

COVID-19 IMPACT ON CIVIL REGISTRATION

No	Country Name	Is CR an essential service	Impact of COVID 19 on CR Operations	Working arrangements	Mitigation Measures
2	Angola	For Angola the Executive has established the Civil Registry as an essential service for Death Registration, Opening of urns	Civil Registration Services have been suspended for a period of 15 days by virtue of the State of Emergency decree on 27 March, extendable for an equal period of time. Only death registration is functional.	There minimum services are in place. Currently awaiting new instructions from executive on additional services like birth registration.	Registry and Notary Services are functional at National level. The business processes have been reviewed for uniform and immediate compliance. Marriage registration was suspended however, for those who had registered a minimum of 6 people is allowed during the marriage ceremony. All other vital events such as: Births, Divorces remain suspended.
4	Benin	Yes. Civil registration an essential service in our Benin. This COVID-19 pandemic came at a time when the many reforms in this sector have begun to bear tangible fruit. The registry staff are now working on rotation basis to provide the service.	Due to government measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing and stopping mass regrouping of populations; the exercise of mass distribution of birth certificates issued by RAVIP (Census for the Identification of Persons) was stopped, there has been little social mobilization of the population around the withdrawal of these certificates. Declarations of births and deaths has significantly reduced.	In order to ensure continuity of work, the Minister of the Interior and Public Security, who is primarily responsible for civil status records in Benin, has issued a memorandum ordering those in charge of this department to draw up a staff rotation plan, notwithstanding the fact that hand washing must be carried out at all times and that all citizens in the health system comprising twelve (12) communes are required to wear a nasal mask.	As the COVID-19 pandemic has taken everyone by surprise, an in-depth reflection is underway to ensure that vital events are not overly affected. However, we are in permanent discussion with our colleagues in the sub-region for a pooling and synergy of innovative actions.
5	Burkina Faso	Yes Civil Registration an essential service for the population. Burkina Faso does not currently have total containment in the context of the fight against COVID-19 hence the continuous operation of State services with a system of rotation of officials in order to comply with removal measures.	The measures of curfews, quarantine of affected localities, prohibition of demonstrations and limitation of the number of people for events have a negative impact on the supply and demand of civil registration services. The registration of births, marriages and deaths is slowing down not only because of restrictions on population movements, but also because of the reduction in the number of civil registrars through a rotation system. Although the services are continuous, the intensity of work within the civil registration services and the number of users have decreased considerably.	There is partial containment in Burkina Faso. As a result, the civil registry services operate continuously, with a system of staff rotation that allows the principle of separation within the services to be respected, and barrier measures to protect civil registrars. At the user level, systematic hand washing is recommended before accessing services to reduce the risk of contamination. In order to ensure the continuity of marriage registration, some registrars have opted for four (04) celebrations, i.e. the registrar receives only the future spouses and their witnesses, while respecting barrier measures.	In order to minimize the impact of COVID-19, instructions have been given to the decentralized authorities to take barrier measures to ensure minimum service to the civil registration services through a system of rotation of excess staff in the offices. The recommendations to civil registrars and other staff relate mainly to the observance of appropriate hygiene measures, as mentioned above. Given that there is no total containment, it is recommended that the minimum service for the registration of births, marriages and deaths should be ensured in order to respect the principle of continuity and permanence of civil registry services. To this end, emphasis is placed on public awareness campaigns using posters and town criers.
