



The potential of the health sector to catalyse accelerated improvement in civil registration and vital statistics

Discussion on draft papers for the Ministerial Conference



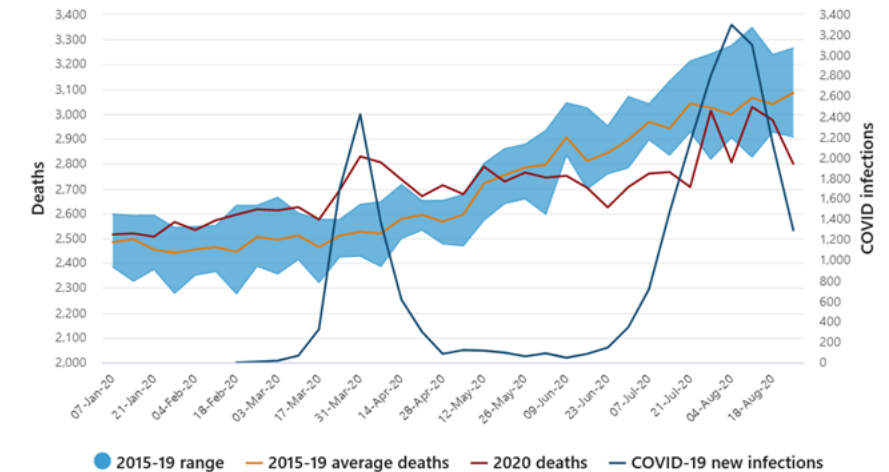
Introduction

- Interlinkages between civil registration and health systems can **facilitate the registration** of births and deaths
- Multiple benefits from enhanced **collaboration** between health entities, civil registrars, and stakeholders with a role in vital statistics
- Importance of health and civil registration collaboration has become **more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic**
- Alignment with guidance issued by the WHO and UNICEF describing proactive role of health sector in CRVS systems and WHO CRVS Strategic Implementation Plan

CRVS systems needed to track COVID-19

- Well-functioning CRVS systems provide **most complete source** of COVID-19 mortality data
- Complete and timely data on total mortality enables the calculation of “**excess mortality**”
- COVID-19 pandemic has raised awareness of the **role that the health sector can play** in CRVS systems to track all-cause mortality and specific diseases (cause of death data)

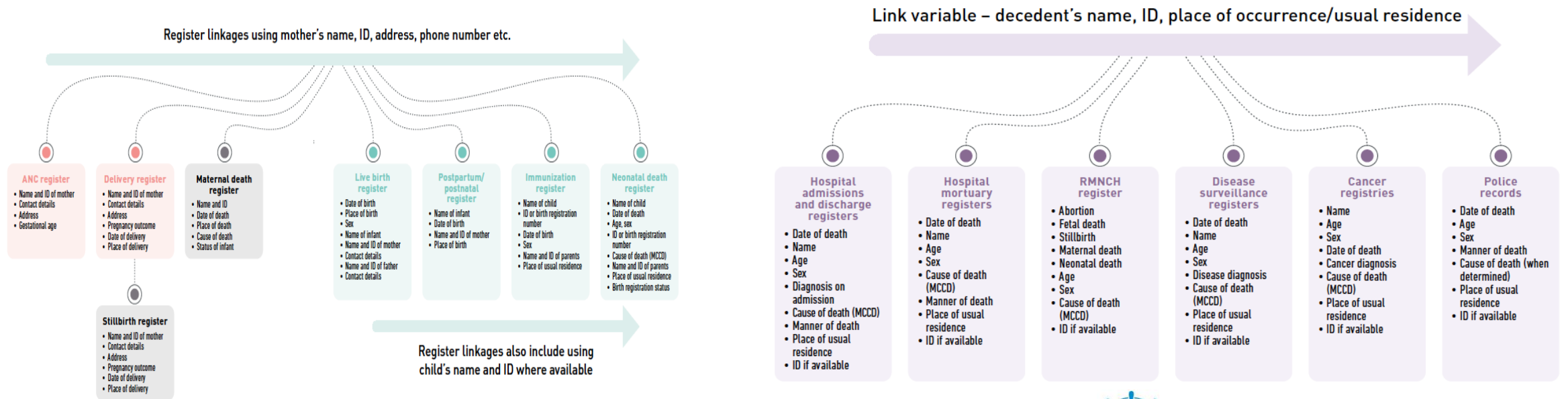
Doctor certified deaths, COVID-19 infections, Australia, 1 Jan - 25 Aug 2020 vs 2015-2019 benchmarks



<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/provisional-mortality-statistics/latest-release>

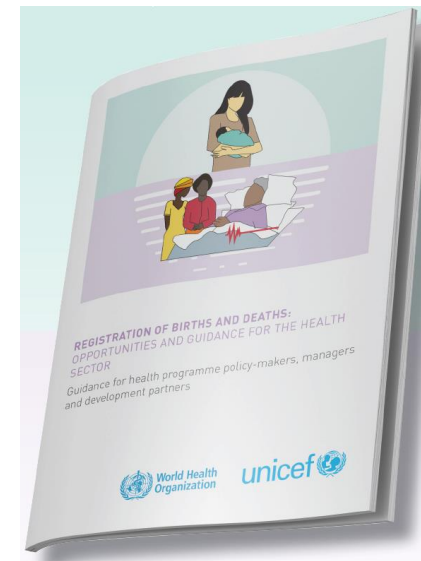
Health sector as a partner for CRVS systems

- **Contact** around the times of births (e.g. high assisted delivery and immunization coverage) and deaths and **generally close** to the communities
- Health sector staff can **act as informants** for birth and death and support the **collection of cause of death data** (for facility of community deaths)



Operationalizing interlinkages between health and civil registration

- Critical importance of strong **governance and coordination mechanisms**
- Need to consider **legal framework** and different operational set-ups
- **Key steps** to building interlinkage:
 - Business processes improvement
 - Information sharing mechanisms
 - Interoperability and standardization
 - Capacity development





Background Paper aligns with WHO CRVS Strategic Implementation Plan

Strategic Objectives:

1. Strengthen **coordination between health sector and both national CRVS stakeholders** and international CRVS partners
2. Strengthen CRVS **cause of death reporting** and vital event notification integration with civil registration
3. **Build capacity for CRVS and to analyze and use** mortality and cause of death data for policy purposes
4. Improve reporting, production and dissemination of **vital statistics** including cause of death



WHO Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Strategic Implementation Plan 2021-2025





Conclusion

- Health sector has **in-depth knowledge** about fact of birth and death and cause of death
- Collaboration between health and civil registration can facilitate registration of births and deaths by **transferring the responsibility** to government agency
- **COVID-19 pandemic** has highlighted the importance of close interlinkage between health and civil registration to track all-cause mortality and COVID-19

Civil Registration & Vital Statistics Program

Thank you!