

Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS)

Translating political commitments into action

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INDEPTH SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 2015

11-13 November 2015

Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Civil Registration

Continuous, permanent, compulsory, universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events in accordance with the legal requirements in each country

Priority vital events for Africa as decided by the Ministers

- Live Birth, Death, Marriages and Divorce
- Causes of Death also to be recorded with death event

WHO Counts Series 2007

- Scandal of invisibility – Many Africans are born and die without leaving a trace in any legal record and official statistic
- The single most critical failure of development over the past thirty years

CRVS and Good Governance



APAI-CRVS – a short history

2009 - First seeds sown in Dar-Es-Salam

2010 - First conference of ministers (COM) responsible for CR in Addis Ababa

2011 - First of the five ASSD focusing on CRVS

2011 - Regional CRVS Core Group established

2012 - Heads of State approve COM as a permanent forum under AUC

2012 - Second COM in Durban

2013 - Tools for assessment and planning developed and a pool of African CRVS experts developed

2014- The first comprehensive assessment begins in Botswana

2015 - Third COM

APAI-CRVS – guiding principles

- ✓ Promoting country ownership and leadership;
- ✓ Promoting coordination between CR Offices, National Statistics Offices, Health Ministry and other stakeholders at country levels;
- ✓ Promoting phased-based, holistic, systemic and integrated approach;
- ✓ Establishing strong partnerships and coordination at regional and country levels;
- ✓ Building capacities of national CRVS institutions;
- ✓ Promoting innovations and knowledge sharing

APAI-CRVS – implementation framework

UNECA (Secretariat)

Regional CRVS Core Group*

Development
of public good
documents
and training

In-country
Technical
Assistance

Knowledge
generation
&
sharing

Supporting
Regional
forums

Monitoring
and
Evaluation

Countries

* AUC, AFDB, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNHCR, Statistics South Africa, INDEPTH, PARIS 21

APAI-CRVS – country status on assessments

Already conducted an assessment

Kenya, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Zambia, Liberia, Egypt
Ethiopia, Tanzania, Namibia, Burundi, South Africa, Zambia, Nigeria
Swaziland, Ghana, Uganda, Angola, Lesetho, Tunisia (20)

Preparing/ in the process of assessment

Senegal, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire
Zimbabwe, Gabon, Rwanda, Benin (10)

APAI-CRVS – major successes

- ✓ Obtained and sustained political support
- ✓ Successfully promoted country ownership and leadership
- ✓ Successfully promoted an systemic and holistic approach
- ✓ Significantly improved in-country and regional coordination
- ✓ Developed African pool of experts, and tools and guidance
- ✓ Provided technical support to countries in assessment /planning
- ✓ Trained a large number of CRVS functionaries (at least 500)
- ✓ Innovative approaches adopted for regional coordination
- ✓ Successfully organized 3 ministerial conferences and 4 ASSDs
- ✓ Created a global momentum on CRVS

APAI-CRVS – key challenges

- A number of countries have not done assessments and/or plans
- No mechanism yet in place to review the quality of assessments and plans
- The knowledge sharing and monitoring portal not yet functional
- Sustainable capacity development strategy not yet developed
- Monitoring system not operational
- Not enough technical resources available at the regional level on various technical fields (Causes of death, ICT, Law, Vital Statistics)
- Donor coordination
- Secretariat is thinly resourced

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some common challenges in countries

- Lack of demand for registration
- High cost of registration
- Distance to registration centres
- Colonial law with only incremental changes
- Lack of linkages between systems (e.g. - with health, national id)
- Inappropriate organizational arrangement
- Incorrect and inefficient business processes

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some common challenges in countries

- Inappropriate use of technology
- Poor service delivery
- Insufficient training of staff
- No performance monitoring or supervision
- Vital statistics not compiled
- Causes of death system does not exist or inadequate
- Poor archiving system

Strategy on Mortality Statistics

Ministerial Resolution in 3rd COM

- **African Ministers February 2015:**

'...Recognizing that the Ebola epidemic has shown that the need for death registration and real time cause-of-death information is no longer optional but critical;

....Call upon WHO, in collaboration with Pan African Organizations and other partners, to intensify their efforts in developing real time death registration and causes of death information systems at country level'

The APAI-CRVS has developed a Africa Mortality Statistics Strategy

Country Strategies for improvement of Mortality Statistics

Hospital deaths with causes of death; notified to CRVS system coded for national and national statistical use

Community deaths recorded with causes of death on a nationally representative basis – linking with CR

Household Surveys and Census

Technical Support from INDEPTH



Regional Strategies for Improvement of Mortality Statistics



APAI-CRVS – a few key messages

- There are no perfect systems - there is always scope for improvement
- Review the CR and related laws
- Identify low hanging fruits – small changes may help quick wins
- Make CR services accessible – move information not people, may not need creation of separate structures
- Make CRVS inter-operable
- Introduce appropriate technology – but get the business process right

APAI-CRVS

The three most important ways of establishing an efficient and sustainable CRVS system are

Coordination

Coordination

Coordination

Thanks