8	Cote d'Ivoire	Yes, civil registration is still considered an essential service in Côte d'Ivoire. Civil registration services are open and functioning despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Although some services in communes and sub-prefectures have been closed due to the pandemic, civil registration services remain open in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly for registering births and deaths. Marriages also take place with very limited family presence (Marriage of 4 persons with both spouses, their witnesses and a few authorized guests. For some example, the case of the commune of Attécoubé, Cocody in Abidjan, Sub-prefecture of Annépé in the interior of the country (Department of Adzopé). By definition, provisions relating to teamwork with the double shift system and teleworking have been introduced. In general, gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited and a distance of one metre (1 m) between people is also imposed. In Côte d'Ivoire, teamwork with the double-shift system and teleworking have been introduced in order to reduce human contact.	At the local level, pending reports from civil registrars on the current situation, it is noted that the reduced mobility of the population due to fear of contamination and compliance with the provisions in force has slowed down the use of civil registration services and will have an impact on civil registration activities. At the central level - the authority in charge of civil registration is confined to Abidjan and has contacts with actors in the field only by telephone; - activities with TFPs in favour of civil registration are on hold; - mass meetings are prohibited; - several meetings planned as part of modernisation activities are postponed; - the health emergency imposed by the pandemic affects civil registration	In Côte d'Ivoire, shift work with the double-shift system and teleworking have been introduced. At the civil registration offices: hand washing devices at the entrances and exits of the services, wearing of protective masks, use of hydro-alcoholic disinfectant gel have been provided and enforcing compliance of social distancing between clients and between clients and civil registration staff. In the future, electronic reporting is being planned to minimize contact and travel.	To address the impact of the pandemic, the following actions are planned: - A report by civil registrars on the situation with proposals; - Organization of a meeting at the central level with the main national stakeholders to examine the reports, the situation and decide on the actions to be taken; - For the time being, the main recommendation is to maintain work with the double-shift system and teleworking at the level of sub-prefectures and communes with respect to the barrier measures decided by the government. At the local level, the civil registry services provide information to the population on the continuity of the civil registry service.
9	Cameroon	Yes, civil registration is an essential service in Cameroon. Within the framework of the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic, no restrictive measures for State personnel in general and civil status personnel in particular. Restrictions have been issued by the government to the entire population in order to stop the spread of the virus.	For the impacts of Covid 19 on CR activities has led to: - a decline in the number of visits to the civil registration centers and consequently the decrease in the number of declarations of vital events to the civil registration centers; - the slowing down of the activities of the civil registration centres and the National Civil Registration Office, a public administrative institution responsible for supervising, regulating, monitoring and evaluating the national civil registration system; - the suspension of the activities of some of BUNEC's technical, financial and humanitarian partners (GIZ, European Union...); - the drastic drop in State revenue with the risk of an impact on the financing of civil registration.	At the level of the National Civil Registration Office, the following working modalities have been put in place: - Continuity and permanence of service are ensured by senior civil servants; - the alternation of the rest of the staff in the service in order to respect the measure of social distancing within the offices; - In addition, particular attention is paid to compliance with hygiene measures and all barrier gestures decreed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government in the context of the fight against Covid 19, particularly with regard to: - the implementation of videoconferencing; - the promotion of telecommuting; - the systematic wearing of masks by personnel; - the provision of sanitizers at the entrance to the headquarters building and in all offices; - the placement of pregnant women on leave.	As part of the management of the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on the recording of vital events, BUNEC is considering: - the organization of an awareness campaign for civil registrars and secretaries on the need for continuity of the civil registration service in the event of a COVID19 pandemic; - the supply of hygiene kits to each civil registry centre; - the development of a national strategy for the continuity of civil registration in the event of a COVID pandemic19;
10	DRC	Civil registration is essential to meet the needs of the population who report to offices. During this critical period, it was decided to retain in each civil registration's office an officer (the assistant) responsible for receiving and transcribing declarations (registration) in the register and the registrar responsible for signing and issuing civil status documents to declarants. At the central (national) level, the Director-Chief of the Population Department centralizes the data with the assistance of the CRVS focal point. The other agents are placed on technical leave pending the end of the pandemic.	The impact of COVID-19 on CR is: Some registrars'office are closed due to containment (inaccessibility); decrease in attendance and registration caused by fear of contamination; communication difficulties to raise awareness and reassure the population about the continuity or permanence of the service; there are difficulties in the exchange and transmission of data between the central level and the provinces, there is no demand for Civil Registration services	Organization of a minimum service limited to two persons (civil registration officer agent (attendant) per registration office but only in places where the offices are functional; Establishment of a communication system to remind the population that the civil registration service continues to operate; Trucks or vehicles of the mobile offices are currently working on obtaining special authorization to ensure coverage and continuity by going to the communes (civil registration offices) to register the vital events that the confined population cannot declare to the said offices however, one of the trucks are short of spare parts	The strategy of mobile services to the population to record all civil status events, the use of mobile office trucks to cover all the offices and the accessibility of the population; Take a special measure (a moratorium) to catch up on all events that have occurred in order to avoid exceeding the legal deadline and delays in registration; Carry out awareness and catch up campaigns for all events whose deadline has expired, computerize the civil registration system and via the Internet to allow business transaction in such circumstances.
