

LOOKING AT CRVS FROM A CSO PERSPECTIVE

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ABOUT IPPF

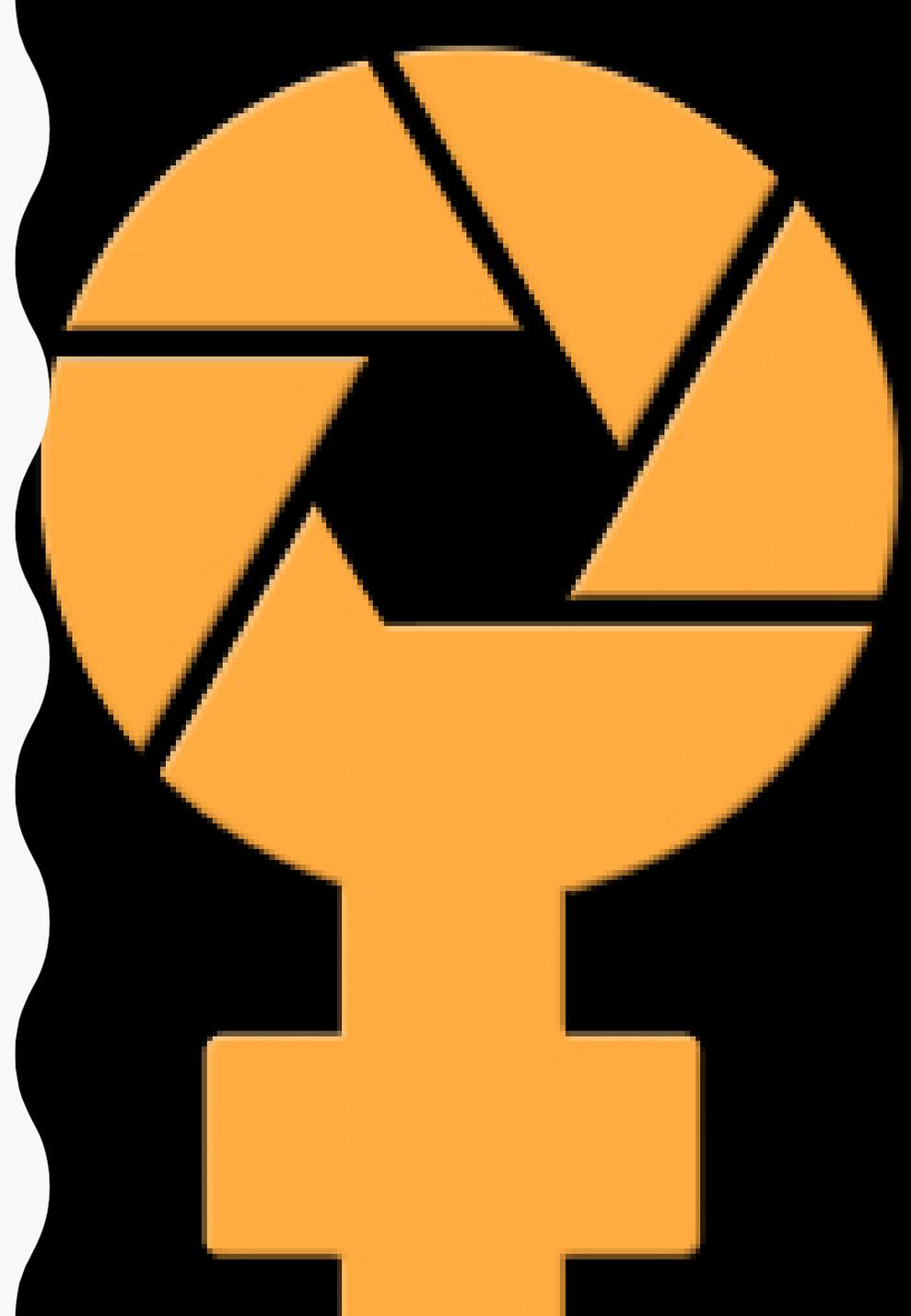
- Federation of 160 Member associations (MA's) working in 166 countries across the world- Global service provider and a leading advocate of “sexual and reproductive health and rights for all”
- Vision :All people are free to make choices about their sexuality and well-being, in a world free of discrimination
- In 2017, we delivered 208.6 million sexual and reproductive health services.
- Core Values:
 - Respecting all regardless of their age, gender, Status, identity, sexual orientation or expression,
 - Social inclusion, inspire others to have the courage to challenge and seek social justice for all

