



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
for CRVS Systems

Swiss TPH



Economics of CRVS systems

Building a case for stronger CRVS systems

Daniel Cobos Muñoz

Senior Scientific Collaborator

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Daniel.cobos@swisstph.ch

Economic Case for CRVS



Daniel Cobos



Irina Dincu



Rebeca Revenga
Becedas



Carmen Sant
Fruchtmann



Don de Savigny



Gunther fink

Funded by:

IDRC- Centre of Excellence

Outline of the presentation

1. Rationale for an economic case for CRVS
 2. Benefits of CRVS systems (systematic review)
 3. Framework to develop an economic case for CRVS
 4. Plan for the session
-

Why we need an economic case for CRVS?

- Even though there has been an increase in funding for CRVS, there is still a **significant funding gap** in some countries

	Country	Share of NSDS covered by public finance	Funding Gap
Development costs	Burkina Faso	31%	69%
Recurrent costs ^a	Mali	50.4%	49.6%
International support to CRVS including knowledge sharing, and strengthening the evidence base ^b	Niger	43.1%	56.9%
Monitoring and evaluation ^c	Maldives	76.6%	23.4%
TOTALs	Cameroon	27%	73%
	Laos	35%	65%
	Honduras	9%	91%
	Georgia	61.7%	38.3%
	Bolivia	37%	63%
	Tajikistan	25.8%	74.2%

World Bank, 2014

Paris21, 2019

Why we need an economic case for CRVS?

- COVID19 is rising **new competing priorities** for countries
- **Patchy evidence** on the economics of CRVS systems
- An **economic case for CRVS has not been yet developed** in terms of cost savings and return on investment



Objectives

1. To **develop a framework for capturing the economic and social benefits associated with CRVS**; and to **analyse the fiscal benefits and efficiency gains** associated with investments in CRVS systems; and
2. To **set out the economic argument and evidence base** that show that CRVS systems can provide **a return on investment for government, multilateral and private sector stakeholders.**



Swiss TPH



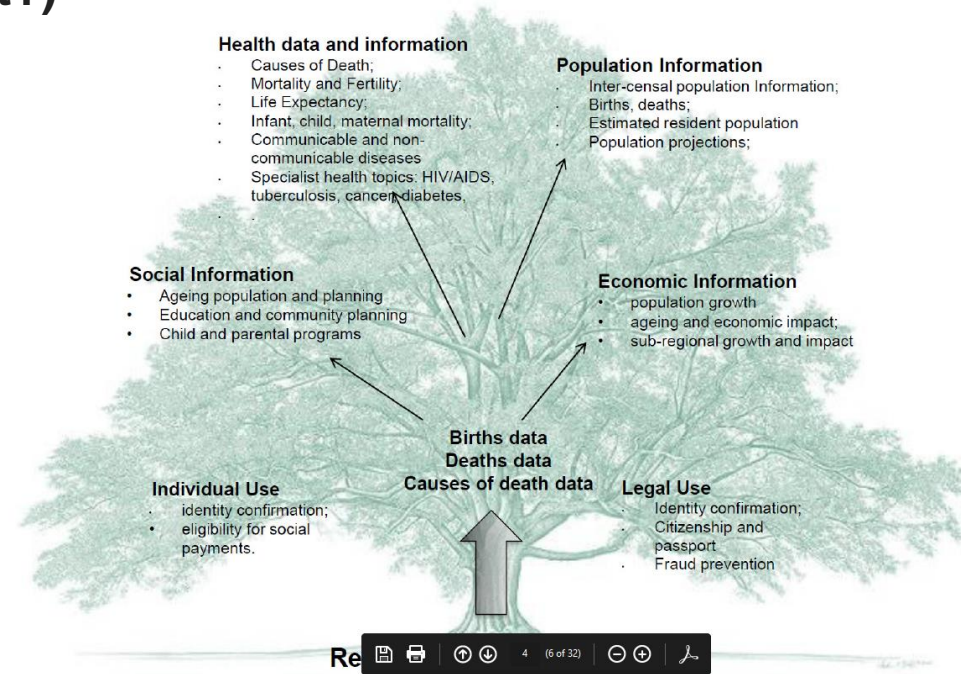
Benefits of CRVS systems

Systematic review

What are the (economic) benefits of CRVS systems?

Benefits are well documented (or not?)

