



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

The New CRVS Decade 2026–2036

A Vision for Consolidation and Action



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We stand at a historic crossroads.



2026 marks the end of the first APAI-CRVS Decade (2017–2026)



2026 is the final four-year push to achieve **SDG 16.9** — legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030



2026 is the launch of a new CRVS decade (2026–2036) — a bold vision for consolidation and action



“The realization of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 requires the registering of every vital event and the collecting, compiling, producing and disseminating of statistics... to guide policy and inform the planning process.”

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Agenda
2063
The Africa we Want



The question before us:

How do we consolidate the gains of the past decade and secure the future of CRVS in Africa?





THE JOURNEY SO FAR — Reflecting on the APAI-CRVS Decade (2017–2026)



What We Have Achieved Together:

Area	Progress
 Political Commitment	Institutionalization of the Conference of African Ministers; Declaration of 2017–2026 as the CRVS Decade
 Collaboration	Enhanced coordination between key actors of national CRVS systems
 Capacity Building	Knowledge sharing and capacity building among Member States
 Strategic Framework	APAI-CRVS Strategic Plan (2017–2021) and revised Strategic Plan (2023–2027)
 Birth Registration	Over 60 million children under five registered in the past five years; 20 countries on track to achieve universal birth registration by 2030
 Regional Success	Algeria, Botswana, and Sierra Leone have achieved over 90% birth registration coverage



Progress has been made in promoting collaboration between key actors of national CRVS systems, capacity-building and promotion of knowledge sharing among member States.





THE JOURNEY SO FAR — Persistent Challenges



Despite Progress, Significant Gaps Remain:

Challenge	Scale
 Unregistered Children	Nearly 50% of children under five in sub-Saharan Africa remain unregistered
 Birth Registration Gap	Over 90 million children under five across Africa have no official birth record
 Death Registration	Only about 10% of deaths are registered across the region
 Cause of Death Data	Only six African countries meet international standards for death registration and cause-of-death information
 Funding	Inadequate funding at country level and unpredictability of resources
 Legislation	Weaknesses in national legislation; some laws need amendment
 Technology	Limited use of technology in CRVS



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“Africa expected to account for one-third of all global births by 2050 — achieving universal birth registration is both a rights imperative and a demographic necessity.” — UNICEF





THE NEW CRVS DECADE (2026–2036) — The Vision



Theme:

“New CRVS Decade (2026–2036): Consolidating the Gains of APAI-CRVS and Securing the Future of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Africa through Integration, Decentralization, and Digitalization.”



The Vision:



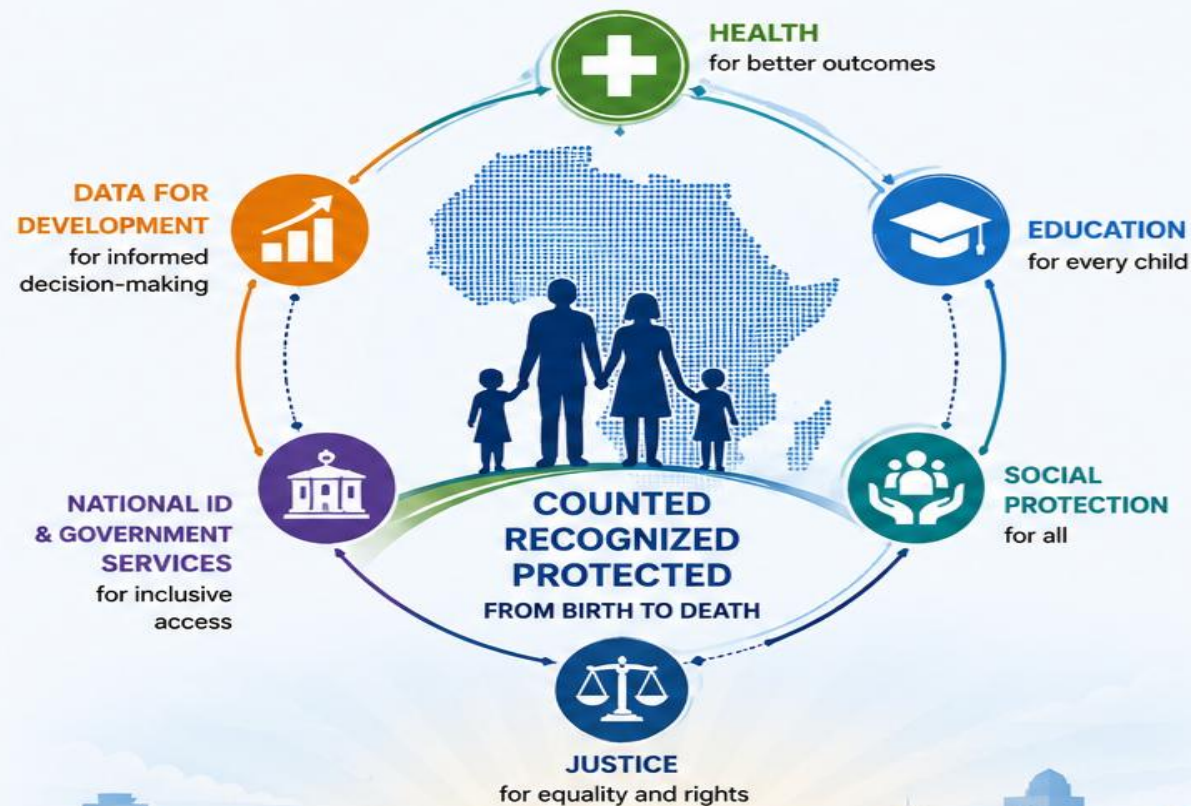
A continent where every person is counted, recognized, and protected — from birth to death.



