

Eighth Meeting of the Global CRVS Group

New York, USA

5 October 2016

Attendance

In person: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Population Division, UNSD, WHO, WBG, Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, CDC

Remotely: Centre of Excellence for CRVS systems, Inter-American Development Bank, OSCE, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNECA, UNESCAP

Apologies: UNHCR

Agenda

1. Summary minutes of the 7th meeting on July 15 2016
2. Update on the development of a CRVS eLearning course
3. Update on the revision of the 1998 handbooks on legal framework and management for CRVS
4. Plan to develop operational guidelines for the evaluation of the completeness of civil registration
5. Update on CRVS websites
6. Update on October 4-6, 2016 meeting at UNICEF: *Better Data for Women and Children: Strengthening CRVS across the Continuum of Care*
7. Briefing on the efforts of the Health Data Collaborative to implement advocacy efforts in support of CRVS
8. Update by UN Regional Commissions on their work related to CRVS
9. The way forward: proposed activities, including the side-event at the Statistical
10. Review of planned initiatives and projects on CRVS where contributions might be sought from the Group
11. Other

Summary of the Meeting

The eighth meeting of the Global CRVS Group was held in New York, USA on 5 October 2016. Twenty participants from sixteen institutions attended the meeting, of which six joined via skype/lync or phone. The meeting was chaired by Samuel Mills, World Bank Group (Annex I contains the chair's notes that guided the meeting).

1. Summary minutes of the 7th meeting on July 15 2016

The chair made a summary of the outputs of the previous meeting, held in Ottawa, highlighting the revised Terms of Reference of the Group, and the agreed work plan for the following two years.

2. Update on the development of a CRVS eLearning course

The chair gave an overview of the status of each module (see Annex I for details): modules 1, 2, 3 and the overview have been updated; modules 4, 6, 7, 10 and 13 are being revised by authors; module 5 has been revised, edited and packaged into the e-learning tool; and modules 8, 9, 11 and 12 have been revised by authors and are being edited.

There was a question regarding funds source; the chair clarified that the e-learning course is being funded by the WB with support from development partners.

The updated modules will be uploaded in Box for final technical review by an expert group and by members of the Global CRVS Group from November 7 to 14, 2016. Given the delay in submission of some of the modules by content writers, the expected launch of the course in April 2017 may be delayed. A pilot test will be run prior to the launch. For this, the Group will be asked to identify national agencies that can volunteer to test selected modules.

Action for members: to send suggestions to the WB of potential pilot national agencies

3. Update on the revision of the 1998 handbooks on legal framework and management for CRVS

UNSD clarified that these are two separate manuals, therefore two separate revision processes. Regarding the Manual on Management, UNSD explained that the main changes will consist in the inclusion of sections on Identity and Population Registers, and that it will take into account the work done for the relevant modules of the e-learning course. UNSD is in the process of drafting the text and will have a draft version by January 2017, when an Expert Group Meeting will be convoked in order to review and comment on the text.

Concerning the Manual on Legal Framework, UNSD said that it will be also in line with the relevant module of the e-learning course, as well as include the new developments in terms of human rights since the last version. It is likely that a draft text will be prepared by March 2017, and another Expert Group meeting will need to be held.

The chair mentioned that some of the stakeholders involved in the development of the e-learning module on legal framework, such as WB, Bloomberg, Global Health Advocacy, Korea Legislation Research Institute and SPC, might wish to also contribute to the revision of the UN Manual.

4. Plan to develop operational guidelines for the evaluation of the completeness of civil registration

UNSD is working on developing operational guidelines/technical report on the use of direct methods to assess the completeness of CRVS, including country experiences and issues to bear in mind when applying these methods.

For this, a technical meeting is planned for the third week of January 2017, to be held back-to-back with the Expert Group Meeting on the Manual for CRVS Management. The objective is to gather from experts, government officials and academics, adequate examples of evaluation experiences. After this meeting, a draft document will be produced, which will be reviewed in a series of regional meetings in order to get feedback from Regional Commissions and countries. A final version is expected to be produced in 2018.

UNSD clarified that this technical meeting is related to the Expert Group Meeting that the UN Population Division is holding in November 2016, but differs in the methodological focus. UNSD is concentrating on direct methods, while Population Division is concentrating on indirect methods. These two meetings will gather different kinds of experts, with some overlap, so it was jointly concluded that there should be two separate meetings. It is hoped that outputs from both meetings can be combined in the resulting document.

