

The Agent Of Trustworthy Statistical Data For All

CRVS for Measurement of SDGs



The Facts:

48 million infants are not registered each year (~ 40%)

38 million deaths are not registered (2/3 of all deaths globally)

85 countries have zero or unreliable cause of death information

an additional 52 countries have low-quality data

Introduction

A well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics system is critical in monitoring country progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Introduction

- A functional civil registration and vital statistics system is the best source of continuous data on how many babies are born, how many people die, and what people are dying from.
- These data provide important information about vital events in the whole population, which is a key Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) concept linked to the vision of 'no-one left behind'.
- As of July 2016, 120 indicators have been finalized and entered into the Global SDG Indicator Database
- More than one-third (45) of these indicators will require data from a CRVS system, primarily in the form of population data as denominators for population-based targets.

Introduction

- SDG 3, for example, seeks to ensure health and wellbeing at every stage of life.
- A number of indicators for this goal will require data from a CRVS system, including maternal and infant mortality rates, mortality rates due to specific diseases, and the adolescent birth rate.
- Indicator 3.4.1 : the mortality rate from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease
- Indicator 3.6.1, mortality from road traffic accidents.
- A functioning CRVS system, with medical certification and verbal autopsy (where required), is the only source of the cause-specific mortality data required for monitoring such indicators.

source data SDGs from a CRVS





- Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems are concerned with the legal registration and analysis of vital events in the population.
- Vital events include births, deaths, marriages, divorces, feotal deaths, annulments, judicial separations and adoptions.
- through the registration process these events are made legal and legitimate.
- Civil registration (CR) is defined by the United Nations as the universal, continuous, permanent and compulsory recording of vital events provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of each country (1).



- Vital Statistics (VS) represents the statistical output of a well-functioning CR system (2).
- CR and VS systems are intrinsically interconnected, and their combined information systems (IS) are termed Civil Registration Vital Statistics Information Systems (CRVS IS).
- A well-functioning CRVS IS has in recent times been recognized as a key ingredient in strengthening CRVS systems in general, and the United Nations Commission on Information Accountability (CoIA) for Women's and Children's Health has especially mandated that countries would need to strengthen their CRVS IS.



 Specifically, Recommendation 1 of CoIA points to the key issue of systematic registration of vital events, stating: "By 2015, all countries have taken significant steps to establish a system for registration of births, deaths and causes of death, and have well-functioning health information systems that combine data from facilities, administrative sources and surveys." (3).



CIVIL REGISTRATION IS IMPORTANT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY²



Vital statistics

Legal documents



- **Documents** provide evidence of people's names, family relationships and place of birth.
- This is important for social protection, enabling participation in economic and political life, and for accessing services like healthcare and education.
- Registration of death allows surviving family members to make claims for insurance, pensions and inheritance.
- Civil registration records also generate a continuous and complete stream of information that allows the production of accurate, complete and timely vital statistics on births and deaths in a population, at national and lower administrative levels.





CRVS and Public Health

- Within the domain of public health, data from the CRVS IS are critical, allowing tracking of individual births and building profiles of mortality and causes of death.
- These data play a fundamental role in planning and monitoring of public health outcomes, for example relating to immunization planning, and monitoring of broader developmental process indicators such as for maternal and infant deaths, sex ratios and fertility rates.
- An effective CRVS can help ensure enrolment of every child into immunization programmes, and VS indicators can be tracked to better support the prevention of avoidable diseases.

CRVS and Public Health

- If drawn from a well-functioning CRVS system, these data also provide rigorous mortality data which are of significant public health concern, including those concerning the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), tuberculosis and malaria.
- CR is crucial for individuals to establish legal identity and to access public health services, while VS provides essential information about the demographics and health of the population, making policies more effective and responsive to the needs of society.



There are many different models being used by countries to carry out the registration of the event, and the technologies are varied.

Further, a large majority of the events being registered relate to births rather than deaths, and COD details are most often difficult to find.



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Albania

- Every citizen has a separate record in the population database containing his or her birth information, residential and civil status information.
- This is based on a web-based system
- This system uses as the primary key a unique personal ID number.
- CR information is shared with other government departments, and citizens may obtain birth, death and marriage certificates and register marriages online.



