Applying legal analysis and business process mapping for CRVS system strengthening: Lessons from three districts study in Indonesia

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Introduction/Motivation

The Government of Indonesia has defined their national strategy on CRVS through the Presidential Regulation Number 62 of 2019 on the Acceleration of Population Administration for the Development of Vital Statistics (Stranas AKPSH). One of the objectives of the Stranas AKPSH is to provide accurate, complete and timely vital statistics. The main data source for vital statistics should be the civil registration system which would provide data on key vital events disaggregated by place of residence, sex, and age group. However, in Indonesia, the data generated by the civil and population registration system, are yet to inform and used as the primary source for vital statistics production. Most of the vital statistics published are the results of calculations using national census data or surveys.

The government of Indonesia has succeeded in pushing for an almost universal ownership of a single identification number for its citizens, but the quality and completeness of civil registration data remains a key gap for Indonesia. Civil registration is not yet timely across many parts of the country. It is also difficult for some vulnerable groups to register themselves. In respond to the registration challenges, various good practices have emerged carried out by both national and regional governments as well as community organizations, and these have helped strengthen the existing administrative system. At the same time, they also create complex parallel mechanisms that may not all be interconnected. As yet, there has been no assessment of these systems nor the data they produce.

The Government of Indonesia through the National Secretariat of CRVS in partnership with the Center of Child Protection and Wellbeing at Universitas Indonesia (PUSKAPA) and Vital Strategies have been working together to understand the business processes and data flows within the CRVS system in Indonesia from the point of notification of the event occurring to certification and finally to the production of vital statistics. Through joint application of the legal and regulatory review framework and business process mapping approach, this assessment maps out current key business processes and sub-processes and places these maps within the context of recommended legal and regulatory best-practices, with the goal of defining a way forward to strengthen the existing Indonesian CRVS system.

Methods/Work performed

This assessment was conducted through desk review and national consultations as well as subnational data collection in three districts, Bener Meriah, South Manokwari, and Padang Pariaman and was followed up through consultation with stakeholders at the national level. In parallel, legal and regulatory review assessed 61 national and subnational laws and policy documents.

The subnational data collection was conducted in September 2022 in three districts in Indonesia; they are Bener Meriah, Padang Pariaman, and South Manokwari. These locations were selected based on existing CRVS initiatives underway as well as their unique geographical, and cultural characteristics. Group discussions and in-depth interviews with local government officials and village residents were conducted and data was collected from 195 participants.

National consultations were conducted through interviews with representatives of the relevant directorates of the three ministries/agencies at the national level; they are Ministry of Home Affairs, BPS and the Ministry of Health. Interviews were conducted between 12 December 2022 to 9 January 2023 with a total of 23 informants.

Discussion

Currently, Indonesia still does not have a complete vital statistics system using civil and population registration data. In addition to Presidential Decree 62/2019 concerning the Acceleration of Administration for Vital Statistics, various regulations and policies are still needed to harmonize the process of registering births, deaths and causes of death carried out by various sectors. The fragmentation of the business processes of the various vital event recording mechanisms results in the non-integration of data on births, deaths and causes of death that are collected.

The birth registration business process and the regulatory framework are identified as more established compared to those of death and cause of death registration. At the national level, birth registration policies are considered comprehensive since achieving universal birth registration has become one of the government's priorities in the past decade, while policies on death and cause of death registration remain sparse. On the other end, clear linkages between civil registration and vital statistics production were still lacking.

Moreover, the assessment found variations in how the selected areas implement and innovate their birth, death, and cause of death registration practices. While some local initiatives have resulted in increased coverage of birth registration, challenges around catching up with death registration and standardizing cause of death registration persisted in all assessment areas. Based on the analysis of bottlenecks and opportunities, this assessment formulated a set of CRVS improvement policy recommendations that will inform Indonesia's CRVS National Secretariat action plan.

As a result of the situation outlined above, the vital statistics system in Indonesia, ranging from production to data quality control and dissemination, remains underdeveloped. The government of Indonesia now has practical lessons learned from the legal review and business process mapping exercises conducted and can use them to inform strategic ways forward that are in line with the Stranas AKPSH priorities and directions. Some of the first key steps include harmonizing the process of registering births, deaths, and causes of death carried out by various sectors and streamlining the regulatory framework on vital events recording mechanisms. By doing so, the government will enable the integration of data and the production of vital statistics that accurately reflect the country's population dynamics and social health status.