

PNG commits to multi-sectoral engagement to Improve CRVS

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



- A national multi-sectoral CRVS committee was established by PNG on May 16, 2014
- This includes the National Department of Health, National Civil Registry, National Statistics Office and the National Planning Department
- Stakeholders at this time signed a joint memo outlining their formal commitment to pushing the CRVS agenda forward
- This initiative will complement current work on rolling out a national identification system and linkages with birth registration.

CRVS in PNG

There are a range of mechanisms by which births or deaths may be recorded by government agencies in PNG, although these largely function as independent systems, and formal registration remains fairly incomplete.

The Office of the Registrar General is the official registration agency, and therefore the department that issues the legal certificate of birth or death. There are a limited number of registration points, with families required to visit the national office, except for births in the national hospital which may be registered on site.

Data is also collected through the health system which tabulates births and deaths on a monthly basis. Medical certificates of death are completed for some deaths at the request of the family, but are currently not centrally collated and are primarily for family use.

Older systems of recording births and deaths such as village registers are also still in use in some areas through Provincial governments. Several trials over the last few years have considered re-focussing on these mechanisms.

A national Identity system for PNG

The Government of PNG has identified the roll out of a national identification system as a core priority.

This provides key opportunities to strengthen the current birth and death reporting systems. Work to date has included testing a combined birth registration and identity form, provincial meetings to build community and administrative support, and significant infrastructure development.



Next Steps

The committee plans to undertake a comprehensive assessment, and an initial stakeholder workshop to start this process is planned for February 2015.

Work to improve CRVS will be integrated into the development of the National Statistics for Development Strategy and, as appropriate, aligned with the roll out of the national identification system.

The current roll out of a National Identification system in PNG, a major national undertaking, provides a key opportunity to strengthen registration in the provinces.

Improving IT infrastructure has been a major focus in PNG over the last few years, and will greatly enhance opportunities to improve registration access.



Work on Verbal Autopsy by the PNG National Research Institute and the University of Queensland will provide a key opportunity for improving data collection.

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