

Ninth Meeting of the Global CRVS Group

Conference call

22 March 2017

Attendance

Remotely: African Development Bank, OSCE, Organization of American States, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, ECA, ESCAP, ECLAC, UN Population Division, UNSD, WHO, WBG, Centre of Excellence for CRVS systems, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNDP. Apologies: UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, CDC

Agenda

1. Summary minutes of the 8th meeting on 5 October 2016
2. Update on the development of a CRVS eLearning course
3. Update on the Expert Group Meeting on Management and Evaluation of CRVS Systems
4. Selection of new Chair
5. Briefing on the current, recent and future activities of members
6. Other

Summary of the Meeting

The ninth meeting of the Global CRVS Group was held virtually over a conference call/webex session on 22 March 2017. Twenty-one participants from seventeen institutions attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Samuel Mills, World Bank Group.

1. Summary minutes of the 8th meeting on 5 October 2017

The chair made a summary of the outputs of the previous meeting, held in New York, highlighting that the Group was supposed to meet during the Statistical Commission (7-10 March 2017) but was not able to do so.

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 will be finalized in April 2017, while the rest will be ready in June; this includes video and multimedia production, as well as text version of each modules that will be embedded in the online tool.

UNSD advised seeking consistency of contents of module 13 (Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Stateless Persons and CRVS Systems) with the work of the group drafting guidelines for producing statistics on refugees (formed by Statistics Norway, Eurostat and UNHCR).

The course will be launched in May in Seoul, Korea in an event co-hosted by WBG and Korea Ministry of Strategy and Finance. The chair presented a list of countries to be invited (funded by the WBG). Any member of the Global CRVS Group is welcome to attend on a self-funded basis.

There were several questions regarding the particular selection of countries to be invited. Some members (ESCAP, SPC) suggested a few modifications or additions, and offered to liaise with country authorities to facilitate participation. The issue of language was also mentioned, in regards to inviting French and Spanish speaking countries to the launch.

Members were concerned that launching the course in May felt a bit rushed, given that it will not be finished by then, and that the modules have not been pilot tested as previously agreed. In fact, without proper testing, one cannot estimate the how long it takes to run through the entire course or particular modules. The WBG clarified that feedback will be sought for the rest of the year, and that revisions based on it can be done. For this, the Group is asked to identify volunteers to test finished modules.

The obtainment of a certificate was also discussed. At the moment, it is planned that only those who do all the 13 modules will receive a completion certificate. However, it was agreed that this could be made more flexible by giving a certificate for each module, an option to be explored. There was also a question raised regarding the current thinking that all participants would be required to complete the introductory modules before moving to more specialised topics. This assumes that all participants have not had any previous training, and may limit uptake. This issue was flagged for further consideration.

Regarding delivery of the course, it is expected that first it will be members of the Global CRVS Group who use the course in their technical assistance activities. Modalities of this were not discussed, and specificities and practicalities will need to be clarified. UNICEF mentioned that its country offices can deliver the course to government officials, if and when funds are available. Furthermore, academic institutions were highlighted as a relevant outlet for the course; the Group needs to engage in partnerships with them.

The need for translation to other languages, particularly French and Spanish, was emphasized, as well as the possibility to adapt the modules to national context. To this, the WB responded that, for now, the objective is to gather feedback to improve the English version of the course, and translation would be considered afterwards. As for adaptations, the WBG confirmed that the contents of the modules are somewhat easily modified.

Action for members:

to send suggestions to the WB of potential pilot test volunteers (agencies and individuals)

to look for potential academic partners for delivering the course

Action for WBG:

to clarify modalities of how a member of the Group could make use of the course for their technical assistance activities

Action for UNSD:

to liaise with Statistics Norway, Eurostat and UNHCR and the WBG to ensure consistency of contents of module 13

3. Update on the Expert Group Meeting on Management and Evaluation of CRVS Systems

This EGM was conducted by UNSD as part of the process to revise the *Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance* and also as part of the Development Account 10th tranche which contemplates a technical meeting and the development of

guidelines to evaluate completeness of civil registration. It was held in New York from 20 to 24 February 2017.

