

**VANUATU COUNTRY STATEMENT: 1**

Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Regional Action Framework

Halo long yufala!

Excellency's and Distinguish Delegates at the CRVS Ministerial Conference here in Bangkok, Thailand! Thankyou for allowing Vanuatu to deliver its country statement on the CRVS Regional Action Framework for Asia and the Pacific.

Vanuatu, like all Asian and the Pacific Island Countries is committed in anticipating the development and improvement of its CRVS system. We would firstly like to thank all development partners and organisations such as UNICEF, SPC, WHO and the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) in their contributions through technical support and funding that have made current success to our birth registration system. Their efforts have had a dramatic impact on the birth registration rates which has increase rapidly within the last couple of years.

The Vanuatu Government in 2013 established a CRVS committee as a response to the regional government agreements and signed declarations. The Committee then with the support of the BAG carried out a comprehensive assessment on its CRVS system. It had identified top priority areas that needed urgent improvements which include;

1. Difficulty in capturing births from communities (or births outside of health centres)
2. Reliance on family to transfer data between departments
3. Greater need for follow up of missing data and the
4. Need for improved coverage / accessibility

Unfortunately, the improvement plan has not yet been completed but we wish to raise this as our intensions for the goals and targets Vanuatu would like to achieve and that we would push to have them in our Government's national development plans;

Having said that, it was agreed to during national workshops that our Vision for CRVS is;

“an effective, culturally-appropriate, and user-friendly system for registering vital events – that is reliable, sustainable, and fair. The system should ensure that births, deaths and marriages in Vanuatu are properly documented to support individual rights and protections and facilitate government functions and planning. The system will be supported through a strong legislative framework and government departments and stakeholders, including civil society, working together”

And achieving that vision the following targets have been set for the Goals appearing in the regional action framework;

Goal 1: Universal civil registration of births and deaths

The targets for goal 1 in Vanuatu are:

1. By 2024, at least 100 % of births in Vanuatu in the given year are registered.
2. By 2024, at least 95 % of children under five years old in Vanuatu have had their birth registered.
3. By 2024, at least 60 % of all individuals in Vanuatu have had their birth registered.
4. By 2024, at least 50 % of all deaths that take place in Vanuatu in the given year are registered.
5. By 2024, 100% of all deaths of deaths occurring in an area health centre in Vanuatu in the given year are registered.
6. By 2024, 100% of all deaths of deaths occurring in a hospital in Vanuatu in the given year are registered and have a medically certified cause of death recorded using the international form of the death certificate.

Goal 2: All individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration of births and deaths as necessary to claim identity, civil status and ensuing rights

The targets for goal 2 are:

1. By 2024, at least 100 % of all births registered in the territory and jurisdiction are accompanied with the issuance of an official birth certificate that includes, as a minimum, the individual's name, sex, date and place of birth, and name of parent(s) where known.
2. By 2024, at least 80 % of all deaths registered in the territory and jurisdiction in the given year are accompanied with the issuance of an official death certificate which includes, as a minimum, the deceased's name, date of death, sex, and age

Goal 3: Accurate, complete and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death) are produced based on registration records and disseminated

The targets for goal 3 are:

1. By 2024, annual nationally representative statistics on births – disaggregated by age of mother, sex of child, geographic area and administrative subdivision – are produced from registration records or, alternatively, other valid administrative data sources.
2. By 2029, annual nationally representative statistics on deaths – disaggregated by age, sex, cause of death defined by the ICD, latest version as appropriate, geographic area and administrative subdivision – are produced from registration records or, alternatively, other valid administrative data sources.
3. By 2024, at least 100% of deaths occurring in hospitals or with the attention of a medical practitioner have a cause of death code derived from the medical certificate according to the standards defined by the ICD, latest version as appropriate.

With the Government's Policies and development initiatives such as;

- The Decentralisation Policy,
- ICT Policy (Universal Access Policy),
- Ministerial Collaborations through MoUs,
- Legislation reviews
- Biometric system initiative and the
- National Strategy for the development of Statistics (NSDS) by Paris 21

Would only strengthen CRVS activities and help us in achieving our goals and targets by 2024. It is now the task of the CRVS committee with assistance from BAG to finalise the improvement plan and work on the implementations strategies while taking advantage of the friendly environment that the government has set.

Let us conclude by sharing two experiences with you all;

1. First, is that we have stayed positive in life! Although challenges did come but by being positive it has helped us to achieve so much in little time and it is our hope that it will ensure we achieve our Goals and targets by the set deadline.
2. No Toktok Tumas, Yu mekem!! A powerful parable used a lot in Vanuatu meaning let's not talk too much but rather action the ideas we have and all the praise will follow.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Tangio Tumas, Merci Beaucoup! And Thankyou very much!