UN Population Division announced that the Expert Group Meeting on indirect methods is being held 3 and 4 November with the aim of illustrating lessons learned on which methods are more adequate to specific conditions. It will be focused on producing consistent methodological guidelines. In this respect, Data for Health confirmed that they will participate in this meeting and will comment on issues encountered when applying indirect methods, and their assumptions, in the countries where they work. UNSD is contributing to UN Population Division's meeting, as well as SPC.

WHO and SPC highlighted the need to produce recommendations for countries on which method or approach to use depending on the level of completeness they have attained; and how to use the compiled data at certain levels of completeness.

5. Update on CRVS websites

The Centre of Excellence (CoE) for CRVS reported that they have recently launched a survey to gather feedback and identify the gaps and information needs of the future users of their website. The survey questionnaire was developed in consultation with UNSD and ECA. It is expected that the website is live early next year.

Furthermore, the CoE expressed that, after analyzing the current material on CRVS, they have identified the need for a taxonomy or classification of CRVS elements. This need is most evident when organizing the content of a web portal or a knowledge base. Therefore, they are considering to take on the development of such taxonomy and would likely leverage support and expertise from the Group. On the timeline, CoE expects to have a preliminary idea to share next month.

ESCAP expressed their support and offered to share their experience from the development of the "get everyone in the picture" website.

UNSD suggested that the CoE produce a draft in order to enable Group members to weigh in.

The chair suggested including this task in the programme of work of the Group to be completed within two years.

UNICEF underlined the importance to produce this taxonomy, the e-learning course and any other material, in line with international standards.

UNSD reported that they have been maintaining the CRVS website in general, and the Group's website in particular, both hosted in UNSD webpage. The knowledge base has been intensely populated lately with additional documents, and the Groups page is updated regularly with news and events, being the latest news about the survey launched by CoE.

The Group discussed the issues about constructing country profiles for the websites, particularly on selecting which information items should integrate them, and how to maintain them up to date. In this respect, there were two practices at the regional level: on one hand, ESCAP constructed country profiles

based on monitoring tools from the CRVS Decade, which countries are mandated to use to report progress regularly. On the other hand, ECA decided not to have country profiles, but country information, including reports, assessment results and other documents that each country desires to share.

The Group decided to add links to the regional initiatives to the Global CRVS Group web.

Action for UNSD: modify web to include links to ESCAP and ECA CRVS webpages

6. Update on October 4-6, 2016 meeting at UNICEF: Better Data for Women and Children: Strengthening CRVS across the Continuum of Care

WHO briefed the Group on the proceedings of the first day of this meeting, which was organized by WHO and UNICEF.

The meeting recognised the strong contributing role health has to play in improving CRVS systems, and the data benefits of CRVS improvement to health systems. As such, with the Global Policy for Women's and Children's Health once again noting the strong preference for data from CRVS systems to measure outcomes for women's and children's health, the meeting considered the role of program data from health programs – including notifications of birth and deaths and recording of causes of death from health facility data, pregnancy, delivery and immunization data – in strengthening CRVS systems.

7. Briefing on the efforts of the Health Data Collaborative to implement advocacy efforts in support of CRVS

The chair explained that this group was formed to ensure better monitoring at the country level, and expressed that its members and other stake-holders are interested in advocacy efforts in support of CRVS. In particular:

- Promoting citizen's engagement and compliance with registration.
- Facilitating parliamentary action in support of appropriate CRVS policies and legislation

The Health Data Collaborative recognises the strong relationship between health and CRVS systems, and will prioritise ongoing work to strengthen both health systems and CRVS for mutual benefit.

Members showed interest in making their colleagues (specially those in country offices) aware of Health Data Collaborative activities. For this, it would be useful to have a short text. Members also suggested to take advantage of special world days and events to make advocacy efforts, such as the day of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the World Data Forum.

8. Update by regional organisations on their work related to CRVS

ECA briefed members on their current activities under APAI-CRVS:

- Development of practical guide on improvement of death registration and causes of death processes and research template for conducting case studies on death registration and causes of death processes.
- Development of Vital Statistics Report Template with Statistics Norway and ESCAP

- Development of trainer's manual on the production of vital statistics from civil registration records with ESCAP.
- Monitoring of progress made in the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics system in your country through on-line questionnaire on apai-crvs.org
- Further development and maintenance of APAI-CRVS website.
- Initiating the preparations for 4th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration - tentative dates are 13-18 February 2017.
- Coordinating support for country CRVS comprehensive assessments.
- Rolling out support for the digitization of CRVS systems - a workshop on the use of CRVS Digitization Guidebook to be held this year.
- Preparations for in-country assessments of gender-based barriers to accessing registration services in partnership with Data2X.
- Preparations for revision of assessment tools and guidelines to include more guidance on business process mapping and implementation of plans.

