



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
for CRVS Systems



Side Event - Strengthened Marriage Registration as a Tool for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

At the 9th United Nations Global Forum on Gender Statistics

31 August 2023 7:00am-8:30am / Boardroom 123

1. Objectives

The objectives of this session are to provide a brief overview of the global landscape on marriage and divorce registration and to review recent experiences, innovations and lessons in marriage registration system strengthening from Uganda, Indonesia and Guatemala. Marriage and divorce shape the lives of individuals, families and society at-large and play a particularly significant role in the ability of women and girls to claim their fundamental rights and access relevant services. Yet, despite the recognition of official marriage registration and divorce registration within international human rights conventions for more than 58 years, in practice they are often neglected. This side event will begin with an overview of the state of marriage and divorce registration in terms of international standards, common practices, available data and published statistics. Then we will learn about recent challenges and emerging innovations from three countries spanning Asia, Africa, and Latin America. From Uganda, we will hear about the multi-pronged efforts by the Ugandan Registration Services Bureau spanning awareness raising, procedural improvements, institutional capacity development and inter-agency cooperation. Then insights from a landmark 7-year study into the legal identity system will be presented - with a focus on how marriage and divorce registration have been evaluated in Indonesia and findings that highlight the importance of a life-course approach to legal identity system strengthening. The third country example will be from Guatemala - with a focus on emerging challenges at the intersection of ending child marriage and the strengthening of birth and marriage registration. These presentations will then be followed by an interactive Q+A and discussion session with the audience. The side event will conclude with closing remarks and an update on ongoing efforts to strengthen marriage and divorce registration, as part of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda.

2. Moderator and Interventions

Moderator: Ms. Yandiswa Mpetsheni, Statistics South Africa - Deputy Director-General: South African National Statistics System

Opening remarks: Ms. Lydia Zigomo, Regional Director, Eastern Southern Africa Office, UNFPA (TBC)

Presenters:

1. Marriage, Divorce Registration, and Vital Statistics: Where are we? And where to from here?
Dr. Romesh Silva, Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA
2. Strengthening marriage and divorce registration: Recent Observations, Innovations and Lessons learned from Uganda
Charles Nsimbi, Uganda Registration Services Bureau, Uganda
3. Citizens seen, registered and served: Insights from a 7-year study on CRVS and legal identity across Indonesia
Widi Sari, Senior Researcher, PUSKAPA, Indonesia
4. Advancing dual policy objectives of ending child marriage and strengthening birth and marriage registration in Guatemala
Ana Leticia Aguilar, Women's Presidential Secretary, Guatemala
5. Marriage and divorce statistics in South Africa: Insights, Innovations and Lessons Learned
Dr. Mosidi Nhlapo, Statistics South Africa

Discussant: Dr. Priscilla Idelle, Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA

3. Contacts

For further information, kindly contact the following:

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4. Registration

Please note that the venue only allows a limited number of participants. To secure a space in this event please RSVP via coe-crvs@unfpa.org

Note: Breakfast will be served for those attending the side event