

CRVS Indicative Investment Plan for Ethiopia

*Draft for consultation at CRVS Technical Meeting,
Addis Ababa 28-29 April 2014*

Prepared by the Vital Events Registration Agency in
collaboration with the Central Statistics Agency

A CRVS project sponsored by Canadian DFTAD and WHO

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Part 1: Summary of Investment Plan

1.1 The Case for Civil Registration¹ and Vital Statistics in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, like in many other developing countries, most citizens have come into this world and left without leaving a trace on official records. The main reason in Ethiopia has been the absence of a law and operational framework for compulsory, universal, continuous and permanent of recording of vital events in the country. In the absence of a fully-functioning civil registration system, citizens have remained unrecorded and hence unrecognized by the state.

The country has also not benefitted from a continuous supply of reliable data on vital events to support informed policy making, implementation and monitoring of development plans. In its place, the need for vital statistics was met by conducting periodic demographic and health surveys and population censuses every ten years. Similarly, in the absence of reliable information on cause of death there is no solid basis to determine which diseases have major impacts on the population, in different regions, among men and women, young and old, urban and rural settings.

1.2 Objectives for CRVS

Civil registration is the system with which a government records the vital events of its citizens. It creates legal documents that are used to establish and protect the civil rights of individuals. It is also a source of data for the compilation of vital statistics to be used for informed planning and decision making. In light of this, the overall objectives of establishing a civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system in Ethiopia are:

1. to establish and develop a system that would guarantee legal rights and privileges to individuals by providing access to registration and certification of vital events, and creating the link between the individual and the state;
2. to ensure sound governance and improved public administration services by mainstreaming vital events registration at all administrative levels; and
3. to make available continuous, comprehensive, quality and harmonized vital statistics (including health statistics) and related information disaggregated down to the *kebele* (local administrative unit) levels for informed policy making and decisions.

For Ethiopia, the ultimate goal is therefore to set up a CRVS system that captures all births, deaths, marriages and divorces as they occur so that the above mentioned objectives are fulfilled, and ensure the continuous flow of vital statistics and cause of death for use by national and international development planners.

¹ Civil registration and vital events registration are used interchangeably in this report.

1.3 Past Performance and Current State of CRVS

A legislative act that made civil registration obligatory did not exist before 2012. The 2012 law made vital events registration free, compulsory and time-bound (births: 90 days; deaths, marriages and divorces, each within 30 days).

Ethiopia Population: 88 million in 2014 (CSA, 2013)	Estimated vital events¹ 2014	Number vital events registered and causes of death recorded, 2014	Current annual completeness	Intended number of kebeles that will register vital events²		
				2016	2019	2020
	Approx. 3 million births annually	None registered	6.6% ³	20%	70%	100%
	Approx. 1 million deaths annually	None registered	0%	20%	70%	100%
	Approx. 1 million marriages annually	None registered	0%	20%	70%	100%
	Causes of deaths	No Causes of Death recorded	0%	20%	70%	100%

1.4 Political Commitment and Policy Environment

There is strong political commitment in Ethiopia to strengthening CRVS:

- Both the Vital Events Registration Council and the Vital Events Registration Board of Management comprise ministerial representations from several government ministries;
- At the national consultative seminar on vital events registration held in Addis Ababa in November 2013, presidents, vice presidents and senior representatives of the nine regions and the two city administrations pledged to implement the vital events registration law in their respective regions in the shortest possible time; and
- Ethiopia, as the first host and chair of the standing Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, has played a major role in the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) programme. The Ministers for Justice and Health will be invited to consider the CRVS programme as part of the APAI-CRVS meeting in October 2014.

² It is expected that registration will be complete in each of the *kebeles* when they start operation.

³ The Ethiopian Demographic Survey (2005) result indicated that the birth of 6.6 % of the sampled under five years of age children were registered with the existing civil authorities. The registration refers to a practice where certificates of birth were issued, mostly in urban areas and hospitals, without the event being officially recorded in a civil registry, as a vital events did not exist before 2012.

1.5 CRVS Investment Priorities

The aim is to setup a system which will achieve complete coverage of vital events registration from the beginning. The investment priorities were identified with the following assumptions, based on objective realities on the ground:

- the investment logic and priorities should follow VERA's "Strategic and Action Plan" but extending it over a 7 year period, so that it would mirror the country's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) cycles: GTP1 (2010-2015) and GTP2 (2016 -2020);
- all regional capitals will have vital events registration offices in 2014;
- vital statistics will be produced for those administrative areas which achieve completeness of registration; and
- research and development would be conducted on the implementation of cause of death recording; implementation could start within the 7 years CRVS implementation period.

