The United Nations Legal Identity Agenda
Fulfil the promise to Leave No One Behind

UNLIA Monthly Webinar Series No.1 (19 APR 2023)
What is UN Legal Identity Agenda?
Importance of Linking Civil Registration System and National ID System

SDG 16.9 : Legal Identity For All, Including Birth Registration by 2030

UN Legal Identity Agenda

United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

Objectives

- Promote a coherent approach to legal identity across the UN system & with the World Bank Group

- Build on existing global, regional & country efforts

- One UN Voice for joint strategic advocacy & communications

- Enable joint UN support to countries for implementation

Benchmark Goal: *Close the global identity gap by 2030.*

UN Legal Identity Task Force

Structure *(14 UN Agencies and 2 Regional Economic Commissions)*:

> **Co-Chairs:** UNICEF, UNDP, DESA

> **Members**:
> - UN Agencies: DESA, DCO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, WFP & WHO.
> - Regional Economic Commissions: UNECA and UNESCAP
> - UN Global Pulse

- Works through an AWP
- Task Force meets every two months
- UN LIA Secretariat meets every week

UN Legal Identity Task Force

- Oversees the implementation of the UN LIA at the regional and national level (engages with countries through Regional Commissions)

- Develops and maintains normative work related to UN LIA (with DESA leading as focal point).

- Engages in fund raising, advocacy and communication.

- Briefs DSG and other senior UN principals as required on latest developments on the implementation.

- Supports UNCTs to implement UNLIA

Defining legal identity

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS (Goal 16)

Legal identity is the basic characteristics of an individual's identity

- Conferred through registration by an authorized civil registration authority

- In absence of birth registration:

  - May be conferred by a legally-recognized identification authority

  - Linked to the civil registration system for holistic approach from birth to death

UN Legal Identity Agenda Approach
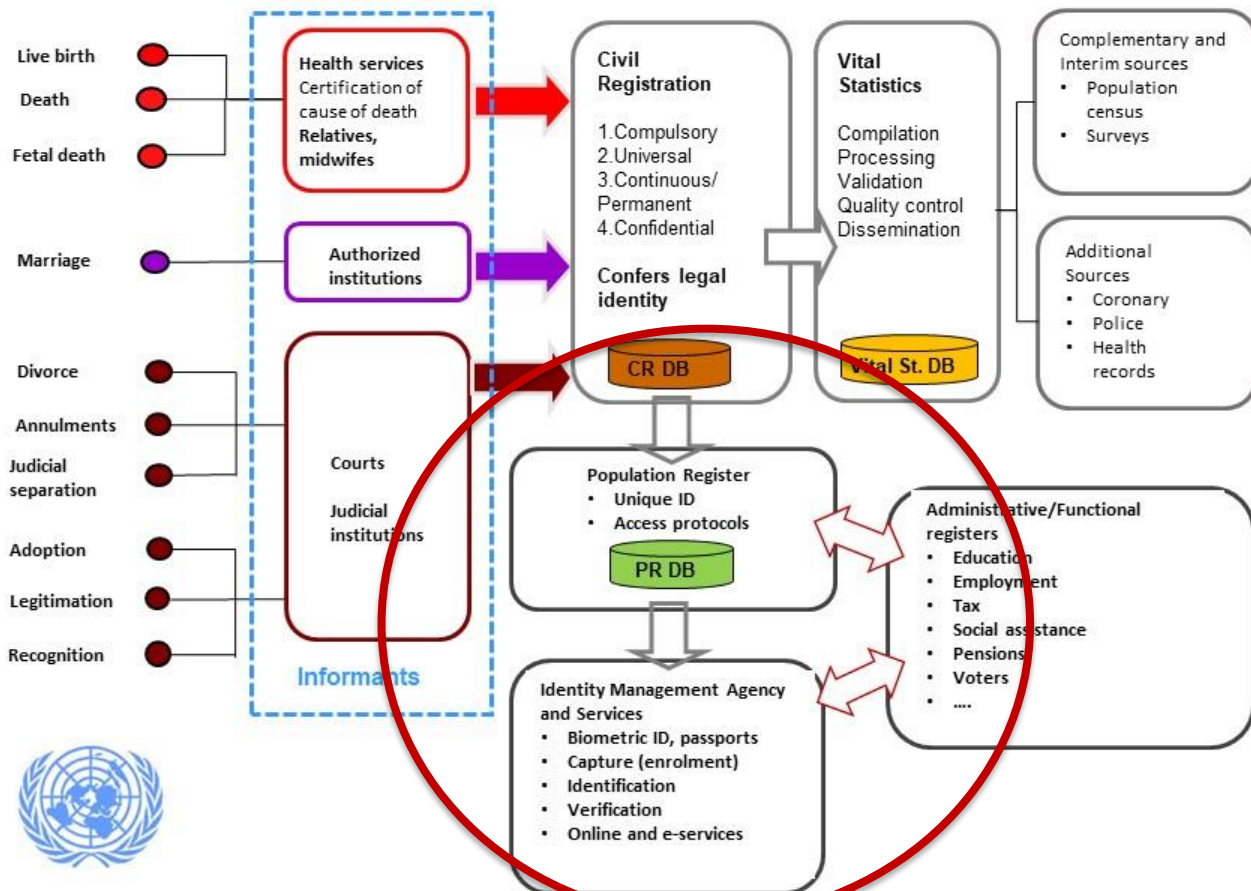
A holistic approach

