

Fifth Meeting of the Global CRVS Group

Washington, D.C., USA

10 June 2015

Attendance: ESCAP, OAS, IADB, UNECA, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNSD, WHO, the World Bank, ASSD, DFATD/Canada

Agenda:

1. Follow up on the minutes of the last meeting
2. Recent and upcoming events - reports by members
3. Recent and upcoming publications - reports by members
4. Other business

Summary of the Meeting:

- The fifth Meeting of the Global CRVS Group was held in Washington, D.C. at the World Bank on 10 June 2015, in conjunction with the Measurement and Accountability for Results in Health (MA4Health) Summit organized in the same week. Sixteen participants from eleven international and regional entities attended the meeting in person. Due to technical problem, other organizations that expressed an interest in joining through the phone, could not participate in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Raj Mitra, a newly elected chair of the Group for 2015-16.
- The minutes of the last meeting was adopted unanimously . Recalling the action points included in the minutes of the last meeting, Mr. Mitra stressed that this is time for the group to agree on joint activities to undertake together. The group showed enthusiasm to embark on research type of activities where each member of the group can contribute in light of their unique expertise in the area of CRVS. UNICEF reported on the UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME) that assesses the methodologies of mortality estimation, as an example of activities being conducted by the group of similar nature.
- UNSD reminded the group that there has been consensus in the previous meeting that the group will establish a task force to review the methodologies of estimating completeness of registration, and the basis of estimates. There is much unknown about how countries actually produce the coverage estimates of births and deaths and even within the same country the completeness estimates vary between sources. UNSD circulated the sample questionnaire on VS that it uses for annual data collection to publish Demographic Yearbook (DYB). UNSD promised to share with the group the results of the preliminary analysis on the methods of assessment, based on the information obtained through their DYB data collection. UNSD will also finalize the ToR of the task force as soon as possible and circulate it to the group for comments. Having seen a copy of the technical report “Methodology and Evaluation of Population Registers and Similar Systems” that UNSD published in 1969, a member suggested

that group might want to publish such a report based on the work that the task force will undertake.

- Reflecting on the Measurement and Accountability for Results in Health Summit that took place during the same week, the members were pleased that the Summit as well as the meeting documents gave due importance to the improvement of CRVS systems. CR is now recognized as a critical source of data, together with censuses and household surveys, to meet the growing data requirements in the post-2015 era. Many members were involved in the preparation of the thematic report and played active roles during the Summit.
- A member drew attention that the 2020 round of population and housing censuses was just launched by the UN and many countries are already preparing for the next decennial census. It was mentioned that census can include a question on birth registry or legal identity. The proposed SDGs in its target 16.9 aim that by 2030 the governments provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.
- The group also discussed about the appropriate indicator to measure the progress of said SDG target 16.9. The members agreed that the indicator should be the percentage of children under 1 year (not 5 year) old whose births have been registered. This will be consistent with the WB's Global Investment Plan and UN's Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics system.
- The group spent the rest of time to report, in tour-de-table, on their planned activities for the next three months. The Secretariat of the Group will follow up with the members in due time and request to provide the information on the event to upload on the website.

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