



Asia-Pacific CRVS Research Forum

3–4 April 2023 | Bangkok, Thailand

Fragmentation of mortality information systems in Lao PDR

Tuesday 4 April 2023: Session 5.3

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Keywords: Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, mortality information, silos, fragmentation, integrating, Lao PDR



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Abstract

Introduction

Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in low-middle-income countries (LMICs) are not performing as expected in terms of completeness and quality of data. The primary obstacles identified were the lack of clarity on roles and duties within organizations, redundancy of some activities, and complex coordination between involved ministries. This led to a fragmented and non-integrated system with various inefficiencies and duplication in the documentation of the fact and the cause of death in the country. This study aimed to assess the information architecture for the recording and reporting of death events through the health sector in Lao PDR.

Method

We conducted a cross-sectional study to collect information from the existing mortality information systems in Lao PDR. A purposive sample was selected to collect data with relevant characteristics for the study in Vientiane Capital. We conducted informal interviews with key actors from the system to understand the architecture of each information system. Bizagi Modeller was used to visualize the flow of activities and stakeholders involved throughout the entire system.

Result

We discovered that there were multiple information subsystems in which death details were documented, such as health sectors, administrative offices, and others among them. The mortality information architecture was fragmented with a multiplicity of unconnected data silos. There is no mortality information sharing across the sectors. Lack of information sharing leads to duplication in the database as there is no single database containing all deaths in the country.

Conclusion

Lao PDR continues to struggle with integrating systems based on multiple government departments, which limits the capacity of statistical systems to provide timely and accurate mortality data. Our study demonstrates the significant potential to improve mortality information and further strengthen CRVS data by integrating existing subsystems that capture information about deaths, which presently function independently.