

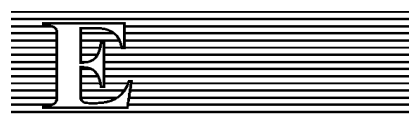


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Reforming and Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa

Regional Medium-Term Plan: 2010-2015

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AfCRVSNet	African Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Network
AfDB	African Development Bank
APAI-CRVS	Africa Programme of Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
ASSD	Africa Symposium on Statistical Development
ASYB	African Statistical Yearbook
AUC	African Union Commission
CR	Civil Registration
CRA	Civil Registration Authority
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
HMN	Health Metrics Network
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MTP	Medium Term Plan
NSS	National Statistical System
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistics Office
NSS	National Statistical System
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WHO	World Health Organization

Preface

1. In the past five to six decades, African member States have been looking to establish a continuous and sustainable demographic and health statistics system, although the intensity and magnitude of efforts and achievements varied from country to country. As per United Nations (UN) recommendations, the civil registration system is the conventional data source for the generation of continuous and complete vital statistics on a permanent basis. The civil registration systems, apart from providing the vital statistics also provide data on population dynamics and basic health indicators, including causes of death for a country as a whole and its sub-divisions. These data generated by the countries in turn can serve as main data source for sub-regional, regional and international statistical databases. However, the purposes of civil registration go beyond statistical boundaries, where the records of births, deaths, marriages, divorces and the complementary notations are the official sources of evidence on the occurrence of events and characteristics of the persons concerned. Hence, various individual and public services, justice and public administration, including education and health sectors, decentralization and democratization processes, depend on the availability of these official records.

2. In the majority of African countries, past initiatives and efforts aimed at improving civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems were largely dominated by isolated project-based and institution-led ad hoc exercises with no link to national development frameworks or policy issues. Moreover, in most instances, there were no properly developed national plans on CRVS, either at the medium or long term with clear targets and systematic mechanisms for evaluating successes and failures. Likewise, past interventions from regional and international development partners were not guided by systematically developed regional plans, thus contributing to uncoordinated and fragmented resource use and limited impact on the overall outcomes of the interventions. These and other compounding problems emphasize the need to develop a regional framework that guides systematic reforms and helps make sustainable progress in the area of CRVS in African countries.

3. This regional medium-term plan (MTP) is designed to address areas that need critical reform measures to ensure improved results across all member States. The plan to reform and improve CRVS systems in Africa was an outcome of the recommendations from the regional workshop on CRVS that was convened in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, in June 2009. The proposed Plan was presented and discussed during the meeting of experts that preceded the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, convened in August 2010. Accordingly, the ministers endorsed the proposed Plan and directed the regional organizations to organize an expert meeting to finalize it based on the comments forwarded. In January 2011, experts from countries, regional and international organizations reviewed and finalized the Plan. The ministers, in their first conference, had recommended that a comprehensive regional assessment be undertaken of the CRVS systems in Africa based on information obtained from all the countries and identified this as the first priority activity in the regional MTP..

4. The preparation of the first version of the MTP was supported by field-level data collected from field assessment missions in five countries. A regional assessment was undertaken in 2011-2012 and the MTP has now been reviewed on the basis of the findings of this assessment. It will be seen that the nature of the challenges identified at the time of the preparation of the Plan in 2010 remains unchanged and therefore, no substantial changes are made in the MTP.

5. The Plan was expected to serve as a guiding tool for countries, regional and international organizations, in managing interventions and monitoring achievements in CRVS systems in Africa from 2010-2015. The MTP is now the major component of the Africa Programme of Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS), which has been conceptualized as an all-encompassing programme that is expected to help countries in achieving complete and efficient CRVS systems.

1. Introduction

1. In the past years, there have been various efforts made to improve the completeness and coverage of CRVS¹ systems in Africa. However, the achievements recorded until now are sub-optimal as the completeness and coverage of registration of vital events,² that is, births, deaths, marriages and divorces in the majority of African member States, are still below 40 per cent. In order for civil registration to provide the required legal, administrative and statistical services, the level of coverage and completeness is required to reach at least 90 per cent. The reasons for such unsatisfactory results are numerous; however, there is one common shortcoming that was observed in all the past initiatives: lack of comprehensive regional and national plans. Most of the past initiatives were project-based and country case studies, and did not take into account macro and regional contexts of the purposes and functions or problems and challenges of CRVS systems in the region.

2. Furthermore, lack of proactive engagement of regional organizations and uncoordinated international support with project-oriented quick-fix approaches contributed to the sluggish progress. Lack of coordinated efforts from the two major actors, the National Civil Registration Authorities (CRAs) and the National Statistics Offices (NSOs), also contributed to the lack of progress in the countries. Unlike many other information-generation systems, civil registration needs interventions that are long-term, holistic and well planned with clear targeted results so as to ensure that the systems last for generations to come. These and the many other shortcomings⁴ of past interventions have contributed to the low response from national governments in owning and leading the process and weakened national capacities in managing and operating the systems.

3. This regional MTP was initiated following the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on CRVS Systems that was conducted in June 2009 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The preparation of the MTP in 2010 was supported by field-level data collected from field assessment missions in five countries, namely, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Sierra Leone and South Africa. The Plan has been reviewed in light of the regional assessment undertaken during 2011-2012, which was based on information obtained from 45 countries. The MTP refers to the period: 2010-2015 where 2010 is a preparatory year.

2. Role of Civil Registration in Africa

4. Civil registration is an integrated information system that primarily generates legal, administrative and statistical information that benefits individuals, households, communities, government institutions and non-governmental, regional and international organizations engaged in various socio-economic and other human development endeavours. Every nation, whether developed or developing, has built such a system or is striving to have one as an integral part of their efforts for human development. In Africa, some countries have histories of civil registration dating back over 100 years. However, in the majority of cases, the system intended to serve the interests of the colonizers. In some instances, civil registration served as an instrument aimed at controlling the movement of people and a source of information for managing the people under colonial rule.

¹ A vital statistics system as per the UN is defined as the total process of (a) collecting information by civil registration or enumeration on the frequency of occurrence of specified and defined vital events, as well as relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the person or persons concerned, and (b) compiling, processing, analysing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form.

