

9th SESSION OF STATISTICAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Unleashing the
potential of African
innovation in statistical
development



Civil Registration and Disasters in Africa

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Impact of Disasters and Emergencies on the Principles of Civil Registration

Civil registration should be **continuous, permanent, compulsory, universal** and **confidential**

Impact on Principles

- Suspension of registration of some vital events e.g. births and deaths, marriage, for example during Covid
- Closure of all civil registration offices
- Documents in civil registration offices are destroyed – DRC, Sudan
- Reduction in operating hours of some civil registration offices
- Significant reduction in number of declarations by members of the public
- Legal documents lost during emergencies and disasters
- Considerations of use of civil registration data for tracing of infected or affected individuals and the related ethical considerations

Why Pay Attention to Disasters and Emergencies



Legal identity remains of crucial importance during disasters and emergencies: Proof of Identity



Children who are not registered are particularly vulnerable and may be at heightened risk of violence, trafficking etc during such times.



Complete CRVS system is the gold standard for measurement of mortality in a population



Emergencies and disasters have potential long term impact on the development and performance of CRVS systems.



Reduces costs of data capture, questionnaire printing, storage, and transportation.

Examples of During Covid-19

- Staff rotations, flexible and/or reduced working hours, engagement of a minimum number of staff, Staff working from home
- Re-assignment of civil registration staff to COVID 19 duties
- Scaling down of other services provided by civil registration offices
- Increased use of electronic platforms for registration and communication with clients e.g. in Australia, NZ, special provisions allowing for electronic enacted in Cook Islands
- Close collaborative work arrangements established with other critical government departments such as the police, MoH, revenue office for the disbursements of financial grants in the cases of death

Long-Term Impacts of Disasters on CRVS



BUILD UP OF
BACKLOG OF
UNREGISTERED
EVENTS



HIGH LIKELIHOOD
OF UNDER-
REGISTRATION OF
EVENTS THAT
OCCUR AT THIS TIME



INCOMPLETENESS,
DELAY AND
INACCURACY OF
VITAL STATISTICS
DUE TO DELAYED
REPORTING



SUSPENSION OF
INITIATIVES
PLANNED FOR
IMPROVEMENT OF
THE CRVS SYSTEM



STRAIN ON STAFF
DUE TO HIGH
VOLUME OF WORK
IN FUTURE WHEN
NORMAL
REGISTRATION
SERVICES RESUME

Example: African CRVS Response to COVID-19



Provide proper IT support to foster “work from home” arrangements for employees.



Increase investments in online-based platforms for registration.



Strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders like the Ministry of Health to ensure registration of events as they occur.



Develop a robust disaster management/ business continuity plans to guide response during such times.

Mitigation of Impact of Disasters on Civil Registration

Developed Responsive APAI-CRVS-Second Phase- Based on Theory of Change

New Strategic Plan for APAI-CRVS (2023-2027) based on Evidence – An evaluation of 10 Years of Implementing the APAI-CRVS

Strategic Pillars for the New Phase of the Strategic Plan-Based on COVID-19 Experience

1. Demand and Advocacy
2. Innovation
3. Integration
4. Interoperability (DPI)
5. Decentralization

Ultimately develop CR systems Fit For Purpose that are:

1. Flexible
2. Agile
3. Simplified
4. Resilient
5. Proactive
6. Interoperable

Our African Initiative in Digitization in Civil Registration

African eCRVS Shared Asset (ACSA)

- Fostering standardization
- Harmonization to meet the continent's distinct requirements
- Owned and led by African Nations
- Led by Advisory Board comprising [Angola](#), [Benin](#), [Cote d'Ivoire](#), [DRC](#), [Egypt](#), [Ghana](#), [Kenya](#), [Rwanda](#), [Senegal](#), [Zambia](#), and [Zimbabwe](#)

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Thank You