

Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in French-Speaking Countries: Opportunities and Challenges

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems can provide reliable data on births, deaths and other key events, thereby supporting sustainable development and protecting human rights. However, there are still many challenges ahead¹ and only 1 out of every 10 deaths is registered in sub-Saharan Africa.² Stronger CRVS systems will contribute to improvements in these areas, bringing benefits and services to more people and providing better data for policymaking.

Priority investments for CRVS system improvement in French-speaking countries identified by key government agencies include:

1 Enhanced governance and coordination:

Support is needed for innovative approaches for governance and coordination that take into account the decentralized structures in place in this region. **Governance is one of the most highly supported interventions, but more support for improved coordination and governance for highly complex CRVS systems is needed to enable registration data to be centralized.** Enhancing governance, a backbone component of a national CRVS system, can have profound effects on overall system functioning and promotes integrated planning and policymaking.

2 Digital transformation:

Digital and interoperable systems are critically important and can reduce inefficiencies, enhance accessibility, and provide real-time data sharing. Particularly for mortality data, digital solutions promote efficient and timely responses. Digital transformation is a must. Furthermore, placing CRVS systems at the foundation of emerging plans for Digital Public Infrastructure is essential. **A significant investment is needed in digital systems, and this requires urgent attention.**

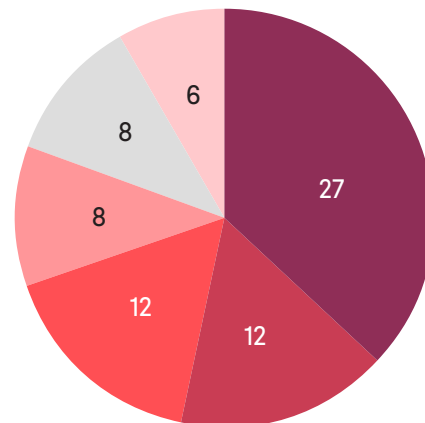
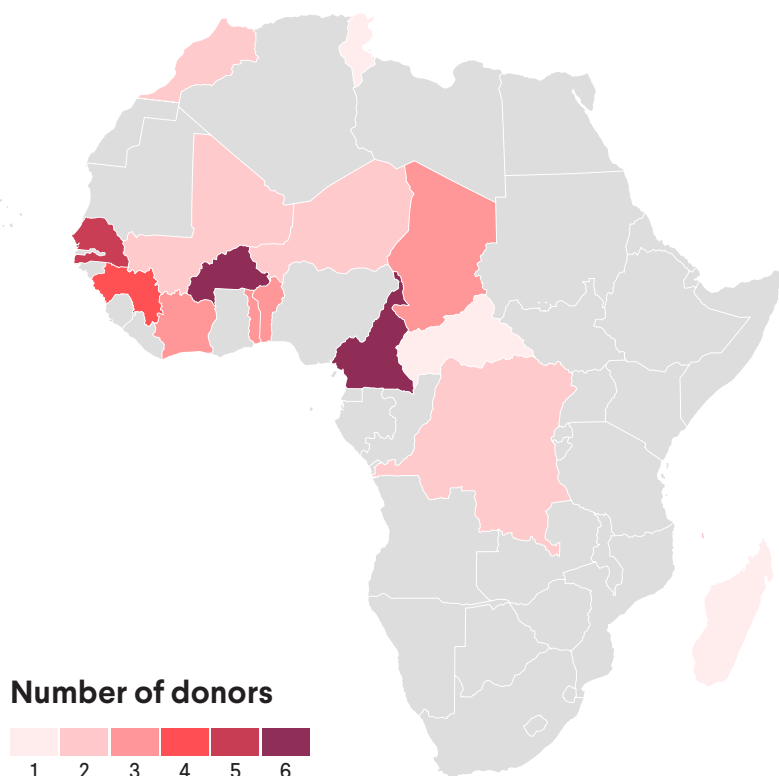
3 Enhanced integration between health and civil registry agencies:

Investing in the integration between the health sector and civil registry systems is showing promising results in birth and death registration completeness. Ongoing efforts are critical to improve coordination between health institutions and civil registration authorities to enhance the accuracy and comprehensiveness of vital statistics. **Moving from passive (which put the burden on families) to active (responsibility lies with institutions) registration systems is imperative for driving up completeness.**³

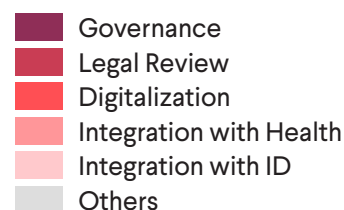
4 Aligning CRVS Systems with Identity:

In line with UNLIA, **support is needed for countries to increase capacity within civil registries to provide a legal identity for each person that is ultimately transformed into a digital identity.**

This is an urgent call to action for international organizations, governments and development partners to step up their technical and financial support for the efforts of French-speaking countries to consolidate and reinforce their CRVS systems, and to enable better coordination of these resources.



Number of organizations supporting each intervention



SUPPORT FOR CRVS IMPROVEMENT BY COUNTRY

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Benin World bank ANIP UNICEF | Cameroon UNICEF AFD EU D4H OIF World Bank | Chad World Bank OIF ICivil | Ivory Coast World Bank ANF Civipol | Mali Civipol ID4 Africa | Senegal Plan AFD Civipol FEF D4H |
| Burkina Faso World Bank ICivil UNICEF D4H AFD EU | Central African Republic Civipol | Comoros FEF UNICEF | Guinea World Bank OIF UNICEF ECA | Morocco AIMF AFD | Togo World Bank UNDP OIF |
| | | Democratic Republic of the Congo AFD UNICEF | Madagascar OIF | Niger World Bank OIF | Tunisia AFD |

ENDNOTES

- 1 United Nations Children’s Fund, A Statistical Update on Birth Registration in Africa, UNICEF, New York, 2022
- 2 SCORE for health data technical package: global report on health data systems and capacity, 2020
- 3 The health sector in civil registration: options and methods to increase registration of live births, stillbirths and deaths, Vital Strategies, 2022



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Program at Vital Strategies