12	Comoros	Yes, civil registration is considered an essential service in our country. There are currently no covid-19 cases in Comoros, thanks to the measures put in place by the government to stop the spread of the virus.	The covid-19 has no impact not only on civil registration but also in our country in general.	The country is not yet in confinement, but possible future measures are being put in place by the State: ensuring that all civil registration offices are staffed on a rotating basis, complying with the instructions given by doctors and others.	As usual, we are complying with the Civil registration Act.
13	Cabo Verde	Yes, the registration services are considered to be essential services, according to the presidential decree that decreed the state of emergency - Decree Law No. 36/2020 of 28 March.	birth and death registration continue to be made normally	Civil registry staff provide service, on a rotating basis, the services operate from 9 am to 3 pm. The Conservatives run on telework	the services operate in two ways, teleworking and face-to-face, for a period from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
14	Djibouti	Yes, civil registration is considered an essential service. The law mandates compulsory registration of vital events although in some remote areas there are difficulties in recording these vital events.	Registration will resume once the containment measures have been lifted. Currently 3 communes of Djibouti are connected to the server installed at the Djibouti Town Hall and civil registrars can pre-register the declaration, in other regions there is no adequate infrastructure.	Hospitals or health structures such as the reference center "Dar el Hanan" are open and civil servants register each birth in the system, which will facilitate the tasks after the confinement. The delivery of civil status certificates are currently closed.	Country currently under confinement. The Civil Registry is working with the National Agency of the State Information System (ANSIE) to set up an online system where every user will be able to consult or prepare the pre-request for civil registration services on the online platform.
19	Ghana	Civil registration is considered an essential services in Ghana as it is compulsory for every birth and every death to be reported for registration and certification as soon as it occurs. For birth a period of 12 month is required and for death within fourteen (14) day of occurrence. as these events are daily occurrence the CRVS office are open but restricted to critical staff who have special permission from the Head of the Civil Service through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, in the light of the COVID-19, two main region were locked down, Greater Accra, and Ashanti regions this affected operation even in regions that were not locked down as at the time this report is being compiled. CRVS office were officers may not be present at all times have their contact details pasted at the entrance of the offices so they can be contacted when the need arises within their respective area of operations. At Head office (administrative) only a few critical staff have been permitted to be at post (the Registrar of births and deaths, 4 ICT officers, three Accounts officer, 2 Statistics officers, 2 administrative officers and 1 Storekeeper) for now, these may improve as we see improvement in the number of affected persons with COVID-19	COVID-19 has affected the coverage level of registration of births and deaths as the public (due to fear and panic) may not report events for registration unless maybe it is required for an essential service. Some of the CR Offices are not fully operational especially at the community level and in some hospitals and clinics due to restriction on movement and keeping of social distance.	Special permission have been given to critical staff to be a post(district and regional levels including the head office)	There is at least one registration staff is at every CR post in every district and 5 at the regional level, for continuous, permanent registration of births and deaths, contact detail of registration operatives are displayed at the entrance of their respective office, at the national level, the Registrar of Births and Deaths and a few supporting staff are always available.
20	Guinea				
21	Gambia, The	Service is scaled down, non essential staff are asked to stay at home. Public transport is difficult to operate as number of passengers allowed are reduce to half per vehicle capacity. Some civil registration officers now are assigned to focus on covid19. Mass gatherings have been restricted.	Registration is barely done, as the public hardly come to the registration centres. Public is asked to do social distancing, National Identity and passport offices closed. Schools and universities closed. Demand on civil registrations especially births reduced	Service areas are still opened. There is a plan for community registration campaigns, targeting some rural communities, hard to reach areas, Madarassas (local Islamic schools), ECD centres and local Administrative Regions with low coverage. The Implementation of plan is to be supported by both UNICEF and WHO	The registry is advising stakeholders to register civic events especially deaths. As some service areas are scaled down or short down like judiciary, marriages could be registered afterward.