² According to the UN, the whole list of vital events includes live births, adoptions, legitimations, recognitions; deaths and foetal deaths; and marriages, divorces, separations and annulments of marriage.

5. Civil registration is the foundation for building a modern public administration system in a country. It is an 'information system' that generates the flow of individual and aggregate information on a continuous and permanent basis on many aspects of the population of a country. The primary beneficiaries of such a system are citizens and the government machinery, namely, the justice system, human rights organs, public administration services including health and education services, and the National Statistical System (NSS). Birth, death, marriage and divorce records are the sources of legal evidentiary documents for individuals in testifying the facts of their occurrence, exact dates and places and related circumstances that are critical in legal and public administration services of governments. In the absence of such evidences, people's rights and privileges enshrined in constitutions and international instruments would be eroded, creating loopholes for abuse and exploitation especially for disadvantaged population groups, such as children and women.

6. The same records registered once in a person's lifetime will serve the government administration in laying down universal identity and identification systems that would facilitate transactions among and between individuals and service-rendering institutions, including establishing unique identification numbers, processing citizenship, issuing passports, maintaining electoral rolls and managing polling processes and in keeping national security. Birth and death registration records are important sources of information for implementation of health and education programmes. Implementation of public health programmes on mother and child health in the majority of African countries that have dominantly rural settings and underdeveloped infrastructure is highly dependent on the availability of systemic recording of births and deaths and also foetal deaths.

7. Registration records of marriage, divorce and the other complementary acts and events, including legal separation, adoption, recognition and annulment are the primary and official evidences and data sources used in judicial proceedings, various administrative transactions and in the provision of continuous statistical information. The same records are used by the statistics organs to compile and analyse various socio-economic and cultural characteristics of marriage, divorce and other complementary variables that could be disseminated on a continuous and permanent basis for administrative use and social research.

8. In the majority of African countries and the rest of the developing world, birth and death statistics are inadequate due to the incomplete nature of civil registration systems. In order to fill the gap, most of these countries have resorted to using censuses and sample surveys in the past four decades as stopgap measures to generate fertility and mortality estimates. Health service records are also used as primary data sources in generating time series institution-based data on fertility and mortality estimates, with all their limitations in coverage and completeness in the African context. With the exception of a handful of countries that claim to have a relatively complete birth and death registration system in place, the majority of African countries are far from the internationally recommended completeness level of 90 per cent. It is against this background that the Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa³ recommended the promotion and strengthening of CRVS systems in member States to the level that meets the demands of contemporary Africa.

³ Resolution of the 2nd Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa

3. Role of Vital Statistics in National Statistical Systems

9. The conventional source for compiling vital statistics is the records of vital events generated through civil registration systems. However, in situations where civil registration is either inadequate or deficient, countries take recourse to data sources other than civil registration, such as censuses, sample surveys or facility-based records. Nevertheless, these provisional data sources only produce estimates on an ad hoc basis and would not provide disaggregated and smaller area estimates that are required for planning for and measurement of national and sub-national development programmes. Hence, due to the absence of complete civil registration, most countries in Africa are unable to provide up to date time series data on population, resulting to discrepancies in the measurement and monitoring of most of the MDG indicators.

10. Vital statistics generated from civil registration systems and complemented with denominators from censuses are the conventional data sources in the measurement of fertility and mortality estimates on a continuous and permanent basis. Provision of current population estimates and projections also depends on the availability of comprehensive and complete civil registration systems. Birth and death records are the conventional data sources for the generation of major health indicators, including infant, child and adult mortality rates, life expectancies, maternal mortality ratios and causes of death statistics.

11. Civil registration is the conventional data source for measuring and monitoring the majority of the MDG indicators. With complete vital statistics, data required as inputs for measuring the indicators for achieving universal primary education, reduction in child mortality, improvements in maternal health and reductions in prevalence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases would be more accessible on a continuous and over varying periods of time. Unfortunately, most African countries are far from compiling such comprehensive data, therefore putting them at a disadvantage; limiting their ability to track progress or lack of in the achievement of MDG targets at national as well as sub-national levels.

12. Civil registration is the only source that can provide data on population dynamics on continuous basis at lower administrative levels. Local-level statistics, updated and annualised population data on size and distribution, and basic demographic and health indicators are the primary requirements for the local administration to prepare its fiscal public plans and programmes. Population census enumerations normally provide data on population stock and other characteristics for the census year, which are usually available two to three years after the enumeration date. The population figures obtained from censuses could only be beneficial to the local administration if they could be calibrated with the population dynamics information generated through civil registration systems. Hence, countries in the process of implementing decentralization programmes are being challenged by the inadequacy of national statistical systems in the provision of basic demographic and health statistics that would have value for local planning and administration.

13. In recent years, population censuses of African countries are being challenged for their timeliness, accuracy at the lower level and their coverage and comparability to previous census enumerations, estimates and projections. Most NSOs are handicapped due to lack of dependable vital statistics data in demonstrating time series comparisons of census figures, as well as coverage and completeness of census enumerations.

4. Challenges

14. The regional assessment recently carried out under the direction of the ministers clearly brings out the fact that most African countries face huge challenges in even maintaining the existing CRVS systems and need complete overhauling to build complete and efficient systems. The challenges are multi-faceted in nature covering legal, operations and management and even coordination aspects, of course, in varied degrees across countries. This section not only attempts to describe all such challenges faced by the countries but also enumerates those that are encountered at the continental and international levels as the problems afflicting the latter two levels contribute in exacerbating the national systems. The second part of the section proposes a number of interventions needed to tackle the challenges enumerated at different geographical levels. Some of the facilitating factors in Africa that are conducive in accelerating the improvement of CRVS on the continent have also been identified.

4.1 Country Level

a) Core challenges

15. ***Lack of or limited political commitment*** – In the past years, the issue of CRVS has not been brought to the attention of political leaders and policymakers. They were dealt with at technical and institutional levels in an uncoordinated manner, with limited efforts in presenting these issues in a comprehensive and through a multi-sectoral approach. Hence, policymakers were largely unaware of the value and importance of civil registration records and the statistics generated from the systems in delivering efficient public services, good governance and developmental planning.

