

The Missing Millions, Children in the Global Identity Agenda

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UNICEF's Role in the Global Identity Space



UNICEF works in 190 countries to defend the rights of children and young people and translate global commitments into action.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Article 7: “*The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality....*”
- Article 8: “*States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity....*”

Sustainable Development Goals

- Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age.



The Sub-Saharan African Context

- 95 million children have never had their birth registered.
- 120 million do not have a birth certificate.
- If current trends continue there could be close to **115 million** unregistered children under age 5 in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.

In 2000, slightly
more than 4 in
10 children
under age 5
were
registered...

*this figure
remains
unchanged
today.*



What could it mean to children?

- No legal identity.
- No other form of identity (e.g. National ID cards)
- Statelessness (e.g. West Africa, at least 750,000 people)
- Evidence-based policy compromised - only 60% of countries in Africa generates vital statistics from civil registration system.*

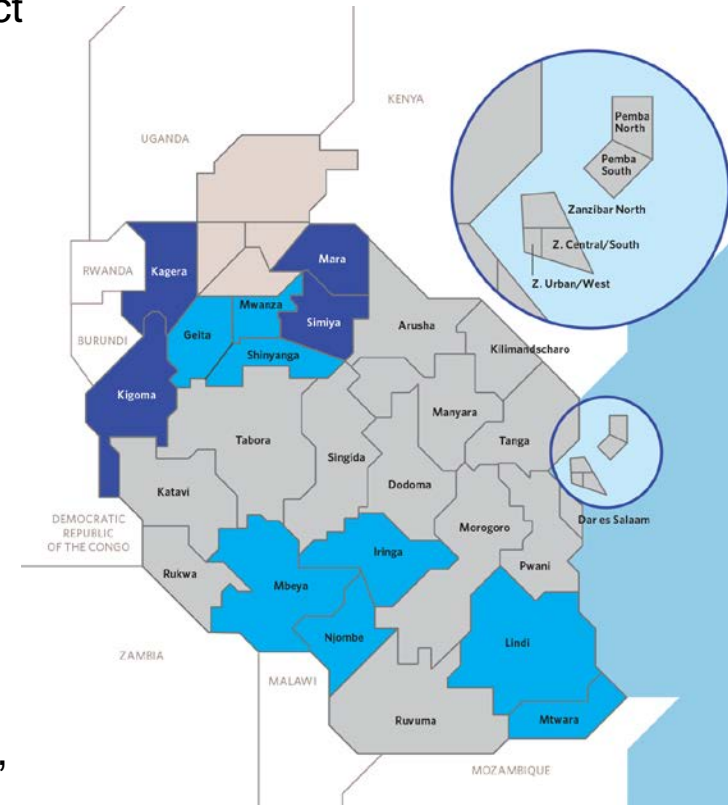
*Source: UNECA (2017), Report on the status of civil registration and vital statistics in Africa

Strengthening CR systems in Tanzania

Started in 2012 and currently covers 9 regions; 58 district councils, 1214 wards, 1859 health facilities