22	Guinea-Bissau	Civil Registration is not considered essential	The impact is very negative since the recording of vital events is practically stopped. A state of emergency is decreed and officials are required	Non at this moment	Non at this moment
23	Equatorial Guinea				

24	Kenya	Yes. CR Employees report to work from Monday to Friday	COVID-19 has affected registration of vital events. CRS in Kenya registers vital events of birth and deaths that occur in health facility and in the community (home). The events occurring at the health facility are registered by the health officers while those occurring at home are registered by the Assistant Chiefs. In this time of the pandemic, some of the events occurring at home may go unregistered because of the fear of the infection. Also the registration assistants (Health Officers/ Assistant Chiefs) may fail to timely submit the returns hence affecting the registration process	The following measures have been put down to ensure continuity a) Scaling down the services so that we have only those emergency cases in terms of application of certificates; b) Working in shifts so that we have few officers in the office c) Provision of protective gears like masks and sanitizers to the officers; d) Some officers working from home where we are utilising social media platforms like email, twitter and facebook to respond to customer needs; e) Liaising with registration assistants to ensure steady supply of registration materials for registration of current events.	To ensure that all events are registered the department of CRS has embarked on the following measures; a) Ensuring that all registration assistants submit monthly returns by the 5th day of every month; b) Utilising the Nyumbura Kumi initiative where the neighbors ensure that every event at home is registered; c) Utilising the Community Health Workers (CHWs) to ensure that all the events of birth and death occurring in the community are registered; d) Liaising with the Government Administration Officers (NGAO) for the supervision of the Assistant Chiefs to ensure vital events are registered and timely submission of returns to the Civil Registration Office in their Sub Counties; e) Liaising with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to ensure that vital events occurring at the health facility are registered.
27	Lesotho	Lesotho considers Civil Registration as an essential Service, however due to lack of PPE and other consumables to protect staff and enable compliance with WHO requirements on mitigating the spread of the virus, Ministry of Home Affairs adopted a Policy to register current Deaths.	Registration of vital events has been highly affected. The enforcement of Lockdown measures including the stay at home requirement to minimize the spread of the virus led the Ministry of Home Affairs to conclude and adopted a Policy that only deaths that occur during this time should be registered to enable the families to bury their deceased and claim from their respective insurances. This in turn has a major impact on civil registration as other vital events are not registered as and when they occur. This will in turn severely affect the completeness of the VS and therefore render the VS not much useful in the fight against COVID-19.	Death registration has been identified as an event that will be registered during the Lockdown and or containment period. Other Events are registered after assessment has been made by the Section Head or Supervisor that indeed are needed urgently. The staff have been reduced to prevent congestion and shift system has been employed. All the plans made are in line with the State of Emergency Regulations enacted in the Government Gazette.	Only deaths that occur are registered. Robust registration activities will be undertaken after the Lockdown to register all events
29	Madagascar	Yes, all civil registration centres are open even in localities where population control measures are in force.	At present, the number of proven cases of contamination is relatively low. There are no deaths due to this pandemic yet. Furthermore, as containment is still partial (applied in three of Madagascar's 22 regions), civil registration centres are functioning normally.	So far, no exceptional measures have been taken with regard to the organization of work at the level of the civil registration centres, as containment measures are still partial and these services are part of the essential services at their level. However, general measures concerning the protection of personnel in direct contact with users have been taken by the Government, including the provision and wearing of masks, the use of hydro-alcoholic gels and the application of social distancing devices of at least one metre. The application of the latter is stricter in localities where there are significant cases of contamination.	In accordance with the decisions taken by the Government, an instruction from the Minister of the Interior and Decentralization has been issued to territorial officials. This was to ensure the compliance with the health measures prescribed as part of the fight against the pandemic and to ensure the proper functioning of civil registration services even during periods of confinement by stressing the importance of registering births and deaths.
