



Strengthening Civil Registration in Mozambique:
Towards the realisation of regional and **global**
commitments

Arnaldo Magalhães
National Director of Registries and Notaries

Background on CRVS and Legal Identity



- The main objective of the SDGs is to ensure that, by 2030, all men and women have equal rights, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, to access economic resources and basic services. Registration is a condition for acquiring these rights, and it is through registration that nationality is recognised and, consequently, access to the basic rights offered by the state, such as health, education and social assistance.
- The Republic of Mozambique grants nationality based on the criteria of consanguinity, territoriality, marriage and naturalisation.

Situation in Mozambique



- ▶ The Republic of Mozambique was one of the first countries to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the APAI CRVS in 2013, in line with the APAI CRVS strategy.
- ▶ Following the assessment, several recommendations were made to strengthen the system in the country.
- ▶ The current under-five birth registration rate in Mozambique is 32 per cent, according to the 2023 DHS.
- ▶ In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Mozambique's commitment to the national community, both in conventions and in regional and international strategies, over the last 10 years Mozambique has undertaken the following initiatives to strengthen the CRVS in Mozambique and guarantee the civil registration of the population:
 - ▶ **Legal reform: The Republic of Mozambique introduced the pilot digitisation of the CRVS system and, with this, introduced the Unique Citizen Identification Number (NUIT) through Decree No. 44/2010 of 2 November, which allows children to obtain birth certificates anywhere in the country. Law 12/2018 of 4 December established the electronic civil registration system, the digitalisation of the system; the operationalisation of interoperability with the health system and the introduction of the GTEV.**
 - ▶ Through the GTEV, the country has developed a 10-year Strategic Plan - SIRCEV (2019-2029) and a CRVS Operational Plan with the aim of achieving an 80 per cent birth registration rate for children under 5.
 - ▶ **CRVS is a web-based system in general, with some functionalities in USSD technologies. It can be accessed from anywhere in the country via the internet and the offline module has already been launched in an experimental phase.**
 - ▶ To further improve access in security areas, the country is trialling the implementation of an offline birth registration module.

Digitisation of the CRVS System; Decentralisation and Interoperability with Health.



- ▶ Following the introduction of the digitisation pilot in 2017, all 68 CRVS conservatories are now digitised in the country.
- ▶ In addition to the digitisation process, and in order to promote system interoperability (between CRVS and Health), the country has opened 156 CRVS posts in hospitals by December 2024.
- ▶ The opening of CRVS posts has helped to improve access to CRVS services for children and their families, especially mothers. The institutional birth rate in Mozambique is over 70 per cent.

CRVS access for: Hard-to-reach areas and vulnerable populations



- Mozambique is facing several humanitarian crises, including conflicts and climate disasters. To ensure that all vulnerable populations have access to birth registration services, the government has implemented several initiatives over the years:
 - The conflict in the north of the country has resulted in the emergence of approximately 850,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), and most of them have lost their identity documents. In response, the government, in collaboration with partners such as UNICEF, IOM and the World Bank, has facilitated retroactive birth registration, targeting both host communities and IDPs.
 - Mozambique, through a **directive**, facilitated access to birth registration reconstruction for internally displaced people, to ensure that they could recover their documents in a timely manner.
 - Since the start of the terrorist attacks in the north, more than 145,000 IDPs have been registered.
 - The recurring cyclones have not only resulted in the loss of legal identity documents, but also the destruction of historical registration documents. The government, in collaboration with development partners, also responded through retroactive birth registration as part of the emergency response.
 - Mobile birth registration campaigns were also organised targeting children at risk of early marriage.

Key success factors driving CRVS' growth trajectory



Birth notifications by SMS;



Installation of birth registration centres in hospitals and interoperability with the health information system;



Provision of mobile registration brigades and integrated campaigns to register births and issue identification documents;



Social mobilisation campaigns to encourage adherence to birth registration;

Current challenges

- Although the Government of Mozambique is still committed to meeting SDG target 16.9 of achieving 100 per cent registration by 2030, the country still faces several challenges, including:
- Digitisation of historical registration documents prior to 2017.
- Challenges in identifying effective means of registering deaths and causes of death in the community.
- The large number of IDPS (850,000), especially in the North, and the prevailing conflict environment create challenges in trying to provide the service.
- Rehabilitation of the CRVS physical infrastructure destroyed by the conflict and cyclones.
- Continued need to address negative social norms through community mobilisation and raising awareness among the population about the importance of registration and legal identity.



Looking to the future



Continuing to implement interoperability with the National Health System

- The government will continue to prioritise interoperability with healthcare, identifying more eligible healthcare facilities and establishing CRVS posts. In addition, the interoperability of the National Health System's death registration module with CRVS systems speeds up the acquisition of death certificates, which in some cases are important for children to obtain birth registration in the future.

Interoperability with identity issuing systems

- This project is under development and is expected to make a significant contribution to minimising the risk of fraud and improving processing speed for users. Obtaining a parent's identity document is very important, as it is a determining factor in registering their children.

Development of the offline registration module

- This is under development and would help communities with limited internet access to be registered, regardless of internet availability.

Thank you

Asante sana

Meci



Obrigado