

Mitigating the Impacts of COVID-19 on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems in Africa



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Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- History & Laws On Births And Death Registration In Ghana
- Key aspects of the Continuity Plan for Birth and Death Registry of Ghana during the lockdowns
- Overview On How Covid-19 Is Impacting Registration Of Births And Deaths
- Public Sector For Result Programme (PSSRP)
- Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 2020 (Act 1027)
- Way forward
- Conclusion



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History & Laws On Birth And Death Registration In Ghana

- Vital Registration started as far back in 1888 (only Death Registration, Birth Registration was added in 1912)
- In 1965 registration of vital events became compulsory (Act 301 of 1965)
- The New Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 2020(Act 1027), specifies that all births and deaths that occur in the country need to be registered within the free period
- Strategic Plan for Public sector for results program (PSSRP)
- Expected out-put in the era of covid-19



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Key aspects of the Continuity Plan for Birth and Death Registry of Ghana

- CR offices where officers were not present at all times would have their contact details posted at the entrances of the offices so they can be contacted when the need arise within their respective area of operations
- At Head office (administrative) only a few critical staff have been permitted to be at post
- Supervised working arrangements were instituted that is, Special permission was given to critical staff to be a post
- At the national level, the Registrar of Births and Deaths and a few supporting staff are always available to support all critical CRVS work across the sector
- Developed a teleworking guideline to enable staff to work from home
- Noncritical staff were advised to take their annual leave
- Identified core staff to work from the office during the phase of both the initial restrictions on social distancing, use of public transport and partial lockdown
- Provided resources and financial token to incentivize staff to continue with their work
- Continued engagement of non-permanent staff



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Overview On How Covid-19 Is Impacting Registration Of Births And Deaths

- Part of the business process of registering births and deaths in Ghana is manual, it relies on face-to-face interactions and is largely paper based
- CRVS offices are fully operational at all levels, observing all covid19 protocols
- Response to birth registration is still a challenge due to the covid-19
- Death registration is likely to improve due to improve collaboration with the Ghana health service and the roll out of community reporting arrangements



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Strategies To Improve Births And Deaths Registration In The Era Of Covid-19

A Strategic plan developed to improve service delivery at all levels

Improving Mobile Registration Exercise at community level

- Continuous engagement with local level leadership
- Faith based organizations
- Improve online registration

Strategic Activities

- Develop mobile applications for registrations
- Deployed 120 moto bikes to some districts
- Mobile registration vans deployed to newly created regions.
- Training of registration operatives



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Some Important Inclusions In The New Registration Of Births And Deaths Act 2020 (act 1027)

- **Mandatory Notification of births and deaths at all levels(local, district, regional and national)**
- **Community population Register Programmes(CPRP)**
- **Free compulsory birth registration age 0-12 month**
- **Parents have up to 5 years to register the birth of a child**
- **The use of electronic equipment for registration of vital event is now law**
- **Information Sharing with other stakeholders**
- **Compulsory registration of burial grounds and private funeral homes**
- **Registration of surrogate births**
- **BDR to Retain 50% IGF to service its operations**



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Way forward

- Continuous supply of PPE's to field operatives
- Develop new regulations and standard operating procedures to operationalize new law
- Update business processes
- Develop and deploy an online service portal
- Training of registration operatives on the New Law, Regulations and Standard operating procedures
- Collaboration with Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to compile and create Cemetery Registers at the District Level
- Public sensitization on the new law and business processes



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Thank You



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