Five pillars of the new system – 2012 and onwards

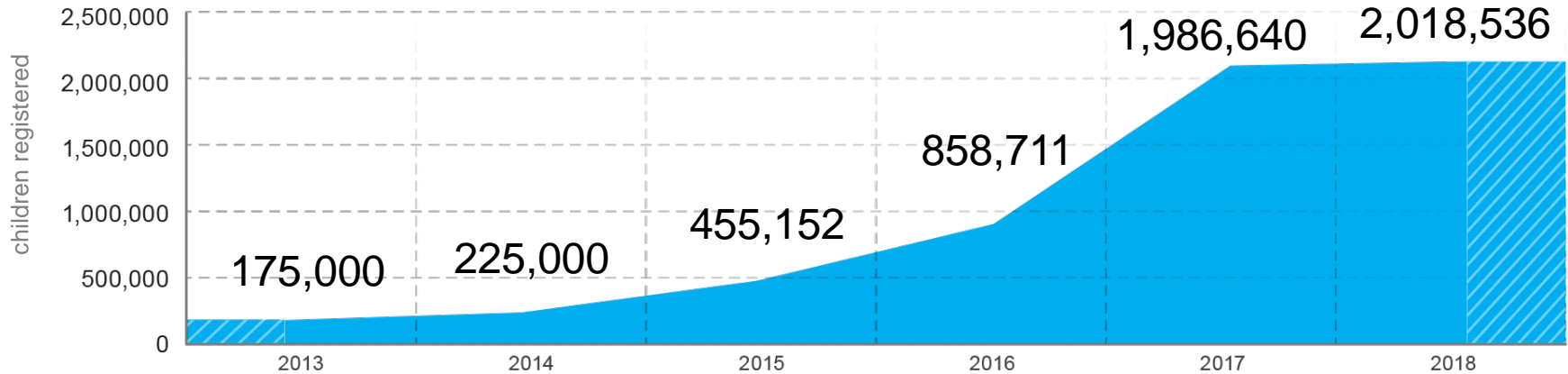
- Decentralization to bring registration closer to the community
- Fee waiver
- ‘One step, One visit’ Registration and Certification Process
- Innovation: data capturing using mobile phones, a dashboard to depict the progress in real-time, an online data validation platform
- Public-Private Partnership: Government of Tanzania, UNICEF, Government of Canada, and TIGO





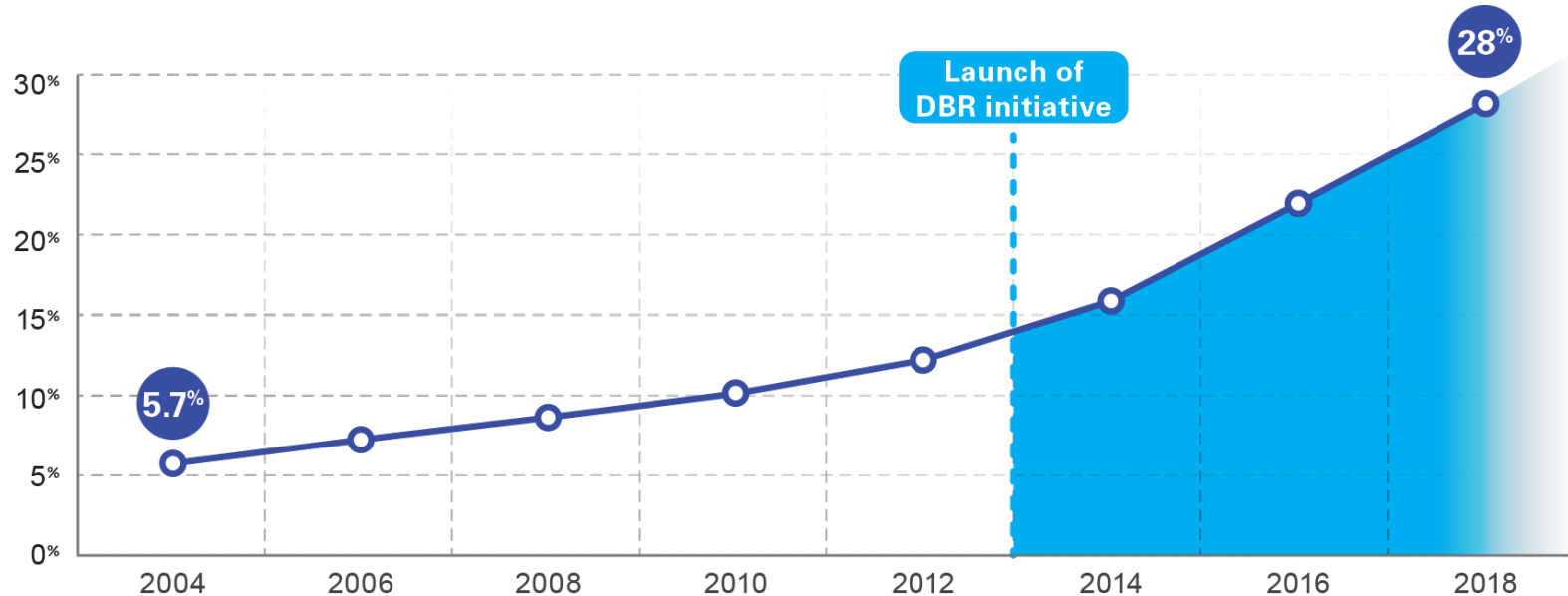
Under-5 children registered through Decentralised Birth Registration (DBR) initiative 2013-2018

