Positioning CRVS in support of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

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ConVERGE
Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality
LIFE COURSE

* Non-discrimination on the basis of sex or gender identity, property and inheritance rights, child custody rights

** Right to remarry, Protection from unilateral divorce
Monitoring Gender-biased Sex Selection using birth registration data - Georgia

Birth registration data are particularly useful in unpacking the spatio-temporal variation in skewed sex ratios at birth, given that they are continuous unlike censuses and surveys.
Who is missing from CRVS Systems?

• Notable variation in death registration completeness between regions

• Female death registration is notably less complete in almost all regions

• Massive implications for gender equity in allocation of population health resources
Why are certain people missing from civil registration systems?

Proximate Determinants of Under-registration of Marriage Registration

- Population sub-group trust of system
- Degree of difficulty in obtaining a divorce

Socio-Political Factors

- Acceptability
- Processual nature of marriage in sub-Saharan Africa
- Law and status of leviratic and polygynous unions

Cultural Context

- Gendered views on desirability or benefits of registration
- Religious solemnization seen as sufficient

Household & Gender Dynamics

- Affordability
- Availability
- Personal attitudes
- Knowledge

Individual
Determinants of vital events under-registration

Marriage Registration and Certification

"It is not in our culture to declare marriage, the majority of weddings are traditional weddings celebrated either in the mosque or at home and it is over, the marriage at the town hall is too Western"

- Male Focus Group Discussion, Kolda, Senegal

“If you marry at the town hall, all your property belongs to your wife in the event of death. Your family will have nothing. That's what scares people. ”

- Older Male Focus Group, Nanoro, Burkina Faso
Determinants of vital events under-registration

Death Registration and Certification

“When my husband died, I went with my son to the civil status office. It was my son who entered, and I stayed outside”

- Female Focus Group, Beni Yagrine, Morocco
## Vital Statistics to support gender equality and women’s empowerment

### Overview of Current Situation of Vital Statistics Engagement with Selected Gender Issues, Kyrgyzstan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics/Issues</th>
<th>Ideally</th>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Challenge / Technical Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes or No</td>
<td>Yes or No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femicides</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>It is hard to observe the causes of femicides or suicides in the statistics, as the relatives tend to hide the real causes of death. People do not welcome autopsy for religious reasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underage marriage</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>It is possible to see via indirect indicators (general data on adolescent pregnancy, abortions, unmet needs) and checking the medical certificates where the doctor explain the conditions of pregnancy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Statistics are not always transparent, as medical institutions tend to hide the real statistics to keep more positive records on their work. There is no sufficient data on the living conditions of women and types of violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Big inconsistencies with MICS statistics and no data on the living conditions of children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender based sex selection</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Challenge of under-reporting due to sensitive nature of issue, and system coverage of private clinics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children per women</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Differences in educational attainment between spouses</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Very little information available (no age, gender disaggregation, they only have info on maternal mortality among women).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

- Gender-transformative CRVS System Strengthening requires a life-course approach
- Completeness Assessment is a powerful tool to quantify inequities in access to civil registration
- Women and girls face notable barriers across the life course in engaging civil registration systems
- Vital Statistics, derived from civil registration, are a key source of data on gender equality and women’s empowerment