



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

William Muhwava
Economic Commission for Africa



Comprehensive Assessments

1. Identify issues affecting the performance of processes in the CRVS Systems and the root causes of these issues.
2. Identify redesigns that should be implemented to address the performance issues and root causes.

Comprehensive Assessments are used as a way to improve CRVS systems by thoroughly assessing the organizational structure, operations and functionality of the existing system.

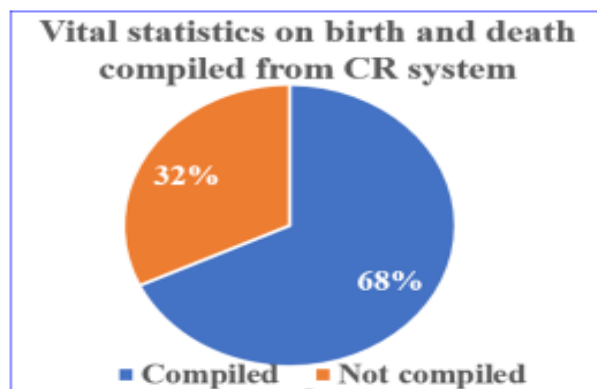
Progress

- Since its inception, the APAI-CRVS has made significant progress in strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa.
- While in May 2018, 32 countries had conducted comprehensive assessments of their civil registration and vital statistics systems, this number has increased to 42 in 2020.
- However, 73% have developed a strategic plan according to a recent rapid assessment by ECA
- Only 65% have implemented their strategic plans.

Vital Statistics Reports

Situation of CR-based VS reporting in Africa

ECA survey of Status of CRVS Systems in 2019, where 40 of the 54 African countries participated



Even fewer number of countries disseminate the reports.

7/12

Main Observations

- Low levels of production of vital statistics reports
- NSOs are not much involved in the production of vital statistics reports
- Registration levels are still very low in some countries and hence would produce unreliable and selective vital statistics

However, it is recommended that vital statistics reports should be produced even at low levels of registration rates. A Vital Statistics Report Template and Guide have been prepared for use.

United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

- Establishes a mechanism for conferring legal identity to all in a continuous, universal & inclusive manner—from birth to death.
- builds upon the interoperability of the system to provide access to all the services in effective & equal fashion, and develop other registers for different purposes using the same definitions, classifications & overall methodology

Countries are advised to adopt the longitudinal solution of simultaneous build-up of civil registration & vital statistics and identity management systems based on unique legislative foundations and overall methodology

Progress

- Needs assessment undertaken in 10 countries on the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda (Kenya, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cameroon, DRC, Zambia, Mozambique, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Niger)
- Technical assistance and advisory services can be provided upon request for countries that are interested in implementing the UN LIA.

Africa CRVS Day & Week

Theme 2019: Birth Certificate for All: Fundamental for Protecting Human Rights and Promoting Inclusion

Theme 2020: Civil Registration and Vital Statistics: An Essential Service for Monitoring and Mitigating the Impact of Emergencies

Progress

- Commemorated by most countries-an assessment will be done
- In 2019, most countries reported improvements in birth registration
- In 2020, most countries showcased their new electronic systems and other innovative approaches

Progress on achievements (Harmonizing CRVS Initiatives)

Placing APAI-CRVS at the centre of implementing the programme

Progress

Harmonizing the following three programmes

- Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
- No Name Campaign
- United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

Technical Materials and Resources

CRVS System Improvement Framework. To build a well-functioning CRVS system, countries will need to take transformative measures to continuously improve existing systems to meet the ever-growing modern-day challenge for a country to provide its population with access to legal documents as evidence of identity, civil status, and family relations and to produce timely vital statistics

Technical Briefs on COVID-19

- Civil Registration System as an Enabler of Emergency Response to the COVID-19 Crisis: Namibia's Emergency Income Grant
- E-Notification of Vital Events: Innovations Adaptable for Business Continuity of Civil Registration in Emergency Situations

Impact of COVID-19

Civil registration systems and the vital statistics that are generated must be strengthened as core components of the response to COVID-19.

Civil registration must be recognized as an essential service and service provision even during prolonged lockdown because of their intrinsic value for upholding human rights, administrative uses and production of vital statistics.

- Over 75 percent of the Civil Registration Offices in Africa were affected
- Civil Registration Systems could not provide real-time data to monitor disease progression

Progress

- Rapid Impact Assessment of Covid-19 Pandemic on CR Operations- 35 countries responded leaving 19 non-response.
- Technical Note on *Maintaining Civil Registration and Vital Statistics during the COVID-19 pandemic*
- Webinars on mitigating the impact of pandemic on CR Operations
- Innovations adaptable for business continuity: E-Notifications
- Lessons learnt from the European, Asia and Pacific Regions on CRVS on business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendations

- ECA to provide technical assistance for building back CRVS systems that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ECA to scale-up efforts on UN Legal Identity Agenda programme by providing technical assistance to countries as a way of building resilient CRVS Systems
- Countries need to develop a robust disaster management and business continuity plans to guide response during emergencies

Way Forward

- ECA will develop a programme to provide technical support for the establishment of integrated systems
- As requested by the Chair of Bureau, an assessment of the implementation of the COM5 resolutions will be undertaken during Q1 of 2021 and reported at COM6
- Recommendations from this meeting will be incorporated in the planning of COM6



THANK YOU!

Ideas
to
Action