16. ***Outdated laws and registration procedures*** – Most African countries have not taken innovative, proactive measures to improve civil registration laws inherited from colonial times. The rationales and objectives of civil registration laws in many cases do not reflect current social and cultural realities of the countries. Registration procedures currently prevailing in the majority of the countries are derivatives of these old laws and regulations.

17. ***Organizational and infrastructural problems*** – In many African countries, civil registration structures are inherited from the colonial times and are often not in sync with the existing administrative structures. The registration offices are not easily accessible to majority of the rural community and are inadequately equipped. Lack of a coordination mechanism is another organizational deficiency that hinders the smooth functioning of the system. Past efforts and initiatives in revitalizing civil registration in Africa did not bring much improvement in the structural and organizational aspects of civil registration as most interventions were designed to address problems related to a few components of the systems.

18. ***Limited understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of civil registration*** – The dual role of civil registration, namely, the legal and vital statistics is well established. However, most countries are yet to realize and recognize the intrinsic nature of linkages of the CRS with social and economic development, day-to-day governance and human rights. The inadequacy of literature on the multidisciplinary nature of civil registration and absence of systematic curricula in academic institutions either statistical, legal or public administration courses also contributed to the lack of understanding of its operational linkages.

19. ***Lack of comprehensive national action plans*** – The CRVS systems in Africa face daunting challenges and can be strengthened only through implementation of comprehensive, systematic and coordinated plans. Lack of such plans in most African countries has hindered the development of the CRVS systems. A comprehensive assessment of the CRVS systems preceding the development of the plans will make them more meaningful – in fact, the lack of such assessments is likely to make the plans inconsequential. These assessments and development of plans should be a consultative process and be undertaken jointly by all stakeholders in the country.
20. ***Underdeveloped public administration infrastructure*** – In most African countries, development of public administration is urban-based where basic public services are mainly provided in towns and major urban centres, far from the bulk of the population residing in the rural areas. Availability of public institutions and services at the local administration level is the first requirement for sustainable and cost-effective implementation of the civil registration system in a country.
21. ***Lack of properly articulated national standards, operational manuals and guidelines*** – Majority of CRVS systems in Africa do not have management or operational guidelines for registrars and practitioners for smooth functioning of civil registration. Apart from the civil registration laws and in some cases accompanied regulations, it is difficult to find properly articulated national standards, operational manuals and guidelines for the conduct of civil registration.
22. ***Lack of monitoring and evaluation frameworks*** – Most African countries, including those with well-developed civil registration systems, do not have systematically developed monitoring and evaluation systems for measuring coverage and completeness of the registration. Many countries have not undertaken systematic assessment or evaluation of the CRVS systems at any point of time.
23. ***Inadequate efforts in mainstreaming CRVS in NSSs*** – In the recent past, most African countries prepared and started implementing National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), which in most instances, did not reflect CRVS as its integral part.
24. ***Huge civil registration backlog*** – Among all the continents, Africa has the highest burden of unregistered births and deaths. Designing backlog civil registration procedures and clearing the backlog could be a challenge for most African countries.
25. ***NSOs adopting indirect demographic methods and techniques*** – As the incomplete civil registration was unable to generate the much needed vital statistics, most of the NSOs adopted indirect demographic methods to obtain them, which led to marginalization of the CRVS.
26. ***Lack of long-term vision and commitment*** – Strengthening CRVS systems requires huge efforts on the part of governments and other stakeholders and may take a long time to reach the desired level of completeness and efficiency. Lack of long-term vision and commitment in most African countries has proved to be a hindrance in the sustained effort in improving the systems.

b) Non-core or derived challenges

27. The problems and challenges listed below, which are usually found in the literature are simple derivatives of the above-mentioned core challenges. For instance, shortage or lack of budget, human and logistical resources – are largely a product of lack of political commitment and inappropriate structural and organizational arrangement of civil registration. In the past, efforts were made to improve human and budget constraints by allocating additional budget and human resources that failed to bring sustainable improvement due to shortcomings in addressing the root cause at macro level. Similarly, the following problems and challenges need to be considered as those arising out of the above-mentioned core challenges and should be addressed in reference to these core issues.

- *Shortage or lack of budget, human and logistical resources*
- *Lack of motivation or cultural barriers to register events from the public side*
- *Lack of or limited incentives for registration personnel*
- *Limited awareness and use of registration records by the public and government offices*
- *Limited use of statistics at lower administration levels*
- *Problems of data completeness, quality and timeliness*
- *Lack of or inadequate interface between civil registration and vital statistics organs*
- *Presence of disincentive factors for registering vital events*
- *Inadequate efforts in mainstreaming CRVS in monitoring and evaluation of national development programmes and MDGs*
- *Lack of or limited awareness among health professionals*

4.2 Regional Level

a) Core challenges

28. ***No regional policy framework/platform*** – In every country, the CRVS system will have to be built as an integrated system covering various issues such as legal, administrative and statistical aspects. Specifically, Africa as a region is affected by the inadequacy of such integrated systems. In the past, regional organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Union Commission (AUC) did not take adequate policy measures that would have facilitated progress in improving the systems and addressing the challenges in accordance with the regional perspective, thus making it difficult to bring forth the issue as a regional policy agenda.

29. ***No regional standards, guidelines and comprehensive plans*** – All African countries are striving to attain complete civil registration that would enable them to produce valuable vital statistics and other individual and aggregated information. There are global standards and guidelines recommended by the UN on all aspects of CRVS operation and management, however, no attempts were made to have regional standards and guidelines that reflect African realities and context to guide the member States towards building efficient and complete CRVS systems.

30. ***No regular resource or budget line*** – In the past, regional organizations such as ECA, AUC and AfDB did not have the practice of allocating regular budgets for CRVS systems as they did for other regional programmes and initiatives.

31. ***Limited expertise*** – With respect to the huge technical support requirements, African regional organizations are understaffed or do not have the required expertise in CRVS systems.

32. ***No clear recommendations on the application of provisional demographic methods and techniques*** – The UN technical documents recommend that indirect demographic techniques and approaches are not to be used as substitutes for civil registration systems for the provision of fertility and mortality statistics. Based on these global principles, regional organizations should have been able to develop an exit strategy for countries to transit to the conventional methods of generating fertility and mortality statistics, including causes of death from civil registration systems.

b) Non-core or derived challenges

33. As presented above, for the national level, the problems and challenges listed below are derivatives of the core challenges for the regional level.

