



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE

Comprehensive CRVS Assessment

The Philippine Experience



Outline

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- Major Findings and Recommendations
 - Highlights of the CRVS National Assessment
 - Highlights of the CRVS Sub-National Assessment
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Background of the CRVS Assessment

- A National Assessment on CRVS using the WHO/UQ Assessment Framework was conducted in 2000 by DOH and NSO
- The WHO/UQ Assessment Framework provides a comprehensive guidance in evaluating civil registration and vital statistics systems by identifying deficiencies and quality of vital statistics



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Background of the CRVS Assessment

WHO Assessment Framework

INPUTS

A. Legal basis and resources for civil registration

A1 National legal framework for vital statistics

A2 Registration infrastructure and resources



Background of the CRVS Assessment

PROCESSES

B. Registration practices, coverage and completeness

B1 Organisation and functioning of the vital statistics system

B2 Review of forms used for birth and death registration

B3 Coverage and completeness of registration

B4 Data storage and transmission



Background of the CRVS Assessment

PROCESSES

C. Death certification and cause of death

C1 ICD- compliant practices for death certification

C2 Hospital death certification

C3 Deaths occurring outside hospital

C4 Practices affecting the quality of cause-of-death data

D. ICD mortality coding practices

D1 Mortality coding practices

D2 Mortality coder qualification and training

D3 Quality of mortality coding



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Background of the CRVS Assessment

OUTPUTS

E. Data access, use and quality checks

E1 Data quality and plausibility checks

E2 Data tabulation

E3 Data access and dissemination



Background of the CRVS Assessment

- Data Collection had two parts:
 - Self-assessment test
 - Group assessment through FGD
- Participants to the FGD
 - Local civil registrars and staff
 - NSO encoders and NSO Provincial Statistics Officers
- City/municipal health officers
 - Medial records/administrative officers
 - Doctors, nurses and midwives



Major Findings and Recommendations: Highlights of the CRVS National Assessment

- National Legal Framework for Vital Statistics:
 - Increased lobbying for the approval of pending legislative measures on civil registration
 - Building up a campaign to lobby for increased budget for civil registration at the Local Government Units
 - Promote the importance and appreciation of civil registration by strengthening systems, processes and policies (Administrative Orders and Rules) for civil registration units at the LGU level
 - Compliance with the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) on the creation of mandatory local civil registration office and permanent civil registrar



Major Findings and Recommendations: Highlights of the CRVS National Assessment

- Registration Practices, Coverage and Completeness of Registration
 - Capability building programs for medical/health officers, hospital administrators and other stakeholders on civil registration and vital statistics
 - Development of vital registration protocols, guidelines and procedures for private and public hospitals, Municipal Health Offices and other institutions
 - Lobby for free registration of timely registered events
 - Study on the level of registration by province by sector (depressed areas, marginalized populations)



Major Findings and Recommendations: Highlights of the CRVS National Assessment

- Forms and Data Quality
 - Assessment of data quality using hospital records and the NSO's Decentralized Vital Statistics System database
 - Develop methodology/study to check data quality and pertinent adjustment techniques for Philippine cause-of-death data
 - Conduct a study on the patterns of cause-specific mortality



Major Findings and Recommendations: Highlights of the CRVS National Assessment

- Data Storage, Tabulation, Access and Dissemination
 - NSO to study ways to improve the timeliness of the Vital Statistics Report
 - Intensive promotion of the electronic Civil Registration Information System (PhilCRIS) to LGUs, hospitals and other related institutions
 - Continuous training of LGU staff in civil registration procedures and use of electronic systems



Major Findings and Recommendations: Highlights of the CRVS National Assessment

- ICD-10
 - Training on ICD-10 and related topics
 - Conduct evaluation of the quality of ICD-10 coding
 - Develop a guidebook and quick reference guide on certification of cause of death for doctors
 - Conduct an evaluation of the quality of medical certification on death certificates
 - Inclusion of ICD-10 in medical and paramedical curricula

Major Findings and Recommendations: Highlights of the CRVS Sub-National Assessment

- Registration Protocols

Hindrances for Birth Registration

- Births that occur outside birthing facilities
- Distance, accessibility of transportation
- Financial constraints
- Cultural customs and traditions
- Wrong notion that births cannot be registered if parents are unmarried
- Number of requirements and the tedious processing of delayed registration



Major Findings and Recommendations: Highlights of the CRVS National Assessment

- Registration Protocols

Hindrances for Death Registration

- Who has the responsibility for preparing death certificates? (In some provinces the doctors do not prepare the death certificate but merely sign it)
- Accuracy of cause of death especially in dead-on-arrival cases (who should prepare the death certificate for such cases?)
- Customs and traditions of cultural groups (e.g., Muslims, indigenous peoples) especially in neonatal death cases)



Major Findings and Recommendations: Highlights of the CRVS Sub-National Assessment

- Data Quality
 - Most common errors are clerical/typographical errors (parent's information, date of delivery, among others)
 - Practice wherein socially acceptable cause of death is written on the death certificate if the cause of death is "suicide"



Major Findings and Recommendations: Highlights of the CRVS Sub-National Assessment

- Data Storage
 - Distance is one factor in timely submission of civil registry documents
 - Aside from lacking information exchange among agencies, the provincial government is not part of the loop in terms of the structural organization with regards to civil registration (basic unit of civil registration is the LGU, pertaining to the municipal or city government)



Opportunities and Learning from the Assessment

- ❖ Undertaking the comprehensive assessment was a wakeup call for joint action to strengthen the civil registration and vital statistics system. The major stakeholders of VR are NSO, LCRs, DOH and the local health workers.
- ❖ Discussions of how to improve the mortality statistics have been one of the priority agenda of the Technical Working Group on Mortality organized by the National Statistical Coordination Board in the Philippines.



Opportunities and Learning from the Assessment

- ❖ The new Assessment Framework and roadmap was a great opportunity to evaluate the vital statistics generated from the current civil registration system.
- ❖ The stakeholders at the Results meeting agreed to use the findings from the review and the agreed prioritized recommendations to develop a strategic plan.

Some Accomplishments after the Assessment

- Improved coordination mechanism of CRVS stakeholders
- Conducted 3 batches of trainings for Local Civil Registrars, Medical Records Officers and NSO coders through the assistance of the WHO and DOH
- Conducted information dissemination on CRVS
- A project between NSO and DOH was launched in 2010 re: **“Assessment of the Civil Registration System and Conduct of Completeness Study of Death Registration”** at the sub-national level in 2011



Future Directions

- Strengthening of the vital registration network and establish partnerships among civil registration stakeholders: NSO, health agencies, universities and local civil registrars
- Development of comprehensive civil registration strategic plan that focuses on the gaps and issues identified in the CRVS system assessment (including investment plans, resource requirements and timeliness of vital statistics)



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