Fulfill the promise – why CRVS matter more for women and girls

Irina Dincu
Senior Program Specialist
CRVS Data: A crucial input for gender-related SDGs

The need for CRVS data to measure gender-related SDGs should lead to increased political and financial support for these systems.

34 out of the 54 gender-related SDG indicators identified by UN Women benefit from data provided by Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system.

This tabulation includes 54 gender-related indicators identified by UN Women. Indicators requiring CRVS identified by Open Data Watch.

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CRVS is the basis to achieve the 2030 Agenda
Investing in CRVS: The key to gender empowerment

The benefits of investing in CRVS systems for women and girls far outweigh their costs.

Scaling up Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems requires investment but offers significant impacts in economic growth, political engagement, and empowerment of women.

1.5 billion USD (matched by equal domestic funding) required to build CRVS systems in 77 of world’s poorest countries. This is 1 percent of current official development assistance (ODA).

Benefits of CRVS investment include:

- Financial Inclusion
- Political Participation
- Health Services Access

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Why CRVS Matters for Women

- Birth registration is far from complete – averages do not tell us the entire picture
- Birth registration could protect against child marriage
- Women are less likely than men to have national ID, reinforcing women’s exclusion
- ID can act as a gateway to improving women’s political voice
- Women are more at risk of statelessness than men
- For migrant women it is critical to have access to documentation, as they might be more prone to abuse
- Complete CRVS data can be used to track and make visible those women and girls left farthest behind
Why Women matter for CRVS

- Averages mask gender inequalities in birth registration and access to legal ID
- Unrecorded marriages and teen and unwed motherhood have intergenerational costs
- Gender inequalities in death registration can be large and further entrench these inequalities
- Gender intensifies constraints to civil registration and national ID
- Financial incentives help close gender gaps in CRVS and ID coverage
A life-course approach to Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems encompasses birth and death registration and the often-neglected areas of marriage and divorce registration. Examples of the disproportionate impact of non-registration on women and girls exist all over the world.

- **Sex-selective delays in birth registration in China pose social protection risks for women and girls.**
- **Under-registration of marriage of Syrian refugees can impact registration of future vital events.**
- **Low registration of female deaths misinforms public health interventions to improve women’s health.**

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Making CRVS systems work for women

Barriers to registration are particularly problematic for women who lack access to resources and have limited autonomy.

A Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system provides legal documentation of identity, civil status, and family relations. Solutions are needed to overcome gender-based barriers to registration.

- Delegate responsibilities to the local level, close to where women live and work.
- Draw on the health services that women and girls use to facilitate civil registration.
- Make registration and the issuance of certificates free of charge.
- Remove legal, regulatory and customary barriers that inhibit civil registration for women and girls.

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Linking ID and CRVS systems for women

An ID system, when linked to the CRVS system, unlocks and improves access to basic services, from which women and the poor face greater exclusion.

A Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system includes data on birth, death, marriage, and divorce events of individuals. A well-functioning CRVS system can make a national ID system more inclusive.

Legal Identification is a gateway to lifting women’s political voice, increasing agency, and reducing gender gaps in the economy.

Updating mechanisms of a National Identity System (NIS)

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Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) and ID systems matter (more) for women.

A gender lens should inform the development, implementation, and monitoring of vital statistics and identity documentation.

Women are uniquely poised to be agents of change for universal civil registration and ID systems that “leave no one behind.”

Disaggregated data show gender inequalities in CRVS and ID coverage.

A CRVS and ID data, research, and action agenda informed by a gender lens includes improving data on marriage registration and certification; improving death registration and recording with a gender lens; investigating inequalities in coverage of vital events within countries; investigating gender related supply-side barriers to registration, including legal restrictions; testing cost-effective interventions to increase coverage and reduce gender gaps; and designing programs with a human-centered design approach that seeks to benefit women and girls.
Conclusion

- Prioritization
- Funding and finances
- Partnership and collaboration
- Knowledge and research
- Balance
Make civil registration and vital statistics systems less gender blind and more gender transformative
Thank you so much