- *Uncoordinated intervention*
- *Limited efforts and resources for technical innovation and creation of regional knowledge base*
- *Lack of monitoring and evaluation standards and procedures*
- *Lack of clear mandate and accountability*
- *No regional action plans*
- *Absence of permanent focal person or unit*
- *Regional statistical training institutions not proactively engaged in training, studies or research in the area of CRVS*

4.3 International Level

a) Core challenges

34. ***No international policy framework/platform*** – Although there are comprehensive UN principles, recommendations and guidelines on CRVS systems that represent global standards, the international support to countries is largely uncoordinated and in most cases deviates or has no clear reference to the UN general principles. This calls for the need to develop global policy frameworks.

35. ***Lack of clear mandate and accountability*** – In addition to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the specialized UN agencies, there are a number of international organizations and academic institutions currently engaged in CRVS projects and intervention programmes. These varied initiatives and interventions, run by different actors, unless supported by harmonized working modalities and coordination mechanisms at international as well as regional levels, might result in a situation that would make it difficult to measure progress and ensure accountability.

b) Non-core or derived problems and challenges

36. As presented above, at national and regional levels, the problems and challenges listed below are derivatives of the core problems and challenges described for the international level:

- *Lack of adoption of UN international standards*
- *Unclear resource flow mechanisms*
- *Uncoordinated intervention*
- *Inappropriate methodologies and approaches*
- *Academic and training institutions overwhelmed by provisional demographic methods and techniques.*

5. The Medium-Term Plan: 2010-2015

5.1 Goal

37. The MTP is aimed at supporting African governments in building sustainable and accountable public institutions and measuring and monitoring their respective development efforts.

5.2 Objectives

38. The overall objective of the MTP is twofold:

- Improve the capacities of national government administrations in managing the recording and service provision of vital events, and
- Capacitate national vital statistics compiling offices in the production and dissemination of the flow of demographic and health statistics for sub-national, national, regional and international consumption.

39. The specific objectives and targets of the Plan are to:

Specific Objective 1: Improve coverage of civil registration in member States:

- Registration of live birth, death, marriage and divorce events in 3/4 of member States covers the whole geographic territory of the countries.
- Registration of live birth, death, marriage and divorce events in 3/4 of member States covers all population groups⁴ of the countries.

⁴ Population groups for the purpose of this Regional Medium-Term CRVS Plan include all citizens resident in the country as well as those outside the country and aliens temporarily present in the country. It should also be noted that it is inclusive of persons living in remote areas, cultural groups, nomads, refugees, temporarily displaced persons and national military and diplomatic personnel.

Specific Objective 2: Improve completeness of birth and death registration in member States:

- 2/3 of the member States with current birth and death registration completeness level below 20% reach over 40% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current birth and death registration completeness level between 20-40% reach over 50% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current birth and death registration completeness level between 40-60% reach over 60% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current birth and death registration completeness level between 60-80% reach over 80% by the end of the plan period.

Specific Objective 3: Improve completeness of marriage and divorce registration in member States:

- 2/3 of the member States with current marriage and divorce registration completeness level below 20% reach over 40% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current marriage and divorce registration completeness level between 20-40% reach over 50% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current marriage and divorce registration completeness level between 40-60% reach over 60% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current marriage and divorce registration completeness level between 60-80% reach over 80% by the end of the plan period.

Specific Objective 4: Improve completeness of birth and death vital statistics in member States:

- 2/3 of the member States with current birth and death vital statistics completeness level below 20% reach over 40% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current birth and death vital statistics completeness level between 20-40% reach over 50% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current birth and death vital statistics completeness level between 40-60% reach over 60% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current birth and death vital statistics completeness level between 60-80% reach over 80% by the end of the plan period.

Specific Objective 5: Improve completeness of marriage and divorce vital statistics in member States:

- 2/3 of the member States with current marriage and divorce vital statistics completeness level below 20% reach over 40% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current marriage and divorce vital statistics completeness level between 20-40% reach over 50% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current marriage and divorce vital statistics completeness level between 40-60% reach over 60% by the end of the plan period.
- 2/3 of the member States with current marriage and divorce vital statistics level between 60-80% reach over 80% by the end of the plan period.

Specific Objective 6: Improve timeliness, quality and use of vital statistics in member States:

- Lag of release of annual vital statistics reports reduced to below six months in those member States currently producing such reports by the end of the plan period.
- Number of the member States producing vital statistics reports increased by 50 per cent by the end of the plan period.
- Number of the member States using vital statistics in population size estimation and projection increased by 50 per cent by the end of the plan period.
- Number of the member States using death records for compiling causes of death statistics increased by 50 per cent by the end of the plan period.

Strategic Objective 7: Improve accessibility and use of civil registration records in promoting good governance:

- Number of children with birth certificates registered on current basis increased by 50% in 2/3 of the member States by the end of the plan period.
- Walking distance for individuals and families to civil registration structures and services reduced to an average of less than two hours in 2/3 of the member States by the end of the plan period.
- Registration of vital events is free of charge in 3/4 of the member States by the end of 2013.
- Issuing vital event certificates for the first time is free of charge in 3/4 of the member States by the end of 2013.

Specific Objective 8: Establish integrated population registers/databases:

- At least half of the member States initiate creation of population register databases by the end of the plan period.

5.3 Strategies

40. The MTP will be based on the following strategies in addressing the challenges, achieving its objectives and attaining the set goal.

- a) *Conducting comprehensive assessment of the status of CRVS systems in member States*
- b) *Ensuring country ownership and leadership*
- c) *Updating and improving methodologies, operational and monitoring mechanisms and tools*
- d) *Strengthening collaboration and integration of CRVS organs*
- e) *Harmonizing initiatives and approaches*
- f) *Promoting data use and quality assurance mechanisms*
- g) *Building sub-regional, regional and international partnership forums*
- h) *Strengthening the CRVS secretariat*

5.4 Institutional framework

41. ECA, AUC and AfDB will manage the MTP in close consultation and partnership with other development partners. The Plan will provide an opportunity for the international organizations to engage and support the implementation of the thematic areas and activities included in the Plan. National governments, CRAs and NSOs will take a central role in the implementation of the Plan. Efforts will be made to involve regional economic communities and sub-regional organizations to play a proactive role between regional and national organizations. Regional statistical training organizations and academic institutions are expected to play a critical role in improving the knowledge base and fill the expert gap in the medium term.