A continent where CRVS systems are:

Characteristic	Description
Flexible	Adaptable to changing circumstances and needs
Agile	Responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities
Simplified	User-friendly and accessible to all
Resilient	Able to withstand shocks and emergencies
Proactive	Anticipating and preventing gaps
Interoperable	Connected across sectors and systems

(Adapted from the APAI-CRVS Strategic Plan, 2023–2027)



Our vision is a future-ready CRVS ecosystem that leaves no one behind and empowers Africa’s development for generations to come.



THE THREE ACCELERATORS – Our Strategic Framework



The 2025 EGMRG in Malabo identified **three transformative strategies**:

1

INTEGRATION

“Beyond Interoperability”



- CRVS as the foundational identity for all government services
- Seamless connections with health, education, justice, and social protection
- Moving from interoperability to full integration



2

DECENTRALIZATION

“Reaching the Last Mile”



- Bringing registration services closer to communities
- Empowering local governments and traditional authorities
- Ensuring universal access for hard-to-reach populations



3

DIGITALIZATION

“CRVS as Digital Public Infrastructure”



- Secure, interoperable, and scalable digital solutions
- Real-time data for decision-making
- ACSA as the continental framework



Stronger Together. Connected for Impact.
Counted. Recognized. Protected.



FROM BIRTH



THROUGH LIFE



TO LEGAL IDENTITY



TO PROTECTION



FOR ALL



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGs

CRVS — The Foundation for Multiple SDGs



SDG Target		Link to CRVS	
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	SDG 16.9	Legal identity for all, including birth registration — the primary target	
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	SDG 17.19	Strengthen statistical capacity, including CRVS systems	
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	SDG 3	Good health and well-being — cause-of-death data for health planning	
4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	SDG 4	Quality education — school enrolment and registration	
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	SDG 5	Gender equality — marriage and divorce registration for women's rights	
1 NO POVERTY 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	SDG 1 & 10	No poverty and reduced inequalities — social protection access	



“Twenty-six African countries are on track to register all births by 2030, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 16.9.”



The urgency:

With only **four years** remaining to achieve SDG 16.9, we must accelerate our efforts. The number of unregistered children in sub-Saharan Africa could surpass **100 million** after 2030 if prevalence levels remain as they are today.



EVERY PERSON. EVERY EVENT. COUNTED, RECOGNIZED, PROTECTED.



Ideas to Action

www.uneca.org



THE CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN (2026–2036)



— *From Reflection to Action* —

Priority Actions for the New Decade:

1

Strengthen Legal and Policy Frameworks



- Review and reform national CRVS legislation
- Ensure registration for all persons, regardless of origin, legal status, religion, or nationality
- Include refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons in CRVS strategies

2

Deepen Integration



- Establish CRVS as the foundational identity for all government services
- Implement interoperability between CRVS, health, education, and social protection
- Adopt a 'one-stop' approach to birth registration through health and immunization services

3

Accelerate Decentralization



- Mobilize sub-national authorities for full decentralization of services
- Establish community-based registration points
- Build capacity at local government levels

4

Advance Digitalization



- Pursue a gradual approach to digitalization
- Adopt and implement the African eCRVS Shared Asset (ACSA)
- Ensure data security, privacy, and inclusivity

5

Ensure Universal Access



- Waive fees and fines for late and delayed registration
- Provide first copy of birth or death certificate free of charge
- Reach hard-to-reach and marginalized populations

6

Secure Sustainable Financing



- Advocate for domestic resource mobilization
- Move from project-based donor funding to nationally-budgeted systems
- Establish sustainable funding mechanisms



Every person. Every event. Counted, recognized, protected.
Building inclusive and resilient CRVS systems for the Africa We Want.





THE PATH FORWARD — Key Messages



What Success Looks Like in 2036:



Every child is **registered at birth**



Every death is **recorded with its cause**



Every marriage and divorce is **documented**



Every individual has a **legal identity** from birth to death



CRVS systems are **integrated, decentralized, and digitalized**



CRVS is recognized as foundational **Digital Public Infrastructure**



No one is left behind



Our Collective Commitment:

Action	Who
 Adopt the Consolidated Action Plan	All Member States
 Implement the Three Accelerators	All Member States
 Adopt and implement ACSA	All Member States
 Mobilize domestic resources	All Member States
 Support capacity building	Development Partners
 Provide technical assistance	APAI-CRVS Core Group
 Champion political commitment	Ministers and Registrar Generals



Together, let us build a future where
Every person. Every event. Counted, recognized, protected.



BIRTH



DEATH



MARRIAGE



IDENTITY



INTEGRATED
SYSTEMS



CONCLUSION

A Call to Action



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“We have four years to achieve SDG 16.9. We have ten years to build the CRVS systems that will serve Africa for generations to come. Let us not waste a single day.”



The New CRVS Decade (2026–2036) begins **NOW**.

Let us:

1



Consolidate the gains of the past decade

2



Accelerate action through integration, decentralization, and digitalization

3



Adopt the African eCRVS Shared Asset (ACSA)

4



Commit to universal, inclusive, and sustainable CRVS systems

5



Deliver on our promise to the people of Africa



EVERY PERSON.
EVERY EVENT.
COUNTED.
RECOGNIZED.
PROTECTED.



Every person must be
seen, counted, and recognized.



The Africa We Want
starts with CRVS.





THANK YOU!

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Ideas
to
Action