- Birth registration is a fundamental human right, and an important tool for social protection. And yet, **only 25 percent of the world's population lives in countries where more than 90 percent of births and deaths are registered.**
- Estimated **230 million children worldwide still unregistered** and do not legally exist
(More than the population of Brazil or Pakistan)
- More than **100 developing countries still do not have functioning CRVS systems** that can support the complete registration of births, marriages, divorces, and deaths (World Bank 2018).
- Calculations suggest that 77 of the 100 countries still without a functioning CRVS system **will collectively require US\$220 million in investments**
- Only **46 countries were able to provide reliable statistics on deaths disaggregated by sex** (as reported by civil registration systems) at least once for the period 2011 to 2014 (United Nations 2015).



GENDER LENS FOR DATA

- Gender inequality in civil registration and vital statistics **often starts at birth, continues in marriage and old age, and persists into death**, as women's deaths are less likely to be registered.
- **Gender-blind systems** make it difficult for governments to create policies and programs aimed at protecting and supporting women and girls throughout their lives.
- 12 of the 17 SDGs can be measured most effectively using data derived from well functioning CRVS systems
- Because of additional constraints they face from gender discrimination, increased risk of early marriage and sexual trafficking, and increased vulnerability from widowhood or divorce. The **absence of a birth, death, marriage or divorce certificate or of adult identity documentation can have catastrophic effects for vulnerable groups of women and their children**, including in particular young single mothers, widows, migrants, refugees and members of minority ethnic or religious groups.
- There is an **urgent need to reduce existing gender gaps in CRVS** and access to adult identity documentation, to improve available data on gender gaps at both national and subnational levels, and to develop an appropriate knowledge base to support effective policy making in these areas.



MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

Gender equality is a precondition to achieve the vision of **SDGs** to eliminate poverty and create better life conditions for everyone.



- To help achieve gender equality and empower women, it is critical to have data that are **reliable, timely, and disaggregated by age and sex.**



- **The data must also capture limitations on and inequalities of women's rights, both de jure and de facto.** Only then will data serve to guide better policies and programs, particularly for the underserved and hard to reach, the overwhelming majority of whom are women and children.



- Existing data gaps from **incomplete or failing CRVS systems hamper the ability of governments and partners to achieve the ambitious 2030 agenda.**



GENDER DIMENSIONS OF CRVS

Birth registration	Birth certificate is usually required to register a marriage or for minors to obtain a passport, and as such, can provide protection against early marriage or international trafficking. In some countries, birth certificates are also needed by children to access some types of health and education services. Marriage below the age of 18 is permitted in seven countries and allowed with parental consent in another 22 countries
Marriage, divorce and death registration	Although possession of a birth certificate is perhaps of greatest importance to both women and men, possession of marriage, death and/or divorce certificates can be critically important for widows and divorced women in order to secure their rights (e.g., rights to property, right to remarry) and the rights of their children (e.g., right to register their births in some countries) . Currently, there is very limited information available on the possession of marriage, death and divorce certificates.

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF CRVS

Adult identity documentation

Adult identity documentation is **needed increasingly by women to gain access to a wide range of opportunities and services, including participation and voice through the right to vote, without which women are seriously disadvantaged.** Because significant gender gaps exist in such areas as education, formal sector employment, business ownership, access to credit, land ownership, and political participation, possession of adult identity documentation is particularly important for women.

