CRVS Coordination Mechanisms and Strategies: Experiences from Africa

Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Group
for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP
Bangkok, Thailand
18-20 October 2017

I. Background: Status of CRVS systems in Africa

- For many decades, CRVS initiatives and efforts in Africa were largely dominated by isolated project-based and *ad-hoc* exercises.

- The situation has changed radically with the establishment of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Civil registration in August 2010.

- The last three conferences have passed a number of crucial resolutions and recommendations to strengthen and accelerate regional CRVS improvement initiatives.

- The Conference of Ministers constituted two regional institutions: APAI-CRVS and CRVS Core Group to coordinate and provide supports for member states.

- Policy guidance by the Minsters and technical supports of the RCG coupled with political commitment at national level resulted in several achievements on CRVS improvement.
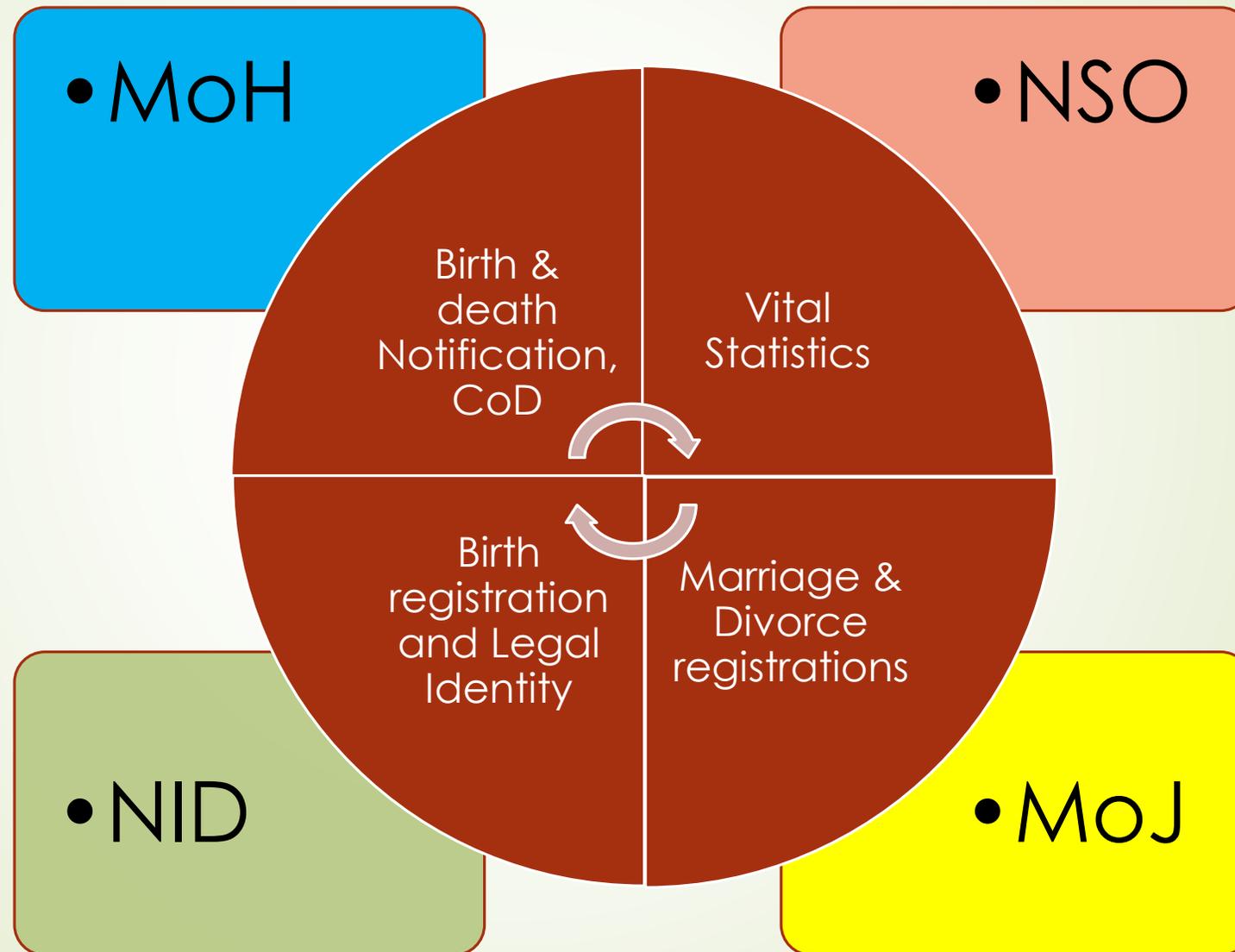
I. Background… (continued)

- Increased awareness about importance of CRVS for national, regional and global development agendas, including SDGs and African Agenda 2063.

