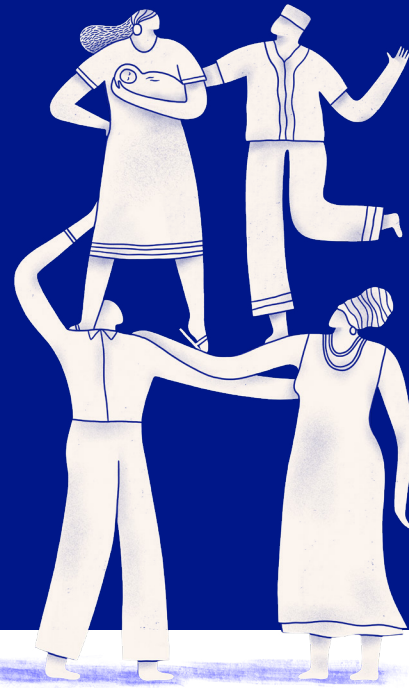# Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Supporting governments to make sure every life is counted

45% of deaths are unregistered. Many that are registered are listed without a clear cause.

Vital Strategies' Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Program collaborates with governments to count every human life and death and ensure high-quality cause of death data are available to policy makers. By focusing on global best practices, these partnerships empower governments to increase the coverage, completeness, and quality of birth and death registration and cause of death data.

CRVS systems are the foundation of good governance, and are key to policy, planning and monitoring of international commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals. For individuals, the registration of vital events offers rights, protections, and access to services.

Yet each government has unique concerns and needs. Our technical assistance is highly collaborative and customized to priorities defined by the governments with whom we partner.

Our partnerships are based on a holistic, systems approach to CRVS improvement rooted in commitment to government leadership and ownership; capacity building; and sustainability.

Since 2015, we have assisted 20 countries to improve CRVS systems guided by the principles of country ownership, capacity building and sustainability.

Colombia
Ecuador
Peru
Brazil

Senegal
Ghana
Cameroon
Rwanda
Ethiopia
Tanzania

Bangladesh
Myanmar
Thailand
Sri Lanka
China (Shanghai)
Vietnam
Philippines
Cambodia
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Indonesia

A 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:

CRVS 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

- Improve collaboration and coordination of the health sector and civil registrar for reporting and registering vital events
- 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
- Sustainable quality control of medical certification data

ICD Mortality Coding

Strengthen capacity of government

- To generate reliable data on leading causes of mortality
- Manual and automated ICD coding of mortality data
- Sustained quality control of ICD-coded mortality data

Understanding Community Mortality

Enable the collection of cause-of-death data for community deaths

- Introduction and scaled application of automated verbal autopsy
- Implementation of tools for the linkage of verbal autopsy results and the health information system
- 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
- Training in CRVS data journalism and leadership communication

Bloomberg Philanthropies | The Data for Health Initiative

The Data for Health Initiative, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Government of Australia, is providing technical assistance to more than low- and middle-income countries worldwide to improve public health data systems. The CRVS Program, focusing on improving civil registration and vital statistics, is one of four Initiative components; the other three components focus on data use, developing new tools for noncommunicable disease risk factor surveillance, and strengthening cancer registries.

Data for Health Initiative Partners

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

Our Funders

- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- USAID