Cause of death and vital statistics

Information on the cause of death is needed to obtain continuous, accurate and geographically disaggregated estimates of the gender-specific causes of mortality. **The availability of vital statistics based on complete and accurate data on the registration of vital events (including the cause of death) can be useful in identifying and addressing women's special health needs.** However, even incomplete data may be helpful in gender monitoring of vital events for which household survey data are not available (i.e. deaths, marriages, divorces). **CRVS system generates crucial information for monitoring vital statistics, including real-time data from the sub-national administrative divisions for effective monitoring on progress for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health.**

PROXIMATE CONSTRAINTS

- Cost, physical access to registration sites, complexity of registration procedures, limited knowledge of the benefits of registration and of the procedures involved) and underlying factors (e.g., economic status, education, location, ethnicity, religion).
- Data on the proximate constraints to registration are limited. and underlying factors (e.g., economic status, education, location, ethnicity, religion). Data on the proximate constraints to registration are limited
- Physical access to registration sites (including the time required) is also more of a barrier for women than for men. Women have many more demands on their time and, in some settings, cannot travel freely outside their village.

ROLE FOR CSO

Civil society organisations (CSO) can play a prominent role to play in promoting the impact of strong CRVS systems.

- Help governments to **better understand why we have not advanced further** in this agenda by digging deeper at the local level to understand cultural specificities
- Best placed to **communicate with targeted groups and sub population to addressing the customs and social norms** that negatively influence registration process, in particular for women and girls.
- Advocacy has proven to be a powerful tool – we need to **continue to communicate the impact of investing in CRVS for governments and citizens** at the national, regional and local levels .Increased education of village leaders, advocacy activities and the provision of positive incentives could positively contribute to addressing these constraints.
- Work closely with governments to **ensure that positive incentives** for registration reaches to the end users.



ROLE FOR CSO

- **Expand what is collected:** Advocacy is needed to ensure that marriage and divorce data are included as a standard component of national and international efforts to strengthen CRVS systems. (Efforts to date focus on strengthening registration of births, deaths and causes of death.)
- **Change discriminatory legal frameworks:** In countries where single mothers or women in consensual unions are not legally allowed to register their children, advocacy toward changing these laws could have significant benefits for women.
- **Improve women's understanding of the importance of CRVS:** Since poor and less educated mothers, as well as single and un-partnered mothers are less likely to register their children, advocacy campaigns targeting these women, focusing on the benefits and how to register, could increase birth registration rates overall.
- **Target increased provision of individual ID to women using technology:** The provision of unique digital identity is increasingly feasible, and there are growing experiences and lessons as to how best to address this gap in identification and data on citizenship records. Biometric systems have been used to improve the efficacy of CRVS systems, by digitizing records of individual identity. Especially in areas where women's mobility is limited, technological tools such as biometrics or even cell phone registration reporting can improve the ability of governments to reach and provide women with ID. It can also improve women's ability to register their children. Women's organizations and women's networks could be tapped to help with advocacy and dissemination efforts.

what's
next

FROM PAPER TO PRACTICE

It will not be enough to simply increase awareness of gender gaps or improve women's access to civil registration services. It will be essential to address the legal, financial, cultural, or societal norms and systems that exclude women and increase their vulnerability

- **Balance:**

All components of CRVS systems need to be equally strengthened with balanced investment in identity management (ID) systems and CRVS systems.

- **Prioritization:**

CRVS systems need to be prioritized under national development plans, statistical plans, and global agendas.

- **Partnership:**

Building strong CRVS systems requires collaboration among all sections of government and the private sector.

- **Research:**

More knowledge is needed to understand the barriers women and girls face and how to better incentivize and promote registration to close related data gaps.

- **Innovation:**

An exploration of the current state of and use of innovation in CRVS for women and girls in developed and developing economies is needed to understand how technology can have a positive multiplier effect.

- **Capacity-building:**

A documentation of successful capacity-building approaches to support a forward-looking agenda is needed.

- **Funding:**

The economic, political, and social value of CRVS data need to be better communicated to increase funding for current initiatives and ongoing efforts that will yield effective results in a relatively short amount of time.

Thank
you



IPPF International
Planned Parenthood
Federation
South Asia Region

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