ESCAP briefed members on their current activities under Get in the Picture:

- The baseline report on 18 targets was presented to the ESCAP Commission. This report was integrated based on 37 country reports submitted. All documents are available on the web.
- The Steering Group hold its second meeting where members discussed the way forward, particularly issues related to the SDGs, and how to leverage them to the advantage of CRVS.
- There has been further progress in the development of guidelines for compiling VS based on CR. This publication is in its final stages and has been carried out in collaboration with Statistics Norway and ECA.

SPC briefed members on their current activities under the BAG initiative:

- Country reports have been drafted, including completeness estimates, and will be published shortly.
- Resources from the WB have been mobilized on the link between CRVS and ID management, and relevant IT solutions.
- SPC is looking for support in order to implement a regional approach to coding cause of death.

9. The way forward: proposed activities, including the side-event at the Statistical

UNSD reminded members that the next Statistical Commission will take place 7-10 March 2017, and suggested that, in addition to the Group's meeting, the Group should organize a CRVS-themed side event, perhaps focusing on the link between CRVS and SDGs. Suggestions for key note speakers were encouraged.

The Group's meeting is usually held the Wednesday during Statistical Commission, which would mean 8 March in this occasion. For the addition side event, the Group has to request a slot to the secretariat, who will allot according to the list of all side events.

Action for UNSD: request both slots to the secretariat of the Statistical Commission and inform members of tentative dates.

10. Review of planned initiatives and projects on CRVS where contributions might be sought from the Group

The Centre of Excellence committed to produce a draft taxonomy of the CRVS field (discussed in point 5.) and notified members that inputs from the Group will be requested.

UNDP committed to share for comments a draft document on digital ID management, and national ID cards projects. It is proposed that a Steering Group on this topic is formed and UNSD, UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO will be invited to participate.

11. Other

It was brought to the attention of members that UN Women would like to join the Group. UNDP volunteered to liaise with the secretariat (UNSD) and put them in touch, given that UNDP and UN Women work in close collaboration and know each other contact details.

Action for UNDP: send a joint email to their contacts in UN Women and UNSD.

Finally, it was agreed that the next meeting will be during the Statistical Commission, tentatively on 8 March 2017 in New York.

The meeting was adjourned.

Annex I Chair's notes

Summary of July 15 meeting minutes

28 participants

1. Presentation on CRVS related SDG Indicators

- The report on "Progress towards the SDGs" (E/2016/75) is available online:
<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2016/secretary-general-sdg-report-2016--EN.pdf>
- The document on "CRVS and the SDGs," produced by SPC, outlines the links between SDG targets, the role of CRVS, and data needed
http://www.getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/CRVS_and_the_SDGs_2016.pdf

2. Terms of Reference

Overall objective

To strengthen national CRVS and related systems through coordination and collaboration on global and regional initiatives and exchange of information.

Specific objectives

- (a) Take stock of progress made on the improvement of the CRVS systems in the context of SDGs
- (b) Contribute to the implementation of the Global CRVS Investment Plan
- (c) Explore and leverage opportunities to accelerate the improvement of CRVS systems
- (d) Promote the importance of CRVS in the global development agenda
- (e) Support coordinated country-level engagement by our respective institutions that is consistent with the global CRVS agenda

Membership

The previous membership comprised 22 international and regional inter-governmental organizations (including UN agencies and multilateral development banks). It was agreed to expand the membership. Additional members can be co-opted if they have a clear mandate to support CRVS systems at the global or regional levels.

Roles and responsibilities

Secretariat: the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) serves as the Secretariat of the Group and will maintain the website, where the information on the group's activities can be shared and updated

Chair: The chair will be elected for 1 year, and rotates among member organizations. The chair works closely with UNSD in planning and implementing activities.

Members: expected to be active in the deliberations and contribute to the implementation of the activities of the group.

Meetings

It was agreed to have meetings (face-to-face or teleconferences) once a quarter. An annual meeting will take place in New York, close to the dates of the United Nations Statistical Commission (usually early March); and in the subsequent quarters, meetings will be scheduled to take advantage of major global/regional meetings on CRVS or will be by teleconference on the first Wednesday in the respective quarter.

