APAI-CRVS
Everyone visible in Africa

Decade for Repositioning of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Africa 2017-2026

Status of digitization of CRVS systems in Africa (Preliminary Findings)

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Introduction

Context

- COM guidance and resolutions
- The need to improve data systems

What do we mean by digitization?

Increased use IT systems, the ability to convert paper-based systems into digital form, use of electronic tools to collect, transmit and store CR information

Objective

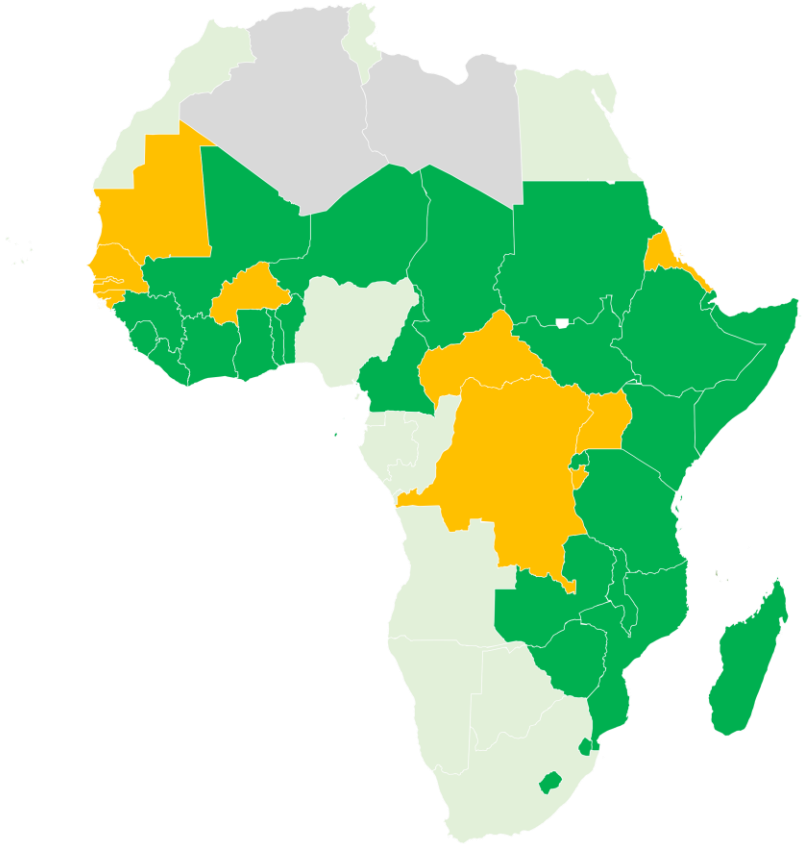
- Assess the status of CRVS systems with regards to digitization in terms of :
  - Capacity
  - Potential
  - Opportunities

Methodology – Data Collection

- Data collection is still in progress
- Electronic survey questionnaires were sent to CR offices
- Estimated time to complete the survey is 10 to 15 minutes
- The questionnaires were shared in three languages (English, French and Portuguese)

Methodology – Target Countries

All African Countries Targeted



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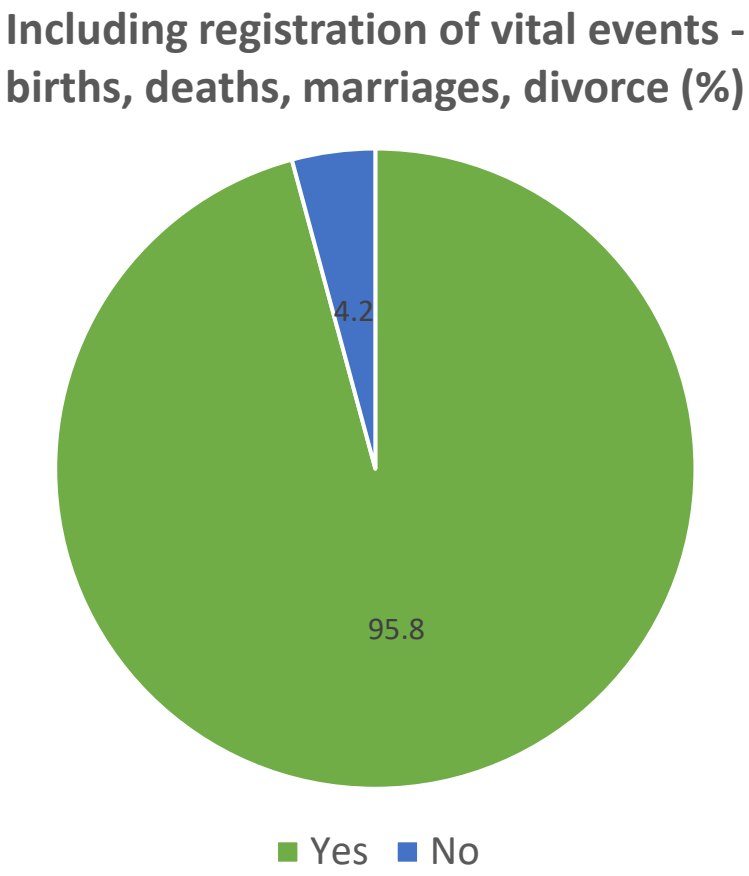
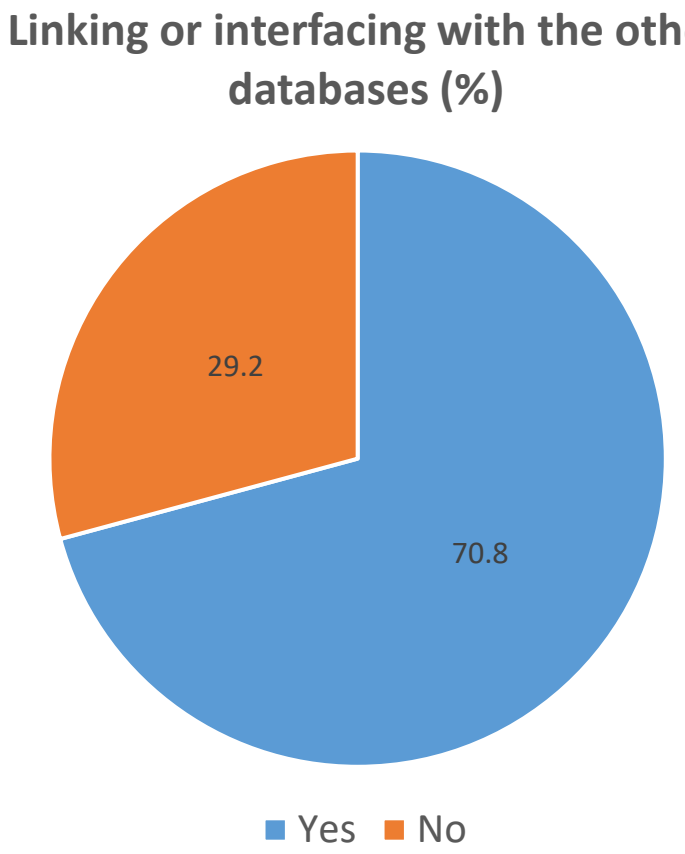
- 26 countries -responses received
- 12 countries-- questionnaire sent
- 14 countries nomination of focal person
- 2 countries not communicated yet

Methodology – Questions Asked

- Are there legal frameworks to Support CRVS?
- Are there provisions to link CRVS with other databases?
- Does the country have computerized databases where CR records are maintained?
- Are there steps of the CR process that are digitized?
- Does the CR office in the country host its own data or outsources?
- What type of CRVS IT systems does the civil registration office in the country use?
- What are the existing initiatives that might inform the design of the digitized CRVS system?
- Capacity in terms of human resources, funding and infrastructure
- What are the Challenges/gaps?

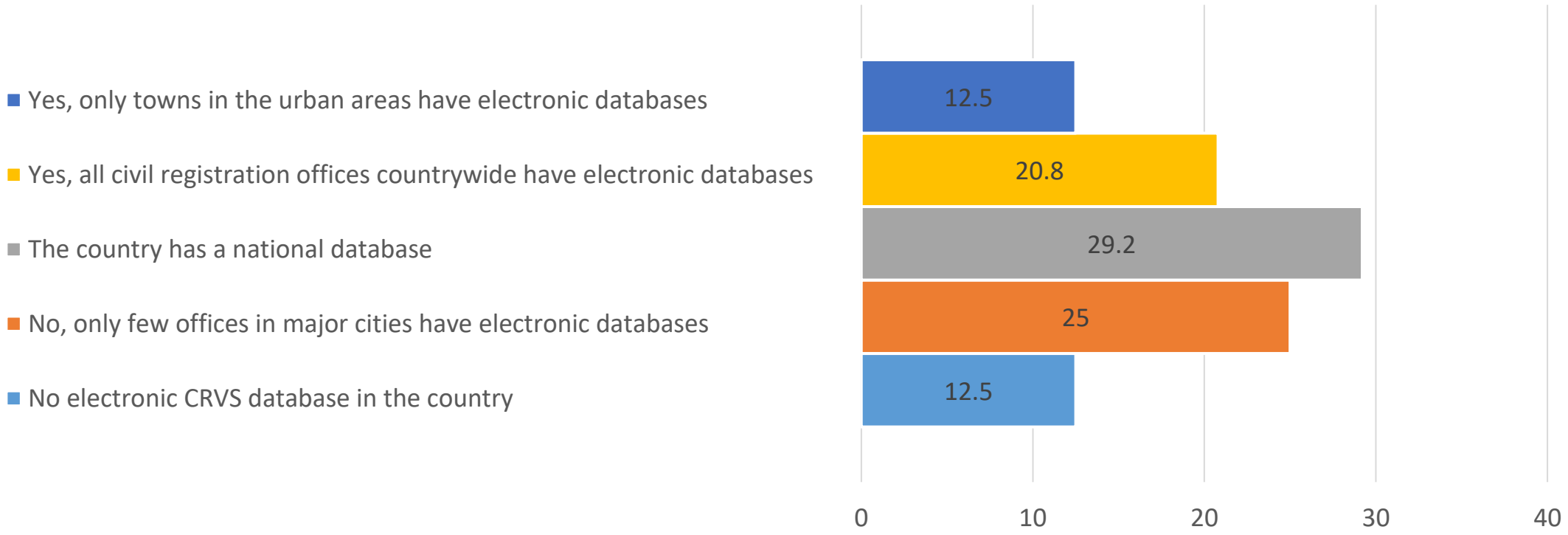
Preliminary Findings- Legal Provisions



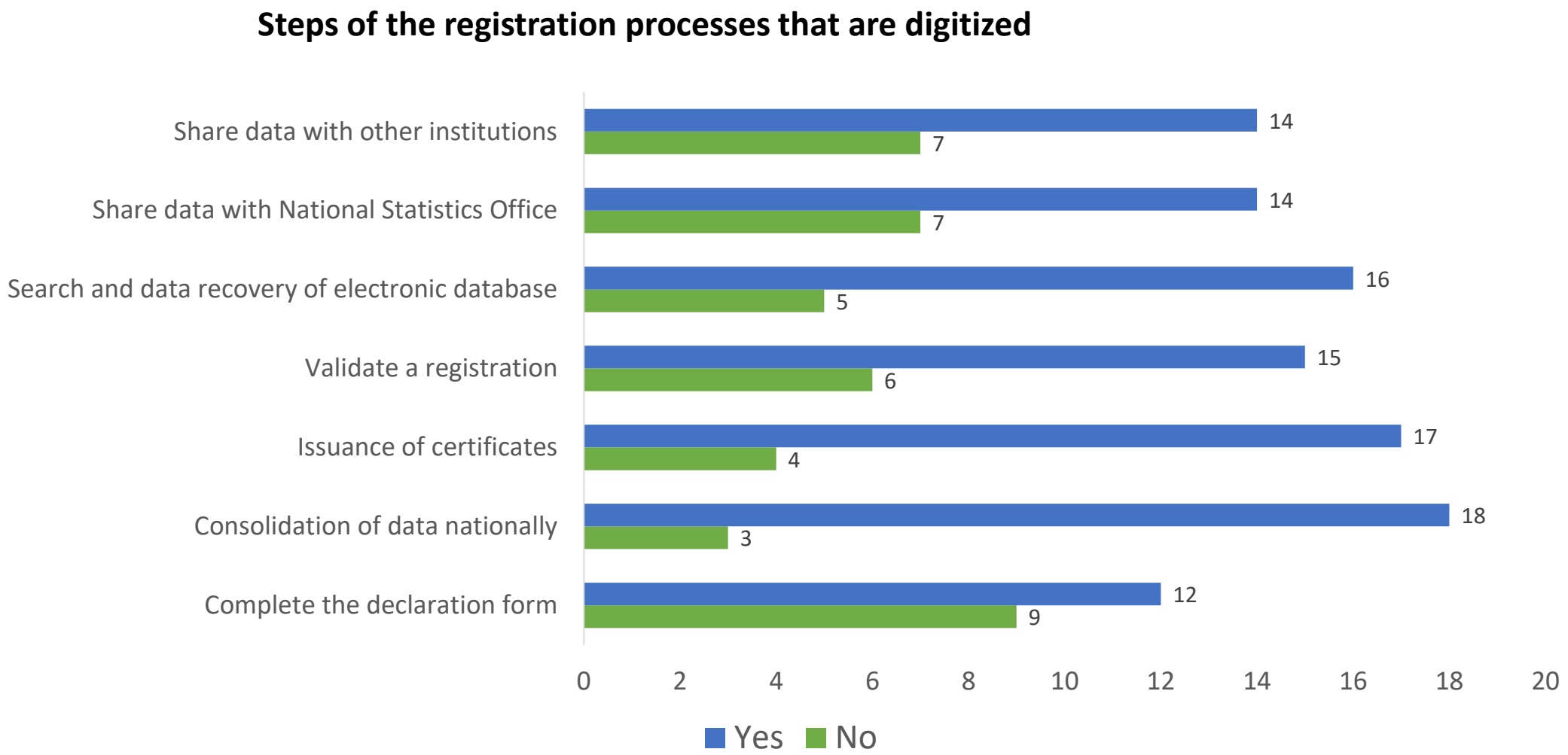


Preliminary Findings- Digitization

Existence of Computerized databases where civil registration records are maintained (%)



Preliminary Findings- Digitization



Preliminary Findings: Digitization

