

RSG CRVS Research Subgroup

Report on work for the period
July 2015- Sept 2016

Dr Azza Badr, Team leader for Research Subgroup

Technical Officer, Vital Statistics and Country
Support

WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Outline

1. Membership, meetings and terms of reference
2. Useful outcomes
3. Brainstorming



Membership of CRVS Research Subgroup and resource persons invited

Membership

- Prof Abdul Kalam Azad- Bangladesh
- Abid Gulzar –World vision
- Erin Nichols- CDC
- Karen Carter- SPC
- Naeem Zaffar- Pakistan
- Azza Badr –WHO EMRO

Resource Persons invited

- Dr. Carla Abo Zahr
- Prof. Alan Lopez
- Gilks Charles
- Maryann Wood
- Sinovia Moonie
- Tanja Sejersen
- Taylor Richard

4 WebEx meetings

- 24 August 2015
- 30 September 2015
- 17 November 2015
- 12 April 2016



Challenges

- Time differences during WebEx meetings.
- Numerous commitments of membership.
- How to identify potential resource persons without looking biased.
- Balancing research interests of academia with real priorities on the ground.



Guiding principle

General guiding principle for the functioning of the RSG research subgroup is that:

“It is a **general advisory group**, not conducting specific research activities, but rather identifying gaps and potentially trying to link academics or partners with these gaps..... academic and other partners are open for selection depending on the gaps identified”.



Agreed upon terms of reference for the subgroup

1. Act as a “Think Tank” and play an advisory role to assist UNESCAP secretariat to take the CRVS agenda forward both at regional and country levels.
2. Provide technical assistance to UNESCAP for assessing existing national research and future research requirements and in so doing may provide coordination to avoid duplication of research.
3. Identifying and highlighting important research priorities in the ESCAP countries.



Agreed upon terms of reference for the subgroup cont.

4. Leveraging relationships, engaging and facilitating linkages between member states and the academia, relevant partners and resource persons for forwarding the CRVS research discussion.

5. Leveraging funding around the CRVS research agenda with the academia and other partners.



Outcomes



1) CRVS research advocacy pamphlet developed by Dr. Carla Abou Zahr

Role of Research in CRVS strengthening

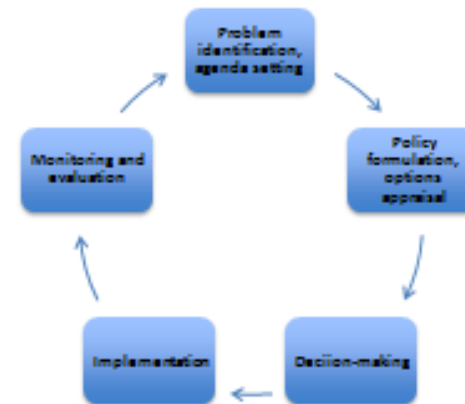
CRVS challenges that research can help address

Experiences in countries have identified a number of challenges faced by countries seeking to strengthen CRVS systems. These include, among other issues, the following:

- Understanding of the dimensions and causes of the weaknesses in CRVS systems.
- Identifying barriers and bottlenecks to functional CRVS systems and remedial actions to overcome them.
- Introducing effective and fair incentives for registration and ensuring that penalties for non-registration do not impede the realization of rights, such as access to health and education.
- Working with communities to raise awareness of the purpose and benefits of civil registration and encourage registration of vital events.
- Developing capacities for high quality registration and certification of vital events.
- Strengthening capacities for quality assurance, compilation, analysis and use of vital statistics.
- Testing and evaluating potential innovations for CRVS, such as use of ICT and mobile registration;
- Harnessing multi-sectoral initiatives such as the introduction of individual identity systems for which CRVS can provide the underpinning;
- Documenting cross-country implementation experiences and lessons learnt on which those working to improve CRVS can draw;
- Ensuring that the lessons of success and failure are communicated and acted upon;
- Generating knowledge, enabling practitioners to filter and make sense of available information on CRVS, and supporting the translation of knowledge into action.

Research in the CRVS policy cycle

If policymakers are to make the decisions needed to strengthen their CRVS systems, they will want to know whether they are investing resources wisely and well. Research can help them take effective actions at each stage of the policy cycle (figure). Research can help identify topics requiring the attention of decision-makers and is critical for exploring options or alternative courses of action for addressing priority problems. At the decision-making stage, research can help decisions making on alternative courses of action by offering evidence of lessons learnt from the past or in other settings. Once decisions have been taken and put into practice, research is used to assess effectiveness in terms of intentions and results by examining impact and outcomes.



2) Data-Col online Survey

Developed by WHO–EMRO to be used to assess:

- Kind of CRVS research being undertaken at national level, if any.
- CRVS research in the pipeline (being planned).
- Priorities for future research.
- Funding availability and adequacy for prioritized research.



Data-Col online survey cont.

