

ROLE OF THE HEALTH SECTOR IN THE COMPILATION OF VITAL STATISTICS

THE CASE OF

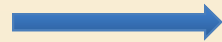
**ST VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES**

BACKGROUND

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines – A multi island state.
 - 32 islands and cays, 5 of which are inhabited
- Population of 109,991 – 91 percent resides on the main island St Vincent and 9 percent are spread across 5 other inhabited Grenadine islands.

VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

– **Statistical Office**



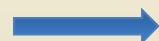
**Collect, process and
disseminate vital
statistics**

– **Ministry of Health (MOH)**



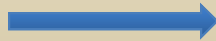
**Inform on Births,
Deaths and Cause
of Death**

– **Registry Department**



**Inform on registered
Births, Deaths and
Marriages**

– **High Court**



**Inform on Divorces
(Decree Absolute)**

THE HEALTH SECTOR'S ROLE

Birth & Death Statistics

- The Statistical Office publishes registered birth and death statistics.
- However, records of births and deaths obtained from the Ministry of Health (MOH) are used to corroborate the data generated by the Registry Department

THE HEALTH SECTOR'S ROLE

- **Inform on:**
 - Occurrence of Births (count)
 - Live Births (including multiple live births)
 - Occurrence of Deaths (count of deaths of residents)
 - Foetal deaths (Still births) disaggregated by sex

THE HEALTH SECTOR'S ROLE

- **Has responsibility for:**
 - Certification on the **cause of death**
 - Cause of Death statistics (Coded and summarized in tables)
 - Other Health Statistics such as morbidity data

BIRTHS

- The **Health Information Unit** in the **MOH** provides a count of all births in St Vincent and the Grenadines to the **Statistical Office** on an annual basis.
- The **Statistical Office** collects an excel data file on registered births each year from the Registry Department.
 - Data is cleaned (duplicates removed), multiple births identified and data summarized for publication.
 - Gap between the count of all live births and registered births gives an indication of registration coverage.

DEATHS AND CAUSES OF DEATH

- In the case of the death of any person who has been attended during his last illness by a registered medical practitioner, the medical practitioner is required to state to the best of his/her knowledge and belief the cause of death on a form provided by the registry department
- Information on death certificates (characteristics of the decedent - cause of death included) are captured by the Health information unit in an electronic database.
 - This data file is shared with the Statistical Office

CAUSE OF DEATHS

- Health information staff code the causes of death using ICD 10
- Data on deaths and cause of deaths is shared with the Statistical Office
- The Health Information Unit disseminates to the public, summarized data on cause of death through an annual Monitoring and Evaluation report and through other means such as, direct data request from users.

FOETAL DEATHS

- The **Medical Record Librarian** stationed at the hospital provides a count of foetal deaths or stillbirth by sex to the statistical office.

CHALLENGES

- Doctor's handwriting is difficult to read/understand. Coding officers therefore are required to verify information not legible – this is time consuming.
- Illegible handwriting not clarified, results in miscoding of cause of death.
- In few cases, the underlying cause of death is not recorded on death certificates by doctors.

THANK YOU!

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