6. Planned Activities: 2010-2015

42. In the recent past, ECA, AUC and AfDB and other key development partners have been engaged in revitalization efforts towards attaining comprehensive CRVS systems in the region. The recommendations endorsed in the Dar-es-Salaam regional workshop have clearly articulated the major intervention areas that African countries should focus on when revitalizing CRVS systems in the region. These areas of intervention are also the common grounds for development partners to channel financial, technical and material resources in support of countries committed to reform and improve their CRVS systems.

43. In the past four decades, Africa as a region had neglected CRVS systems. As a result, a huge backlog of unregistered events was left as well as stagnation in the development of improved methods and approaches of production and dissemination of vital statistics in most countries. Specifically, the statistics sector had practically abandoned the civil registration systems due to its focus on interim measures such as censuses and sample surveys that used indirect techniques for generating vital statistics. Therefore, current initiatives and programmes of intervention in member States should consider mechanisms that would help in clearing the backlog created in all aspects of CRVS management and operation, in addition to the activities that need to be accomplished in prospect.

44. Accordingly, in the medium term, the following thematic areas will be the focus areas of intervention in addressing challenges of African countries in achieving the targets set for the plan period. The seven thematic areas identified are:

- Capacity building
- Innovation and harmonization of techniques and approaches
- Promoting knowledge and sharing good practices
- Strengthening regional and national vital statistics production
- Promoting study and research
- Building partnership, peer support groups and promoting country ownership
- Strengthening the CRVS secretariat

45. The first thematic area is the very basic intervention area that countries are desperately looking forward to benefit from regional and international organizations in bridging the knowledge gap and compensating the lost decades so that countries would accelerate the progress in the improvement of CRVS systems. Under this thematic area, various cost-effective and participatory capacity building

activities, including development of regional guidelines, conducting trainings, curriculum development and resource mobilization and support activities are reflected.

46. The second thematic area refers to creating the dynamism and the driving force for development in the improvement of CRVS in a country. The activities focus on using indigenous knowledge and resources, including infrastructure in overcoming and breaking the vicious circle most countries are locked in. Furthermore, interventions that would provide a common platform and harmonization mechanism for the different actors engaged in support of CRVS in the region would be tabled.

47. The third thematic area advocates for interventions that would promote knowledge and encourage learning and sharing good practices through various mediums and channels, including IT solutions. Strengthening regional and national vital statistics production is the other thematic area that ensures the achievement of results of country initiatives and serves as an instrument in monitoring progress towards comprehensive civil registration and complete vital statistics systems. Study and research is the other major thematic area that uses and benefits from the products of civil registration systems, specifically in the health and demographic sectors. Individual vital event records play a huge role in promoting epidemiological researches and various retrospective and prospective population study and research activities.

48. The sixth thematic area refers to building partnership and peer support groups and promoting country ownership to harness horizontal and vertical as well as inter- and intra-country engagements in accelerating progress in the improvement of CRVS systems in the region. This thematic area will focus on activities that promote and empower countries in owning, managing and leading initiatives and taking responsibilities and accountability for failures and in taking remedial actions. The last thematic area refers to strengthening the CRVS secretariat at the African Centre for Statistics of the ECA in terms of manpower and other resource requirements. The specific activities to be undertaken within each of the thematic areas are detailed in the planning and implementation matrix presented in Annex 1

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

49. The performance and management of the MTP will be assessed on annual basis and supported with continuous monitoring mechanisms in place. The African Statistical Coordinating Committee is the custodian of the Plan supported by technical and advisory committees composed of representatives from the ECA, AfDB and AUC that will review performance reports. The performance reports will be prepared in line with the objectives, targets and activities of the Plan and also based on the monitoring and evaluation matrix (Annex 3).

8. Resource Requirements for 2010-2015

50. The total financial resource requirements for the Plan period (2010-2015) amounts to \$9.035 million which includes the budgetary estimates for 2010 which was a preparatory year (refer to budget summary table below). Resources allocated for capacity building activities took the biggest share (39.5 per cent) followed by activities for building partnership, peer support groups and promoting country ownership (31.9 per cent). The resource share reaches its peak in the year 2012 and then slightly declines at the end of the plan year. In the first year, the organization of the High-Level Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration took the highest share, over 85 per cent of the

total budget of the year. A detailed budget breakdown by thematic area and activities is presented in Annex 2.

Summary Resource Requirements by Thematic Area and Year 2010-2015 (US\$ Thousands)

Thematic Area	Year						Total	Percentage
	2010 Preparatory year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		
Capacity building	20.0	340.0	1240.0	1040.0	520.0	410.0	3570.0	39.5
Innovation and harmonization of techniques and approaches	0.0	15.0	100.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	385.0	4.3
Promoting knowledge and sharing good practices	0.0	0.0	110.0	260.0	250.0	250.0	870.0	9.6
Strengthening regional and national vital statistics production	0.0			70.0	70.0	70.0	210.0	2.3
Promoting studies and research	0.0			60.0	60.0	50.0	170.0	1.9
Building partnership, peer support groups and promoting country ownership	660.0	100.0	750.0	220.0	850.0	300.0	2880.0	31.9
Strengthening the CRVS secretariat			230.0	240.0	240.0	240.0	950.0	10.5
Total	680.0	455.0	2430.0	1980.0	2080.0	1410.0	9035.0	100.0
Percentage	7.5	5.0	26.9	21.9	23.0	15.6	100.0	