- to civil registration of all vital events,

- production of vital statistics,

- population registers and identity management apparatus from birth to death

- **full interoperability** in a simultaneous manner

- in line with international standards and recommendations and in compliance with human rights of all people concerned, including the right to privacy

Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management System

Live birth

Death

Fetal death

Marriage

Divorce

Annulments

Judicial separation

Adoption

Legitimation

Recognition

Informants

Health services
Certification of cause of death
Relatives, midwifes

Authorized institutions

Courts

Judicial institutions

Civil Registration

1. Compulsory
2. Universal
3. Continuous/ Permanent
4. Confidential

Confers legal identity

CR DB

Vital Statistics

Compilation
Processing
Validation
Quality control
Dissemination

Vital St. DB

Complementary and Interim sources
- Population census
- Surveys

Additional Sources
- Coronary
- Police
- Health records

Population Register
- Unique ID
- Access protocols

PR DB

Identity Management Agency and Services
- Biometric ID, passports
- Capture (enrolment)
- Identification
- Verification
- Online and e-services

Administrative/Functional registers
- Education
- Employment
- Tax
- Social assistance
- Pensions
- Voters
- ....

Informants

Vital Statistics

Civil Registration

Pop.Register ID Mgmt.

Simplified flow

This model represents a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management recommended by the United Nations, adapted from the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3.*; it can be adjusted to national circumstances and governing structures as necessary.

Implementation of the UN LIA

- October 2019: Official launch of UN LIA at the Fifth Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration (COM5) in Lusaka, Zambia.

1. Country Work

✓ Country rapid assessments conducted for 13 pilot countries in Africa – Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zambia

2. International Normative Framework and Policy

3. Communication/Advocacy and Partnership

- Partnership with other initiatives in Africa and Asia and the Pacific
  - APAI-CRVS and Getting everyone in the picture
  - AU-UNICEF recently launched #NoName Campaign
  - ID4Africa

Progress so far

Country-level acceleration of UN LIA

- 13 pilot countries, with seed funding provided to 8 countries so far.

- Examples of multi-year funding for the above countries include:
  - UNICEF's multi-year, multi-country programme on "Strengthening Birth Registration Systems to Protect Every Child from Birth" (Norway)
  - UNDP's global programme on "Legal Identity for All" (Japan, Switzerland, Sweden)

Development of critical documents

- Key documents to guide Governments/UNCTs in the implementation.