A first draft of the *Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance, Rev. 1* was prepared by UNSD and sent ahead of the EGM to country experts and organizations. The main changes consist in the inclusion of sections on Identity, Population Registers and Assessment, and it takes into account the work done for the relevant modules of the e-learning course, as well as some resources developed by ECA as part of the APAI-CRVS. For the first three days of the meeting, the contents of draft were discussed, gauging comments, suggestions and country examples. Based on the proceedings of this meeting, a second draft of the revision will be prepared and circulated to the members of the Expert Group and the Global CRVS Group for further feedback.

The last two days of the meeting were devoted thematically to evaluation of completeness, discussing direct methods and national experiences. The objective was to gather from experts, government officials and academics, adequate examples of evaluation experiences. It is expected that a technical paper on the measurement of completeness of coverage will be drafted for use at regional workshops which are expected to take place in 2017 and 2018 under the DA project. The draft paper will be finalized with further inputs from Regional Commissions and countries at the regional workshops. A final version is expected to be produced in 2018. The outcomes of these two days will also directly feed in the revision of the *Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance*. In fact, synthesis of the technical paper will constitute a chapter, supplemented by the elaboration on indirect methods of assessment to be produced by the UN Population Division.

UNSD clarified that the work of the last two days of the EGM was related to the Expert Group Meeting that the UN Population Division held in November 2016, but differs in the methodological focus. UNSD concentrated on direct methods, while Population Division concentrated on indirect methods. In addition, these two meetings gathered different kinds of experts, with some overlap. It is hoped that outputs from both meetings can be combined in the resulting document.

Action for UNSD:

to send second draft of the Handbook to the members of the Global CRVS Group for feedback.

4. Selection of new Chair

As contemplated in the ToR of the Group, the secretariat announced by email that a new Chair was to be elected, as the one year period of the current Chair expires in March 2017. The criteria for choosing the new chair were as follows:

- 1) someone from an inter-governmental global or regional organization
- 2) someone from an organization that has an established CRVS related programme
- 3) someone who regularly attended the global CRVS group meetings the previous year (for the sake of continuity of activities to be carried out by the group)

The secretariat encouraged nominations by Monday March 20, 2017.

No nominations were received before the meeting, however, during the meeting, WHO nominated for Chair, which was seconded by the UN Population Division and UNSD. With no objections and by acclamation, the Group elected WHO as the new Chair for a period ending March 2018.

Further, the Group decided that the above criteria should be applied onwards whenever electing a new Chair.

Action for UNSD:

to insert above criteria in the Terms of Reference

5. Briefing on the current, recent and future activities of members

WHO:

- First, it was shared that Dr. Ties Boerman retired last week from WHO.
- WHO informed that the Health Data Collaborative is planning on inviting members of the Global CRVS Group to participate in certain activities, e.g. a discussion paper on sample registration and CRVS.

UNDP:

- Currently, the most prominent projects related to CRVS are the National ID project in Malawi and the e-governance project in Estonia.

UNICEF:

- The report from the meeting “Better Data for Women and Children: Strengthening CRVS across the Continuum of Care”, held during October 4-6, 2016 in UNICEF HQ is almost ready. The link will be shared next week.
- The work on birth registration continues, and it is gaining a lot of attention from different groups, including GABI.
- The Data and Analytics Unit will launch the report on the Every Newborn Action Plan in Mauritania.

OSCE:

- Finalizing drafting of a Compendium of Good Practices in Identity Management.
- Supporting identity management cross-border cooperation in Southeast Europe.
- Work in Ukraine is underway on the National Population Register and on registration of Roma population; the counterpart is the Ministry of Interior.
- In cooperation with UNHCR, “Handbook on Statelessness in the OSCE Area: International Standards and Good Practices“ has been produced.
- OSCE is also collaborating with UNSD towards a Technical Seminar on Legal Framework.

SPC:

- Currently, SPC is in the discovery stage of a study on medical doctors attitudes towards certification of cause of death.

- Work in Cook Islands is underway to link civil registration with the upcoming population census, with a view of evaluating completeness and accuracy; further countries to be added at a second stage.
- SPC will participate in the Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development, to be held in Bangkok, in a side event on CRVS and SDGs organized together with ESCAP and other partners. Details of the event here: <http://getinthepicture.org/event/importance-civil-registration-and-vital-statistics-crvs-eradicate-poverty-asia-and-pacific>.

OAS:

- In May, the executive board of CLARCIEV will meet in Quito, Ecuador in order to prepare for the upcoming annual meeting of the Council in October.