Annex - 1: Planning and Implementation Matrix

Thematic Area	Specific Objectives	Strategies	Activities	Outputs	Risks and Assumptions
<p>Goal: To support African governments to build modern and accountable public administrations and measure and monitor their respective development efforts.</p> <p>Outcome: Improved coverage, completeness and quality of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in African member States</p> <p>Overall Objective: To improve capacities of African governments in managing the recording and service provision of vital events and capacitate national vital statistics compiling offices in the production and dissemination of the flow of demographic and health statistics for national, regional and international consumption</p>					<p>Risks: Countries in conflict and political unrest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recovery from global financial crises further delays - CRVS not institutionalized permanently in ECA and AfDB structure or programme - Some UN specialized agencies may take time to align to the new approach - Donors continue uncoordinated interventions <p>Assumptions: Donors will continue and sustain their support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national governments take CRVS as national priority agenda
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To improve capacities of national CRAs and NSOs in implementing and managing CRVS operations - To support regional and sub-regional organizations in systematically measuring and monitoring interventions and development results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting comprehensive regional assessment of the status of CRVS systems in member States - Ensuring country ownership and leadership - Updating and improving methodologies, operational and monitoring mechanisms and tools - Strengthening collaboration and integration between CRVS organs - Coordinating initiatives and harmonizing approaches 	Activity 1: Conduct regional assessment study	Assessment report produced and disseminated	
			Activity 2: Develop a regional medium-term CRVS plan	Regional and national CRVS plan and programme documents developed and disseminated	
			Activity 3: Prepare regional guidelines for the development of national plans and programmes for CRVS systems	Regional guidelines document for the development of national plans and programmes developed and disseminated	
			Activity 4: Support countries in the development of national CRVS plans and programmes	Countries will have improved national CRVS plans and programme s	
			Activity 5: Prepare civil registration operation and management manuals	CR operation and management manuals developed and disseminated	
			Activity 6: Prepare vital statistics operation and management manuals	VS operation and management manuals developed and disseminated	
			Activity 7: Prepare regional guidelines on	Regional guidelines on CR laws developed and disseminated	

Thematic Area	Specific Objectives	Strategies	Activities	Outputs	Risks and Assumptions
			updating and harmonization of civil registration laws		
			Activity 8: Prepare regional guidelines on causes of death recording, reporting and classification	Regional manuals on causes of death developed and disseminated	
			Activity 9: Prepare regional advocacy and information, education and communication (IEC) operational guidelines	Regional manuals on IEC developed and disseminated	
			Activity 10: Prepare regional computerization and information management guidelines	Regional guidelines on computerization and database developed and disseminated	
			Activity 11: Develop strategic regional guidelines for management of civil registration backlogs	Regional guidelines on CR backlogs developed and disseminated	
			Activity 12: Support countries in the development of a package of national CRVS operation manuals and guidelines	Countries will have improved CRVS operational manuals and guidelines	
			Activity 13: Conduct cascaded training for CRVS country experts	Country experts trained in CRVS	
			Activity 14: Conduct orientation meetings for heads of CRAs and NSOs	Heads of CRAs and NSOs trained in CRVS	
			Activity 15: Conduct	National public relations	

Thematic Area	Specific Objectives	Strategies	Activities	Outputs	Risks and Assumptions
			orientation workshop for public relations officers in CRAs and institutions compiling vital statistics	officers oriented in CRVS	
			Activity 16: Develop training materials for short courses and regular programmes	Training materials for short courses and regular programmes developed and applied	
			Activity 17: Develop course programmes at graduate and undergraduate levels	Course programmes for graduate and undergraduate levels developed and applied	
			Activity 18: Conduct short courses and regular training programmes	Short courses and regular trainings conducted, training programmes developed and applied	
			Activity 19: Develop concept note, project document and other necessary preparatory activities for establishing a regional CRVS pooled Fund	Concept note, project document prepared and effected	
			Activity 19.1: Organize consultation meeting with development partners	Consultation meeting conducted	
			Activity 19.2: Organize launching meeting and conduct formal agreements	Formal agreement signed	
			Activity 19.3: Implement and monitor the Fund	Fund operational	
			Activity 20: Prepare regional guidelines on how to mobilize resources for CRVS at national level	Countries' efficiency in resource mobilization and use improved	
Innovation and harmonization of	To improve methodological soundness of techniques and	- Updating and improving	Activity 21: Develop research agenda on	Research agenda developed and research	Risks: Countries in conflict and political

Thematic Area	Specific Objectives	Strategies	Activities	Outputs	Risks and Assumptions
techniques and approaches	approaches	methodologies, operational and monitoring mechanisms and tools – Strengthening collaboration and integration of CRVS organs – Harmonizing initiatives and approaches – Promoting data use and quality assurance mechanisms – Building sub-regional, regional and international partnership forums	operational and methodological aspects of CRVS systems in Africa	outputs produced	unrest – Recovery from global financial crises further delays – CRVS not institutionalized permanently in ECA and AfDB structure or programme – Some UN specialized agencies may take time to align to the new approach – Donors continue uncoordinated interventions
			Activity 22: Conduct studies on harmonization of techniques and approaches in CRVS systems in Africa	Study reports on harmonization of techniques and approaches produced and disseminated	
			Activity 23: Conduct research on innovative methods of improving CRVS operations, management and evaluation	Study reports on operation, management and evaluation methods produced and disseminated	
			Activity 24: Conduct methodological studies and research on improving reporting and compilation of causes of death information	Methodological study report on causes of death produced and disseminated	Assumptions: Donors will continue and sustain their support - national governments take CRVS as national priority agenda
Promoting knowledge and sharing good practices	To improve technical, operational and management capacity of national institutions	– Ensuring country ownership and leadership – Harmonizing initiatives and approaches – Promoting data use and quality assurance mechanisms – Building sub-regional, regional and international partnership forums	Activity 25: Conduct advocacy and experience-sharing workshops at regional and sub-regional levels on improving CRVS systems	Advocacy and experience-sharing workshops conducted	
			Activity 26: Facilitate study tours between countries at regional and sub-regional levels	Study tours arranged and conducted	
			Activity 27: Strengthen and administer the African CRVS Network - AfCRVSNet	AfCRVSNet functional	
			Activity 28: Conduct field assessment visits	Field assessment visits conducted	