30	Mali	The Malian government has instituted a curfew (9 p.m. to 5 a.m.) and the day operations continue for all administrations (7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. specifically on Fridays). In addition, it has taken social distancing measures and promoted barrier gestures to limit the spread of the virus. The civil registration services of Mali's embassies and consulates abroad depend on the measures taken by the countries in which they are located.	Limited impact to date in Mali on the registration of civil status events and the functionality of the civil status authority, given that public administrations operate on a day-to-day basis. Low and very high impact on the registration of civil status events and the functioning of civil status centres in consulates and embassies abroad, in proportion to the measures decreed by the governments of these countries.	Current period without confinement: normal operation of services at set times, limitation of groupings of people to 50, implementation of barrier measures (individual and collective hygiene measures, etc.). Teleworking is being planned in the event of total confinement. No measures have yet been defined for civil registration services whose status as essential services has not yet been decreed.	The National Directorate of Civil Registration is currently preparing, in collaboration with a number of partners, including UNICEF and PAECSS (an EU project), a communication strategy aimed at ensuring not only the continuity of the civil registration service in full compliance with the barrier measures, but also the technical and financial means for the success of the operation.
31	Mozambique	Yes. The Civil Registry is considered a priority in Mozambique. At the moment the Civil Registry services are working on employee rotation every 15 days and the minimum services for the population are in place as we are still in phase 3 of emergency.	Low turnout, some of the Civil registry offices have been closed. We have some impacts with COVID-19 on the records of vital events such as most marriages have been cancelled, of which only about 10 people can participate. The 120-day periods for free registration have been suspended, the civil registry offices in the health units have been suspended for reasons of prevention of the employees there.	At this moment its mandatory hand washing at the entrances of the registry offices and sanitizers are provided, we limit the entrances of the users in the registry office and ensure social distancing. We implement the rotation of the employees fortnightly in reduced groups.	We are now responding to the basic services of the population such as birth registration and deaths, following the criteria laid down in the decree of the Council of Ministers, with regard to marriages most of them have been postponed by the proponents and those that have been performed are with a maximum of 10 people. Conservatories open including weekends for registration of death. Birth registrations are being made at normal hours. Marriages cancelled during the state of emergency. A reduced number of users are allowed inside the services.
33	Mauritius	Yes CRV is an essential service. In Mauritius all essential services are operating. Staff of the Civil Status Division are also working on an on call basis to register death declarations. Non-essential services' employees are encouraged to stay at home.	Death registration is fully operational. A list of CSO are on call in all districts. All police stations in each district have been provided with contact details of Civil Status Officer who are on call. In cases of death every citizen can contact the Police Station of their locality to avail the services of a Civil Status Officer. No declaration of births are being processed since 20th March 2020. However all births occurring before and during confinement will be attended once same is waived. Such cases of birth declaration will not be affected by the mandatory delay of 45 days death declaration.	Civil Status Division is working in close collaboration with other Government Services i.e providing death data to Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Security and Mauritius Revenue Authority. A core team of the Mauritius National Identity Card Unit is providing assistance to the Mauritius Revenue Authority and to the public specially those having issues when making online application to the Mauritius Revenue Authority for government financial grants.	Civil Status Division is working in close collaboration with other Government Services i.e providing death data to Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Security and Mauritius Revenue Authority. A core team of the Mauritius National Identity Card Unit is providing assistance to the Mauritius Revenue Authority and to the public specially those having issues when making online application to the Mauritius Revenue Authority for government financial grants.
34	Malawi	Civil Registration is not considered as an essential service in the country. At this stage in Malawi Civil Servants are not being asked to stay at home but rather work in shifts to minimise congestion and the National Registration Bureau is also doing the same.	NRB staff are working in shifts meaning records are not being processed as normal. This will eventually create backlog in the system. Again staff working in health facilities are afraid to perform their duties as usual since they are afraid of contracting the virus. The chances are high that if proper measures are not put in place they may start absconding from work. The same applies to staff at the District Registration Office who are afraid to interact with clients. Another impact is that other stakeholders that we work with have also slowed down therefore affecting our performance. These include IT service providers and technical experts and donor partners who have either travelled back to their countries or are working from home. We will have a clear picture as time goes. There is need to come up with a proper plan including provision of protective gear and sanitizers in order to keep the registration functionality going.	Right now what is being implemented is working in shifts in all offices. This will ensure that there is staff to continue with the registration. Working from home is also being considered especially for those that do not have to meet clients. This means providing good internet service to officers working from home. Government guidelines will also play a big role in these decisions. Ideas from different stakeholders are welcome. And the aim is to make sure that registration is not suspended.	So far the office is putting in strict preventive measures as guided by experts. These include washing hands regularly in and around the office, use of hand sanitizers, wearing of masks especially those in the frontline like hospitals and working in shifts of small numbers of staff. All suspicious clients are also being referred to health authorities.
