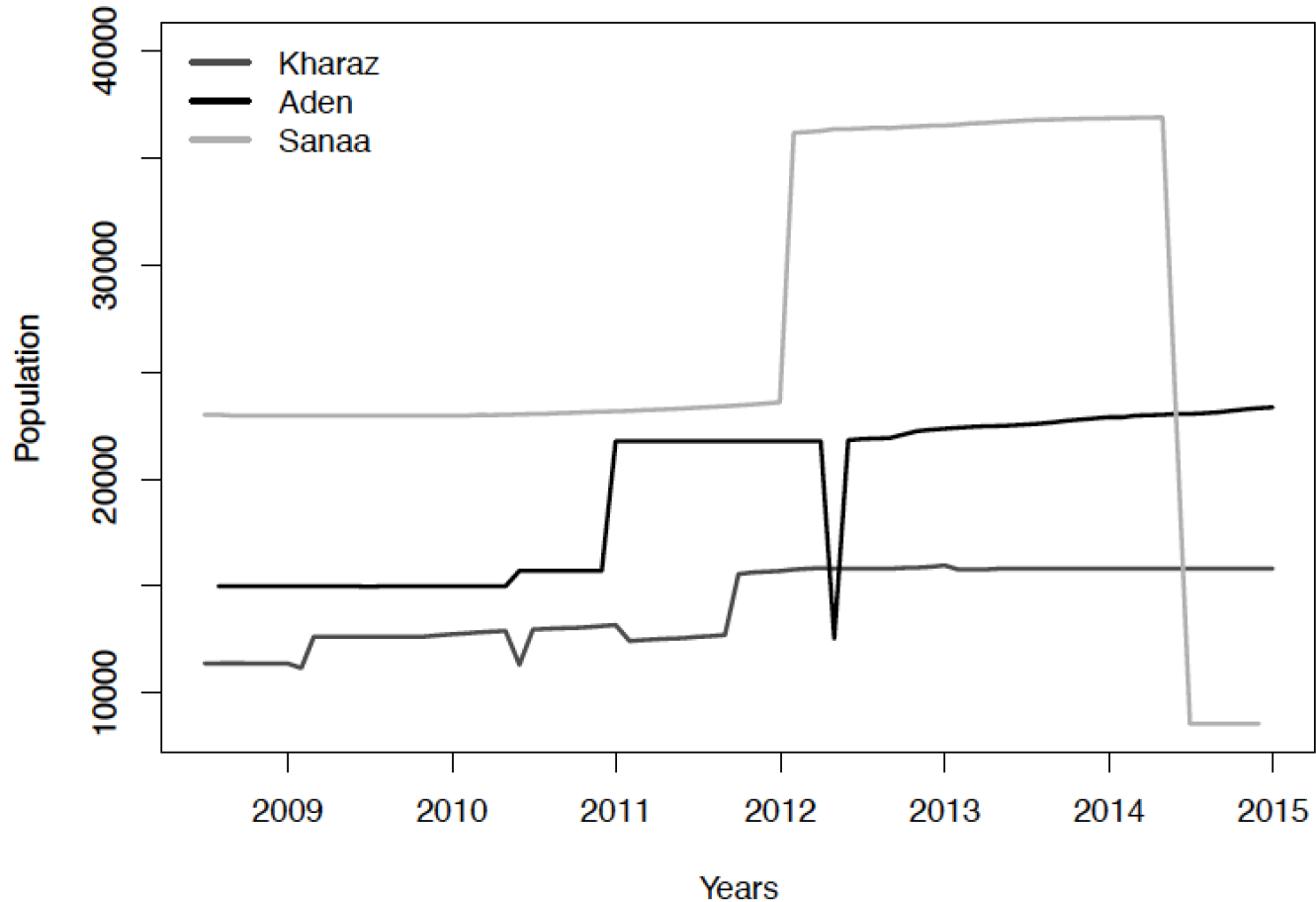
Twine: UNHCR Health Information System

- Standardized system to monitor refugee public health in camp and urban settings;
- Established in 2006, covering 27 countries (Africa, Asia, Middle East);
- Presents information in summary reports in PDF;
- Data entered directly online by partners or UNHCR staff, based on case definitions.
- Data available online for each specific camp.

BUT

- only two member states of UN-ESCWA: Yemen (3 camps) and Sudan (7 camps).
- rely on facility-based reporting of events
(e.g. CMR around 4 per 1000 based on Twine only in Kharaz)

