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PTB TWG-ICS- Session 3: Specific domains of respectful newborn care: The role of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems

Kristen Wenz
Child Protection Specialist (Birth Registration)
UNICEF, HQ, New York
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems

Civil registration is defined as the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events, (such as births, deaths (with CoD), marriages, adoptions and divorces) as provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements in each country.

CRVS systems are the preferred source of demographic data as fully functional and universal systems are government systems which can capture sub-national data in real time and provide data that is required for monitoring indicators such as reducing maternal and newborn mortality rates.

CRVS systems provide more timely, and reliable data for monitoring demographic based indicators than methods such as censuses, population estimates and sample/household surveys. CRVS systems can and are linked across other sectors such as health, education and social policy- eliminating the need to create parallel systems or ID’s which conserves resources.
More than one third (67 of the 230) of the indicators outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals require data generated by CRVS systems to measure progress.

Challenges with CRVS Systems

- Despite the importance of CRVS systems—over 110 low and middle income countries lack adequate or universal CRVS systems.

- Both supply and demand barriers have hindered strengthening civil registration systems, resulting in the creation of parallel systems which further divert resources towards functional CRVS systems.

- Major challenges for reaching newborns include CRVS system not in integrated into health facilities, inadequate policies, the short time window etc.

- The Global CRVS Scaling Up Investment Plan’s strategy to achieve universal civil registration (and certification) by 2030 demonstrates there is almost a 2 billion USD financing gap to achieve this goal.
To make children count… we must first **count children** yet….

There are an estimated **625 million** unregistered births globally for children between 0-14 years of age*

*World Bank Group ID4D, Global dataset, 2015
Example of the Birth Registration Process


Declaration of birth by informant

Notification of birth
(by hospital, midwife, village chief)

Registration of birth by civil registrar

Issuance of birth certificate by civil registrar

Notification (additional in some countries)
Supplementary evidentiary documentation (e.g., hospital attestation of birth) given to informant to present to registrar or to civil registrar directly.
What it will take to deliver?

The Global CRVS Investment plan has three key components:

1. **National CRVS strengthening:** Removing the supply and demand barriers to birth registration, increasing funding, improving reporting of deaths with certified CoD, strengthening CRVS infrastructure and ICT systems, ensuring adequate policies are in place and improving the response to reaching hard to reach populations.

2. **International support for CRVS:** This will focus on strengthening international standards for CRVS (including data privacy and digitization), coordination among partners and governments including innovative multi-sector funding mechanisms to enable cross-sector collaboration.

3. **Sharing knowledge and building the evidence base:** Analysis of both supply and demand barriers and programs of implementation research, rigorous impact evaluation, and share lessons on what works in different situations.
The Global Strategy 2.0

Recommendations from the Indicator and Monitoring Framework to Invest in Strengthening Birth and Death Registration Systems:

• The focus on birth and death registration, with reliable cause of death
• Implementation of the Global Strategy monitoring framework should support the strengthening of CRVS systems.
• The Global Financing Facility is an excellent opportunity to strengthen birth and death registration, including cause of death for women, children, and adolescents.
• Global efforts should be fully aligned with regional and country strategies.

The Global Strategy has 60 key indicators including:

• The proportion of children whose births have been registered with a civil authority by age; and
• Proportion of countries that have achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration.
Monitoring of data on birth registration rates for *only children under five is no longer considered useful.* Indicators on birth registration are now *required for newborn children as well as adolescents.*

Progress with death registration has been much slower globally, up to 80 percent of deaths occur outside of health facilities. Two-thirds of all deaths globally are not counted in CRVS systems.
WHO Minimum set of Perinatal Indicators

- Mothers age
- Place of delivery
- Mode of delivery
- Birth weight
- Gestational age
- Birth outcome
- Sex of infant?

Linkage with CRVS is critical
SDG target 3.2 by 2030, to “end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age.”

Children whose births and deaths are not registered are not included in the CRVS system, leading to under-estimations of newborn and child mortality.

ENAP calls for governments and partners to invest in improving birth and death registration systems and improved registration of newborns and stillbirths.

*Every Newborn: An Action Plan to End Preventable Deaths (2014).*
Challenges and strategies for newborn registration

Should a newborn die or be stillborn before registration, there is a risk that neither the birth nor the death will be registered, resulting in underestimation of newborn and infant mortality.

Ensure policies are in place to:
- Integrate registration facilities into health facilities;
- Give mandate to various health workers (midwives) or medical social workers to register births/deaths;
- Ensure adequate data security standards are upheld;
- Are culturally sensitive (ie. allow exceptions for naming practices)
- Do not discriminate against women (ie. requiring the father to be present/named ), ethnic or regions minorities, or non-nationals (ie. Stateless, migrant, or refugees)

Common Barriers to overcome:
- Policy barriers
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Lack of human resource capacity
- Acquisition of the prerequisite documents, such as parents’ marriage or birth certificates
- Limited demand for registration and certification
- Systems and standards are which are interoperable with other gov. data systems
- Limited or fragmented investments
- Lack of coordination
- Errors on medically certified CoD

CRVS e-learning course modules:

• Module 1. Importance of CRVS Systems
• Module 2. Overview of CRVS Systems
• Module 3. Institutional Arrangements of CRVS Systems
• Module 4. Legal Frameworks of CRVS Systems
• Module 5. Birth Registration and Adoption
• Module 6. Death Registration
• Module 7. Marriage and Divorce Registration
• Module 8. Analysis and Use of Vital Statistics
• Module 9. Presentation and Dissemination of Vital Statistics
• Module 10. CRVS Digitization
• Module 11. CRVS Assessment and Strategic Planning
• Module 12. Identity Management Systems
• Module 13. Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Stateless Persons and CRVS Systems
Thank You
The Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Group came together to forge stronger alliances among key stakeholders in the area of CRVS to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the support provided to countries.

Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) emerged from the necessity of bringing together various CRVS initiatives in Africa into a common and consolidated policy and advocacy framework. This work will provide guidance on the institutional and operational linkages, workflows and results management mechanisms, encompassing the interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral interfaces of CRVS systems.

The Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024) Regional Action Framework which facilitates collaborative action at local, provincial, national and international levels by enabling multiple stakeholders to align and prioritize their efforts, as well as to monitor progress towards achieving shared results.

The Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PV-SAP), which was developed to support part of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2020. The Brisbane Accord Group is supporting the implementation of the PV-SAP. The Pacific Civil Registrars Network (PCRN) provide Civil Registrars with an opportunity to share information, lessons learned and good practices. This fosters coordination and integration of Civil Registrars' input and ideas into the implementation.

The Eastern Mediterranean Regional Strategy for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems (2014-2019). Developed to guide and support countries with improving their civil registration and vital statistics inline with the Accountability Framework.

Pan-American Health Organization (PHAO) Regional Plan of Action for Strengthening Vital and Health Statistics: Supports technical cooperation to the countries to improve the quality and coverage of vital and health statistics; promote horizontal cooperation; establish a mechanism for collaboration between areas of the Organization; and coordinate activities with other international agencies and actors working to strengthen the health information systems of the countries of the Region.