

Meeting of the Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia

UN Guidelines on a Legislative Framework for
Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity
Management

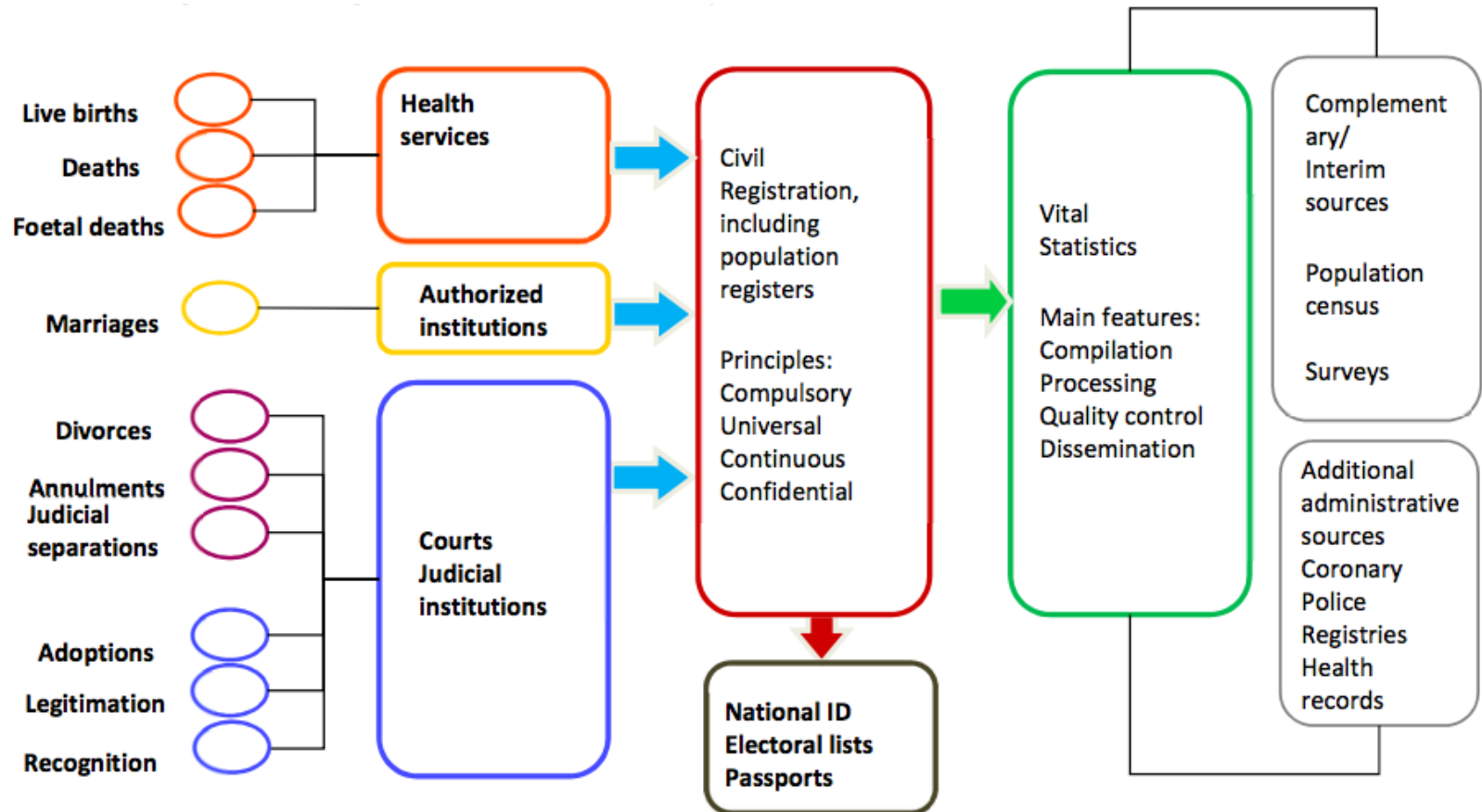
Presented by Olga Joos

*Content developed by Olga Joos (CDC Foundation), Srdjan
Mrkic (UNSD), and Lynn Sferrazza (Vital Strategies)*

Background: UN guidelines

- Since 1948, the United Nations Statistics Division has been mandated with providing a methodological framework and international recommendations for civil registration and vital statistics.
 - ▣ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3 (2014)**

Integrated Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National ID Systems



Sources of International Principles & Best Practice

- ❑ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3 (2014)*
- ❑ *Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance, Revision 1 (2018)*
- ❑ *Guidelines on the Legislative Framework for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management (2019)**
- ❑ *Handbook on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management Systems: Communication for Development (2019)*

UN Guidelines on Legislative Framework

Update of 1998 Handbook on Preparation of a Legal Framework for CRVS, to reflect:

- ✓ Evolution of international law and human rights
- ✓ Revised principles and recommendations
- ✓ Technological advances
- ✓ Integration with national ID registration/management systems and population registers

