

**Sharing Country Experience on  
the impact of COVID-19 On CRVS  
System and Planning for the  
Future**

**THE GAMBIA  
WEST AFRICA**

# The Gambia's Status

- The outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19) and when it was declared pandemic by WHO, it became a general health concern, leading to massive social, financial and human rights havoc on individuals, communities and countries at large
- As a result of this, the Gambian Head of State declared Public Emergency on COVID-19, in an effort to curb the spread of the virus

# Gambia's Status continue

- There was rapid mobilization of health service providers, frontline workers including security personnel and other community based organizations and volunteers
- With the lockdown, movements of people and availability of public transports, and other livelihood of people are all affected, including demand and supply chain of goods and services

# Deaths Reporting & Registrations

January to May 2019

- **# 787**

January to May 2020

- **#385**

# Birth Registration of Certification

- **January to May 2019**  
**# 36652**
- **January to May 2020**  
**#35978**

# Marriages

- Marriages conducted at Justice Ministry

**January to May 2019**

**#507**

**January to May 2020**

**# 373**

- Thus no record could be obtained from Judiciary for Islamic marriages due late notice

# Why reduction on CRVS services ?

- Government shifted its priorities from other services to COVID-19
- Registration officers redeploy to frontline as : surveillance officers , contact tracing, quarantine centers monitors
- Scale-down of service providers at government facilities
- Courts , Judiciary and National Assembly went into recess,
- Immigration department stopped the issuance of both Passports and National Identity Cards
- Misconception among the people on COVID-19
- Some people belief that; they would be screened and detained if they visit health facilities and these areas also serve as registration centers in The Gambia

# CRVS Generation of Statistics

- The CRVS system in the Gambia except that of the Justice, do not generate statistics on the dates of occurrence. The systems are, manual and ledger based registrations at all birth, deaths and Islamic Marriages.



# Digitization of CRVS System in The Gambia

- The civil registration system for births, Deaths and Islamic marriages are not digitized.
- Although Births Registry has started working on The Gambia CRVSNOW, where it captured pictorial data of the births and deaths records that would be uploaded into system, program is supported by World Bank.
- The indexing of the data would start soon, as UNICEF procured 6 computers are already installed for the process.

# Mitigating Impact of COVID-19 on CRVS

- There is a plan to conduct joint field registration with Gambia Refugee Commission to register refugee children and issue certificates at no cost
- Organize mini birth registration campaigns to register children in at hard to reach and vulnerable communities
- Engage senior Management of various government stakeholders to allocate more resources for CRVS
- Urge government and international bodies to put in place adequate resources and funding toward emergency preparedness and response to ensure access and issuance of CRVS documents
- Share data with various stakeholders in the country.

**THE END**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION**