



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Institutional Alignments and Collaboration Between National ID and eCRVS

Issues and Challenges at Country Level

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Session 3

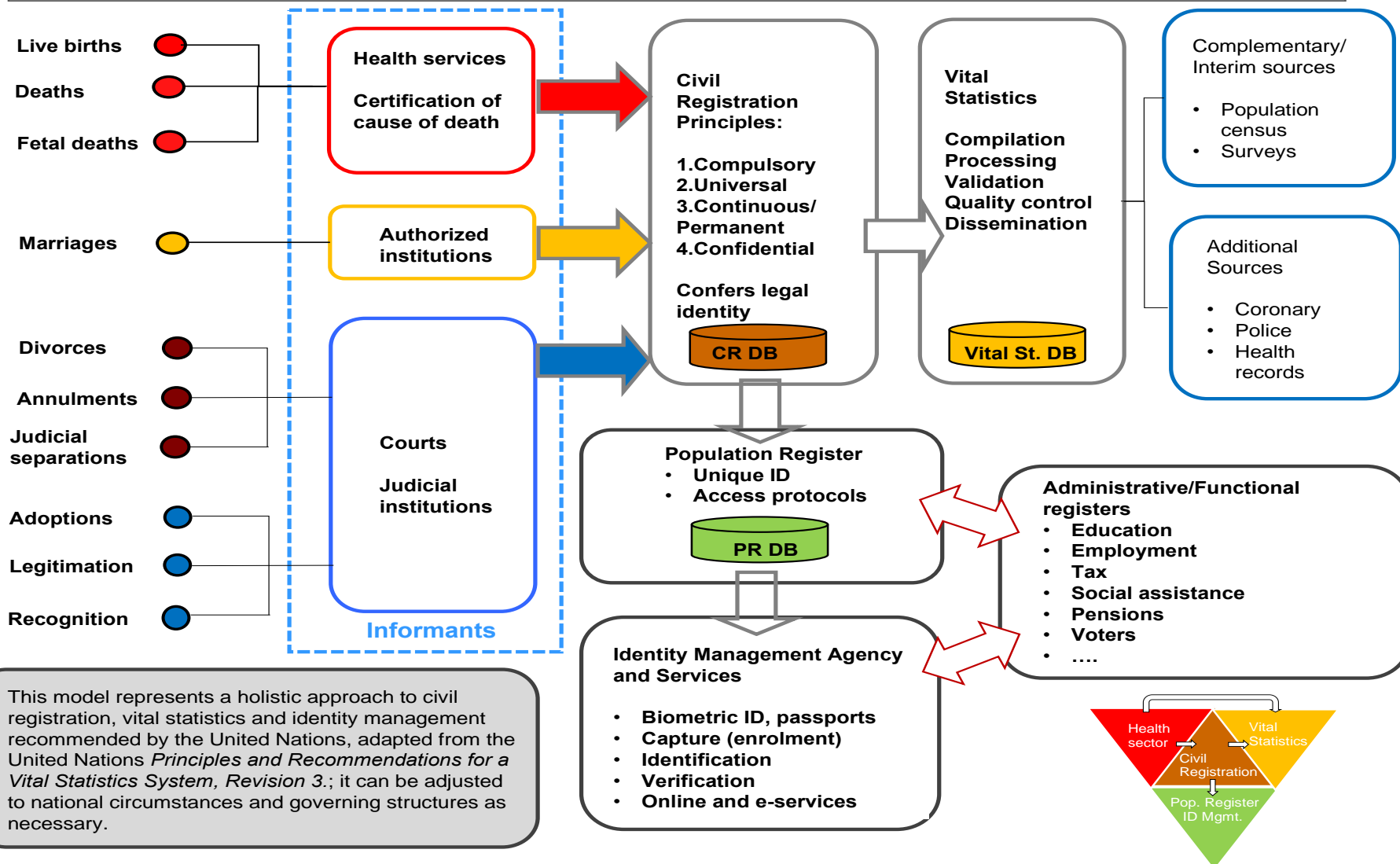
Institutional Alignments and Collaboration
in National ID Systems and eCRVS

Panelist

1. Lamin B. Fatty Registra, Registrar General from The Births and Deaths Registry at the Ministry of Health – The Gambia
2. Aliou Ousmane SALL, The General Director of the National Agency for Civil Registration in Senegal
3. Angela Anatory, Chief Executive Officer and the Administrator General of RITA
4. Hosea Mitala – UNICEF CRVS Specialist and Expert on e-CRVS and interoperability between e-CRVS and other systems