Transmission of birth and death records from local and regional offices to a central storage- 53% electronic

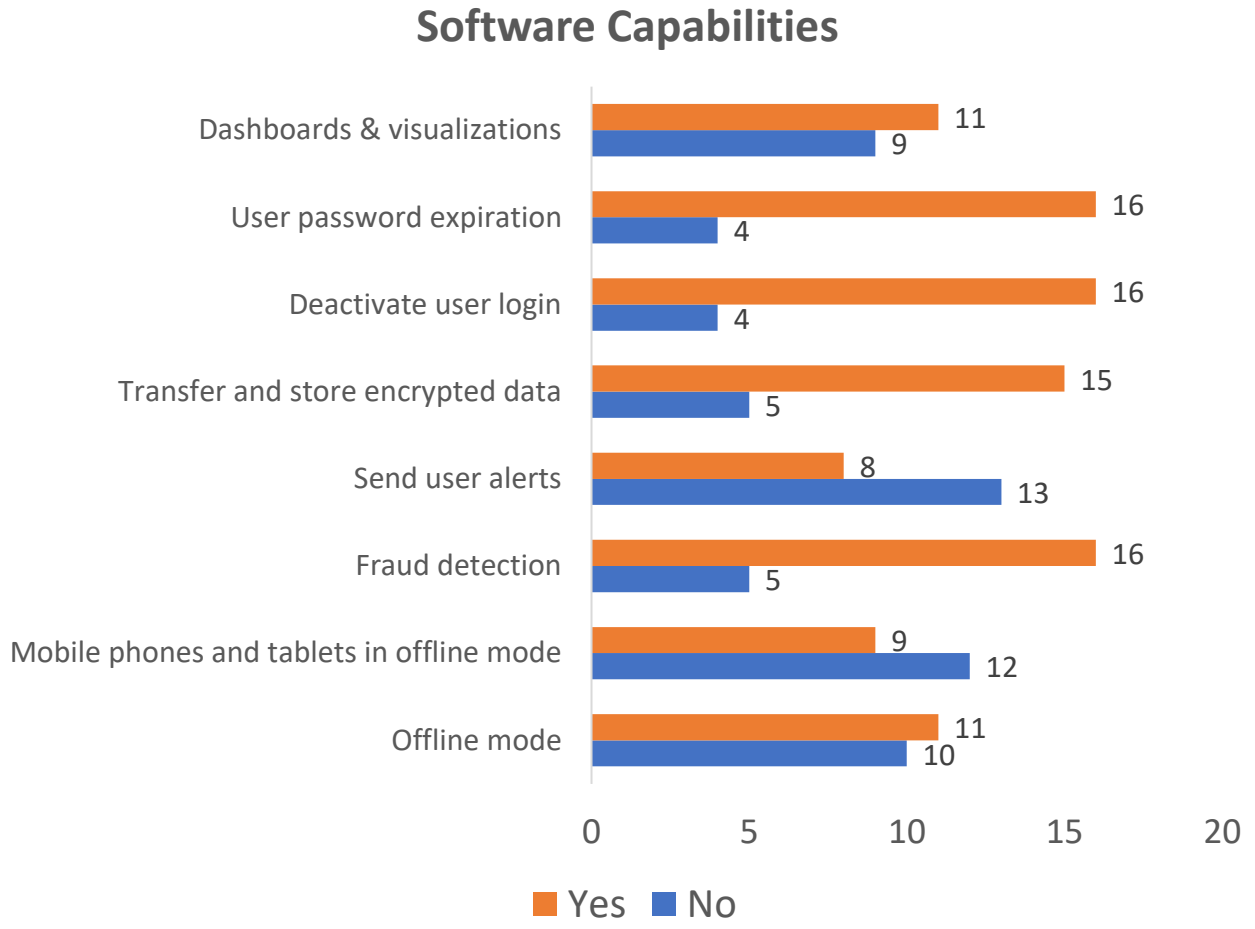
Mode of transmission	Countries (%)
All information is exchanged electronically	52.5
Paper copies are sent from local office	9.5
Paper copies are used throughout the system	14.2
The system is still mainly paper based	23.8

