

**RGI/CGHR Special Survey of Deaths (SSD)  
Sample Registration System (SRS), India  
Suggested Training curriculum for Refresher VA for SSD**

**Step 1: Identify individual training needs.** Two to three weeks prior to the workshop, a senior officer at the DCO should review about 3-5 forms per RG surveyor using the attached checklist. The academic partner should review the results by the RG surveyor and the RSTs of the units selected for the re-sampling using the attached checklist.

**Step 2: Organize the training:** Organize copies of actual forms used in the HYS 2002/2003 (at least 200 forms, selecting mostly those with the *weakest narratives*), select venue and request training at time when the RGS can be relaxed and focus on the skills to be acquired. The training will be conducted for 3 days, ideally avoiding a Sat/Sun. Suggested training size: 25-30 maximum, with 4-5 resource staff (physician coders, senior DCO officer, senior RSTs, and CGHR/RGI staff).

<b>Curriculum: DAY 1</b>		
<b>9.30 AM</b>	Welcome	Learning objective
<b>9.35 AM</b>	Introduction of participants	
<b>9.45 AM</b>	Status of Verbal Autopsy Results in SRS (use standardized slides from CGHR, and focus on field visits to enhance quality of narratives)	- SRS VA system works well with good field reports
<b>10.00 AM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Need for symptom list- common omissions</li> <li>➤ How to use the symptom list- detailed point by point review</li> </ul>	- Reduce unclassified deaths, especially before old age by good use of symptom list
<b>11.30 AM</b>	Small group work (6-7 people) on actual forms focusing on how to improve narrative	- Peer feedback on how to improve narratives
<b>1.00 PM</b>	Lunch	
<b>2.00 PM</b>	Small group work continues	- as above
<b>4:15 PM</b>	Plenary session with feedback from groups	- Identify most common symptoms/situations which are problematic and solutions for these
<b>5:30 PM</b>	Distribute new forms and request individual assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1<sup>st</sup> exposure to new forms</li> <li>- Implement learning on symptom list</li> </ul>
<b>Curriculum: DAY 2</b>		
<b>9.00 AM</b>	Introduction to new forms	- 2 <sup>nd</sup> exposure to new forms
<b>10:30 AM</b>	Mock interview (select different pairs) to present in front of others	- refresh interview skills and use of symptom list
<b>1:00 PM</b>	Lunch	
<b>2:00 PM</b>	Small group sessions to review mock interviews	- peer feedback on how to improve questioning
<b>3:30 PM</b>	Preparation steps for SSD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Field kit (forms, pens, shirt, etc)</li> <li>➤ List of deaths for HYS 2001/2</li> <li>➤ TA/DA/Honorarium/Admin issues</li> </ul>	- prepare administratively for the SSD
<b>5:30 PM</b>	Distribute field assignments (nearby units)	- if possible select fevers, cough breathlessness, senility and other "ill defined" causes
<b>Curriculum: DAY 3</b>		
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Field visits (in teams of two, to complete 3-5 forms each)	- peer feedback in the field
<b>2:00 PM</b>	Lunch	
<b>3:00 PM</b>	Reconvene for individual feedback on narratives by resource persons	- confirm that training objectives have been met