



# CRVS best-practice and advocacy

## Intervention: Improving registration practices

Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems encompass the registration of births and deaths and the generation of vital statistics from these events. Improving registration practices will provide a range of benefits for individuals, families, and the State.

### The challenge

A civil registration (CR) system refers to the entire administrative, legal, and instructional framework for notifying, registering and certifying vital events. Data from the CR system are used to generate vital statistics (VS) that are used as evidence for public policy (Figure 1).

A CR system encompasses a range of practices involving many institutions. Activities include the notification and registration of events and the issuance of certificates. The institutions involved in a CR system include the civil registration department, the health department, police, the national identification office, funeral directors, religious institutions and the national statistics office. Good management and coordination among these institutions is essential for high-quality and productive registration systems.

Despite the benefits that CR brings to individuals, families and the state, many countries struggle to identify all vital events, ensure complete registration and certification processes, and produce high-quality statistics. Other challenges faced by CR systems include legislation that is unclear about roles and responsibilities, disincentives for families to register deaths (ie cost or distance), and delays between event occurrence and notification.

### Our approach

As part of the Data for Health (D4H) Initiative, countries will be supported to improve birth and death notification and the subsequent registration of these vital events through the following activities:

- **Use of enterprise architecture (EA)** business process mapping skills. EA is a tool that applies system analysis to better describe, understand, compare and visualise the organisation, processes, workflows and functionality of a CRVS system. This helps to identify potential bottlenecks and assist with creative thinking on modifications to design for efficiency.
- **Establish national stakeholder committees.** Coordination between all the different ministries, agencies and administrative levels is essential for any CRVS system.
- **Review of the country's CRVS legislation and regulations.** The legal basis that underpins national systems needs to be kept up-to-date, so that systems remain responsive to the needs of citizens.
- **Provision of technical advice** to countries based on international best practice and support for interventions to improve birth and death registration
- **Implement standardised collection forms and data transfer management processes,** based on international best practice.

## Expected benefits

Globally, it is estimated that approximately 230 million children under the age of five do not have a birth certificate or identity document. Improving registration practices will help to reduce unreported births, reporting errors and incomplete data, and ensure that timely, reliable and accurate information is available. Improved process designs will establish clearer pathways from notification of an event to registration of the event. Reduced delays between notification and official registration will reduce the under-registration of births and deaths, and enable the timely production of a continuous stream of up-to-date and complete vital statistics.

The right to birth registration, a name, an identity, and legal existence are the anchor rights for social integration and access to exercise civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. These can include the ability of people to access health services, education and to vote in elections. All of the activities as part of this intervention are aimed at building local capacity to ensure countries are able to continuously monitor and improve their registration practices.

Figure 1: CRVS workflow for vital events (VE)



## For more information contact:

[CRVS-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:CRVS-info@unimelb.edu.au)

[crvsgateway.info](http://crvsgateway.info)

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