IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN LEGAL IDENTITY AGENDA IN KENYA

JANET MUCHERU
REGISTRAR GENERAL,
CIVIL REGISTRATION SERVICES
Outline

1. Introduction
2. Legal framework
4. Status of Death Registration in Kenya
5. Implementation of the United Nations Legal Identity in Kenya
6. CRVS Milestone with support from UN-LIA
7. CRVS Integration and Interoperability
8. Linkage of UN-LIA with other ongoing strategies
Introduction

• Civil Registration Services (CRS) is the government Agency mandated to register all births and deaths occurring in Kenya and those of Kenyans occurring abroad.

• Registration of birth and deaths is carried out on Agency basis:
  ➢ Assistant Chiefs (Births and deaths occurring at home)
  ➢ Health/Medical Personnel (Events occurring in health facilities)

• Registration of births and deaths is largely manual
Legal Framework


Births and Deaths Registration Act, Cap 149 of Laws of Kenya providing for universal registration of all births and deaths within the stipulated time in Kenya.

Other statutes such as Data protection, Huduma Bill, 2021 and the National Civil Registration and Identity Management Policy, 2021 looking forward to establish a digital national population database to be a single source of foundational and functional data.
Status of Birth Registration in Kenya

**REGISTERED BIRTHS 2016-2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>REGISTERED</th>
<th>COVERAGE (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>948,351</td>
<td>64.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>923,487</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,138,654</td>
<td>73.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,186,144</td>
<td>76.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,126,762</td>
<td>82.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BIRTH REGISTRATION COVERAGE 2016-2020**

Birth registration declined from 64.1% in 2016 to 60.9% in 2017 therein on upward trend from 73.4% in 2018 to 82.9% in 2020.

The proportion of births registered in Health Facilities has increased from 95.6% in 2019 to 97.7% in 2020.

There is a general decline on birth registration from the community from 4.4% in 2019 to 2.3% in 2020.
### Status of Death Registration in Kenya

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>REGISTERED</th>
<th>COVERAGE (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>189,930</td>
<td>41.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>190,877</td>
<td>41.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>192,019</td>
<td>40.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>191,495</td>
<td>39.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>185,385</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nationally death registration has been on a downward trend from 41.9% in 2016 to 37% in 2020.

The proportion of deaths registered in Health Facilities has declined from 57.2% in 2019 to 53.6% in 2020.

There is an increase in death registration in the community from 42.8% in 2019 to 46.4% in 2020.
The Implementation of the UN legal identity agenda in Kenya

In October 2019, Kenya confirmed willingness to pilot the operationalization of SDG target 16.9 and 17.19 (b)

- UN LIA Rapid Assessment in December 2019
- Establishment of UN-GOK Technical Task Team on implementation of the National Integrated Identity Management System founded on CRVS
- Strengthening of the collaboration and coordination of Government ministries, agencies and department in legal identity management
CRVS Milestone with support from UN-LIA

Automation of the CRVS system.
With 46M historical manual records digitized
Re-design of CRVS system and full automation will enable integration with all relevant systems within legal identity ecosystem

CRS has benefitted from UN LIA with ICT equipment through UNDP’s support from the Government of Japan.
It will help in rolling out the CRVS automated system to sub-county Civil Registration Offices.

Revision of the birth and death registration:
1. Business processes
2. Registration tools
3. Standard operating procedures (SOPs)

Legal review of the legal framework:
1. Data Protection Act.
2. Huduma Bill 2021
3. The Regulations
4. Public participation of the Huduma Bill
CRVS Milestone with support from UN-LIA

High-level advocacy and engagement with senior government authority

Knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) study on Birth & Death Registration

Demand Creation through development of communications materials

Strengthening coordination of stakeholders on their roles and responsibilities in implementation of holistic civil registration, vital statistics and identity management system
CRVS Integration and Interoperability

The proposed Huduma Bill 2021 establishes the National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS) with the objective of establishing a National Population database as a single source of data for all individuals.

CRVS automated business process has developed an end-to-end system encompassing all CRS functions linked to NIIMS. It will enable issuance of unique identifier number (Huduma Namba) assigned at birth and exited at death through death registration.

Engagements with various key Government Ministries, agencies, departments & private sector actors to integrate with NIIMS.
CRVS Integration and Interoperability Cont...

To other systems
- NRB
- Refugees
- Immigration
- NEMIS
- NHIF
- NSSF
- KRA
- NTSA

CRVSS Database
Birth or Death Register is updated

Sub County Registrar

HN Database
HN is generated or deactivated

A verification of the Applicant’s identity is done

Registration Assistant

Applicant
Linkage of the UN legal identity agenda with other ongoing strategies

- Roll-out of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) strategy to register unregistered community births during immunization clinics.
- Expanding of CRS offices up from 109 in 2018 to 127 registries in 2021.
- Implementation of the Rapid Mortality Surveillance (RMS).
- Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan.
- National stakeholder engagement.

11
Linkage of the UN legal identity agenda with other ongoing strategies

Benchmarking with countries on the best practices and technology in registration.

Awareness and advocacy creation on Civil registration services and vital statistics targeting all areas and especially Arid and semi arid areas (ASALS).

Production of the Kenya Vital Statistics Report (analysis, report writing, printing and dissemination)

Monitoring and evaluation of CRS registries and registration assistant across the Country.
Legal Identity during emergencies (Covid-19): Lessons learnt

Legal identity remains of crucial importance during public health emergencies and pandemics.

A complete CRVS system is an ideal component in a population for proper and accurate data reporting.

Emergencies and disasters have potential long-term impact on the development and performance of CRVS systems hence need to put in place a resilient system.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CRS services were regarded as an essential service enabling continuous registration of births and deaths.
In Kenya, we are working towards a legal identity from “cradle to the grave”

THANK YOU!