Areas of CRVS research being assessed are same as five components in the WHO/HMN CRVS comprehensive assessment framework namely:

- A. Legal basis and resources for civil Registration.
- B. Registration practices, coverage, coverage and completeness.
- C. Death certification and causes of death
- D. ICD mortality coding practices
- E. Data access, use and quality checks



3) Inspired the development of the Survey for mapping of CRVS partner activities



Brainstorming



Research priorities

- Research that addresses the importance of e-health solutions and innovation for CRVS; e.g. development of easily customizable open source computerized solutions for certification, notification and coding of deaths (DHIS2 SMoL).
- Research to assess completeness of coverage by sub-populations or groups (inequalities).
- Research CRVS SOPs for emergencies (how civil registries are protected from disaster and are useful in response and recovery).
- Research birth and deaths registration incentives.

Research priorities cont.

- Research the role that community based networks can play in strengthening deaths registration (broader community outreach).
- Research on the role of local officials and local governments.
- Research customs and culture both as potential barriers and facilitators to registration.
- Research cost effectiveness of CRVS interventions.



Recommendations

- Conduct research on main thematic areas of CRVS: legal framework, registration capacities and resources, certification and coding of deaths and data analysis disseminations and use.
- Encourage operational research in CRVS which is country (or multi country) based and country led and focusing on groups of countries with similar research priorities (collective solutions).
- Use CRVS linkage to SDGs to advocate for CRVS research.



Recommendations cont.

- Research should be the basis for CRVS advocacy.
- Fill the gap in knowledge and not repeat research.
- Use the paper and pamphlet prepared by Carla as a starting point of discussions on principles and ideas for research.
- Request ESCAP to forward the Data-col Survey to member states and publishing findings in the Asia-Pacific Population Journal

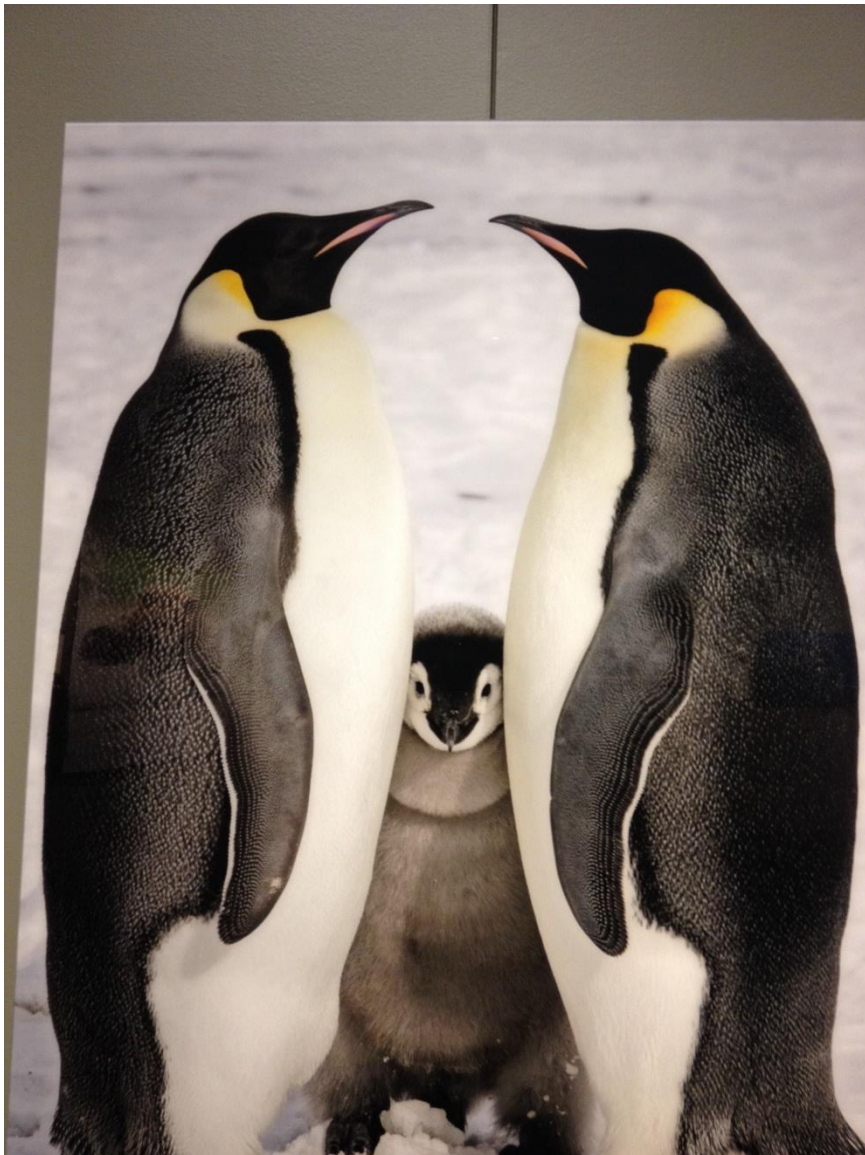


CRVS very rich source of information

“Something startling is happening to middle-aged white Americans. Unlike every other age group, unlike every other racial and ethnic group, unlike their counterparts in other rich countries, death rates in this group have been rising, not falling.”

Bill Clinton -Jan 2016

He mentioned the reasons for this rise — suicide, alcoholism and drug overdoses — and then concluded that these white Americans were dying of “a broken heart.”



Thank you

<http://www.emro.who.int/entity/civil-registration-statistics/index.html>

Badra@who.int

