A legal identity for all, to achieve equality between women and men- Interregional dialogue

Determinants of non-registration of marriages in Benin

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Presentation plan

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IV – Some CRVS results from MICS 2021 Survey

V – Policy orientation of the CRVS system

VI – Challenges & perspectives and recommendations
CRVS situation in Benin

- **Personal and Family Code**: Compulsory declaration of CRVS events in Benin, June 14, 2004
- **Organization of the national form on the CRVS System Reforms**: July 17-19, 2012
- **Creation of the ANIP RNPP RAVIP**: June 19, 2017
- **New mechanisms of the CRVS events recording Management & Reconstitution of the CRVS records (DEMATEC) Biometric National ID card**: January 06, 2021

- **A qualitative study on the déterminants of the under-registration of births, marriage and deaths carried out**
- **Introduction of marriage registration questions in the MICS 2021 questionnaires**
- **Production of a report on 2018 and 2019 CRVS statistics covering 35% of Benin’s communes**
- **Production of 2020 and 2021 reports CRVS statistics (the 2022 report is in progress) each covering of Benin’s 77 communes**

- **Law N° 2002–07**
- **National Forum**
- **Law N° 2017–08**
- **Law N° 2020-34**
Interest/motivation of the study

35% Communes reporting statistics regularly in 2013

65% Possession of birth certificate in Benin in 2013 (4PHC)

- **BORGOU Pèrèrè**: 39%
- **BORGOU Parakou**: 88%
- **ZOU ZakPota**: 57%
- **ATLANTIQUE SoAva**: 50%

A total of 473,903 births registered in 2021 (with a sex ratio of 103%)

With a projected population of 12,563,945 in 2021; the Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 inhabitants is 38 compared with 39 in 2020

In 2021, 3,980 marriages were registered (compared with 3,381 marriages in 2020)

Low levels of marriage registration

The 77 communes recorded 15,649 deaths; according to the same projections, deaths are estimated at 79,793 pour l’année 2021

To this end, the law prohibiting home burials could be in favour of their declaration
Some results on the theme

Social practices and norms that explain the under-registrations of various CRVS events

For births
- Customary and religious ceremonies and other activities (seasonal work, etc.);
- Parental responsibility for birth registration;
  - Geographical accessibility of registration services;
  - Lack of logistical resources in CRVS officers.

For deaths
- A lack of interest in registering the deceased;

For marriages
- Polygamy as an obstacle to the registration of marriages;
- The preeminence of the customary and religious marriages over marriages registered with the Civil registry officer;
- Low awareness of the importance of registering marriages with the civil registry officer.

In Benin, there are 3 types of marriages (traditional, religious and civil). Civil marriage is the only one recognised by the law.
Some CRVS results from MICS Survey

**MICS Survey Methodology**

- MICS Survey in Benin implemented in 2021 by INStaD in the country’s 12 départements;
- 793 EA each 22HH=17 446HH
- 6 questionnaires (Household, individuel women and men, Children aged 5-17, Children under 5 years and water quality test)

**What type of marriage are you in?**

- A. Custom/traditional marriage
- B. Civil marriage
- C. Religious marriage
- Y. None
- Z. NSP

**Individuels Questionnaires:**

- MA1A
- MMA6A

**UNFPA Technical Assistance**

Given that Benin didn’t have data on the completeness of marriage registration, INStaD integrated questions on marriage registration & on the girls and women empowerment into the 2 MICS questionnaires (individual Women and Men) at the request of UNFPA.

**The report shows that 67% of women aged 15-49 said they were married or in union:**

- Traditional: 48%
- Religious: 26%
- Civil: 2%

**MICS results on CRVS**

3.4 Percentage of marriages registered with Civil Registry Officer
Policy orientation of the CRVS system

The Beninese government has made the personal identification sector a priority, paving the way for the modernization of CRVS in the line with the UN Principles and Recommendations, Institutional development of the CRVS system and operationalisation of the results of studies, surveys, etc... are priorities.

Benin Government Action Programme – PAG2 (2021-2026)

“It is therefore imperative to pursue the bold policy of reforming the State with a view to increasing its capacity to meet the vital and ongoing needs of the population”.

Extract from the report on the state of implementation of the PAG1
Recommandations & Perspectives

Immediate

- Vulgarisation of the results of the social norms study at the decentralised level
- Extending the study to other regions of Benin
- Developing & implementing a communication strategy for the registration of marriages and deaths
- Set up a national consultation framework involving all CRVS stakeholders

Long term

- Pursue the interoperability of the RNPP with other government structures (including INStaD for the réguler production of Vital Statistics)
- Equipping the 77 UCIPs with equipment for exhaustive registration of the CRVS events at the decentralised level
- Continue to include the Beninese living abroad in the RNPP in order to set up Consular Registers.

Conclusion

Vital statistics derived from civil registration, are the important source of data on gender equality and women’s empowerment.
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