Type of CRVS IT systems used by the civil registration office in the country -70.8% custom developed

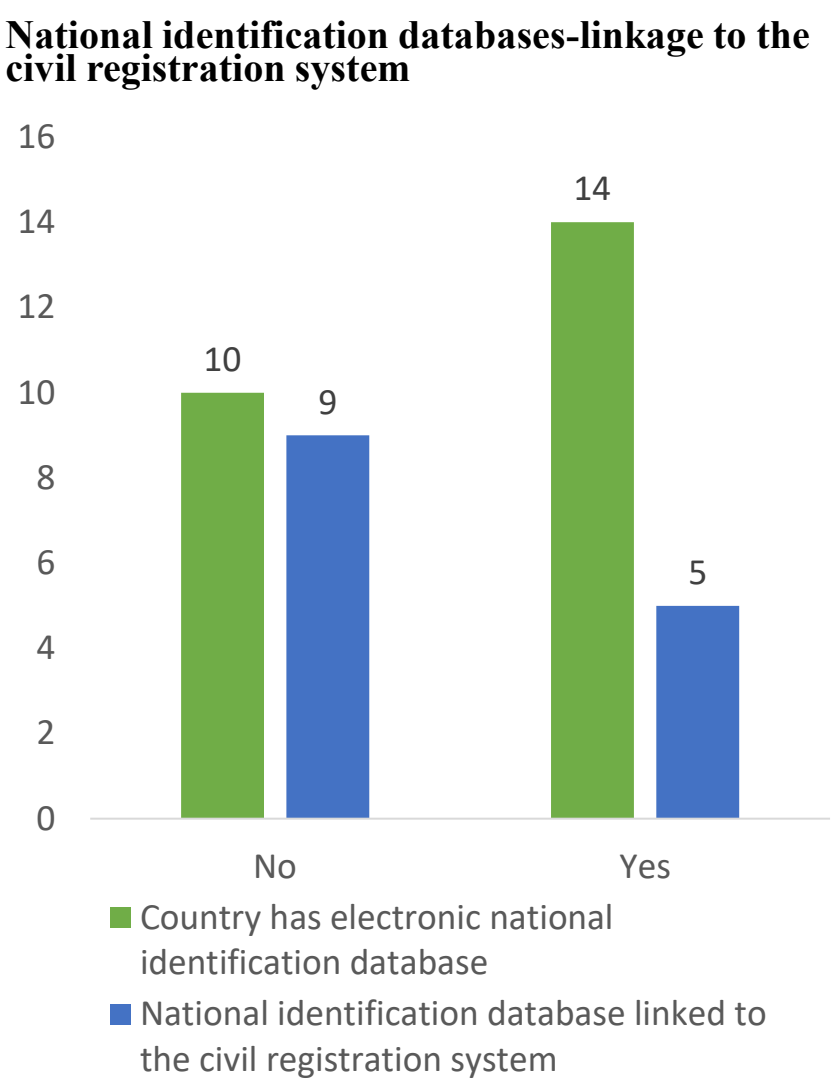
CRVS IT software	Countries (%)
Commercial off-the shelf software	12.5
Community-supported open-source software	4.2
Custom developed software	70.8
N/A	12.5

