
WEBINAR SERIES: COMMEMORATION OF AFRICA CRVS DAY

Improving the medical and community reporting of deaths and cause of death in the context of COVID-19

12th August 2020: 15.00-16.30 EAT

Link for Participants Please click this URL to join.:

<http://un.interpret.world/login=CRVS2020>

Background

Africa marks its third Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Day on August 10 2020 with growing calls for nations to classify civil registration as an essential service and strategies to be put into place to ensure business continuity during emergencies, including pandemics.

The Commemoration this year will be in the midst of the crippling coronavirus pandemic which has triggered unprecedented health and economic crisis and the pandemic that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and affected millions across the globe.

The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is affecting health, well-being, and livelihood in over 200 countries and territories, along a multitude of different dimensions. As the pandemic evolves, knowledge is rapidly being generated through research and analysis on different aspects of the outbreak. This information needs to reach decision makers in a reliable manner, and so guide the decision-making process at all levels: national government, frontline health workers, donors, civil society and other stakeholders whose decisions influence the actions relating to COVID-19 management. The pandemic has shown vulnerabilities of civil registration systems when services were required the most.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of COVID-19 deaths is a key indicator of pandemic impact. Measuring all-cause mortality is also critical to inform decision-makers about the scale and direction of an epidemic; where manner and/or cause of death is available, cause-specific mortality fractions can be calculated. Mortality measurement can provide insight into the magnitude of direct and indirect health consequences of the pandemic, disparities in disease burden, and the impact of public health and social measures.

Countries must therefore put in place measures and approaches to undertake mortality surveillance, involving all-cause and cause-specific mortality systems in the health sector, demographic surveillance systems, as well as civil registration systems and medico-legal death investigation systems. It is critical therefore that there must be increased capacity to correctly certify and code causes of death and in particular COVID-19 deaths. In the ideal case, countries should have a digitized, unified, real-time death reporting and registration system with high levels of coverage and completeness that captures all deaths from all causes in all settings; this death information can, in turn, be used to generate all necessary mortality data promptly using newly developed tools (Rapid Mortality surveillance Systems, ICD 11, verbal autopsy systems).

WHO is organizing this webinar series in conjunction with the CRVS core group to facilitate the capacity building on implementation of rapid mortality surveillance and certification and coding to ensure appropriate certification and coding in particular of COVID deaths and determination of excess mortality.

This webinar series is aimed at further augmenting this year’s theme of “*Civil Registration and Vital Statistics: An Essential Service for Monitoring and Mitigating the Impact of Emergencies*”.

Specifically, the webinar will:

- 1) Share the current guidance on certification and coding of COVID 19 deaths and implementation of rapid mortality surveillance
- 2) Provide a platform to share additional experiences from Countries on certification and coding causes of death in era of COVID 19 pandemic
- 3) Identify mechanisms to fast track implementation of strategies to obtain mortality data across Countries

Program of the webinar

Remarks by: Dr Prosper Tumusiime

Moderators: Dr Humphrey Karamagi & Dr Hillary Kipruto

| Time | Activity | Chair |
|---------------|---|---|
| 15.00-15.10 | Welcome remarks by WHO | Dr Prosper Tumusiime, Director-Universal Health Coverage, Life Course- WHO-AFRO |
| 15.10-15.20 | Status of Mortality statistics in the WHO African Region | Dr Benson Droti/ WHO-AFRO |
| 15.20-15.30 | Status of Mortality statistics in the WHO EMRO Region | Dr Eman Aly/ WHO-EMRO |
| 15.30-15.55 | Certification and coding of COVID-19 deaths (Hospital and community deaths) | Dr Robert Jakob/ WHO-HQ |
| 15.55-16.25 | Moderated discussions of issues from participants | Dr Hillary Kipruto and Dr Humphrey Karamagi |
| 16.25 - 16.30 | Closing Remarks | Dr Humphrey Karamagi |