

**United Nations Statistics Division
Southern African Development Community**

**Workshop on the Improvement of Civil Registration and
Vital Statistics in SADC Region
Blantyre, Malawi
1 – 5 December 2008**

Pre-workshop assignment 1

Review of sources and methods for vital statistics

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect information on the sources and methods for obtaining vital statistics used in your country. Please return the completed questionnaire before **14 November 2008** at the following address by email if possible or by fax:

**Att. Ms. Haoyi Chen
2, UN Plaza DC2-1564
10017 New York, NY, USA
Tel. 1 212 963 4375
Fax. 1 212 963 1940
Email. chen9@un.org**

Please provide detailed answers to the questions. When necessary, please attach additional sheets of paper.

Name, title, address and country of official completing this questionnaire:

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PART I: SUMMARY INFORMATION ON VITAL STATISTICS

1. Is there a legal framework defining responsibilities for the collection, processing and dissemination of vital statistics?

Yes No

a. If Yes, which agency has the primary responsibility for the:

Vital events	Agency primarily responsible for	
	Collection of data	Processing and dissemination of data

Live births		
Foetal deaths		
Deaths		
Marriages		
Divorces		

b. If Yes, please provide us with a copy of the law.

2. Which of the following best describe the type of organizational structure for the collection, processing and dissemination of vital statistics?

- a centralized system at the national level
- a decentralized system in each state or province or any other major division of the country
- The head office of the population register is in charge of the vital statistics
- Other arrangements (specify) _____
- Vital statistics are not compiled

3. Indicate the source(s) of data currently used to obtain vital statistics on:

	Births	Foetal deaths	Deaths	Marriages	Divorces
a) Civil registration					
b) Population Censuses					
c) Sample surveys					
d) Dual record system					
e) Other (please specify)					

4. Indicate if current available vital statistics are obtained from multiple data sources, if these statistics are coherent and if not explain why.

5. Please specify the definitions of vital events adopted in your country.

Live birth

Foetal death

Death

Marriage

Divorce

PART II: DATA SOURCES IN DETAIL

A – Civil registration:

1. Does a civil registration system exist in your country?

Yes No

2. If YES, what event does the civil registration register cover?

	Live births	Foetal deaths	Deaths	Marriages	Divorces
Yes					
No					

If you replied YES to at least one event, please answer to questions 3 to 18, otherwise go to **section B – Sample Surveys**.

3. Which national agency and ministry are responsible for civil registration?

Agency	
Ministry	

4. Is civil registration used as a source for statistics on:

	Fertility	Foetal mortality	Mortality	Marriages	Divorces
Yes					
No					

If YES to at least one of the event, please answer to questions 8 to 15, otherwise go to **section B – Sample surveys**.

5. Which national agency and ministry are responsible for compiling vital statistics from civil registration?

Agency	
Ministry	

6. By what means are vital events transmitted to the compiling office?

	Individual/collective Pre printed forms	Summary reports	Computer tapes or diskettes	Computer transmission
Live births				
Foetal deaths				
Deaths				
Marriages				
Divorces				

(ATTACH A DATA FLOW CHART)

7. Are vital rates calculated from civil registration data on vital events?

	Live births	Foetal deaths	Deaths	Marriages	Divorces
Yes					
No					

If YES,

a. Please indicate the source used for the most recent population estimates used as denominator in the computation of current vital rates:

Continuous population register	
Population census (give year)	
Sample survey (give year)	
Other, specify	

b. Please indicate the technique used for the time adjustment in the population estimate (when the base data is not secured annually by a population register):

Interpolation	
Extrapolation	
Demographic equation	
Other, specify	

8. Indicate if vital statistics are published, their frequency and the title of the last publication containing these statistics?

	Fertility	Foetal mortality	Mortality	Marriages	Divorces
Published					
Frequency					
Title					

9. Are data on vital events tabulated by date of occurrence or/and registration?

	Date of occurrence	Date of registration
Live births		
Foetal deaths		
Deaths		
Marriages		
Divorces		

10. Are data on vital events tabulated by place of occurrence or/and place of registration?

	Place of occurrence	Place of registration
Live births		
Foetal deaths		
Deaths		
Marriages		
Divorces		

11. Is the information on place of usual residence (of mother for births and foetal deaths and of deceased for deaths) registered?