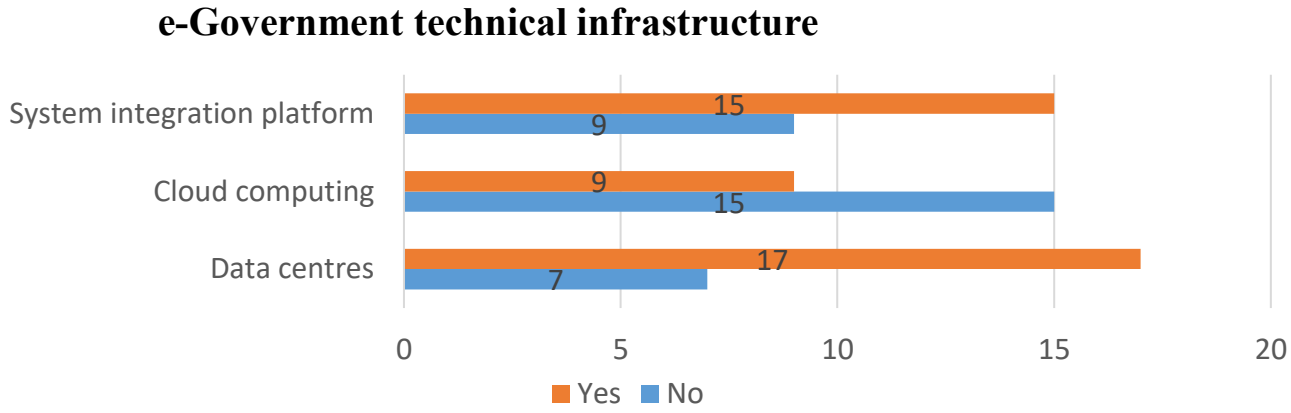
Data hosting by civil registration office in the country – 70.8% self hosted

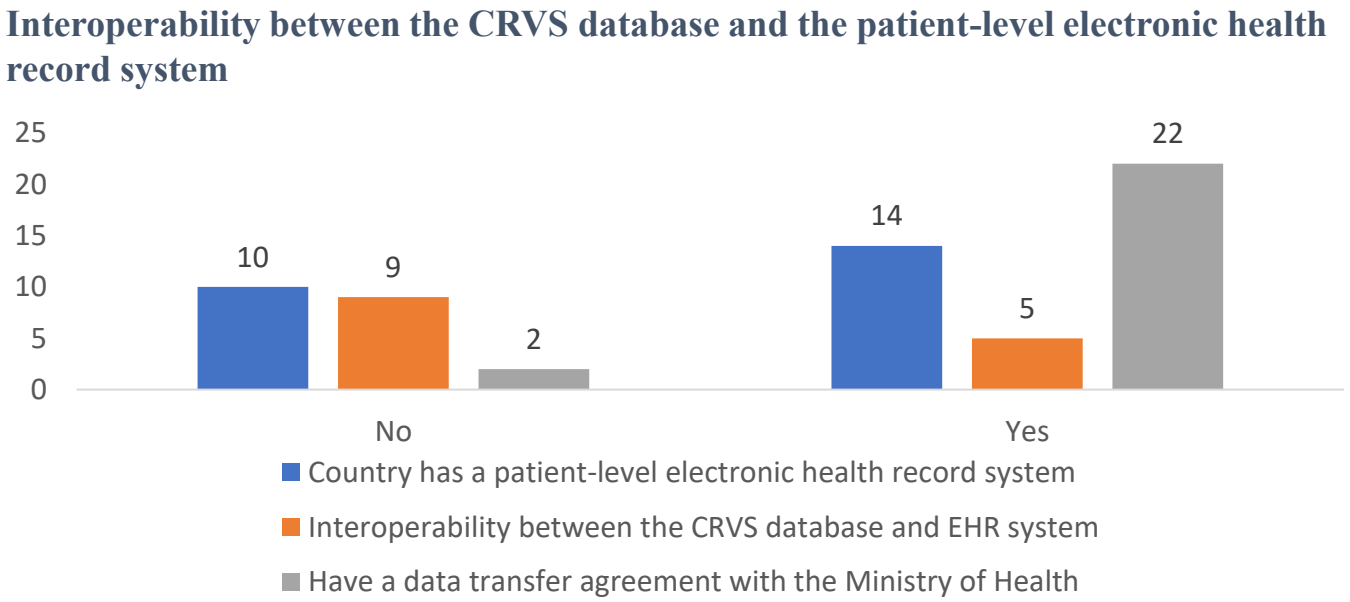
Data Hosting	Countries (%)
Outsourced system	16.7
Self-hosted system	70.8
N/A	12.5