1.6 Summary of Investment Budget

It is estimated that to establish a vital events registration system and to strengthen the existing vital statistics system is estimated at 320 million US dollars. The cost break downs by priority areas, by cost type and by source of funding is given below. The Ethiopian Government is committed to put the system in place. The funding gap (about 66 %) could slow down the speed of expected coverage of vital events but will not deter the implementation of the system.

Summary of investment budget, in '000 USD

Priority strategy areas	Total cost	Cost type		Funding source		
		Capital	Operating	Government	Development partners	Funding gap
Registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorces.	293,946	99,907	194,039	75,551	24,028	194,367
Vital statistics	26,783	23,829	2,954	6,699		20,084
Grand Total	320,729	123,736	196,993	82,250	24,028	214,451

Figure 1. Cost type

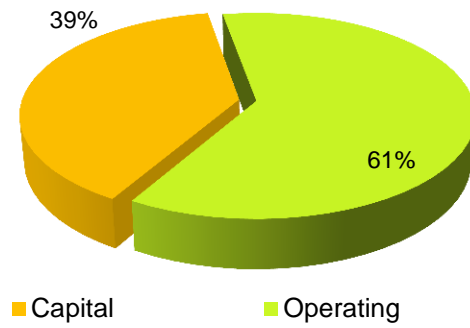
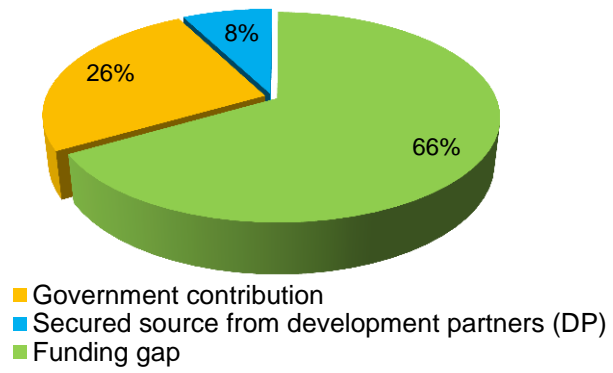


Figure 2. Funding source



Part 2: Detailed Investment Plan

2.1 CRVS Objectives

The overall objectives of the CRVS in Ethiopia are to attain full coverage of registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorces in order to:

- guarantee legal rights and privileges to individuals by providing access to registration of vital events, and creating the link between the individual and the state;
- ensure sound governance and improved public administration services by mainstreaming vital events registration at all administrative levels; and
- make available continuous, comprehensive, quality and harmonized vital statistics and related information disaggregated down to the local administrative levels for informed policy making and decisions.

2.2 CRVS Action Plan

To achieve complete coverage of vital events registration throughout the country, VERA has adopted a prioritized 7-year strategy and action plan. The strategy has eight interdependent intervention areas. Specific objectives were formulated for each of the identified strategic intervention areas to ensure that the overall objectives are attained. The strategy was designed in such a way that it builds on opportunities and address challenges that were identified in a consultative process. The strategic intervention areas are:

- to establish and develop the registration of vital events and associated services at all administrative levels;
- to establish effective coordination mechanism among stakeholders;
- to establish and implement information, education and communication programme;
- to establish demand creation programmes for vital events records;
- to improve and strengthen the data collection, production and use of vital statistics;
- to build sustainable institutional capacity for a civil registration and vital statistics system;
- to establish effective technological environment; and
- to manage, coordinate and monitor implementation of the strategy and action plan.

2.3 The Investment Plan Preparation Process

The preparation for costing of the plan involved several rounds of consultations with VERA and CSA managements; and representatives of developments partners: ECA, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA. The major understandings were that:

- For a country like Ethiopia with a vast surface area and large population, it would require several years of strategic and prioritized investment to establish a fully functioning and complete vital events registration system;
- The investment plan should be for a 7-year period so that it would correspond to the remaining years under GTP1 (2010-2015) and GTP2 (2016 to 2020);
- Considering the objective reality on the ground, VE registration will be paper-based in the foreseeable future. This does not preclude the conducting of research and development that would lead towards the eventual introduction of technology in the VE process;
- CSA will restructure to strengthen its capability to capture, compile and disseminate timely and quality vital statistics for policy making and monitoring of development initiatives at all administrative levels; and
- Research and develop means and ways to incorporate cause of death in the CRVS process.