Mauritius

Under the e-Business plan, the country has put in place a system that, in addition to registering vital events and generating VS information, produces legal documents locally by accessing the central database

Ghana

CR systems do not appear to be equipped with the facility for generation of the legal documents. Possibly, because these are mostly pilot systems, they may not be entrusted with this responsibility



Namibia

A birth certificate is provided to all babies before they leave the health facility, which then enables integration with other government information systems. The same situation is reported in Uganda

Philippines

The National Statistics Office (NSO) provides the facility to obtain birth certificates online, since all CR documents are digitized and available in a database.

Why CRVS Systems Don't Work

- Lack of priority by government
 - Poor quality systems
 - Inadequate systems outside of urban areas
- A passive system doesn't work in a developing setting
 - Majority of events occur at home
 - Population doesn't feel need to register
 - Barriers to registering (distance, cost, time, lack of awareness, etc.)

Previous International Efforts to Strengthen CRVS Systems



- Setting standards to improve comparability
- International collection & publication of data



- Strengthening national statistical systems
 - Not a government priority
 - Lack of recognition as key component of development

What Has Changed?

- Most countries are now more developed
- Mobile technology is eliminating previous communication problems
- National ID systems require info.
- Focus on unique advantages of CRVS:
 - Identification via birth registration
 - Continuous data flow
 - Small area data
 - Cause of death information
 - Inexpensive data source



Devices such as smart phones can provide real-time data access from remote areas. WHO.

CRVS Improvement Efforts: *How to make systems function well*

- Create demand by requiring certificates for government services
- Ensure system is affordable
- Improve cause of death info.
 - Useful info. from physicians
 - Info. with no physician involvement (verbal autopsy)
- Employ community health workers to record events at household level (*active system*)



Community volunteer gathering information in the Northern Region of Ghana.

CRVS: Recent Progress

DR TIES BOERMA





Global progress Advocacy



• 2013: 'Convergence year' for CRVS – many elements coming together, recognising

the value is greater than the sum of its parts.

- First global annual summit on CRVS Bangkok April 2013;
- Health Ministers endorse CRVS as a priority in Pacific and in Eastern Mediterranean and multipartner approaches emerge in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Eastern Mediterranean;
- 'Role of the Health Sector in Strengthening CRVS Dec 2013.' (WHO in collaboration with World Bank, UNICEF, USAID and Canada).
- Calls for Action Global Call for Action, call for 'Decade for CRVS' from Asia-Pacific, call for action from Canadian Prime Minister.

2014: Year of Commitment and Action

- Regional ministerial and high level commitments and resolutions in support of CRVS in Asia-Pacific, Africa;
- Regional programmes continue assessments and supporting national plans for improvement
- Global approaches and support for CRVS cemented.

Accountability Framework:

By 2015, all countries have taken significant steps to establish a system for registration of births, deaths and causes ...

Progress and Achievements (Dec 2013)

- Emerging systemic Improvements: Highlights are Mozambique (national mortality), Uganda (health for registration), Philippines (annual registration week), and many more
- ✓ 30 Accountability countries with comprehensive assessments complete or underway; up from 12 in May 2013.

Challenges

- Scaling and investing in genuine improvements
- Maintaining focus on the broad value of CRVS as a system – births, deaths and causes of death

Proposed Strategies

- Maintain support for regions
- Recognize the role of multiple partners and leverage
- Develop a global approach to support continued success.

More Momentum than ever before:

- Major Ministerial endorsements show country commitment to action
- Major regional programs and support for CRVS,
- Multi-partner approaches - increased recognition that the value of the system is greater than the sum of the parts

Senior Commitment and/or Action

CRVS global commitment



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Why Make an Effort for CRVS?

If all births, all deaths and all causes of deaths were recorded:

- Every person and every country will benefit from CRVS as a system
- Many (if not most) international partners would benefit from CRVS as both a source of information (population and health statistics) or a support for their core mandate (health, development, governance, protection).
- It is likely that CRVS will be a critical underpinning for many of goals in the post-2015 agenda, as it was for the MDGs.
- CRVS therefore needs to be considered as a component of the 'data revolution'.



April 2013, Bangkok:

'...We know that CRVS matters to individuals, communities, countries and globally.

.... The Global Community must act together now to deliver coordinated and sustained support to countries to achieve well-functioning CRVS systems. '



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