- Knowledge-sharing through data and policy compilation, and other critical areas of research.

- Methodology development and studies on areas, e.g., innovation, data privacy, biometrics.

Exercise in continuation

- Costed strategic plan; CRVSID case studies; CRVS and Social Protection; Cost of inaction

What we want to do

- Implementation and operationalization of the UN LIA at country level

  - Africa
  - Asia-Pacific
  - Latin America and the Caribbean

- Aligning systems in countries with well-functioning CRVS and ID systems, with UN LIA approach.

- **Ultimate goal:** To have universal registration of vital events, vital statistics, and legal identity from birth to death, in all countries.

Challenges

- Not able to operate to the full scale.

- Restrictions on ability to produce critical normative and implementation pieces.

- Limitations of funding, impacting engagement with other partners.

3 areas that merit more attention

- Humanitarian-development nexus *(inclusion)*
- More emphasis on Human-rights based Approach
  - ✓ Involvement of civil society *(inclusion)*
  - ✓ Reinforcing family relations in legal identity
- Digitalization of Legal Identity Eco-system
  - ✓ Principles on the responsible usage of biometrics
  - ✓ Data protection and privacy
  - ✓ Opportunities and Challenges of Open-Source Solution

Way Forward

- Accelerate the progress (still 850 million people, including 237 million children under 5 lack legal identity)
- Health - Civil Registration – National ID pathway is critical
- Improve inclusivity – leaving no one behind
- UNCT coordination is the key for 'one UN' approach
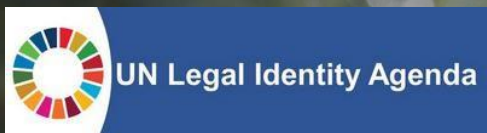
Key Milestones
of UN LIA in Mozambique

The Inter-institutional Working Group for Improving Information on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (GITEV)

2013

2020

President Nyusi launched a program "Movimento Identidade para todos"

UN Taskforce group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (UNTT)

2020

chaired by UNICEF and UNDP with the participation of WHO, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNDP and the WB Group

2022

UN LIA Implementation Plan

finalized and endorsed at the UNCT level

UNLIA is now a flagship of the UNSCDF

2023

strategic priority on Peace, Governance and Human Rights.

Overview of the situation/country context

Indicator	Current
Birth Registration Coverage under the age of 5 years old	49% (INE, Mozambique Population and Housing Census, 2017)
Birth Certification Coverage under the age of 1 year	33 per cent of boys and 32 per cent of girls aged below one have their births registered – (Census 2017)
Death Registration Coverage	12.1% (UN, 2020) that referenced a report DNRN, 2014
National ID Coverage	38% (NID, 2020)
Health Facility (Institutional) Delivery	70% (2015 DHS)
Interoperable Sites	143 Hospital based CRVS Postos were operational as of 1st Quarter of 2022 against a national total of 260 eligible health facilities (as at 16/04/2023)
Total number of birth registrations registered Jan 2018-Dec 2022	2, 316, 970 (1,160,825 male 1,156,145.00 female)
Total voter registered	13,162,321 (47% Male and 53% Female) for the previous electoral cycle

UN-LIA Implementation Plan in Mozambique
Strategic Directions

Bridge the resource gaps	Thought leadership & stakeholder coordination	Complementarity Collaboration with the stakeholders	Intra UN Coordination	Immediate engagement

- One Concept, One UN Program for LIA in Mozambique;

- Positions the UN as a holistic, integrated solution for LIA that will address the resource and programmatic gaps;

- Build on the UN's competitive advantage, optimize the specialization of the relevant UN agencies;

- Assign each Result Area to a lead UN agency for the execution phase;

- Secure resources to enable the foundational and execution phases of the IP to be effective;

- Maintains a high-level UN profile in the LIA sub ecosystems;

- Development partners, particularly the bilateral agencies, will recognize the landscape analysis and its gaps, as well as the critical importance for the engagement of the UN, in realizing the President's Initiative for All and SDG 16.9;

- The UNCT Mozambique will set the tone for the UN engagement with the GoM, WB and bilateral agencies.