2.4 CRVS investment objectives, priorities and strategies

Investment Objective:	Achieve 100% registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorce by 2020
Priority:	Increase vital events registration to 100% by 2016;
Current State	Current completeness of vital events registration is 6.6% (CSA, 2005). Municipalities of few major urban areas provide certificates of occurrence of vital events, upon request and without proper registration anchored in a law. Few hospitals also provide birth and death certificates without keeping a central registration system. Political commitment: Both the federal Vital Events Registration Council and the Vital Events Board of Management comprise ministerial representations from several key government ministries. Regional governments have started to set-up similar structures in their respective administrative areas. All regions are expected to establish Regional Vital Events Registration Agencies (RVERAs) in 2014.
Business needs	To ensure that all occurrences of vital events in the community are registered within the duration specified in the CR law (births, 90 days; deaths, marriages and divorces, 60 days).

Strategies	Options to improve completeness of registration at the lowest administrative units have been identified in the national CRVS plan, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing registry services in all <i>kebeles</i> (lowest administrative areas) offices in the country, Ethiopian embassies, Ethiopian ships, and camps of armed forces. • Mobilize community social networks, health and agriculture extension workers and others as notifiers of occurrence of vital events. • In the pastoralist areas, explore the possibility of using mobile telephones to notify events, and mobile registration units. • Conduct continuous awareness campaign to citizens, targeting different groups, on the importance of vital events registration. • Generate continuous VS at <i>kebele</i> and <i>wereda</i> (district) level.
Potential benefits	Benefits of registration of vital events include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing legal proof of identity and civil status, including name, date and place of birth, parentage, citizenship, nationality and legitimacy status • establishing claim to property in the event of a partner's death • planning for services such as immunisation and education at community levels • being able to accurately identify to international agencies with pertinent vital statistics such as the number of children, deaths and cause of death in the country.

2.4 Investment objectives, activities and expected outcomes

The aim is to setup a system which will achieve complete coverage of vital events registration from the beginning, however this approach may not be easily attainable in all lowest administrative areas simultaneously.

The investment priorities were identified with the following assumptions, based on objective realities on the ground:

- i. the investment logic and priorities should follow VERA's "Strategic and Action Plan" but extending it over a 7 year period, so that it would mirror the country's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) cycles: GTP (2010/11-2014/15) and GTP1 (2015/16 -20/21);
- ii. all regional capitals will have CR offices in 2014;
- iii. vital statistics will be produced for those administrative areas which achieve completeness of registration; and
- iv. research and development would be conducted on the implementation of cause of death recording; implementation could start within the 7 years CRVS implementation period.

Objectives	Activities	Expected outcomes
Preparatory work for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of CR business process; registration instruments; manuals and guidelines. training, IEC, technology, monitoring and evaluation strategies IEC and other pertinent manuals and guidelines. all regions issue CR laws based on the model law establish and equip VE offices at regional capitals, <i>weredas</i> and <i>kebeles</i> strengthen CSA branch offices in 7 of the regions and 2 city administrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategies for training, IEC, technology, M&E, etc. developed - Registration instruments, handbooks drafted, tested, finalized, translated into the required languages and printed. - By Dec 2015: CR materials distributed; extensive awareness campaign launched;
Registration of VE in all <i>kebeles</i> in the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and publicity campaigns conducted nationally and intensively; Cascaded training of about 50,000 officials and registrars in all regional offices and all <i>kebeles</i> and <i>weredas</i>; Equip <i>kebeles</i> and <i>weredas</i> offices with appropriate furniture and fixtures; <i>kebeles</i> office begin registration of vital events CSA branch offices start collecting and compiling vital statistics; conduct a rapid assessment at the end of 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - training of registrars conducted for all <i>weredas</i> and <i>kebeles</i> - all events in all <i>kebeles</i> registered; - vital statistics generated - Analysis of assessment used to improve implementation
Registration of VE in all Ethiopian embassies, Ethiopian ships, and camps of armed forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish registration desks in all Ethiopian embassies, Ethiopian ships, and camps of armed forces; CSA branch offices start collecting and compiling vital statistics; Conduct a complete CRVS assessment at the end of 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better performance of registrars - vital statistics generated at all administrative levels - Analysis of assessment used to improve CRVS activities in GTP 3 period.

