

CRVS and the CoE-CRVS at UNFPA | A strong value proposition

UNFPA recognizes that population data and demographic evidence are core facilitators and accelerators of rights and choices for all. By ensuring the universal, permanent, and continuous registration of vital events across the life course, CRVS systems advance human rights and strengthen the evidence base for sustainable development, in order to accelerate progress on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.



About UNFPA

The United Nations Population Fund is the sexual and reproductive health agency. Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA supports integrated population data systems, including strengthened CRVS systems, to ensure that everyone, everywhere is counted, and accounted for, in the pursuit of sustainable development.



605 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10158 | USA
Telephone: (+ 1-212) 297-5000
Fax: (+ 1-212) 370-0201
twitter.com/unfpa
unfpa.org



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
for CRVS Systems

Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems



About the Centre of Excellence

The Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CoE-CRVS) is a global resource hub that actively supports national, regional and global efforts to develop, strengthen and scale up sustainable civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems that work for all, especially women and girls. The CoE-CRVS facilitates technical assistance, global standards and tools, evidence, and good practice, with a strong commitment to gender equality.

The CoE-CRVS was founded in 2015 at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada). In August 2021 the CoE-CRVS transitioned to UNFPA to expand the Centre's reach through UNFPA's global network of 135 Country Offices. The CoE-CRVS has been funded by Global Affairs Canada, IDRC and UNFPA.



Why are civil registration and vital statistics important?

Millions of people are born, married and die without leaving a trace of their existence in any official legal record. Registering vital events—such as birth, marriage, divorce and death - recognizes an individual in the eyes of the law and secures their legal identity. Legal identity is indispensable for assuring basic human rights, claiming legal entitlements and upholding the duties and obligations of the individual.

Strong CRVS systems provide a vital pillar to the robust national and sub-national population data systems needed for development for the country as a whole, and for local administrative areas.

The strategic importance of strong CRVS systems is well-recognized in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda,

specifically in SDG target 16.9 which affirms the importance of universal legal identity and 17.19 which emphasizes the value of CRVS systems alongside population and housing censuses.

Engagement across the life-course

UNFPA and the CoE-CRVS implement a life-course approach to CRVS support - from birth to death, including marriage and divorce - ensuring that a person's legal identity is progressively updated over the life-course. A life-course approach makes sense both in terms of human rights and inclusive development strategies and also in terms of official statistics and public accountability, as shown below. Civil registration and legal identity facilitate access to health care, primary and secondary education, and social support.

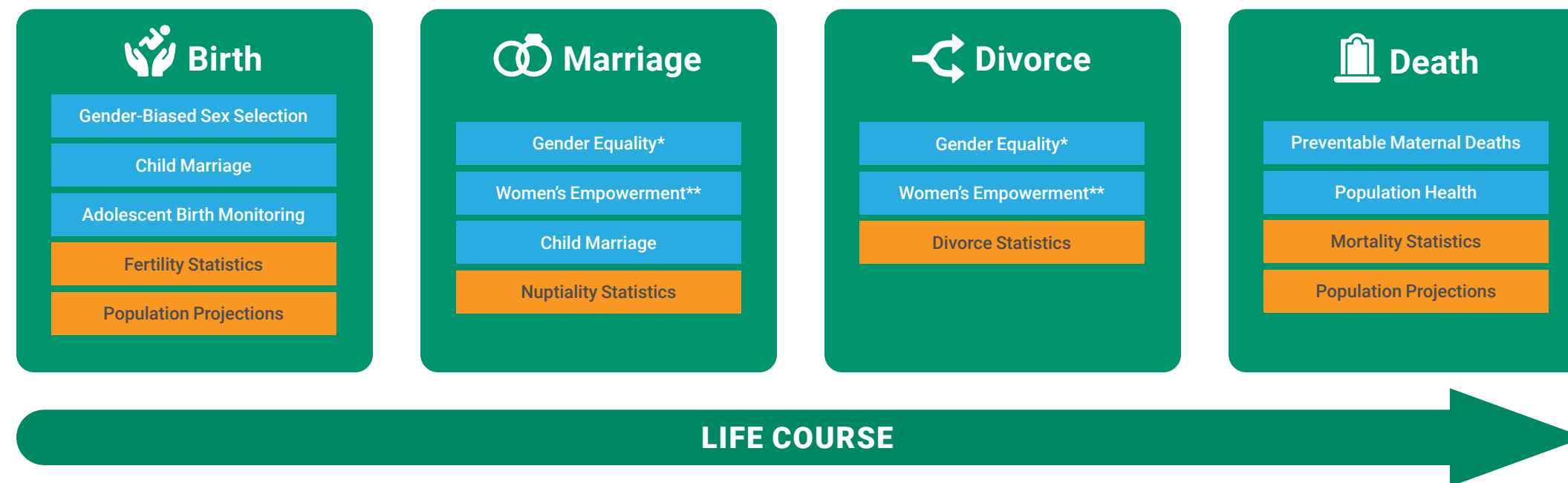


Priority Focus Areas

The CoE-CRVS currently prioritizes the following 6 strategic areas of support and engagement:

- **CRVS and gender:** The CoE-CRVS advances gender transformative civil registration systems and supports production and use of gender-sensitive vital statistics.
- **Thought leadership and knowledge management:** The CoE-CRVS documents insights, lessons learned and innovative developments via the [CRVS Improvement Framework](#).
- **Direct technical assistance to national authorities:** The CoE-CRVS provides technical assistance within UNFPA country programmes.
- **CRVS systems support in humanitarian and fragile settings:** The CoE-CRVS promotes continuous and universal civil registration to protect life, safeguard livelihoods and guide support and recovery in fragile contexts and humanitarian settings.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** The CoE-CRVS supports the [Global Financing Facility on Women, Children and Adolescents](#) and aligns its efforts with the [Health Data Collaborative](#), [SDG3 Global Action Plan](#) and the [UN Legal Identity Agenda](#).

Life-course approach to Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System Strengthening



* Non-discrimination on the basis of sex or gender identity, property and inheritance rights, child custody rights
 ** Right to remarry, Protection from unilateral divorce

■ Thematic Engagement
 ■ Data Systems & Statistics Strengthening

An Integrated Population Data Systems Approach

The CoE-CRVS at UNFPA is advancing a whole-of-systems approach to CRVS strengthening - i.e. one that highlights the unique and substantial added-value of strong CRVS systems and their complementarity to quality population and housing censuses, geospatial information systems (GIS), household surveys and other administrative data systems (e.g. health information systems, national identity management systems).

UNFPA plays an important role among UN agencies and international organizations in supporting nationally-owned and country-led population and health data systems. UNFPA emphasizes the integration of civil registration data with other data sources to strengthen not only population estimates and projections, but also to underpin health, education and other essential data for development.