UNSD Legal Framework revision process

- Two meetings held to revise and further develop the UNSD legal framework guidelines:
 - Technical Seminar on Legal Framework for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management Systems, held in Manila, the Philippines, July 2017
 - Expert Group Meeting on Legal Framework for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management Systems, held in New York, USA, December 2018

Content of UN Guidelines

Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Overview of CRVSID Systems
Chapter 3	Human Rights and CRVSID Systems
Chapter 4	Institutional Arrangements for CRVSID Systems
Chapter 5	Legislative Framework
Chapter 6	Other Laws and Policies that Support CRVSID systems

Chapter 5 Legislative Framework

Section 1	General Provisions and Administrative Structure
Section 2	Civil Registration: Birth, Death, Foetal Death, Marriage, Divorce, Corrections and Amendments, Transmission of records from local to national registrar, Fees
Section 3	Identity Management: Principles, Lifecycle, and Fees
Section 4	Population Register
Section 5	Vital Statistics
Section 6	Data Protection, Privacy and Security
Section 7	Compliance, Enforcement, Rights and Remedies
Section 8	Transitional Provisions

How to Use Guidelines

Guidelines contain:

- ✓ Best practice ≠ model legislation
- ✓ Country examples = starting point for discussion
- ✓ Chapter 5 Checklists
 - At end of each section
 - Summary of topics that policymakers should consider and address

Companion CRVSID Toolkit



Available at: <https://advocacyincubator.org/d4hcrvslegalreviewtoolkit/>

Companion CRV/SID Toolkit

Chapter	Title	Reviewers
1	Purpose, scope and methodology	All
A	Enabling Environment	All
3A	Structure of the Civil Registration Authority	Countries with Civil Registration alone
3B	Structure of Civil Registration and Identity Management Agencies	Countries with CR and a National ID system
4	Registration of Birth, Death and Foetal Death	All
A	Certifying Cause of Death	All
6	Registration of Marriage and Divorce	If applicable
7	Production of Vital Statistics	All
8	National ID System	If Applicable
9	Population Register	If Applicable
10	Personal Privacy and Data Protection	All

CRVSID Toolkit

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- Self-taught/self-led tool designed for attorneys with range of knowledge and experience of CRVSID systems
- Provides concise explanations of international standards and guidance for analyzing each
- Designed to balance depth, comprehensiveness, ease-of-use and speed

UNSD Guidelines

□ **Guideline:** Requirement for medical certification of cause of death

- *It is international best practice to have an accurate, detailed, and legally valid cause of death and manner of death reported with every registered death. While it is best practice to require a cause of death to register a death, countries will need to consider this requirement given local conditions. In some circumstances- for example, when a death occurs at home, where health institutions are scarce or lack medical staff trained to determine cause of death- it may not be possible to obtain a medical certification of cause of death. In countries or circumstances where it is not practical or possible to have a medically certified cause of death for all deaths, failure to ascertain cause of death should not prevent death registration. In those circumstances, requiring only evidence of fact of death, not cause of death, may be the best option. p. 104*

□ **Checklist:**

Registration of Death	Yes/No
Does the law permit death registration if cause of death cannot be determined or medically certified?	

CRVSID Toolkit

- Presents best practice from UNSD Guidelines and guidance on circumstances to review in the legal framework:
 - Deaths due to natural causes that occur in a health facility:
 - *Citation:*
 - Deaths due to natural causes that occur in the home/community under medical supervision:
 - *Citation:*
 - Deaths due to natural causes that occur in the home/community without medical supervision:
 - *Citation*
 - Unnatural or suspicious death, e.g. violence, accident, suicide, unsupervised unnatural deaths, etc (includes deaths that occur in and out of health facility, and dead on arrival):
 - *Citation*
 - Emergency or disaster:
 - *Citation:*

Benefits of a Strong Legal Framework

Helps Achieve:

- ✓ Complete civil registration and national identity registration through:
 - Placing responsibility on institutions where vital events occur;
 - Eliminating barriers for individuals by improving access and efficiency
 - Creating incentives for civil registration and identity registration
- ✓ Comprehensive and Timely Vital Statistics Data
 - Improved planning and administration
- ✓ Legal Identity for all
 - Greater inclusion in government and private sector services for all population groups

Source presentations

- UN legislative framework and the Data for Health toolkit for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management
 - ▣ Prepared by Lynn Sferrazza
 - ▣ Presented Sept 2019 at the UNESCAP Regional Steering Group on CRVS annual meeting
 - ▣ Available at: <https://www.getinthepicture.org/system/files/event/documents/Data%20For%20Health%20legal%20review%20tools.pdf>

- UNSD presentation on Draft Guidelines on the Legislative Framework for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management
 - ▣ Prepared by Srdjan Mrkic
 - ▣ Presented December 2018 at the Expert Group Meeting on Legal Framework for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management Systems
 - ▣ Available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2018/crvs-egm-ny/>