2.5 Risks and risk management

Risk	Rating of Risk LMH impact on objective	Mitigation strategy	Rating of risk after mitigation
Inadequate flow of fund from government slowing or delaying major priority activities	Medium	Support of the Board of Management	Low

Inadequate flow of fund from development partners slowing or delaying major priority activities such as timely availability of registration instruments, training, awareness and advocacy campaigns, and the like.	Medium	Demonstrated support from the UN country core team (UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNECA, UNDP, and others)	Low
Capacity of VERA, RVERAs and CSA management to carry out activities identified in the strategy and action plan in a timely manner	Medium	Regional and global initiatives to strengthen CRVS Technical visits of managers to good practice countries to gain hands-on experience; and inviting countries who are engaged with modernization of CRVS activities in their own countries	Low
Technical capacity to support registration activities	High	Provide training Long term technical experts' support Develop supervisory structure for the decentralised offices	Low
Coordination of activities with national stakeholders and development partners	High	Setup a mechanism to share information and ensure that actions are an integral part of other government and regional states programmes, and that of local and international development partners	Low
Other major national events such as elections competing for resources and diverting political commitments	Medium	Speed up recruitment of staff in VERA which is currently at about 40%; Establish RVERAs and recruit the core staff in 2014	Low
Risk that technology projects are not designed for scale	High	Ensure technology projects are designed for scale through request for offer. Ensure statistics are included in tender process given collection and scale expertise.	Medium – remain alert to risk
CSA's focus might turn to preparing for the population and housing censuses to be conducted in 2017	Medium	Setup and strengthen the proposed VS unit	Low
Coding of causes of death fails due to insufficient doctors trained	High	Ensure doctor training is included in package Enlist Health Minister to promote to hospitals Ensure free online training is made available each year through medical associations	Medium - remain alert to risk
Technical capacity in registry to support decentralisation and widespread community collection is not sufficient	High	Develop training Develop technical support for three year period and include in funding proposal Develop supervisory structure for the decentralised offices	Low

Annex 1. Costed Activity Analysis

(in '000 USD)

Priority strategy areas	Total cost	Type of cost		Source of fund		
		Capital	Operating	Government	Development partners	Funding gap
A. Establishing and maintaining vital events (Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce) registration system						
1. Institution building at national, regional <i>wereda</i> and <i>kebele</i> levels	156506	97919	58588	67487	23547	65473
2. CR instruments, manuals and guidelines	51441	57	51383	1888	481	49071
3. Effective coordination mechanisms	2060		2060	2060		
4. Education and communication programme	16707		16707	3341		13366
5. Capacity building	29751		29751			29751
6. Effective technological environment	36690	1550	35140	775		35915
7. Monitoring and evaluation	790	381	409			790
CR total	293946	99907	194039	75551	24028	194367
B. Strengthening vital statistics system						
Strengthening vital statistics	26783	23829	2954	6699		20084
Grand total	320729	123736	196993	82250	24028	214451

Figure 1. Type of cost

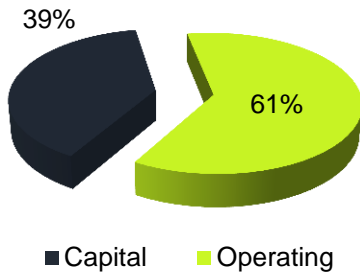


Figure 2. Funding source

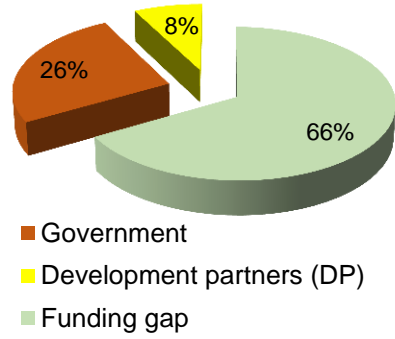
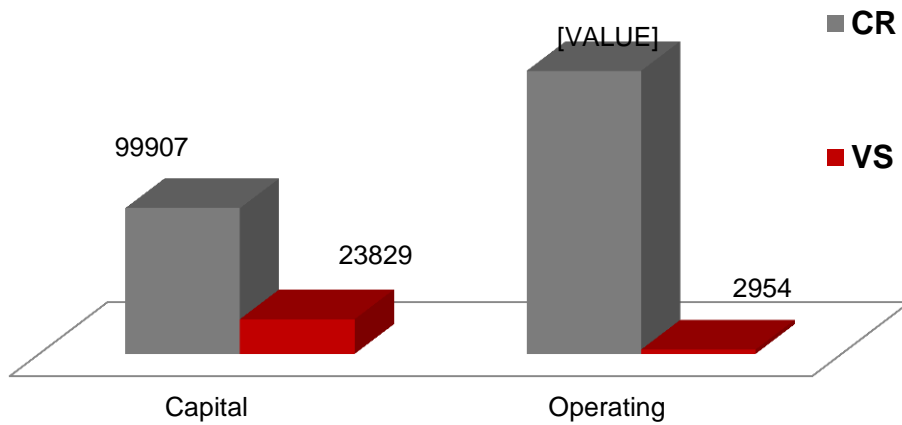


Figure 3. Investment cost type in '000USD



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ⁱ Calculated from unpublished tabulations of the 2007 Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia, CSA, 2013.