Thematic Area	Specific Objectives	Strategies	Activities	Outputs	Risks and Assumptions
			Activity 29: Provide technical backstopping to countries	Countries provided with technical support	
Strengthening regional and national vital statistics production	To provide an enabling environment for the production of national vital statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonizing initiatives and approaches - Promoting data use and quality assurance mechanisms - Building sub-regional, regional and international partnership forums 	Activity 30: Support countries in reporting and publication of national vital statistics	Countries supported in reporting and publication	<p>Risks: Countries in conflict and political unrest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recovery from global financial crises further delays - CRVS not institutionalized permanently in ECA and AfDB structure or program - Some UN specialized agencies may take time to align to the new approach - Donors continue uncoordinated interventions <p>Assumptions: - Donors will continue and sustain their support - national governments take CRVS as national priority agenda</p>
			Activity 31: Initiate the production of vital statistics in the African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB)	Vital statistics reports produced in ASYB	
Promoting study and research	To strengthen study and research capacity of national and regional organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting and building analytical capabilities of African countries in the area of vital statistics - Building sub-regional, regional and international partnership forums 	Activity 32: Prepare study and research agenda on the use and application of CRVS information in different areas, primarily in population studies and health disciplines	Research agenda developed and disseminated	
			Activity 33: Sponsor study and research topics as identified in the research agenda	Studies sponsored and reports produced	
Building partnership, peer-support groups and promoting country ownership	To improve and sustain political commitment and take sound policy measures at national and regional levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring country ownership and leadership - Building sub-regional, regional and international partnership forums 	Activity 34: Organize High-Level Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration	African Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration conducted	
			Activity 35: Prepare concept note on the involvement and responsibilities of sub-	Concept note prepared	

Thematic Area	Specific Objectives	Strategies	Activities	Outputs	Risks and Assumptions
			<p>regional organizations and economic communities</p> <p>Activity 36: Organize meetings/workshop(s) on the modalities and mechanisms of the implementation of the resolutions of the Conferences of Ministers</p> <p>Activity 37: Implement the resolutions and recommendations of the Conferences of African Ministers</p>	<p>Meetings/ workshops organized</p> <p>Conferences' resolution implementation on progress</p>	
Strengthening the CRVS secretariat	To improve the technical and management capacity of the CRVS secretariat in providing technical and operational support to member States		Activity 38: Create substantive posts at ECA		
			Activity 39.: Recruit and fill posts		
			Activity 40: Recruit consultants		

Annex - 2: Resource Requirements 2010-2015 (US\$ Thousands)

Thematic Areas and Activities	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Thematic Area -1:- Capacity building							
1. Conduct regional assessment study		100.0	20.0				120
2. Develop regional medium-term CRVS plan	20.0		10.0 ⁵				30.0
3. Prepare regional guidelines for the development of national plans and programmes for CRVS systems		10.0	10.0				20.0
4. Support countries in the development of national CRVS plans and programmes		50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	250.0
5. Prepare regional civil registration operation and management manuals		30.0	50.0				80.0
6. Prepare regional vital statistics operation and management manuals		30.0	50.0				80.0
7. Prepare regional guidelines for updating and harmonization of civil registration laws		30.0	50.0				80.0
8. Prepare regional guidelines for causes of death recording, reporting and classification		20.0	50.0	50.0	50.0		170.0
9. Prepare regional advocacy and IEC operational guidelines		20.0	50.0				70.0
10. Prepare regional computerization and information management guidelines			50.0	50.0			100.0
11. Develop strategic regional guidelines for management of civil registration backlogs		30.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	10.0	100
12. Support countries in the development of a package of national CRVS operation manuals and guidelines		10.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	410.0
13. Conduct cascaded trainings for CRVS country experts			250.0	250.0	100.0	100.0	700.0
14. Conduct orientation meetings for heads of civil registration authorities and NSOs			150.0	150.0			300.0
15. Conduct orientation workshop for public relations officers of national civil registration authorities and vital statistics compiling offices			150.0	150.0			300.0
16. Develop training materials for short courses and regular programmes			120.0	50.0			170.0

⁵ Mid-term review and updating as per the results of the baseline assessment result

17. Develop course programmes at graduate and undergraduate levels				120.0	50.0		170.0
18. Conduct short courses and regular training programmes					150.0	150.0	300.0
19. Develop concept note, project document and other necessary preparatory activities for establishing the Fund			10.0	10.0			20.0
19.1. Organize consultation meeting with development partners			20.0	20.0			40.0
19.2. Organize launch meeting and conduct formal agreements			20.0	20.0			40.0
19.3. Implement and monitor the Fund							0.0
20. Prepare regional guidelines on how to mobilize resources for CRVS at national level		10.0	10.0				20.0
Sub-Total	20.0	340.0	1240.0	1040.0	520.0	410.0	3570.0
Thematic Area 2: Innovation and harmonization of techniques and approaches							
21. Develop research agenda on operational and methodological aspects of CRVS systems in Africa		15.0	10.0				25.0
22. Conduct studies on harmonization of techniques and approaches in CRVS systems in Africa			20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	80.0
23. Conduct research on innovative methods of improving CRVS operation, management and evaluation			20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	80.0
24. Conduct methodological research in improving reporting and compilation of causes of death information			50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	200.0
Sub-Total	0	15	100	90	90	90	385.0
Thematic Area 3: Promoting knowledge and sharing good practices							
25. Conduct advocacy and experience-sharing workshops at regional and sub-regional levels on improving CRVS systems				100.0	100.0	100.0	300.0
26. Facilitate study tours between countries at regional and sub-regional levels				50.0	50.0	50.0	150.0
27. Strengthen and administer the African Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Network (AFCRVSNet)			10.0	10.0			20.0
28. Conduct field assessment visits			50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	200.0
29. Provide technical backstopping to countries			50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	200.0

Sub-Total			110	260	250	250	870.0
Thematic Area 4: Strengthening regional and national vital statistics production							
30. Support countries in reporting and publication of national vital statistics				50.0	50.0	50.0	150.0
31. Initiate the production of vital statistics in the African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB)				20.0	20.0	20.0	60
Sub-Total				70.0	70.0	70.0	210
Thematic Area 5: Promoting study and research							
32. Prepare study and research agenda on the use and application of CRVS information in different areas, primarily in population studies and health disciplines				10.0	10.0		20.0
33. Sponsor study and research topics				50.0	50.0	50.0	150.0
Sub-Total				60	60	50	170.0
Thematic Area 6: Building partnership, peer support groups and promoting country ownership							
34. Organize High-Level Conferences of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration	580.0		650.0		750.0		1980.0
35. Prepare concept note on the involvement and responsibilities of sub-regional organizations and economic communities		10.0					10.0
36. Organize meetings/workshops on the modalities and mechanisms of the implementation of the resolutions of the High-Level Conferences of Ministers	50.0	60.0		120.0		150.0	380.0
37. Implement the resolutions and recommendations of the High-Level Conferences of African Ministers	30.0	30.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	150.0	510.0
Sub-Total	660.0	100.0	750	220.0	850.0	300.0	2880.0
Thematic Area 7: Strengthening the CRVS secretariat							
38: Create substantive posts at ECA							
39: Recruit and fill posts			130.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	550.0
40. Recruit consultants			100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	400.0
Sub-Total			230	240	240	240	950.0

