A regional standard on IT for CRVS in the Pacific Islands

THE BRISBANE ACCORD GROUP AND THE PACIFIC VITAL STATISTICS ACTION PLAN

Why is a regional standard required?

The lack of a common IT system or architecture for CRVS across the region poses a number of challenges in providing support to countries. Challenges occur:

- where IT systems are either not functional or are not integrated well with reporting structures (roles, procedures and policies); and
- where data sets are collected in many different formats, preventing the collation and comparison of data at a regional level.

SPC and BAG partner agencies are developing a regional standard on IT for CRVS.

IT in the Pacific

The collection of information on births and deaths is generally facilitated by some computerisation of records.

In the Pacific Islands, these systems range from simple Excel spreadsheets updated by a single operator, to large commercial software platforms operating over multiple sites. Similarly, the level of infrastructure support varies greatly, affecting both the operability and sustainability of these systems.

The primary CRVS IT infrastructure is generally a civil registry database, but may also include systems that support data sharing with Health (HIS and medical certification records), the National Statistics Office, and other departments.

> " The idea of these standards is not to prescribe what system or developer countries should use, but to start to introduce a greater level of standardisation and adherence to best practice across the region as and when countries make decisions about new investments in this area"

Linking with other work

The new standard will be consistent with other guidelines as far as possible, while ensuring suitable recommendations for the Pacific context. Work being consulted during development includes:

- The redevelopment of the NZ registry system and the potential for linking births and deaths of Pacific Islanders that occur in NZ to NZ-affiliated states
- STEVE and EVVE systems, and national guidelines developed by NAPHSIS (USA)
- IT standards for CRVS in the African Region being developed by PLAN and partners
- Global IT guidelines for Birth Registration being developed by UNICEF and partners.

Next Steps

- A draft document is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2014 and reviewed by a panel of regional experts during a workshop in January 2015.
- Draft guidelines will then be circulated to partner agencies and country CRVS committees for review and comments.
- It is anticipated that the guidelines will then be formally adopted by BAG partners and endorsed by countries through the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee.

For more details contact the BAG secretariat at SPC
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SUPPORTED BY THE BRISBANE ACCORD GROUP (BAG)

SPC Secretariat of the Pacific Community

phin Pacific health information network

World Health Organization Western Pacific Region

QUT

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

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