COMPREHENSIVE CRVSID SYSTEMS FOR GENDER STATISTICS: LESSONS FROM NAMIBIA

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• Namibia has a colonial history – *apartheid* - discriminatory laws were in place, including discrimination against women.

• **Intentional gradual remediation** of discriminatory laws
  
  • Constitution, 1990 [Art. 23]
  
  • Married Persons Equality Act, 1996

• **CR&ID laws**
  
  • Hybrid (pre- & post-independence) legislation in statute book (e.g. Aliens Act of 1932 – Identification Act of 1996)
  
  • All births are to be registered; even pre-independence
  
  • Laws (on registration of vital events) are non-discriminatory

• In Sept. 2021 Cabinet adopted 16 September as identity day in Namibia  

**NO QUICK FIXES – STEADY & GRADUAL PROCESS WITH INTENTIONAL REMEDIATION**
2. THE FOUNDATION: LEGAL IDENTITY FOR ALL AND GENDER STATISTICS

CONSTITUTION
Inclusive, non-discriminatory (on basis of sex)

POLICY

LEGISLATION

Statutes to be in line with Constitution

Art 4: eligibility for citizenship ("persons" - gender neutral),
Art 10: equality and freedom from discrimination (sex incl.)
Art 15: children’s right from birth to a name and to acquire a nationality (gender neutral)
Art 23: apartheid and affirmative action (women are previously disadvantaged)
Art 66: customary and common law valid to the extent they are not in conflict with Constitution

FOUNDATION FOR LEGAL IDENTITY AND GENDER INCLUSION TO BE FIRM
3. INCLUSIVE SYSTEMS BY DESIGN – BIRTH TO DEATH

- Constitution – policy – law – regulations (CR&ID forms) – CRID system design based on forms.
- Namibia: one integrated system used for CR and ID Management
- Birth to death: do not leave marriage and divorce behind!
  - Electronic birth and death notification system ✔
  - Use of birth and death certificates to access benefits ✔
  - Marriage and divorce ✗ (requires improvement - systems are not integrated resulting in under-registration - is no law and codified system for the registration of customary marriages)
- Harmonise law and practice
- Study access barriers to civil registration
- Enforce correct system use to ensure comprehensive statistics! Every system field serves, or must serve, a purpose.
- Stakeholder collaboration for system design and improvement processes

DESIGN INCLUSIVE SYSTEMS (TO PURPOSIVELY AND WIDELY SHARE DATA)
4. USE OF “OUTPUT” FROM THE CRID SYSTEMS

VS Reports & System Administrative Reports are important.

2015: Nam – 1st Vital Statistics Report
2nd Vital Statistics Report being drafted

- Identify data quality issues and resolve them.
- Stakeholder engagement on data demand and use
  - Sensitize relevant stakeholders on value of CRVSID system
  - Consult stakeholders
- Identify needs & meet them, within the confines of the law

IDENTIFY WHAT YOU VALUE THEN MEASURE IT
IN SUMMARY…

- Build from your specific historical context - identify and remedy injustices
- Lay a firm foundation (constitutionally, by policy and statutorily)
- Design inclusive systems that enable data sharing
- Measure what you value: gender statistics (SDGs)

THROUGHOUT… be mindful of key links: marriage and death!