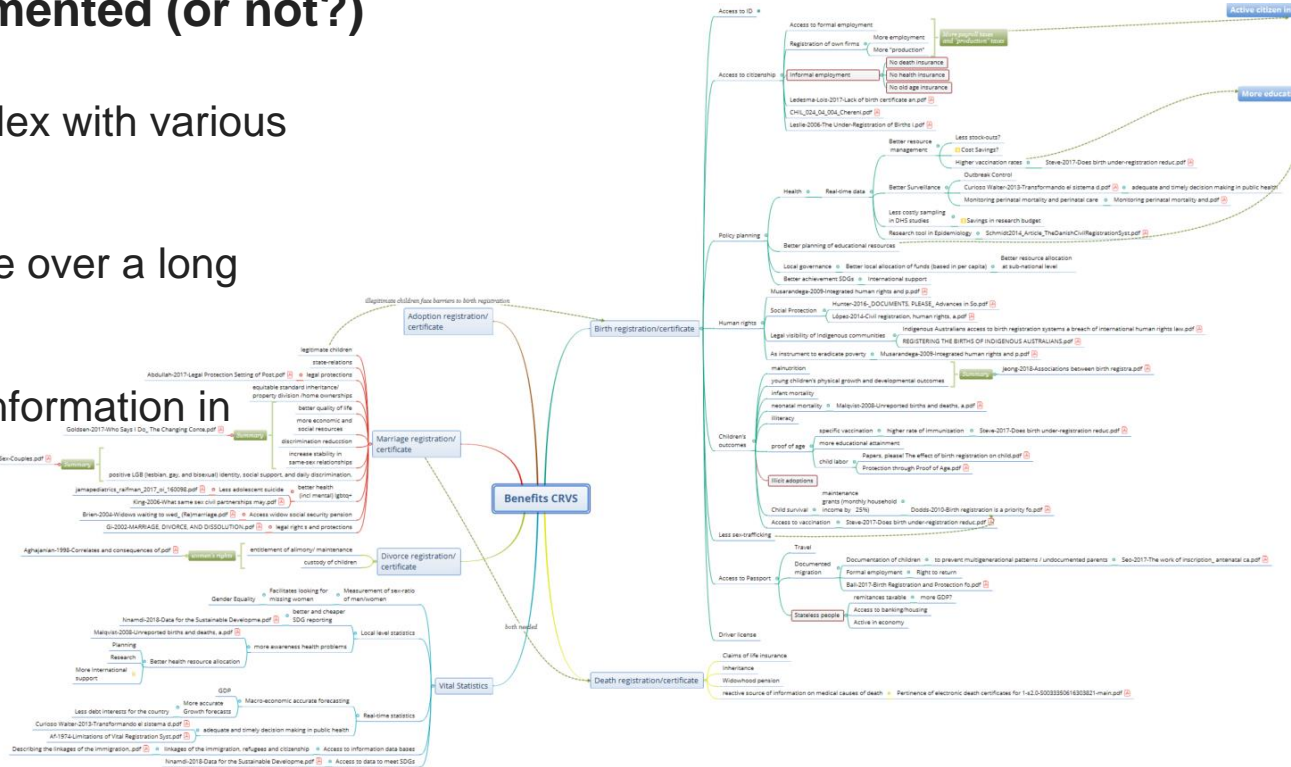
Conceptually, the benefits of a robust and reliable CRVS system are well documented



What are the (economic) benefits of CRVS systems?

Benefits are well documented (or not?)

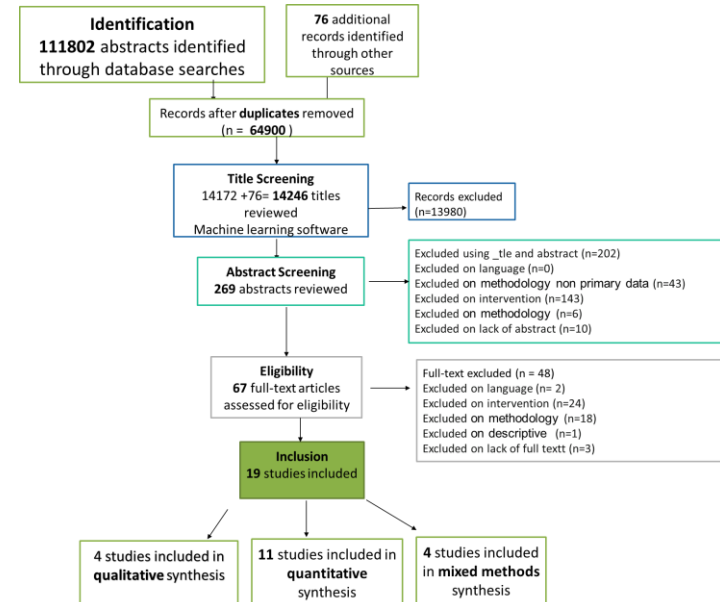
- CRVS systems are complex with various paths for impact
- Benefits would materialize over a long period of time
- Difficult to integrate this information in the policy dialogue



