



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
for CRVS Systems

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Compendium of Good Practices: Harnessing Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems in Conflict, Emergencies, and Fragile Settings

Crises and emergencies due to conflict, natural disaster, and COVID-19 are on the rise. Amidst these hardships, people are born, get married, divorce, and die. But without robust **civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems**, governments struggle to understand the scale of a crisis, accurately plan services, and safeguard basic human rights.

Many women who fled their homes in Syria and Iraq struggle to register their children's births due to lost marriage licenses or missing husbands.

In Vanuatu, Cyclone Harold destroyed countless homes and identity documents, making it a challenge to access services and rebuild.

Delays in death registration hinder the effective distribution of medical resources for COVID-19 in Brazil and many other countries.

These examples, and others, show the need for robust CRVS systems in conflict, emergencies, and fragile settings.

This Compendium of Good Practices explores how to strengthen CRVS systems in conflict, emergencies, and fragile settings by sharing country case studies and the latest research. Launched by the Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems at the International Development Research Centre, in partnership with Open Data Watch, this compendium presents concrete opportunities and recommendations to improve CRVS systems around the world.



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This compendium shares examples of how CRVS systems can safeguard gender equality during conflict, protect the rights of refugees and migrants, and be used to respond to natural disasters or health crises like COVID-19.

Harnessing Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems in Conflict, Emergencies, and Fragile Settings

Building Resilient CRVS Systems: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Emergencies

By Carmen Sant Fruchtmann, Anna Socha, Laura Monzón Llamas, Carla AbouZahr, Irina Dincu, and Daniel Cobos Muñoz

Civil Registration: Maintaining International Standards in Emergencies

By Srdjan Mrkić

Where There Is No CRVS: Counting and Registering Deaths in Conflict, Emergencies, and Fragile Settings

By Carla AbouZahr, Laura Monzón Llamas, Carmen Sant Fruchtmann, and Daniel Cobos Muñoz

Applying a "Systems Lens": CRVS and Fragility in the Digital Age

By Lauren Harrison and Liliana Suchodolska

Alternative Information Sources on Deaths in Brazil in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Everton E. C. Lima, Marcos R. Gonzaga, Flávio H. M. de A. Freire, and Bernardo L. Queiroz

The Burial of Unidentified People in Rio de Janeiro: The Disappearance of People in the State Bureaucracy

By Alexandre Trece, Cláudio Machado, and Raquel Chripino

Strategies for Dealing with the Challenges of COVID-19 to Ecuador's Civil Registration System

By Vicente Andres Taiano Gonzalez, Gustavo Pedroso de Lima Brusse, and Vinicius Souza Maia

COVID-19 and CRVS in New Zealand: The Show Must Go On

By Jeff Montgomery

The Role of CRVS in Estimating COVID-19-related Excess Deaths in South Korea

By Eunkoo Lee, Seokmin Lee, and Tanja Brøndsted Sejersen

Documenting Life and Death: Women's Experiences During Conflict in Syria and Iraq

By Martin Clutterbuck

Mitigating the Impact of Natural Hazards on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: The Case of Vanuatu

By Gloria Mathenge, Benuel Lenge, Joemela Simeon, Carah Figueroa, Christine Linhart, and Ana Janet Sunga



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Better CRVS systems for a better world

The benefits CRVS range from governance and peace to human rights and social protection, to the economy. They are an essential tool for good governance. Registering vital events, including births, marriages, divorces, and deaths, is crucial to provide basic population statistics, enabling better monitoring of population movements, demographic changes, and potential health threats.

CRVS offer immediate value during times of crisis and in their aftermath, signifying a strategic, cost-effective allocation of limited financial and human resources in fragile contexts. As the world looks to build back, improving and strengthening CRVS systems becomes increasingly important.



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