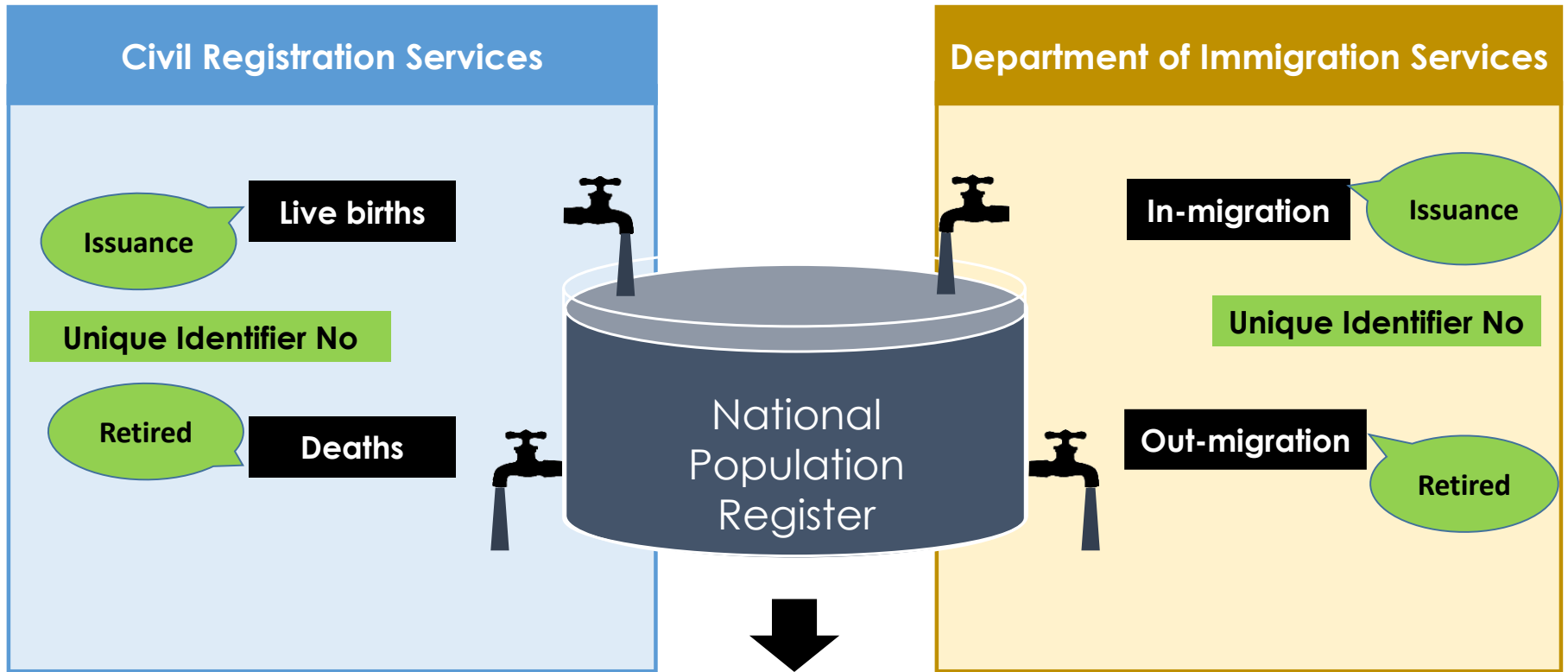
What are the institutional alignments and collaboration in National ID and CRVS?

Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management System



This model represents a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management recommended by the United Nations, adapted from the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3*; it can be adjusted to national circumstances and governing structures as necessary.

New Approach: Link CRVS and Identity Management



A secure legal identity

VITAL EVENTS OF ONE'S LIFE CYCLE

School Identification:
Rights to pursue a formal education



Formal education



Higher education

- **Academic Certificates** rights to pursue higher education,
- Participate in elections,
- Acquire a driver's license...



Revenue stream/services

- Seek employment
- Own a business legally
- Acquire a bank account...



Birth

Birth Certificate:
legal recognition of an individual's identity that has civil rights

Marriage



- **Marriage certificate**
- Acquire assets such as housing, car...

Children



Birth Certificate:
legal recognition of an individual and parents

Death



Death Certificate:
Important for family to claim inheritance

Divorce



- Divorce Certificate:**
- Rights to Alimony
 - Exercise parental rights
 - Court

Retirement



Documented rights to claim pension

Situation of CRVS Systems in Africa

Institutional Alignments, Collaboration and Cooperation

- In many African countries civil registration & identity management systems are hosted in different government ministries and are disconnected from each other.
- Legal and digital identity can and in many cases exists independently.
- However, there are clear disadvantages and risks posed by such disassociation.
- A well functioning digital identity requires that it's linked to one's legal identity

Tanzania Presentation - Institutional Alignment and Collaboration in National ID and eCRVS

By: Angela Anatory

Chief Executive Officer/Administrator General

UNICEF Perspective/comment

Panel Discussions

Q1 - How is national ID and the institution responsible for civil registration positioned within the National Government in Senegal and The Gambia

Q2 - How does that work for or against integration and interoperability of the two systems?