Benefits of CRVS systems

A functional CRVS system is associated with

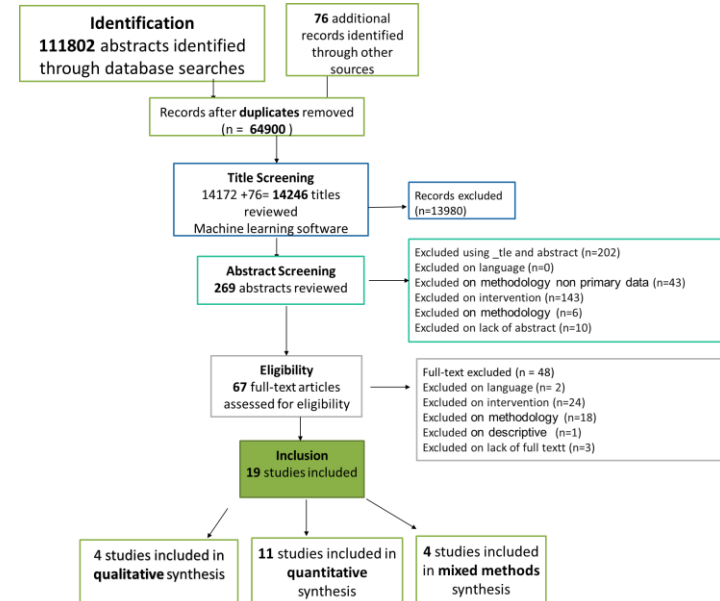
- Reduced likelihood of child labour
- Reduced likelihood of child marriage
- Increased tax revenue and access to formal economic sector
- Increased access to a formal employment
- Increased educational outcomes and access to education



Benefits of CRVS systems

A functional CRVS system is associated with

- Improved vaccination status
- Improved nutritional status
- Reduce suicide rate among LGBIS
- Access to conditional cash transfer and other social protection programs



What are the (economic) benefits of CRVS systems?

Benefits are well documented (or not?)

- **Limited evidence** on the impact to CRVS systems on individuals, governments and societies
- **Imbalance on the evidence around some vital events** (no evidence of the benefits of death registration)
- General **positive evidence on the value of CRVS** systems but not robust study designs



Swiss TPH

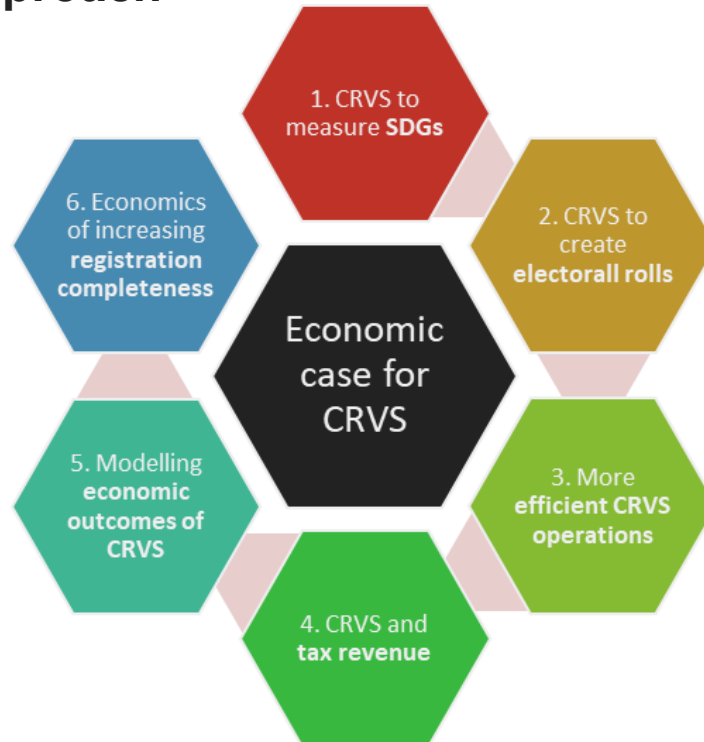


Framework to develop an
economic case for CRVS

Methodological approach

How we make an economic argument for CRVS systems?

