

Fiji's Experience - Midterm Report

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FIJI GOVERNMENT

Primary Stakeholders

- The Mid Term report stakeholders included:
- Fiji Bureau of Statistics
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Health and Medical Services
- Other key stakeholders such as the Government's Digital Transformation Office and the iTaukei Affairs
- Support from UNESCAP

CRVS committee

- The CRVS committee works on the task with the development partners UNESCAP.

Goals and Strategies

- The questionnaire was filled by the CRVS team that was working closely on the CRVS area.
- Fiji has a CRVS action plan in place.
- There were plans to carry out inequality assessments and Fiji has now completed the assessment successfully.
- Also, there were plans to oversee the legislation whereby we are working towards a business process improvement to study the entire civil registration process.

Timelines

- Questionnaire was worked on during meetings with the CRVS team. It took from 2019 to 2020 to complete the mid term report.

Progress

- It is encouraging that progress has been made to meet the goals.
- The percentage of births registered is rapidly increasing in Fiji which had low birth registration rates at the beginning of the Decade. Government incentives pushed up the numbers even more with long queues at BDM offices.
- Similarly, for death registration, there was significant progress among countries with previously low rates. However, death registration rates remain much lower than those for birth registration.
- During the COVID-19 crisis, the need for registering all deaths and accurate reporting of causes of death became even more critical.

Progress Cont'd

- The targets of the Regional Action Framework represent the range of areas covered by CRVS and the priorities countries identified in 2014.
- Targets were endorsed on birth registration and the issuance of a birth certificate, death registration and the issuance of a death certificate, the recording of causes of death and the quality of the information collected, and finally the use of this information for vital statistics

Progress Cont'd

- Many countries in the Pacific are still working towards better systems for CRVS and progress is still needed to achieve the vision of universal and responsive CRVS systems by end of the Decade.
- Encouraging trends are visible in Fiji. First, the percentage of births registered, also called birth registration completeness, is rapidly increasing.
- From 2014 to 2018 Fiji made a significant progress increasing birth registration from 64 percent to 72 percent.

What can be done to improve vital statistics from civil registration records?

- The accuracy, completeness and timeliness of vital statistics is dependent on the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of civil registration records and the medical certification of causes of death
- It is crucial that vital statistics are considered in the management of civil registration. Civil registration, health and statistics authorities should all work together to ensure the information collected in the registration forms covers the topics recommended by the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System

Next Steps for Fiji

- Further research needed to improve inequalities in birth and death registration (perhaps qualitative assessments)
- Potential Business Process Improvement (BPI) activities to identify bottlenecks and gaps in the system, to allow for a more efficient and user-friendly interface with the public
- Development of policy briefs to communicate quantitative evidence in support of civil registration incentives
- Plans under discussion to standardize the Notification of Birth (NOB) form



Thank You!
Q&A