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اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا

UNITED NATIONS
Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia



NATIONS UNIES
Commission Economique et
Sociale pour l'Asie Occidentale

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON QUALITY EVALUATION OF
CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS IN THE ARAB STATES**

**9-11 October 2018
Beirut, Lebanon**

Information Note

Introduction

Vital statistics are essential to understand population dynamics, inform government planning and monitor progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The preferred source of vital statistics is a well-functioning civil registration system, which entails ‘the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of vital events pertaining to the population.’¹

Some countries in the Arab region, like the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, have fairly advanced civil registration and vital statistics systems. However, the quality of registration data is still inadequate in most countries in the region, preventing the use of such data for vital statistics. Several Arab countries face serious challenges in registering vital events, especially deaths, owing to prolonged conflict and population displacement.

The quality of registration data should be evaluated in terms of completeness, accuracy, availability and timeliness. Registration data are of high quality if every vital event pertaining to the population is registered, if every data item is filled correctly, and if the resulting statistics are disseminated in a clear format and prompt manner. Undertaking evaluation activities according to these standards is useful to quantify errors, identify systemic issues and design interventions to enhance data quality.

Since 2014, UN-ESCWA Statistics Division has regularly organised workshops and expert group meetings to develop the analytical capacity of member states to assess registration data using indirect demographic methods^{2,3} and direct record linkage studies.⁴ Technical advisory missions have also been undertaken in selected member states as part of the civil registration and vital statistics component of the UN Development Account Programme.

In continuation of its previous activities, UN-ESCWA Statistics Division is organising a Regional Workshop on Quality Evaluation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Arab States during the period 9-11 October 2018 in Beirut, Lebanon. The workshop aims to present the new UN Guidelines on Quality Evaluation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, review national experiences, provide technical support to improve civil registration procedures and strengthen capacity to produce high-quality vital statistics reports.

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division. [Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3](#). New York, 2014.

² United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Statistics Division. [Training Workshop on Demographic Methods for Assessing the Completeness of Death Registration](#). Cairo, 2014.

³ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Statistics Division. [Death Registration Systems and Mortality Statistics in the Arab region](#). Beirut, 2015.

⁴ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Statistics Division. [Expert Group Meeting on Record Linkage Studies to Assess Completeness of Death Registration Data](#). Beirut, 2017.

A. Objectives

The workshop aims to achieve the following goals:

- Presenting UN Guidelines on Quality Evaluation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;
- Reviewing national experiences to identify needs and challenges for improvement;
- Providing technical training to enhance civil registration procedures and strengthening capacity to produce high-quality vital statistics reports.

B. Participants

Relevant international and regional experts, statisticians from national statistics offices, and specialists from related official institutions of UN-ESCWA member states.

C. Documents

- UN Guidelines on Quality Evaluation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
- UN-ECA, UN-ESCAP and Statistics Norway Guidelines and Template for Developing a Vital Statistics Report
- UN-ESCWA member states' presentations

D. Language

The workshop will be conducted using both English and Arabic languages. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

E. Venue and time of the workshop

The meeting will be held during the period 9-11 October 2018 in Beirut, Lebanon.

F. Administrative arrangements

Participants are kindly requested to make their own arrangements to get the visa from the Lebanese embassy in their home country (if needed). Upon their arrival to Rafic Hariri International Airport, they will need to hire a taxi to reach the hotel.

UN-ESCWA will make the necessary administrative and logistical arrangements. For more information regarding those arrangements, kindly contact Ms. Zeina Sinno at the following e-mail: sinnoz@un.org

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