UN-LIA Implementation Plan in Mozambique
UN as One Strategy

UN-LIA Implementation Plan in Mozambique
UNLIA Experience

Agency	Experience / Activity in Mozambique	
unicef	• Civil Registration (births); • Strengthening e-CRVS; • Civil Identification (IDs) since 2003.	
PNUD	• Promoting LIA agenda; • Voter registration; • Africa's lusophone countries programme.	• Governance; • Decentralization;
UNHCR ACNUR Agência da ONU para Refugiados	• Cabo Delgado, Nampula; • Civil documentation (ID Mobile clinics) w/ District Administrations, Catholic University	• MMAS; • Pro bono lawyers; • UN volunteers
UNFPA	• Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) agenda; • Child marriage.	• Statistics (census); • CRVS vital statistics:
OIM ONU MIGRAÇÃO	• International border management (IBM); • CCCM • Data management.	• MHPSS; • Shelter; • Registration; • Mental Health
Organização Mundial da Saúde	• CRVS – Death registration	

Way Forward for UN LIA in Mozambique

▶ **Key issues for consideration:**

- Mozambique made strides to ensure universal coverage of birth and death registration – however there is an urgent need to integrate civil registration, vital statistics and identity management system at national level considering the complex IDP crisis in the north.

- LIA is a priority at the highest level (ex. presidential initiative on ensuring identity for all)

- UNLIA is now a flagship in the UNSDCF SP-4 (strategic priority on Peace/Governance and Human Rights) – this will require robust coordination among all UN agencies to move the agenda forward and implement the plan.

▶ **Next steps & opportunities:**

- Operationalize the UNLIA IP under the leadership of the UNCT and SP4 leads, all agencies, including the WB.

- Chart out a road map for the integration between CRVS and ID management

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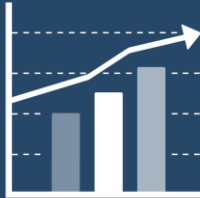
TARGET 16·9
PROVIDE UNIVERSAL
LEGAL IDENTITY

Country Case: Honduras

19th April 2023

Background

- The 2017 national elections resulted in a **political crisis** never seen before in Honduras. One of the main issues highlighted was the **flawed electoral census**. This situation brought to light the **need to update the data of the civil registry**, which had not been done for more than 30 years.

- The **data of the civil registry** is **created by the National Registration Bureau** (RNP by its Spanish acronym). This government institution shares the data of the civil registry to the National Electoral Council (CNE by its Spanish acronym) which in turn, prepares the electoral census.