35	Namibia	Registration of new born babies and death registration, are regarded as critical services as gazetted just before state of emergency was declared, any other civil/vital event are suspended and are not regarded as critical	1. The declared State of Emergency has led to the suspension of most activities except timely birth and death registration. It is likely that, births and deaths taking place outside health facilities are not going to be reported on time, thus affecting the accuracy of birth statistics. 2. Outreach programs to rural, far and hard to reach areas are not being conducted thus leaving out those that depends on outreach activities unattended to. 3. Fear of COVID-19 in general and social distancing being preached discourages people to reach our offices for registration of events which happened outside health facilities	1. Decogestion of offices by reducing the number of staff members responsible for vital events registration. 2. Open two counters for timely birth and death registration. 3. Update the Civil registration system of all reported registrations 4. electronic birth notifications by nurses in health facilities to continue	1. Supplied protective equipment such as face masks, hand gloves, hand sanitizers to all our offices nation wide. 2. Engage the public via various platforms such as radio, tv and social media to inform them that the registration of new born babies and death registration services are available country wide. 3. Offices where registration for new born babies and death registration are open from 08h00-17h00. 4. Engage and encourage staff members in remote and urban areas to open offices by having daily Zoom virtual meetings on a daily basis
37	Nigeria	CR is not an essential service	COVID-19 has paralyzed all the CRV activities in Nigeria	The health workers who are considered essential are helping on a skeletal level.	CRV office is considering enhancing collaboration with the health sector
38	Rwanda	Yes, in Rwanda, Civil Registration is considered as an essential service whereby the recording of civil events is done at sector level (to make it more affordable and near to the service seekers) by civil registrar. Currently Rwanda records 9 civil events namely birth, marriage, death, acknowledgment of a child born out of wedlock, adoption, guardianship, divorce, legitimization and annulment of marriage. In order to record these events, there is a need of declarant who requests the record of civil events and some witnesses for some events like marriage, etc. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 in Rwanda, whereby citizens are required to stay home, recording of civil events were put on hold, except the delivery of civil events' certificates that are delivered online through irembo platform https://irembo.gov.rw/olportal/web/rol	The notifications of vital events occurring in health facility is continuously done. However, the registration of these events at the Sector office will be done after the containment period. The registration into the National Population Registry has continued. CRV has online access and they can update events using applications received via online portal "Irembo" (https://irembo.gov.rw/olportal/web/rol) For the application of vital certificates, such as birth certificate, the declarant, while applying for the certificate, uploads the documents in their possession (medical certificate (birth or death notification) for births and death events at health facilities or cell certificate for those occurring at home) and the Civil Registration Officer can issue these certificates using the online Portal "Irembo". This process is done entirely online from application to issuance of the certificate and does not require physical contact face to face. Where applicant has no smartphone, there are agents near to assist with application process.	The Government of Rwanda issued an initial containment period of 2 weeks from the 21st March 2020. This has been extended for another two weeks until 19th April 2020 and all employees are working from home except for essential services like banks, medical staff and other selling food and beverages. Given the current online platforms available in Rwanda, CRV continues to provide CR related services online. The current arrangements include registration into the National Population Registry of births and deaths declared via irembo portal; this allows issuance of CR certificates online. This is the case for the registration of births and deaths occurring both in health facilities or in communities. However, the other events are on hold for now, especially marriages which require gatherings. These will resume at the end of the COVID 19 - containment period.	The online tools for the registration of vital events are continuously monitored to ensure they are available to Civil Registration Officers across the country. We also have emails and other communication tools available to ensure service is provided continuously. The events being registered in this period of containment are only births and deaths. The major recommendation to CRV's is that amidst the period of fighting against the COVID-19 Pandemic, for those events that can be registered online, registration should continue. The recommendation would be to strengthen delivery of Civil Registration Online.