Progress over four and a half years





Certification rate and projection for under-5 children – Tanzania Mainland 2004-2018





Birth registration, identity and humanitarian settings

- Multiple forms – protracted conflict, conflict that affects surrounding countries, low intensity conflict (civil strife), public health emergencies, and natural disasters.
- Nearly 3 million refugee children in Africa (2016)*
- Rate of child migrants is low with just 1 in 90 African children but 1 in 3 are children.*
- State capacities to fulfil their responsibilities for CRVS severely undermined/collapsed. Systems are not resilient enough.
- Affected people lose legal documentation during emergency and on the move. Risk of becoming stateless.

*UNICEF (2016) Uprooted: The Growing Crisis For Refugee and Migrant Children

Building systems in conflict situation - South Sudan

Situation

- Escalated conflict and security restrictions leading to largescale displacement of the population both within the country and abroad.
- Many health facilities destroyed by conflict.
- A young country whose laws, policies and systems are not yet fully functional

Approach

- Light country assessment; Formative research on birth notification (2017)
- Civil Registry Law passed (2018)
- Interoperability between Health and Civil Registration

Results in 2017

- A total of 94,388 (m 48,994, f 45,394) children under five years reached with birth notification services
- 245,864 reached with birth notification messages through trained community volunteers.

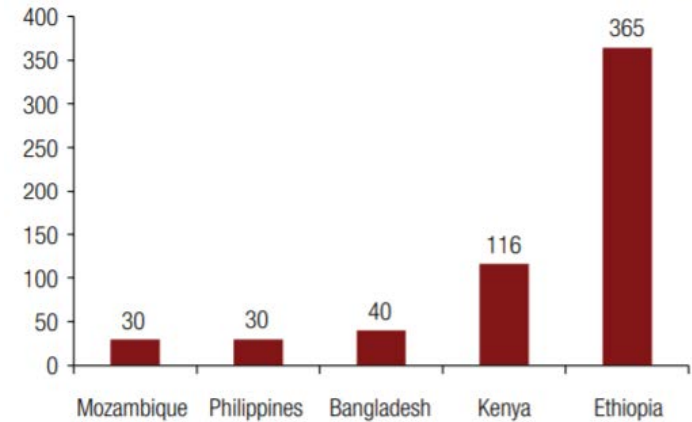
Other UNICEF's CRVS work and humanitarian settings

- UNHCR-UNICEF Regional Framework for Collaboration - Strengthening coordinated response for eradicating childhood statelessness.
- Registration of migrant children interoperability with hospitals and health centres – Niger
- Promoting birth registration of refugee and displaced children in camp and non-camp settings – Horn of Africa
- Developing guidelines for CRVS in emergencies. Conducting a study on CRVS Innovation (2018).

Take home messages and open issues for the ID community

- If we want to reach universal birth registration coverage by 2030, current investments is insufficient.
- Parallel systems of CR and ID lead to additional costs: how can CRVS and ID systems work together to maximize the impact and limited resource?
- Children are excluded in ID systems – what could be the implication?

Total CRVS Development Cost per Five-Year Plan (US\$ million)^a



Source: National CRVS Investment Plans, WHO 2014.

^a The total for Bangladesh excludes biometric costs.

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Thank you