

# Civil Registration and Vital Statistics



Supporting governments to make sure every life is counted

**Globally 45% of deaths are unregistered. Many that are registered lack a cause of death.**

Vital Strategies' Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Program collaborates with governments to bring the benefits of civil registration to individuals and to generate high-quality vital statistics for policy, planning, and impact measurement. By focusing on global best practices, these partnerships empower governments to count every human life.

CRVS is at the foundation of good governance and the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda. Registration records are also the primary source of the vital statistics central to policy and priority-setting in health and other sectors, and monitoring international commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals. For individuals, the registration of birth establishes legal identity, securing rights, protections and access to services. Death registration protects surviving family members. Globally, stronger registration systems are associated with significantly better health outcomes, including maternal mortality<sup>1</sup>.

CRVS makes everyone count by counting everyone.



We take a holistic, systems approach to CRVS improvement rooted in government leadership and ownership; capacity building; equity; and sustainability.

Since 2015, we have assisted over 40 countries to improve CRVS systems.

- |                              |               |                  |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Argentina                    | Ethiopia      | Papua New Guinea |
| Bangladesh                   | Fiji          | Guinea           |
| Bolivia                      | Ghana         | Peru             |
| Brazil                       | Guinea-Bissau | Philippines      |
| Bulgaria                     | Indonesia     | Rwanda           |
| Burkina Faso                 | Iraq          | Senegal          |
| Burundi                      | Kenya         | Solomon Islands  |
| Cambodia                     | Kiribati      | Sri Lanka        |
| Cameroon                     | Liberia       | Syria            |
| Chad                         | Malawi        | Thailand         |
| China                        | Maldives      | Tanzania         |
| Colombia                     | Mexico        | Vanuatu          |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Mozambique    | Vietnam          |
| Ecuador                      | Myanmar       | Zimbabwe         |
|                              | Nigeria       |                  |
|                              | Pakistan      |                  |

Learn more at [www.vitalstrategies.org](http://www.vitalstrategies.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Phillips, D. E., et al. (2015). "Are well functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems associated with better health outcomes?" *Lancet* 386(10001): 1386-1394.

### Our holistic approach to CRVS improvement

After a joint review of the current CRVS system and government priorities, local CRVS and public health leaders and Vital Strategies staff develop a tailored program of activities and technical assistance in the following areas:

#### Governance and Coordination

Facilitate strong multi-sectoral leadership for the CRVS system and efficient CRVS processes

- Improvement of CRVS system business processes
- Strengthening CRVS coordinating bodies
- CRVS legal and regulatory review and reform (in partnership with the Global Health Advocacy Incubator)

#### Counting Every Birth and Death

Ensure governments have capacity to count every human life and death

- Linkage of health sector and civil registration authority to increase the reporting of vital events
- Design and scale-up support for improved, digitized birth and death registration
- Promotion of interoperable IT systems

#### Better Facility Cause-of-Death Data

Strengthen capacity of doctors to provide high quality cause-of-death data

- Adoption of the international standard medical certificate of cause of death
- Multi-modal cause-of-death certification training
- Support transition to ICD-11 for cause of death certification

#### ICD Mortality Coding

Strengthen capacity to generate high-quality cause of death data

- Implement trainings on and support automation of ICD mortality coding
- Promote establishment of sustained quality control of ICD-coded mortality data
- Support transition to ICD-11 for coding cause-of-death

#### Understanding Community Mortality

Enable the collection of cause-of-deaths from events that occur in the community

- Introduction and scaled application of WHO automated verbal autopsy
- Integrate VA with civil registration and health information systems
- Sustained quality control of verbal autopsy data

#### Producing and Using Vital Statistics

Translate data into policy action

- Production and use of vital statistics, including causes of death for planning and policy making
- Training in CRVS data journalism and leadership communication

### The Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative

The Data for Health Initiative, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the government of Australia, is providing technical assistance to countries worldwide to improve public health data production and use. The CRVS Program, focusing on improving civil registration and vital statistics systems, is one of four Initiative components implemented by Vital Strategies; the other three components focus on data use, strengthening cancer registries, and providing support through short-term grants to in-country partners.

### Data for Health Initiative Partners

- CDC Foundation
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- World Health Organization
- Global Health Advocacy Incubator
- UN Economic Commission for Africa
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### Our Funders

- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- International Development Research Council, Centre for Excellence in CRVS