Goals
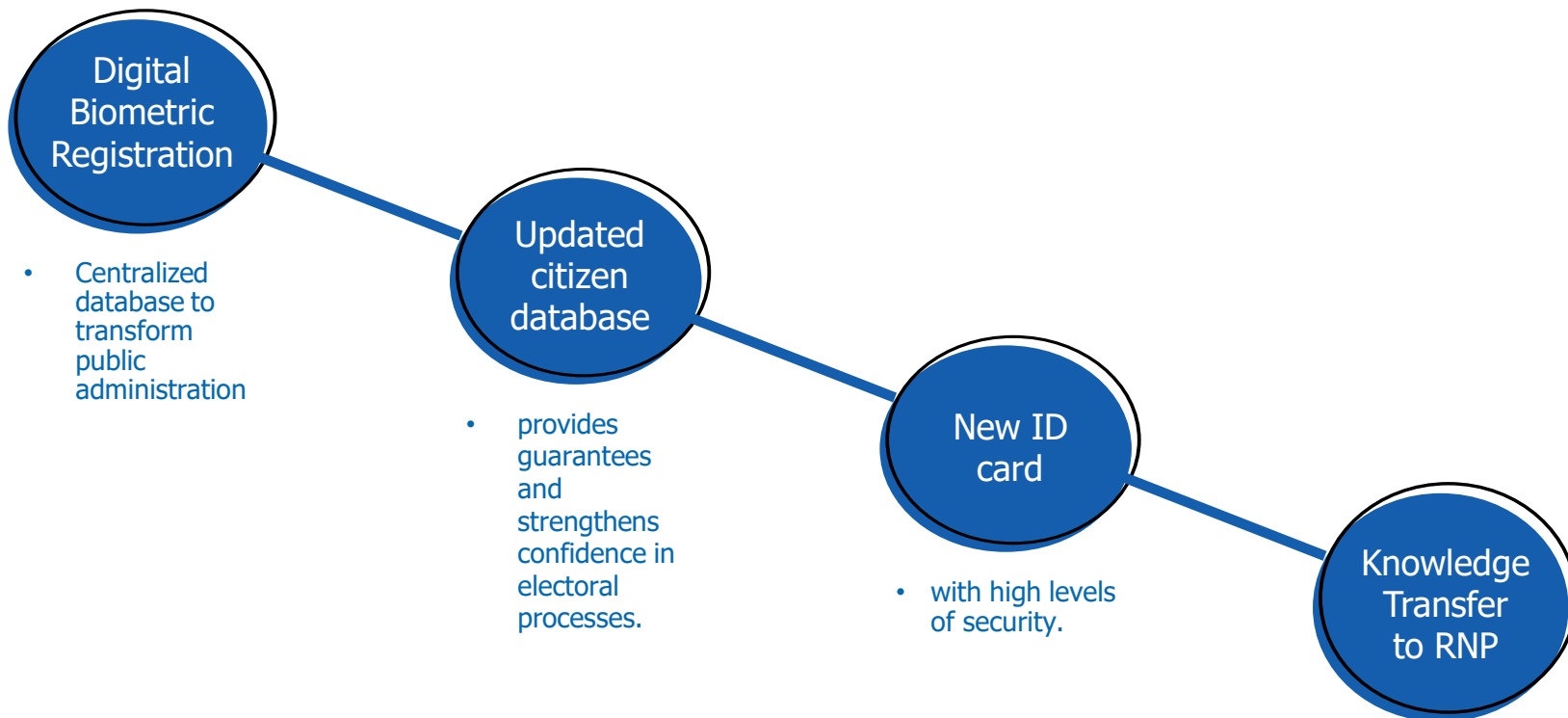
Digital Biometric Registration
- Centralized database to transform public administration

Updated citizen database
- provides guarantees and strengthens confidence in electoral processes.

New ID card
- with high levels of security.

Knowledge Transfer to RNP

Achievements

The project successfully carried out the **mass enrollment** of more than **5.5 million citizens:** 2.6 million men and 2.9 million women.

The national data on the composition of **ethnic groups** has been generated for the first time in the country's history thanks to a massive logistical effort to reach each of the 18 departments of Honduras.

Ethnicity groups disintegration

GARÍFUNA	**31,621**
LENCA	413,370
MAYA-CHORTIS	**8,624**
MESTIZO	4,942,062
MISQUITO	**59,529**
NAGOA	124
NEGRO INGLES	**9,582**
PECH	2,393
TAWAHKAS	**812**
TOLUPANES	11,630
OTROS	**48,252**

Inclusion of **transsexual people** through the authorization to change name, complying with the sentence issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) against the State of Honduras for the death of transsexual Vicky Hernández in 2009.

Contributions to the SDGs

Provide legal access and birth registration.

Creation of digital banks, enabling the exchange of information between different public and private institutions in the country.

Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

Include LGBTQI+ community.

Citizen Authentication

- Social Benefits
- Electronic Wallets
- Elections

Biometric Signature

- Health Sector
- Education Sector
- Notaries
- Public Employees

Interoperability

- Public Institutions
- Banking
- Regulated Institutions