Preliminary Findings: Opportunities/Existing initiatives



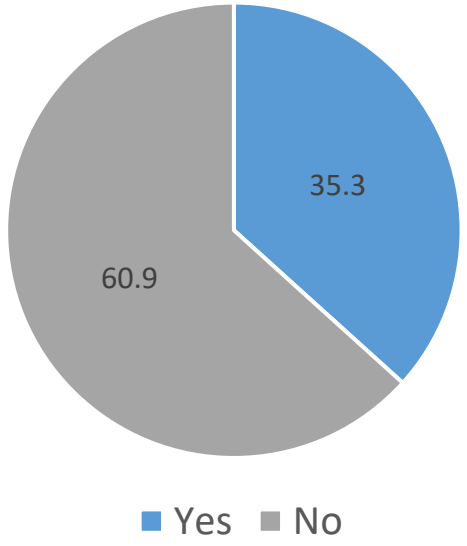




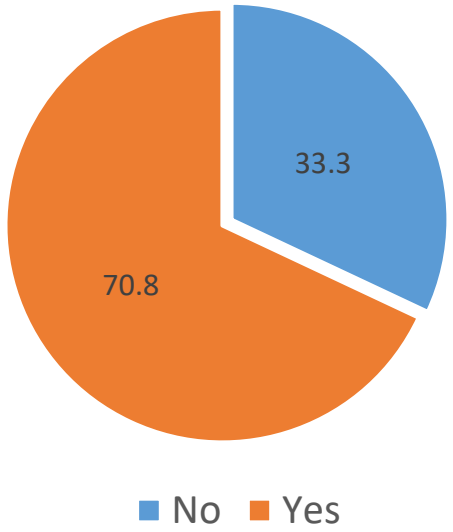
Preliminary Findings: Challenges/Gaps

Funding | **Infrastructure** | **Legal Provisions** | Human Resources

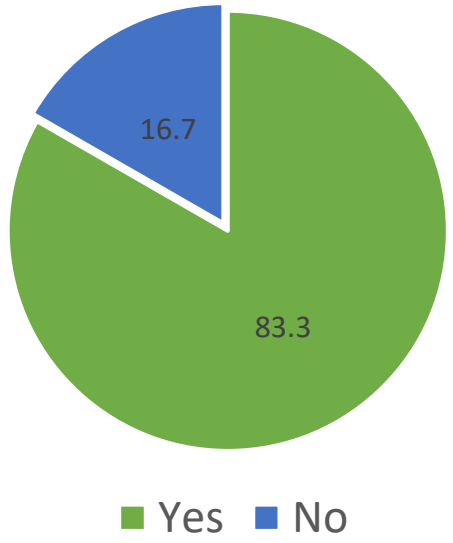
Does the Government provide adequate funding meant for any maintenance and upgrades required over the expected lifetime of the CRVS IT system? (%)



Legislation that has provisions for linking or interfacing with the other databases (%)



Does the civil registration office have dedicated staff members responsible for the management of the IT system? (%)



Conclusions

- Assessment is still ongoing-responses were received from 19 countries
- Gradual digitization process
- The digitization of registration processes for the consolidation of data nationally, issuance of certificates and validation of a registration appear to be more common, among the countries, than other registration processes
- Most countries have electronic databases for storing and maintaining vital events records
- There are scalable initiatives for interoperability, integration of systems
- Gaps exist in resources, capacity, infrastructure and legal provisions
- In depth study of various systems needed to identify a best practice

Thank You

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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

IOM
UN MIGRATION

Vital Strategies

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WORLD BANK GROUP

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