

IMPACT OF COVID- 19 ON CIVIL REGISTRATION AND STATISTICS

Presenting Country: Saint Lucia

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BACKGROUND AND PRESENTATION CONTEXT

- Saint Lucia recorded her first SARS-CoV-2 (“**Covid-19**”) case on March 13, 2020.
- The Prime Minister imposed shut down of nonessential services from March 23, 2020 to April 1, 2020 and again from April 1, 2020 to April 7, 2020.
- Several curfews were imposed which limited operations of businesses and government services.



FRAMEWORK FOR REGISTERING VITAL EVENTS

- Saint Lucia has districts registrars who manually record events such as births and deaths in registers.
- Religious Institutions and Civil Marriage Officers who carry out marriages.
- Religious Institutions who carry out registration of deaths, burials and baptisms in registers.
- Events are then transmitted to the Registry of Civil Status in accordance with legislative provisions.
- Central Statistics Office is not an arm under the Registry of Civil Status.

IMPACT OF COVID-19, THE DUAL PERSPECTIVE

- The Registry of Civil Status currently utilizes a manual registration process for vital events. This is supported by a partially automated system. Challenges associated with this are as follows:
 1. Closure during state imposed lockdowns.
 2. Reduced attendance to register vital events in a timely manner.

- The Central Statistics Office has seen challenges with the pandemic including:
 1. Delays in the timely collection and processing of data due to restrictions/ lack of access to data;
 2. Delay in Population Census.



INNOVATIONS TO COMBAT IMPACT CREATED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS

- The Registry of Civil Status responded to the challenges by:
 1. Fostering linkages with private entities (Funeral Homes) as well as relevant government agencies, such as the Ministry of Health, to assist with facilitating registration.
 2. Creating additional email addresses and circulating to the public whereby they could submit registration particulars.
 3. Providing devices to staff working from home so that they could access information submitted by the public and carry out death registration.

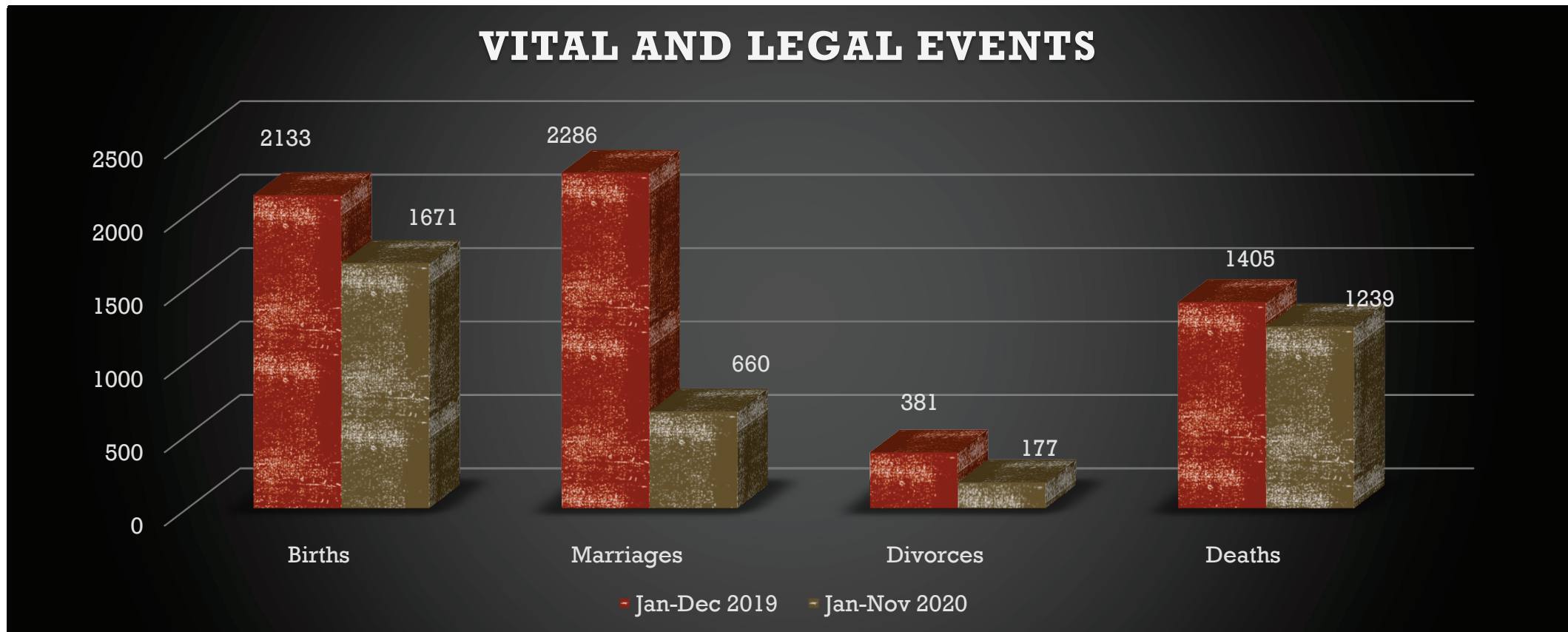


INNOVATIONS TO COMBAT IMPACT CREATED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS

- The Central Statistics Office responded to the challenges by:
 1. Collaborating with other government ministries (Ministry of Health) in collecting vital statistical data.



RUNNING COMPARISON OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES



Not all data presented. Based on legislative provisions some data will be received in 2021.



GENERATION OF REPORTS AND DIGITIZING OF SYSTEM, REGISTRY OF CIVIL STATUS

- The Registry of Civil Status currently operates a manual registration process which has its fair share of challenges in generating reports quickly and timely. In response to this, a Vital Records Management System (“Vitalware”) has been procured by the Government of Saint Lucia and there is currently partial implementation.
- The Vitalware system will facilitate:
 1. Ease in registration;
 2. More synthesized reports to allow for greater analysis with respect to registration of vital events based on criteria used;
 3. Reduced physical contact;
 4. Reduced wait times ;
 5. Improvement in accessibility of services (Convenience to the people of Saint Lucia.);
 6. Timely and accurate processing of vital records and certification;
 7. Sharing of information with various agencies (creation of linkages - interoperability).



GENERATION OF REPORTS AND DIGITIZING OF SYSTEM, CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE

- The Central Statistics Office manually collects data of vital events from the Registry of Civil Status to include births, deaths and marriages.
- This data is then entered into a database (SPSS, / Microsoft Access or Excel). After the data has been entered and cleaned tabulations are produced from the dataset.



QUESTIONS?



END OF PRESENTATION GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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