Grand Total	680.0	455.0	2430.0	1980.0	2080.0	1410.0	9035.0
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Annex 3: Monitoring Matrix

Results/ Activities	Responsible Body	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Objectives: - To improve capacities of national CRAs and NSOs in implementing and managing CRVS operations - To support regional and sub-regional organizations in systematically measuring and monitoring interventions and development results			
Activity 1: Conduct regional assessment study	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2010-12
Activity 2: Develop a regional medium-term CRVS plan	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, national CRAs, NSOs, and others	2010-12
Activity 3: Prepare regional guidelines for the development of national plans and programmes for CRVS systems	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2011-12
Activity 4: Support countries in the development of national CRVS plans and programmes	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs NSOs, and others	2012-14
Activity 5: Prepare regional guidelines for the development of national civil registration operation and management manuals	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs NSOs, and others	2011-12
Activity 6: Prepare regional guidelines for the development of national vital statistics operation and management manuals	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2011-12
Activity 7: Prepare regional guidelines on updating and harmonization of civil registration laws	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2011-12
Activity 8: Prepare regional guidelines on causes of death recording, reporting and classification	ECA, AfDB, AUC, WHO, HMN	UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-13
Activity 9: Prepare regional advocacy and information, education and communication (IEC) operational	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, PARIS 21 CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-13

Results/ Activities	Responsible Body	Potential Partners	Timeframe
guidelines			
Activity 10: Prepare regional computerization and information management guidelines	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-13
Activity 11: Develop strategic regional guidelines for management of civil registration backlogs	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-13
Activity 12: Support countries in the development of a package of national CRVS operation manuals and guidelines	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-15
Activity 13: Conduct cascaded training for CRVS country experts	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-15
Activity 14: Conduct orientation meetings for heads of CRAs and NSOs	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-13
Activity 15: Conduct orientation workshop for public relations officers in CRAs and institutions compiling vital statistics	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-15
Activity 16: Develop training materials for short courses and regular programmes	ECA, AfDB, AUC, regional training organizations	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, national teaching and training institutions, and others	2012-13
Activity 17: Develop course programmes at graduate and undergraduate levels	ECA, AfDB, AUC, regional training organizations	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, national teaching and training institutions, and others	2013-14
Activity 18: Conduct short courses and regular training programmes	ECA, AfDB, AUC, regional training organizations	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, national teaching and training institutions, and others	2014-15
Activity 19: Develop concept note, project document and other necessary	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs,	2012-13

Results/ Activities	Responsible Body	Potential Partners	Timeframe
preparatory activities for establishing a regional CRVS pooled Fund		and others	
Activity 19.1: Organize consultation meeting with development partners	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-13
Activity 19.2: Organize launching meeting and conduct formal agreements	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-13
Activity 19.3: Implement and monitor the Fund	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-15
Activity 20: Prepare regional guidelines on how to mobilize resources for CRVS at national level	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2011-12
To improve methodological soundness of techniques and approaches			
Activity 21: Develop research agenda on operational and methodological aspects of CRVS systems in Africa	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-13
Activity 22: Conduct studies on harmonization of techniques and approaches in CRVS systems in Africa	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-15
Activity 23: Conduct research on innovative methods of improving CRVS operations, management and evaluation	ECA, AfDB, AUC, regional training organizations	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, national teaching and training institutions, and others	2012-15
Activity 24: Conduct methodological studies and research on improving reporting and compilation of causes of death information	ECA, AfDB, AUC, regional training organizations	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, national teaching and training institutions, and others	2012-15
To improve technical, operational and management capacity of national institutions			
Activity 25: Conduct advocacy and experience-sharing workshops at regional and sub-regional levels on improving CRVS systems	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2013-15

Results/ Activities	Responsible Body	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Activity 26: Facilitate study tours between countries at regional and sub-regional levels	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2013-15
Activity 27: Strengthen and administer the African CRVS Network – AfCRVSNet	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-13
Activity 28: Conduct field assessment visits	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-15
Activity 29: Provide technical backstopping to countries	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-15
To provide an enabling environment for the production of national vital statistics			
Activity 30: Support countries in reporting and publication of national vital statistics	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-15
Activity 31: Initiate the production of vital statistics in the African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB)	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2012-15
To strengthen study and research capacity of national and regional organizations			
Activity 32: Prepare study and research agenda on the use and application of CRVS information in different areas, primarily in population studies and health disciplines	ECA, AfDB, AUC, regional training organizations	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, national teaching and training institutions, and others	2012-13
Activity 33: Sponsor study and research topics as identified in the research agenda	ECA, AfDB, AUC, regional training organizations	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, national teaching and training institutions, and others	2012-15
To improve and sustain political commitment and take sound policy measures at national and regional levels			
Activity 34: Organize High-Level Conferences of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, national CRAs, NSOs, and others	2010, 2012, 2014

Results/ Activities	Responsible Body	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Activity 35: Prepare concept note on the involvement and responsibilities of sub-regional organizations and economic communities	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2011-12
Activity 36: Organize meetings/workshop(s) on the modalities and mechanisms of the implementation of the resolutions of the Conferences of Ministers	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2011, 2012-13, 2014-15
Activity 37: Implement the resolutions and recommendations of the Conferences of African Ministers	ECA, AfDB, AUC	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, HMN, UNHCR, CRAs, NSOs, and others	2011-15
Strengthening the CRVS secretariat			
Activity 38: Create substantive posts at ECA	ECA,	AfDB, AUC,	2011-12
Activity 39: Recruit and fill posts	ECA,	AfDB, AUC,	2011-12
Activity 40: Recruit consultants	ECA, AfDB,	AUC,	2011-15