“Divide and rule” approach



How we make an economic argument for CRVS systems?



Differential cost of measuring SDGs with CRVS vs household surveys

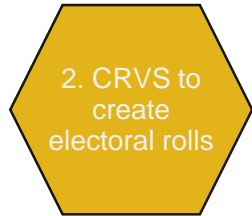
Rationale

- Countries need accurate information to monitor SDGs
- 67 SDG indicators can be monitored with a functional CRVS system
- Countries need to find the right balance between surveys and routine systems

Study questions

- Is it cost-saving to implement a functional CRVS system as compared to routine household surveys to measure these indicators.
- What is the unit cost per participant, per capita, and per indicator of the system.

How we make an economic argument for CRVS systems?



Cost of developing a voter registration list with different approaches

Rationale

- Electoral roll creation is resource intensive and costly
- Passive systems rely on existing registers like CRVS to update the electoral roll
- Countries need to find the right balance between surveys and routine systems

Study questions

- What is the marginal cost of using a functional CRVS system to prepare an electoral roll as compared to the cost of deploying a electoral census methodology?
- Which approach to electoral roll development and maintenance provides more completeness, accuracy and quality?

How we make an economic argument for CRVS systems?



Improving the efficiency of crvs operations through digitization

Rationale

- Many government are transitioning from paper to digital
- Digitizing requires significant upfront investments
- Efficiency gains due to digitization must be assessed in the light of the investments

Study questions

- What is the incremental cost of digitizing a CRVS system given different scenarios of implementation?
- Are digital CRVS systems more efficient than paper-based systems?
- Does digitization of a CRVS system lead to improved completeness and accuracy?

How we make an economic argument for CRVS systems?



Measuring increase in tax revenue as a consequence of functioning CRVS systems

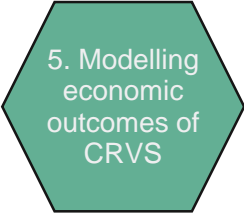
Rationale

- Knowing the tax base is essential to increase tax revenue
- CRVS systems can improve taxation through the provision of legal documents and allowing interoperability of databases

Study questions

- What is the marginal impact of CRVS completeness on tax revenue?
- What is the information required to build this analysis?

How we make an economic argument for CRVS systems?



5. Modelling economic outcomes of CRVS

Modelling the economic outcomes of CRVS systems

Rationale

- CRVS systems impact health, education and economic opportunities through different channels
- Phillips et al identified some of those pathways for health outcomes
- Some of the benefits for CRVS systems can be valued in economic terms

Study questions

- What is the magnitude of the macro-economic impact of CRVS improvement?
- As measured through the association of lagged GDP growth to improvements in CRVS system coverage.

How we make an economic argument for CRVS systems?

6. Economics
of increasing
completeness

Modelling cost of CRVS to increasing completeness of CRVS systems

Rationale

- Countries are at different stages of CRVS completeness
- Identifying the production function for CRVS systems is essential to improve performance

Study questions

- What is the shape and scale of the cost-completeness production function for a specific country CRVS?
- What is the marginal cost of improving the completeness of a given country CRVS system?

Plan for the session

Key objectives

- We aim with this session to **summarize the existing knowledge and experience** about the cost and benefits of CRVS systems as a foundation to build an economic case for CRVS.
- We plan to **describe the “Framework to develop an economic case for CRVS”** using case studies of the application in some LMICs.
- Facilitate a discussion within the CRVS global and regional community to **build a strong economic case for CRVS** aiming at attracting resources and attention
- Explore the **integration of these methodologies as a core component of the efforts of Regional and Global stakeholders** to strengthen CRVS systems in countries, including UN ESCAP

Summary points

- There is a **need for more evidence** on the impact of CRVS systems;
- Existing evidence shows benefits of CRVS systems for individuals, government and societies;
- The framework to develop an economic case for CRVS provides 6 case study methodologies for countries to implement (currently discussing with Tanzania and Mozambique)
- **We could include some case studies from Asia Pacific if countries are interested**

Swiss TPH 

Thank you for your attention

Daniel.cobos@swisstph.ch