Work Plan: July 2016 –June 2018

The Group agreed on a list of tasks to undertaken

CRVS eLearning course

This eLearning course is presented in 13 modules with **Modules 1, 2 and 3 are core modules**

Target audience

- Personnel working in civil registration departments, national statistics offices, and related agencies/ministries such as national ID agency, ministry of justice, ministry of health
- University students interested in pursuing a career in CRVS
- Others such as epidemiologists, statisticians, demographers, public administrators, and researchers

3 course formats

- 1) **Self-paced course** for professionals who complete the modules on their own with a flexible timeline for completion;
- 2) **Facilitated course** which has international experts virtually facilitating the course in a set timeframe;
- 3) **Combination**, including online self-paced course followed by a 1-2 week face-to-face facilitated workshop.

Status

Modules	Status
Course overview	Updated
Module 1. Importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems	Updated
Module 2. Overview of civil registration and vital statistics systems	Updated
Module 3. Institutional arrangements for CRVS systems	Updated
Module 4. Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for CRVS Systems	Awaiting updated version
Module 5. Birth registration	Updated, edited and packaged into eLearning module
Module 6. Death registration and causes of death	Awaiting updated version
Module 7. Marriage and divorce registration	Awaiting updated version
Module 8. Analysis and Use of Vital Statistics	Updated and being edited
Module 9. Presentation and Dissemination of Vital Statistics	Updated and being edited
Module 10. Digitization of CRVS	Awaiting updated version
Module 11. CRVS assessment and strategic planning for improving CRVS Systems	Updated and being edited
Module 12. Identity management systems	Updated and being reviewed
Module 13. Refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons and CRVS systems	Awaiting updated version

Timeline

Activity	From	To
Expert group meeting in Ottawa for technical inputs	Jul 11 2016	Jul 14 2016
Finalize technical contents of modules	Jul 31 2016	Aug 31 2016
The core team including a professional editor will review all the modules to ensure consistency, sequencing of the modules, and move some sections to other modules where appropriate	Jul 31 2016	Aug 31 2016
The core team will package technical content into eLearning modules	Aug 1 2016	Sep 30 2016
Upload in Box for final technical review by expert Group	Oct 24 2016	Oct 31 2016
Pedagogical review of all the eLearning modules by OLC team	Oct 1 2016	Oct 30 2016
Revisions of eLearning modules	Oct 15 2016	Nov 15 2016
Multimedia production (8 weeks)	Nov 15 2016	Jan 8 2017
Target group testing & expert group inputs	Jan 15 2017	Jan 30 2017
Inclusion of feedback	Feb 1 2017	Feb 15 2017
e-Course uploaded to Learning Management System (LMS)/OLC and final testing	Mar 1 2017	Mar 15, 2017
Begin course offering	Apr 1 2017	May 15 2017
Course evaluation: learners' reactions, achievement of learning objectives	Jun 1 2017	Jul 15, 2017
Potential meeting of expert group to review the course evaluations and fine-tune the course		

- Update on the revision of the handbooks on legal framework for CRVS and identity management systems (Srdjan/James Neumann/Sam Mills)

Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Preparation of a Legal Framework (1998)
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesF/SeriesF_71E.pdf

Advisory group: UNSD, World Bank Group, Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Korea Legislation Research Institute (KLRI), and Secretariat of the Pacific Community
 UNSD to provide timeline

- Plan to develop operational guidelines for the evaluation of the completeness of civil registration (Keiko)
- Update on CRVS websites (Rep of CRVS Center of Excellence/Maria- Isabel)
 Global CRVS group <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/crvs/globalcrvs.html>
 Centre of Excellence www.idrc.ca/crvs
- Update on October 4-6, 2016 meeting at UNICEF: *Better Data for Women and Children: Strengthening CRVS across the Continuum of Care*
- Briefing on the efforts of the Health Data Collaborative to implement advocacy efforts in support of CRVS I-RegisterED (Sam)
 Promote citizen's engagement and compliance with registration
 Facilitate Parliamentary action in support of appropriate CRVS policies and legislation
- Update by UN Regional Commissions on their work related to CRVS (UNECA, UNESCAP)
- The way forward: proposed activities, including the side-event at the Statistical Commission – March 7-10 2017 (Keiko)
- Review of planned initiatives and projects on CRVS where contributions might be sought from the Group (All)