Twine: UNHCR Health Information System

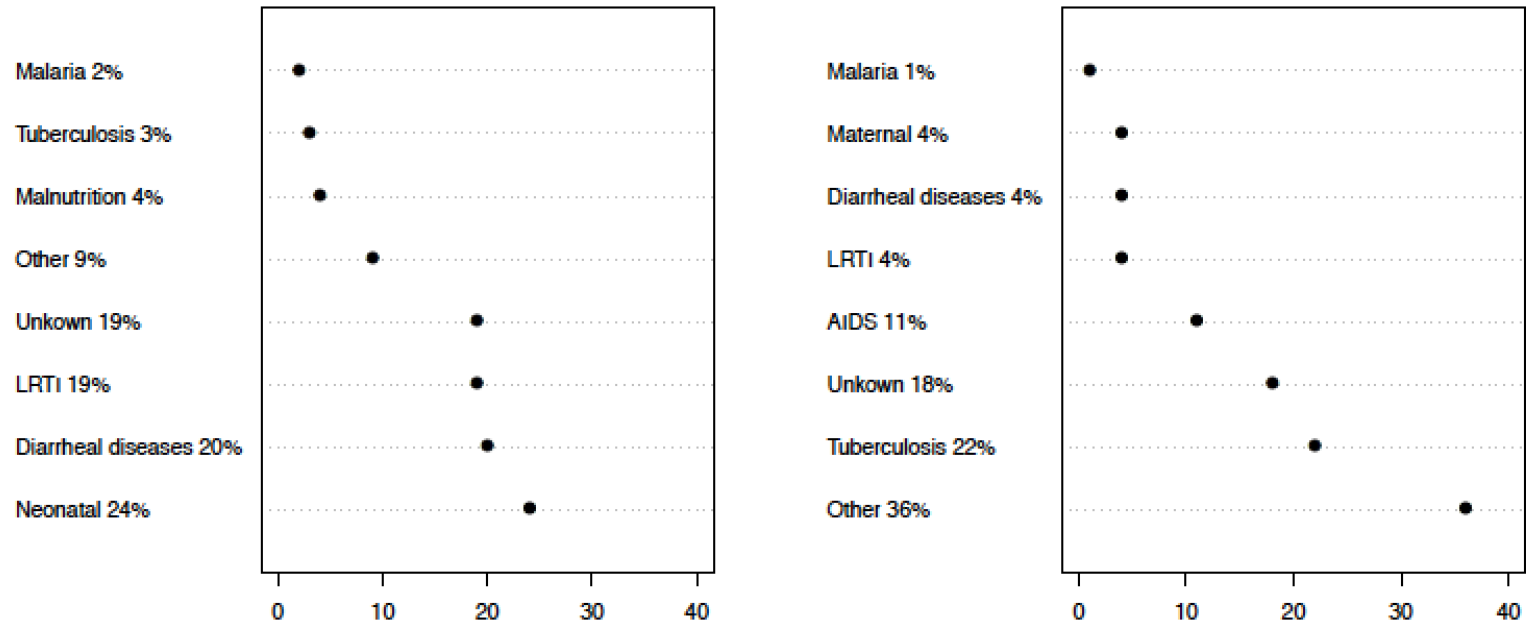


Sc: UNHCR Twine Database (2015)

3 - Population covered by the HIS in Yemen

Twine: UNHCR Health Information System

Cause-specific mortality fractions – Kharaz camp (Yemen) 2008–2014
Under age 5 Above age 5



Only a limited set of causes: Neonatal death, Tuberculosis, Injury , Lower Respiratory Tract Infection, Cardiovascular disorders, Bloody diarrhoea, Watery diarrhoea, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Cancer, Ischaemic heart disease, Malaria, Measles, Meningitis, AIDS, Maternal death, Acute malnutrition, Other

Project to assess & improve CRVS for Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon

CRVS & Syrian Refugees Project: Motivation

- Syrian conflict and resulting displacement have obstructed the complete and accurate registration of vital events for an increasing number of Syrians.
- Impediments and challenges include
 1. lack of understanding of the importance of vital registration and of how to access and navigate vital registration processes (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2015).
 2. in response to the complexity of birth and death registration processes, some refugees have resorted to risky practices such as purchasing fake documents (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2013).
 3. some persons are unable to provide the supporting documents required to register a vital event
 4. large numbers of refugees can overwhelm public authorities and the functioning of their administrative systems.

Project Objectives

1. To evaluate the completeness, strengths and weaknesses of vital registration for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan and to guide policy and practice.
 1. Such evaluation is important to identify gaps, blockages and weaknesses of existing civil registration practices and subpopulations of Syrian refugees that are currently invisible to these systems.
 2. This kind of systematic evaluation is a critical input to improve plans civil registration and vital statistics systems for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan.
2. To enhance knowledge sharing and coordinated efforts amongst national authorities and international agencies seeking to improve the responsiveness of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Lebanon and Jordan to refugee needs.

Project Strategy

Four-part assessment of birth and death registration practices for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon over the course of a 2.5 year project period

1. Qualitative mapping of laws, procedures and processes of vital registration vis-à-vis refugees in Lebanon and Jordan.
 - *How has the current CRVS system been designed and implemented?*
2. A technical assessment of the completeness and quality of birth registration and death registration for Syrian refugees
 - *How complete and usable are current CR records?*
3. Series of in-depth interviews and focus groups to assess knowledge, attitude, and perceptions of the importance, accessibility and performance of civil registration processes for Syrian refugees
 - *How is the current CRVS system and practices understood by stakeholders?*
4. Stakeholder consultation, coordination and dissemination of findings with key stakeholders.
 - Capitalize on the cross-cutting nature of CRVS and the multi-stakeholder environment of both CRVS and humanitarian settings.

Thank you!

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