



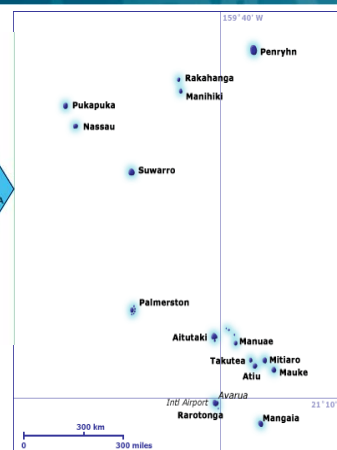
## Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) For Monitoring Health Policy Impacts in the Cook Islands

H.E. Mr. Nandi Glassie



*Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan: Experiences and lessons for the Asia-Pacific region*

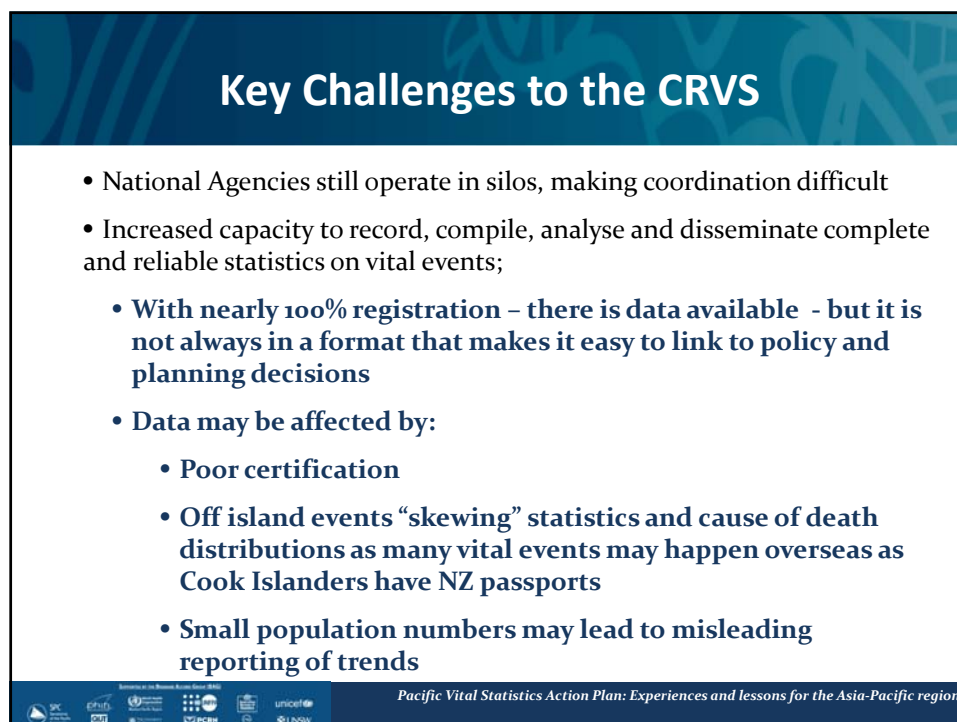
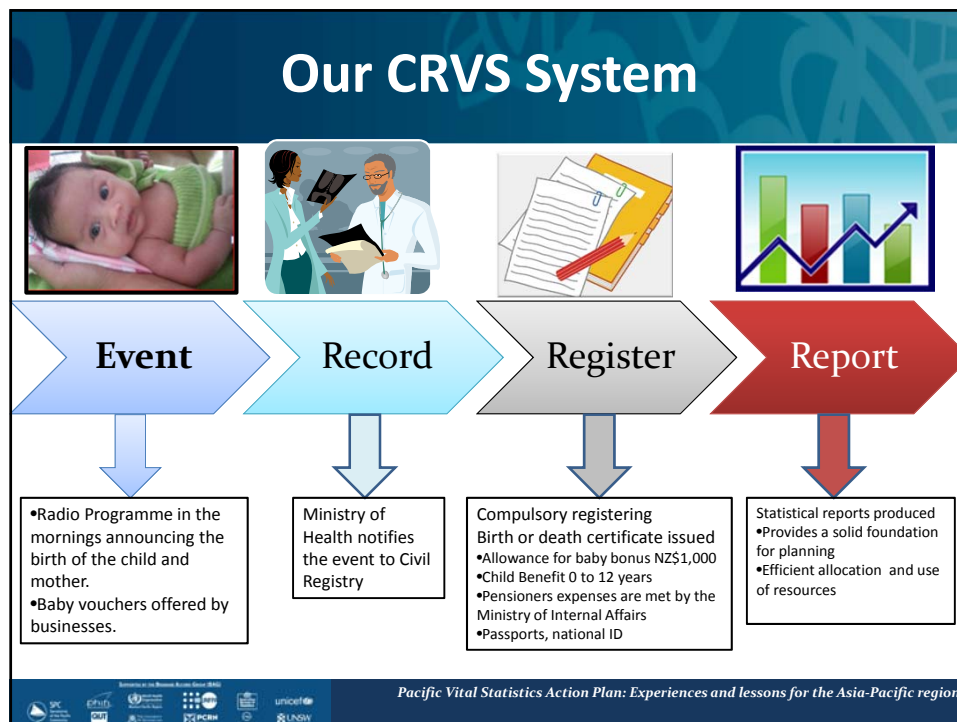
## The Cook Islands



