



Achieving Universal Birth Registration: What Will It Take?

**Legal Identity: Continental Progress
and Policies Driving IT**

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Achieving universal birth registration: What will it take?



Remove discrimination

Remove discrimination from law, policy, and practice as legal identity leads to legal equality



Invest in proven strategies

Twin with health sectors, decentralize services, streamline processes, and adopt digitalization as an enabler



Targeted interventions

Prioritized interventions in high-focus countries and last-mile strategies for countries with a 75-99% registration range



Community empowerment

Emphasize the value in prioritizing civil registration for development (cost of inaction) and empower communities to demand birth registration



Comprehensive approach

Shift from a fragmented, siloed, and truncated approach to a comprehensive, inclusive, and country-owned yet continental approach



Rebrand CRVS

Rebrand CRVS as the foundation for digital public infrastructure and a tool of public administration through credible and robust vital statistics

CTA # 1: Register Every Child at Birth



Establish birth registration

As the foundation for a lifecycle approach to legal identity.



Register all births immediately

Whether in health facilities or at home, within the legally allowable period.



Assign unique identification numbers

During registration to link with population registers and ID systems.



Align CRVS and ID systems

Structurally and functionally through legal, financial, and systemic reforms.

CTA #2: Streamline Registration Processes

Implement a one-step, one-visit process

For registration and certification, close to the community.

Ensure free registration

And issuance of the first birth certificate for all children


Simplify late and delayed registration processes

Especially for migrants, displaced children, and refugees.

Avoid inefficiencies

In digitalizing CRVS systems to ensure inclusivity and accessibility.


CTA #3: Leverage Health, Social Protection, and Education

 **Integrate birth registration into maternity wards, immunization desks for timely processing**

Placing registration services directly where births occur ensures immediate registration

 **Engage community health workers and social service workers to declare births and refer unregistered children**

Local representatives can bridge gaps between communities and registration systems

 **Shift responsibility to health facilities for declaring births, reducing parents' travel burden**

Healthcare providers can initiate the registration process, eliminating barriers for families

 **Use schools & social protection schemes to identify unregistered older children and facilitate their registration**

Educational and welfare systems provide opportunities to catch children who missed initial registration

CTA #4: Implement Legal Reforms for Inclusive CRVS



Allow mothers to declare births independently

Removing barriers like requiring a father's name or marriage certificate



Register newborns regardless of parental documentation

Particularly in migration and displacement settings



Protect CRVS systems from misuse

Ensure data privacy and security



Ensure CRVS systems remain inclusive

Equitable, and accessible to all populations

CTA #5: Empower Communities to Demand Registration



Educate communities

About their right to registration and its importance for accessing services and protecting rights



Target underserved groups

Such as refugees and the stateless, to make services more accessible



Strengthen partnerships

With local leaders, health workers, and educators to promote birth registration



Foster a culture

Where civil registration is seen as a fundamental right and a shared community goal

THANK YOU

