

Concept note

Interregional seminar to exchange and discuss best practices in CRVS from Africa, Asia and the Pacific

2-3 June 2016 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Background

Well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics are crucial for creating inclusive societies, ensuring proper delivery of public services as well as realizing and protecting basic human rights of all individuals. As a source of disaggregated and continuous vital statistics and population data CRVS systems are indispensable for planning, policy development and monitoring of policy effects, including the measurement of internationally agreed development indicators.

Recognizing the weakness of CRVS systems in many countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the governments from both regions embarked on initiatives, which included creating high-level political fora and regional mechanisms for coordination and implementation of CRVS improvement programmes. The UN Regional Commissions namely United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have played catalytic roles in creating and sustaining political momentum and implementing CRVS programmes in their respective regions, including assisting countries to diagnose their systems, to develop plans for their improvement and to implement them through a holistic and integrated approach. The commissions are contributing to the development of capacities in their respective regions through implementation of several activities such as development of public good documents, training and sharing of knowledge and many other such activities that is expected to lead to improved CRVS systems in Asia and the Pacific and Africa

In the past two years, some of the regional CRVS activities were undertaken by ECA and ESCAP through an interregional Development Account Project on “Strengthening the capacity of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems in Africa, Asia and the Pacific regions to produce reliable indicators for measuring progress on the development indicators”. These efforts have been geared towards improving countries’ understanding of various aspects of CRVS systems and advocate for the accelerated improvement of these systems through a holistic approach.

Objectives of the seminar and expected outcomes

In line with the project strategy, ECA and ESCAP will hold an interregional seminar at the end of the project to exchange and discuss the best practices around CRVS from the two regions.

The expected outcome from the meeting is to identify common challenges in implementation of CRVS programmes in both regions and various strategies adopted by countries in their successful mitigation. The following areas will be covered:

- Improving accessibility of civil registration services, including accessibility to remote, hard-to-reach and nomadic populations
- Creating demand for registration of all vital events
- Coordination among national stakeholders and development partner
- Digitization of CRVS systems
- Ensuring sustainability and political commitment to improvement of CRVS systems
- Building capacity of national CR and VS officials

- Monitoring of performance of the systems and registration completeness
- Building demand for vital statistics from CR

Countries' inputs collected in the meeting will feed into various public good documents produced in the regions.

Participants

Representatives of 5 countries from Asia-Pacific region and 10 countries from African region international experts on CRVS, and representatives of both Regional Commissions and partner agencies will participate in the meeting.

Venue and date

The workshop will be hosted by ECA at the UN Conference Centre in the ECA compound in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2 to 3 June 2016.

Language

The working language of the seminar will be English.