Situation of CRVS Systems in Africa

Digitization

- Building interoperable systems that are fully automated is the gateway to ensuring all population in a country acquire legal identity in the lifecycle, from birth to death.
- That way our governments can be able to establish real-time national population databases.
- COM 5 and EGM-COM5, Members States called upon to actively pursue the digitalization of CRVS systems to harness their full potential, and enhancing registration coverage especially for births and deaths
- Underdeveloped CRVS systems (manual/paper based) with very few countries having comprehensive and complete CRVS system aligned with international standards.
- Some effort in many countries to achieve automation of CRVS systems, adoption of technological and digital solutions and innovations

Panel Discussions

Q3 – What kind of civil registration and ID systems do you have in your country?

Q4 - How does the nature of these system affect the conversation of integration, interoperability of systems and possibility of data sharing with national ID systems?

UNICEF to comment

Situation of CRVS Systems in Africa

Universal Coverage of Birth and Death Registration

- Incomplete coverage of birth registration to facilitate and inform national ID systems
- Over the last decade of implementation of the APAI-CRV programme in Africa, Ministers have developed many recommendations for accelerating civil registration improvement in Africa.
- Experts resolved to identify the most impactful recommendations that provide an opportunity to fast-track progress towards achieving universal birth and death registration.
- There is need for governments and development partners to reflect on the new approaches that could be game changers for accelerating the SDG target 16.9 and 17.19.
- These also need to be well documented and shared through knowledge sharing platforms and south to south cooperation amongst Member States.

Recommendation: “Promote the use of tested, innovative home-grown good practices and encourage the adoption of those practices by the relevant authorities in African States”

Panel Discussions

UNICEF to comment on universal coverage of birth and death

Situation of CRVS Systems in Africa

Legal and regulatory framework

- Institutional legal mandates complicates institutional alignments between national ID and CRVS institutions.
- The transformation and modernization of current under developed, rigid and outdated CRVS infrastructure should be done within the law.
- Additionally, data sharing is a critical component that calls for data protection, safety and security, system integrity, and the clarity of data ownership and data availability
- However, the report shared by ECA noted that currently, we have inadequate laws and regulations on interoperability of systems, data protection and privacy
- We need to align existing legal frameworks with modernization and technological developments.

Situation of CRVS Systems in Africa

Political Will

- Some of these innovations require change in the way our government design their systems e.g. use of technology and devices.
- Beyond all the game-changers discussed above, it will all fall back on leadership, political commitment, and goodwill.
- There is therefore need to have high-level advocacy with senior government leadership and inter-Ministerial coordination.
- Identify and engage high-level officials to champion civil registration and vital statistics initiatives - The case of The Gambia – Presidential Declaration and Initiative

Situation of CRVS Systems in Africa

Resource and Funding Gap for E-CRVS

- CRVS systems are underfunded in more than two thirds of African countries and only 28 per cent of African countries.
- Investment in identity management does not by-pass CRVS infrastructure that is the foundational identification platform for affordable and sustainable legal identity systems.
- African States should provide leadership, budget advocacy for sustainability in civil registration and vital statistics systems
- Conduct resource mapping and develop strategies for sustainable financing
- Development Partners to harmonize support for countries and ensure the sustainability of all initiatives
- Align and coordinate all support through national strategic plans for civil registration and vital statistics and national ID

Panel Discussions

Q5 – How are your countries positioning themselves to generate internal resources and mobilize additional external resources for establishing and sustaining e-CRVS?

UNICEF to comment

Panel Discussions

Q6 – As we close, what recommendations do you have on improving institutional alignment and collaboration between national ID and CRVS institutions?

Q7 – What about other key players in identity ecosystem? The users of digital IDs and the public

Key Take - Aways

1. Countries should be careful that investment in identity management does not by-pass CRVS system that is the foundational identification platform for affordable and sustainable legal identity systems.
 - Legal and digital identity can and in many cases exists independently.
 - However, there are clear disadvantages and risks posed by such disassociation.
 - A well functioning digital identity requires that it's linked to one's legal identity
2. It should all be within the legal framework and in compliance to the laws in our countries.
3. Hence institutional alignment should begin with harmonization of the laws and linkages supported by the laws

Plenary Discussions – Reflections from the floor



**Thank you
Merci
Obrigado**

**Ideas
to
Action**