40	Senegal	In Senegal, we are not in a situation of total confinement because the administration operates from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. The local authorities have also adjusted working hours to ensure continuous service and by reducing staff in some communes. Civil registration can be considered essential because users' requests (declaration and delivery of civil status records) are always handled by the civil status centres.	The civil registration services are still active, and it is the users who do not rush to make the declarations of marriage (spouses have up to 6 months to declare) and births (the declarant has up to a year to declare). We have not yet noted any disruption in the operation of the civil registration centres as a result of COVID-19.	At present, local and regional authorities have adjusted working hours to ensure a continuous service by reducing staff numbers and using teleworking for some of them because gatherings are prohibited.	We are following the evolution of the disease in Senegal in order to adapt and to allow the civil registration centres to ensure continuous service. For the time being, it is premature to measure the impact on civil registration. In the event of total containment, a circular could be issued inviting mayors to ensure continuity of service in civil registration centres. At the level of the Directorate of Civil registration, teleworking is used as a means of working to limit staff travel and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
41	Sierra Leone	Civil Registration is considered an essential Service in Sierra Leone because it compulsorily records all vital events particularly Births and Deaths registrations. Although Sierra Leone is yet to strictly implement a policy of non-essential services to stay at home. Government notice of 9th April 2020 directed the Head of the Civil Service, the Human Resource Management Office (HRMO) and heads of Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) to implement alternate working days for their staff. Registration Offices remain open through out the country though with low turnout for registration as result of the restriction on public gathering.	COVID 19 has had huge impact on the registration of vital events in Sierra Leone. Due to Government's restrictions on travel and other movements, residents have limited access to Civil Registration Centres. For example, the mass confirmation of registrants personal details and new registrations planned for the first quarter of 2020 have been postponed. CRV Stakeholder/Coordination meetings are affected as most members especially Development Partners are observing alternate working arrangements as well as restrictions on public gatherings. CRV's funding has been affected as donors have re-programmed their resources and support towards COVID 19.	In line with the public regulations put in place by Government, the National Civil Registration Agency (NCRA) has developed alternate working day arrangement for staff, working hours reduced to 7 man/hours per day and/or work from home.	To address the issue of limited access, NCRA offices remain open through out the country. On coordination, engagement with CRV Stakeholders continues through emails and other social networks. Government continues to provide minimal support to CRV, donor support remains unpredictable. In preventing the spread of COVID 19, protective gears (masks, gloves, thermometers) are in use including hand washing with soap and practicing of social distance. All NCRA registration offices are open with adequate materials to continue the registration of vital events. CR data is being used to support contact tracing during COVID 19.
44	Sao Tome and Principe	Yes. The civil registry is considered an essential service.	At first it created the situation of fear due to protection, but everything is going normal.	The state of emergency was decreed with a limited service time, but did not affect the civil registry.	We are responding well, and we continue to record vital events.
45	Eswatini (frm: Swaziland)	Civil Registration is not considered essential services in that it is not listed amongst the essential services. But the Ministry does consider it as essential service, the Service Center are operational registering only current Births and Deaths only all the other services have been suspended.	The impacts of COVID-19 are really negative to delivering of the Civil Registration mandate and all the activities planned have come to a stop. Although there is minimal services delivered there are some vital events that will fall through the cracks and getting them is not assured. There will be a lot of backlog and strain on the officers.	The arrangements that have been planned and implemented is the continuing with the registration of current vital events Births and Deaths of course with minimal staff	All the Service centers are operational for the registration of current events - only Births and Deaths. Marriage registration has been put on hold during the time of the pandemic.

46	Seychelles	Yes. An Essential service	There are certain cases where events have to be restricted and daily function of service of such offices have dwindled	Internal arrangements have been made so that the service is not interrupted staff are supposed to report for their respective duties every other two days and deliver as normal the office remains open from 8am to 4pm to serve the public and there is always an Officer available to attend clients.	In the event of marriages clients are advised to postpone until further notice. However births and deaths are registered as usual by the responsible Officers who have to wear gloves and mask keeping a distance of a meter between themselves and the clients.