ESCAP:

- ESCAP and Data 4 Health have conducted two workshops on producing vital statistics from civil registration with 8 eight countries. Materials from the workshop are available here: <http://getinthepicture.org/event/second-workshop-project-strengthen-national-capacity-producing-and-disseminating-vital>
- The next meeting of the Regional Steering Group on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will be held in October

ECA:

- The Ministerial Conference in Mauritania has been postponed to October at the request of the Government. New dates will be informed as soon as the Government confirms.
- The work on monitoring the status of CRVS continues; submissions from 70% of countries have been received which will feed into a report to be presented at the Ministerial Conference in Mauritania.

UNSD:

- Apart from EGM on Management and Evaluation of CRVS Systems (reported in Agenda item 3), UNSD is working on producing technical guidelines for evaluating completeness of civil registration. When a first draft is ready, regional meetings will be organized to enrich them.
- A Technical Seminar on Legal Framework for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management Systems is being organized in cooperation with ADB and OSCE.

6. Other

Finally, it was agreed that the next meeting will take place in the margins of any event that gathers a few of the members. If there is no such event during the second quarter of the year, then the Group will convene a virtual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Annex I
Chair's presentation on e-learning course

eLearning Course Update

Global CRVS Group meeting
March 22 2017

Sam Mills

CRVS eLearning course

Timeline

Activity	Original
Expert group meeting in Ottawa, Canada for technical inputs	Jul 14 2016
Finalize technical contents of modules & editing	Jan 3 2017
WBG core team package technical content into PPT Storyboards	Jan 9 2016
Pedagogical review of PPT Storyboards by Open Learning Campus team	Feb 16 2017
Producing videos for introducing the modules for core course modules (1-3)	Mar 17 2017
Producing videos for introducing the modules for optional course modules (4-13)	Mar 31 2017
Multimedia production core course modules (1-3)	Apr 10 2017
Launch of eLearning course	May 22-23, 2017
Multimedia production optional course modules (1-3)	Jun 15, 2017
Obtaining feedback and making revisions	Dec 31 2017

CRVS eLearning course

Modules

13 modules and 51 lessons

Modules	Lessons
Module 1. Importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems	1
Module 2. Overview of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems	4
Module 3. Institutional Arrangements of CRVS Systems	2
Module 4. Legal Frameworks of CRVS Systems	3
Module 5. Birth Registration and Adoption	6
Module 6. Death Registration	4
Module 7. Marriage and Divorce Registration	5
Module 8. Analysis and Use of Vital Statistics	10
Module 9. Presentation and Dissemination of Vital Statistics	5
Module 10. CRVS Digitization	2
Module 11. CRVS Assessment and Strategic Planning	2
Module 12. Identity Management Systems	3
Module 13. Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Stateless Persons and CRVS Systems	4

CRVS eLearning course

Target audience

- Policy makers and personnel working on civil registration and national statistics
- University students interested in pursuing a career in CRVS
- Others such as epidemiologists, statisticians, demographers, public administrators, and researchers
- Personnel working in nongovernmental organizations and multilateral and bilateral development organizations

Course format

- Self-paced
- Facilitated

CRVS eLearning course launch

- Co-hosted by WBG and Korea Ministry of Strategy and Finance
- May 22-23, 2017 in Seoul
- Day 1 - sharing Korea's' Experience with country participants
 - Resident Registration System, E-Government, & Vital Statistics System
- Day 2 – speeches, overview of the course, demo of the eLearning course, 2-3 panel sessions on capacity building, forms of learning.

We welcome suggestions on topics for the agenda and couple of ministers that could be invited

CRVS eLearning course launch

Proposed list countries (heads of CRVS agencies) to invite

Country	Region	Country	Region
Bangladesh	South Asia	Mozambique	Africa
Burkina Faso	Africa	Myanmar	East Asia
Cameroon	Africa	Nepal	South Asia
Ethiopia	Africa	Nigeria	Africa
Ghana	Africa	Peru	Latin America
Indonesia	East Asia	Philippines	East Asia
Ivory coast	Africa	Rwanda	Africa
Kenya	Africa	Sierra Leone	Africa
Laos	East Asia	South Africa	Africa
Lesotho	Africa	Tanzania	Africa
Liberia	Africa	Tonga	Pacific
Mauritius	Africa	Uganda	Africa

Welcome suggestions on countries – travel will be covered

Global CRVs Group members and others – self-funded