

Annual Expert Group Meeting for Registrar Generals (EGMRG) on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

KENYA CRVS-NATIONAL ID Integration

Plenary Session 2: Interoperability — The Foundation of the New Decade
EGMRG Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe | 18 July 2026



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Why Interoperability Was Needed

- **To establish an Integrated Population Registration System (IPRS):** Create a single, trusted source of population and identity data.
- **To simplify registration and identification:** Enable seamless data sharing, reduce duplication, and improve service delivery.
- **To create verified family linkages:** Link birth, national ID, and death records to support identity verification and legal processes.
- **To support legal identity and citizenship:** Strengthen compliance with Kenya's legal framework by enabling timely verification of citizenship by birth.

14. (1) A person is a citizen by birth if on the day of the person's birth, whether or not the person is born in Kenya, either the mother or father of the person is a citizen.

CRVS–National ID integration enables verification of parentage and citizenship at birth, ensuring every eligible child is recognized and issued a legal identity.

THE JOURNEY — How We Achieved Integration

Our Approach to CRVS- National ID Integration

- **Harmonized legal and policy frameworks** to enable secure data sharing, institutional collaboration, and integrated identity management.
- **Reviewed and enhanced registration tools** to capture shared identity information across CRVS and National ID systems.
 - **Integrated parents' National ID details** into birth registration records to strengthen identity verification and family linkages.
 - **Included the Birth Entry Number** in National ID registration to enable seamless verification of birth records.
- **Standardized biodata fields and data formats** across registration agencies to ensure consistency and interoperability.
- **Development of Interoperable central CRVS databases and IPRS database.**
- **Digitized registration processes** to support real-time data sharing and improve efficiency.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED — Results and Impact

- **Established seamless interoperability** between the CRVS and National ID systems.
- **Enabled faster verification** of birth records during National ID registration and Parents details during birth registration.
- **Improved data accuracy and consistency** through a single source of verified identity information.
- **Birth-to-ID Continuity:** Birth registration records are now used to verify identity during National ID registration, creating a continuous legal identity lifecycle.
- **Improved Citizen Experience:** Citizens benefit from fewer document verification requirements and faster access to identity services.
- **Whole-of-Government Approach:** Integration has strengthened collaboration among Civil Registration, National Registration, Health, and other government agencies, providing a foundation for broader digital government services.

LESSONS LEARNED

- **Connectivity and infrastructure gaps**, particularly in remote areas, affected real-time data exchange.
- **Resource constraints**, including funding and technical capacity, delayed some activities.
- **Legacy systems** were not originally designed for interoperability, requiring significant upgrades and integration efforts.
- **Poor quality and incomplete historical records** necessitated extensive data validation and cleansing
- **Interoperability is a governance initiative as much as a technology initiative**—strong leadership and institutional collaboration are essential.
- **Common data standards and unique identifiers** should be established early to ensure consistency across systems.
- **Legal, policy, and governance frameworks** must evolve alongside technology to support secure and responsible data sharing.
- **A phased implementation approach**, supported by stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and continuous improvement, delivers more sustainable and scalable results.

WHAT'S NEXT — Our Vision for the Future

Adoption of a Common Unique Personal Identifier (UPI) –

- Establish **Unique Personal Identifier – UPI** as a lifelong identifier assigned at birth and retained throughout an individual's life.
- Enable **end-to-end legal identity**, from birth registration to death registration, using one unique identifier.
- Improve efficiency, eliminate duplicate records, and enhance data accuracy across government systems.
- Strengthen secure, privacy-conscious interoperability to support citizen-centric and inclusive digital public services.

A trusted legal identity begins with an accurately registered birth and is strengthened through interoperable systems that accompany every citizen throughout their life. By integrating CRVS with National ID systems, we are not merely connecting databases—we are enabling inclusive governance, better public services, and ensuring that no one is left behind.



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**Decade for Repositioning
of Civil Registration and
Vital Statistics in Africa
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Thank you/ Asante Sana

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