	Live births	Foetal deaths	Deaths
Yes			
No			

a. If YES to at least one event, is this information used in the calculation of vital rates?

Yes No

12. Indicate the level of accuracy of reporting of age of mother in case of Live births and of the deceased in case of Deaths and specify if any study to evaluate the age quality have been carried out.

Age of mother

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Age of deceased

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13. List vital statistics obtained from civil registration (use additional sheets if necessary).

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14. Indicate if the registration coverage of vital events has been estimated in your country in the past ten years?

	Live births	Foetal deaths	Deaths	Marriages	Divorces
Yes					
No					

15. If YES for at least one event, indicate the most recent estimate of coverage for each event, the year to which this estimate refers and the method of evaluation used.

a. Level of coverage and year of reference

	Percentage of coverage	Year to which this estimate refers
Live births		
Foetal Deaths		
Deaths		
Marriages		
Divorces		

b. Method of assessment

	Live births	Foetal deaths	Deaths	Marriages	Divorces
Through retrospective questions in population census(es)		Not applicable			
Through a follow up survey					
Through retrospective questions in a single round retrospective survey					
Through a maternity history in a single round retrospective survey				Not applicable	Not applicable
Through a dual-records system					
Other (specify)					

B – Sample surveys:

1. Have sample surveys been undertaken to obtain fertility and mortality statistics in the last 10 years?

	Fertility	Mortality
Yes		
No		

If YES, please indicate the number of surveys conducted in the last 10 years and provide the following information for the last two surveys.

	Survey 1	Survey 2
2. Title of survey		
3. Date		
4. Coverage:		
a. Geographic areas		
b. Population		
5. Sample fraction percentage:		
6. Type of operation		
a. Single-round survey		
b. Multi-round survey		
c. Sample survey combined with continuous registration (dual record system)		
7. Method of sampling		

8. Is this a specialized survey on fertility and mortality?

Yes No

If No, what are the other topics covered in the survey?

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9. Provide a list of fertility and mortality statistics obtained from the surveys:

	Survey 1	Survey 2
Fertility statistics		
Mortality statistics		

10. Have these estimates been evaluated? Yes No

a. If Yes, how?

	Survey 1	Survey 2
Fertility statistics		
Mortality statistics		

11. What are the technique(s) used to obtain estimates:

	Survey 1	Survey 2
a. Reverse Survival		
b. Own Children Method		
c. Reconstructed Birth Histories		
d. Children Ever Born		

- e. Recent Births
- f. Birth Histories
- g. Survival of Children ever born
- h. Birth Histories
- i. Recent Household Deaths
- j. Survival of Parents
- k. Survival of Siblings
- l. Others, specify

12. Indicate if age accuracy has been evaluated and which techniques have been used.

Survey 1	
Survey 2	

13. Have results from these surveys been published?

Yes No

a. If Yes, provide dates the results were published.

	Survey 1	Survey 2
Published dates		

14. Indicate the name of institution responsible for the collection, processing of data and dissemination of results.

Survey 1	
Survey 2	

15. Please provide us the relevant sections of the questionnaires used.

C - POPULATION CENSUSES:

1. Have population censuses been used to obtain fertility and mortality estimates?

	Fertility	Mortality
Yes		
No		

If YES, please provide date of latest census used to collect such information and answer questions 2 to 7 below:

	Fertility	Mortality
Census date		

2. Provide a list of fertility and mortality statistics obtained from the census:

Fertility statistics

Mortality statistics

3. Have these estimates been evaluated? Yes No

a. If Yes, how?

Fertility statistics

Mortality statistics

4. Select the technique(s) used to obtain estimates:

Fertility	Mortality
Reverse Survival	Survival of Children ever born
Own Children Method	Birth Histories
Reconstructed Birth Histories	Recent Household Deaths
Children Ever Born	Survival of Parents
Recent Births	Survival of Siblings
Birth Histories	

5. Indicate if age accuracy has been evaluated and which techniques have been used.

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6. Have results from the census been published?

Yes No

a. If Yes, provide dates the results were published.

Published dates

7. Indicate the name of institution responsible for the collection, processing of data and dissemination of results.



8. Please, provide us the relevant sections of the questionnaire.