- 15 islands – 12 inhabited; 7 without routinely scheduled transport
- Resident population of 14,974 (2011)
- Diaspora .....

*Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan: Experiences and lessons for the Asia-Pacific region*





## What was done

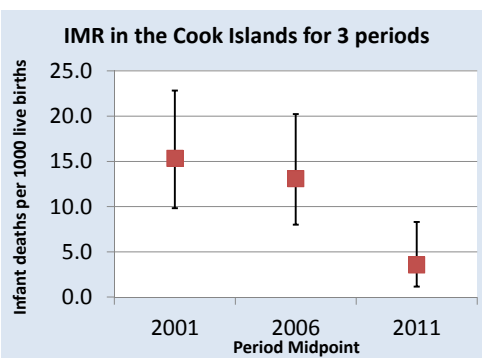
- Starting in 2011 with a sub-regional workshop hosted by BAG
- Mechanisms established for effective coordination among key stakeholders;
  - The establishment of CRVS Committee
  - WHO Comprehensive Assessment and informal plan
  - Cook Islands NSDS, supported by Paris21 and SPC
  - New Statistics Legislation
- Capacity and capability building across all sectors – as per the plan
  - Training for doctors in certification
  - Analysis and report writing training



Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan: Experiences and lessons for the Asia-Pacific region

## CRVS data show policy changes led to a decrease in IMR

Data showed a dramatic drop in IMR from **15.3** in the period of 1999 – 2003 to **3.6** in 2009–2013.



- Over the last 5 years, interventions encouraged pregnant mothers to:
  - attend antenatal check-ups
  - receive counselling of proper antenatal care
  - eat well, exercise, stop smoking, and avoid alcohol.
- Policies ensured:
  - mothers received antenatal care
  - transport costs were covered to reach the main hospital in Rarotonga for delivery
  - high risk births were transferred early to the hospital on the main island of Rarotonga or New Zealand



Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan: Experiences and lessons for the Asia-Pacific region

## Impact

Data showed policy changes enacted by the MOH were effective and resulted in a marked decrease in IMR.



*Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan: Experiences and lessons for the Asia-Pacific region*

## A regional collaboration

- Share experiences with countries of similar size and with similar challenges
- Training (such as the Analysis and Report Writing workshop) has come directly from country needs
- Regional training builds a group of professionals from around the Pacific Islands for support and encouragement
- A national vital statistics report is being prepared as an outcome of the training and is due for release shortly. This will provide further information for senior managers.
- Regional partners such as BAG and PHIN provide a network of support for Health Information professionals and others involved in statistical analysis of CRVS data.



*Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan: Experiences and lessons for the Asia-Pacific region*

## Next steps and lessons learnt

### Next steps:

- Update and formalise a National CRVS Improvement plan – including an emphasis on routine analysis and publication of time series data from CRVS
- Working with the registrar in NZ, and other Pacific countries on data sharing for vital events that happen overseas.

### Lessons learnt:

- CRVS data can be a powerful tool to demonstrate policy impact and advocate for policy change
- Even though the Cook Islands has a strong CRVS system, there is more that can be done to make data more available and meaningful for policy and planning
- Good data in the Pacific setting requires cooperation across national boundaries, and a network of support to professionals working in this area in the region.



Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan: Experiences and lessons for the Asia-Pacific region

## Conclusion

EVERY LIFE SHOULD BE VISIBLE  
AND  
SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO FALL BETWEEN THE  
CRACKS BECAUSE OF INCOMPLETE DATA

**KIA MANUIA**



Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan: Experiences and lessons for the Asia-Pacific region