49	Tunisia	Civil registration is considered an essential service in Tunisia. All Tunisian municipalities have ceased their services, with the exception of cleaning services and civil registration services, which are active. During the period of confinement, civil status events are registered.	There is no impact on the recording of civil status events or on the functionality of the civil registration authority.	The civil registration services are authorized to operate normally. If a refusal is established, a request is provided for.	The services concerned work according to the usual working methods. It is recommended that they comply with the required hygiene and disinfection measures.
50	Tanzania	Health is an essential service and in 16 regions out of 26 decentralisation of Birth has been done where a child is issued a certificate at the Health Facility. Since Health Facilities are still working and babies are being delivered registration does go on and for those who come for immunization are also given certificates all this is done with precaution. In other regions the notifications are given to children at Health Facilities and their parents can bring it forth for registration this also applies to Death. Marriages they are being officiated by the religious leaders as well as in the district offices as long as they take all the precautions as stipulated by the Ministry of Health. registration can still be done.	Birth and Death is done at the Health Facilities since services are continuing but with caution registration is still on progress although the rate is not so big but the service are still there. However there is a significant decrease of number of people seeking for second copy of births or death certificate or late registration services. Marriages have decreased as the gatherings have been prohibited this is because in Tanzania the wedding parties involved over 300 people.	Registration services are continuing as it is the health personnel who are doing it and for community based events the community leaders are continuing with their duties but limiting the number of children to be registered per day to ensure social distance while taking and observing the caution given by the Ministry of Health.	Our office has provided seminar to all employees on COVID-19 whereby knowledge on how best we can protect ourselves from the pandemic was given. Also keeping social distance is being advocated by our HR personnel, again our office has provided masks, gloves and sanitizers to all employees while on duty. The best way to ensure continuity is that civil registration has to be integrated with other systems such as those at health so that the vital events are registered for continuity and planning purposes. Since at the Health Facilities all these events happen and because services there can not be shutdown hence likelihood of registration to occur is high.
51	Uganda	Following the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic to Uganda the Government imposed a 14 day lock down period effective 31st of March 2020. Essential services and employees of these essential services were permitted to continue with their work. The Civil Registration Authority was not among the providers of essential service providers advised to continue. However, among these essential services are the health facilities where approximately 73% of births occur and about 300,000 deaths occur annually. The health facilities play an important role in notifying the Civil Registration Authority of these events. Key IT staff have been maintained to ensure the systems are up and running to ensure that all births and deaths are notified electronically during this time.	All Civil Registration offices countrywide were closed. Uganda currently operates an online tool known as Mobile Vital Records System (MVRS) accessed by a significant number of health facilities where these events of birth and death continue to be notified online in real time. For those facilities without the necessary infrastructure manual notification tools were provided. Due to the lock down these cannot be retrieved and the registration process cannot be completed. The Registration Officers have been encouraged to access the notified records online using the MVRS tool and register the events. Due to the closure of offices country wide no certificates of birth and death can be issued at the moment. Scheduled activities such as outreaches to hard to reach areas and underserved communities were in addition halted. The halting of CRVS functions will have an impact on national planning and therefore service delivery as a number of births and deaths during this period may be unregistered.	Duty bearers such as the Ministry of Health and Local Government and Staff of the civil registry office have been encouraged to continue online notification and registration of the events of births and deaths. The Civil Registry Office has adopted the use of online meeting tools to continue the coordination of CRVS activities especially between the civil registry office and the Ministry of Health aimed at strengthening Civil Registration.	Uganda has only started dealing with the COVID 19 pandemic and is only beginning to deal with effects of pandemic on civil registration. The Civil Registration office is focusing on strengthening online notification and registration of these civil registration events to ensure continuity. Minimum IT staff have been maintained to ensure the systems are up and running to ensure that all births and deaths are notified during this time. In addition harnessing the use of all communication channels such as emails, social media and online meeting avenues to coordinate and monitor performance of CRVS on line activities. Recommendations i. Enable and expand the use of online tools to notify and register civil registration events to allow for continuity in case of a pandemic like COVID 19. ii. A strengthened collaboration with key stakeholders like the Ministry of Health ensures that the events that occur in health facilities are notified even in the midst of a pandemic. iii. Ensuring the integration of systems with the Ministry of Health for a smooth uninterrupted process of notification.