Webinar on Inequalities in CRVS: 
Let’s really get every one in the picture!

Area 1. Qualitative inequality assessments for CRVS systems

Our experience on other qualitative assessment frameworks

25 January 2021, 12:00 – 13:30 (BKK Time)
Background and context

Project Title: Papua New Guinea Comprehensive Assessment and National Action Plan 2020/21

Focus/Aim: Focus efforts of all government and partner agencies to achieve immediate improvement

Methodology and resources used: WHO/UQ Comprehensive Assessment

Main stakeholders: PNG National CRVS Committee, Pacific Community, other Development Partners

Main results/outputs/outcome
2. Modified Comprehensive Assessment Report 2019
Q1. Why we undertook these studies

- 2014 Rapid Assessment rated PNG ‘dysfunctional’ at third lowest of 21 Pacific countries.
- By 2019 had lowest registration rates in Asia-Pacific – 1 in 6 babies and 1 in 50 deaths registered
- Significant investment into a National ID system but no investment into CRVS – concerns about equality
- Part of commitment from Brisbane Accord Group and the Pacific Community (SPC) to strengthening CRVS. PNG is the largest Pacific nation beyond Australia and NZ
- Needed a mechanism to coordinate partner efforts and strengthen the effectiveness of the National Coordinating Committee
Structure of Assessment

170+ questions covering the following 11 areas:

INPUTS
- Legal framework
- Registration infrastructure and resources

PROCESSES
- Organization and functioning
- Completeness of registration
- Data storage and transmission
- ICD compliance
- Quality of cause-of-death data
- ICD coding practices
- Coder qualification

OUTPUTS
- Data quality checks
- Data access, dissemination and use
Q2. What populations did we assess inequalities for and why

- With rates so low, no inequality assessment was done
- Often rural or remote communities were discussed, but even most events in the capital city hospital were not registered
- Actions agreed that may address inequality included:
  - Establish a civil registration service desk for birth and death registration at Port Moresby General Hospital
  - Trial using health workers and ward recorders for birth notifications in a rural Alotau
  - Memorandums of Understanding for collaboration between key government agencies
  - An interface between eNHIS and the civil registration system to allow data transfer
  - Purchase more mobile kits for use in registering births and deaths in remote areas
  - Conduct awareness campaigns about the value of registration
Q3. What were the main challenges

- Pulling together previous reports into one place
- Identifying key players and getting them to engage in ANOTHER assessment with no $$$ attached
- Supporting government agencies to participate when they already struggle to do day-to-day work
- Maintaining partner commitment to collaborate and invest time - they are busy with their own programmes and need to meet funder requirements.
- Being a FIFO consultant with no independent delivery mechanism following the assessment
Q4. *What were key learnings from this experience?*

- There are a range of assessment tools – these are comprehensive but complex. Need to tailor to context.
- Completing assessment is difficult – but converting it to action is REALLY difficult.
- Is completing an inequality assessment the best place to start if a country has no/low registration levels?