- Recognition of the multi-sectoral nature of CRVS system and the need for holistic and integrated approaches.

- Improved investment on CRVS systems by national governments and supports from regional and international development partners.

- More than half of the countries conducted comprehensive assessment, some developed costed strategic plans and have begun to implement them.

- A number of guidelines and tools have been developed and several training workshops conducted as part of capacity-building efforts in the region.

- Heads of States and governments have declared 2017-2026 to be the decade of CRVS for Africa.

I. Background… (continued)

- Despite the remarkable progress, there remain a number of major challenges facing the African CRVS systems.

- One of the challenges is the lack of efficient coordination among CRVS stockholders at national and regional levels.

- Inadequate government budgetary allocation for the CR system, high staff turnover and shortage of skilled manpower.

- Low coverage and completeness of vital events registrations.

- The use ICT remains very low and CR databases are not integrated with other systems such as HMIS and national ID system.

- Only few countries produce VS from CR, and properly verify and record causes of death.

CRVS as a Multi-sectoral System

- MoH
- NSO
- NID
- MoJ

Birth & death Notification, CoD

Vital Statistics

Birth registration and Legal Identity

Marriage & Divorce registrations

II. Regional level CRVS Coordination Mechanisms and Strategies

Progresses	Challenges and Strategies
Policy guidance by Conference of Ministers helped countries move from a fragmented and isolated to a more holistic and integrated approach in their CRVS improvement process.	Lack of intergovernmental mechanism to work with APAI-CRVS Secretariat in between and during the inter-menstrual conference period.
	To fill this gap, ECA is currently organizing a task force meeting form October 17-20 for establishing committee of African registrar generals (CoARG) responsible for the management and coordination of CR initiatives in countries and in the region.

II. Regional level… (continued)

Progresses	Challenges and Strategies
The APAI-CRVS, as a continental framework encourage and guide coordination among CRVS stockholders at regional and country levels.	The APAI-CRVS Secretariat is currently under staffed and under-resourced. cannot meet the much needed support required by countries and is at risk of slowing down the momentum gained in the past few years.
	The new APAI-CRVS strategic plan (2017-2021) does include a staff structure and resource mobilization to strengthen Secretariat.

II. Regional level... (continued)

Progresses	Challenges and Strategies
The regional CRVS core group provide integrated and coordinated technical and financial supports and proved to be effective in coordinating the programme across the continent.	Some of development partners in the region are engaged in CRVS activities not fully aligned the APAI-CRVS programmatic framework, and some are found to be counter productive.
	APAI-CRVS Secretariat encourages partners to work within the regional framework of the APAI-CRVS programme to avoid inconsistencies and duplication of efforts.

III. Country level CRVS Coordination Mechanisms and Strategies

Progresses	Challenges and Strategies
Many countries established a lead Ministry for civil registration system and forming high-level inter-ministerial steering committee to oversight and coordinate the national CRVS improvement efforts.	Ad-hoc nature of the coordination mechanism when the need arise such as to conduct comprehensive assessment of the national CRVS systems.
	Creating more awareness about the multi-sectoral nature of CRVS and mainstreaming the CRVS across relevant sectors.

III. Country level …(continued)

Progresses	Challenges and Strategies
Many countries recently forming technical working groups (TWG) to coordinate interdisciplinary expertise towards accelerated improvement of national CRVS systems.	Involving lager number of individuals from different sectors may could pose coordination challenges among the members of TWGs .
	Include only key institutions that are highly relevant to the CRVS legal, technical and operational aspects.

III. Country level ...(continued)

Progresses	Challenges
In many countries, MOUs signed between the lead CR minister and key national stakeholders, particularly MOH, NSO, MOE, etc.	As MOUs are not legally binding, the inter-ministerial collaborations lack to reach the expected levels. Non-lead ministers do nu consider CRVS activities as their formal responsibility, rather as an additional workloads.
	Some countries are amending national CR laws to incorporate legal provisions for inter-ministerial collaborative CRVS management and operations Proper use of ICT and interoperability of databases for efficient coordination between different systems relevant for CRVS operation.

Thank you