



APAI-CRVS
Empowering citizens in Africa

Decade for Repositioning
of Civil Registration and
Vital Statistics in Africa
2017-2026

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

Namibia CRVS-Social Protection Integration

Namibia's CRVS-Social Protection Integration enables verification of identity and live status, and helps with identification and referral of undocumented persons

Country Case Studies: CRVS Integration Experiences

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



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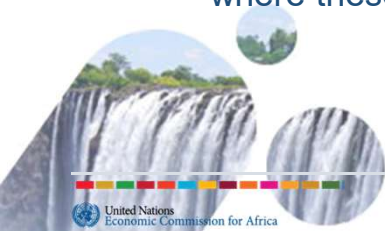
United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

THE CONTEXT — Why Interoperability Was Needed

The Starting Point: Challenges We Faced

The 2021-2030 Social Protection Policy of Namibia identified three key challenges among other challenges:

- **Fragmentation and Inadequate Coordination:** Social protection programmes are spread across many OMAs. Coordination is therefore important for the effective and efficient performance of these programmes, as it would enable sharing of resources, exchanging information and avoid duplication.
- **Lack of an Integrated Management Information System (MIS):** Most processes for social assistance registration, verification, approval, payment and monitoring processes are manual, and databases are not integrated across Government. This causes delays in granting help, and employees spend time on data entry – manual form processing – and other non-core tasks.
- **Lack of Identity documents:** Despite the fact that Namibia has a high rate of birth registration, some would-be social security beneficiaries lacked identity records. Some people remained unregistered due to marginalisation, lack of information, difficulty accessing administrative services and challenges in outreach to where these people reside.



THE JOURNEY — How We Achieved Integration

Our Approach to CRVS-Social Protection Integration

- Constitution (Article 4) lays down requirements for Namibian citizenship.
- Qualifying citizens and permanent residents are eligible to receive social grants (for persons that are aged, disabled, orphans and vulnerable children)
- Birth registration and identity management are key in providing proof of legal identity and citizenship. NPRS is therefore pivotal in enabling access to social grants: Registration of births, marriages and deaths ensures that the right people benefit as required e.g., inheritance, social grants etc.
- The two ministries responsible for civil registration and social protection signed a memorandum of agreement for the sharing of information recorded in the national population register by integrating the National Population Registration System (NPRS) to the social protection system for the purpose of verification of existence in the population register and live status of persons.
- This integration also helps in building a system of identification and referral of undocumented potential beneficiaries, which enhances inclusion



WHAT WE ACHIEVED — Results and Impact

- The integration improved programme efficiency by ensuring that all social protection programmes use the rich data in Government systems for identification and verification.
- Through the referral, facilitation and monitoring processes, the integration ensures members of marginalised communities are identified and registered for national documents, and that they have equal access to quality education, health, housing, land, employment and social grants.
- The integration also eliminated ghost beneficiaries through the verification of live status against NPRS.
- In 2025, the two ministries worked together to conduct an integrated outreach registration for national documents and social protection services targeting the San people (marginalized community), where >21,000 San people assisted under various civil registration services.
- The same programme will be extended to the remaining two marginalized groups (Ovatue and Ovatjimba) in 2026.



LESSONS LEARNED

What Worked, What Didn't, and What We Learned

- During the Covid19 pandemic, birth & death registrations were not affected by lockdown as they were considered essential services.
- Covid19 Emergency Income Grant (EIG): required proof of Namibian citizenship (i.e. national ID credentials), and all applicants for the grant were verified against the NPRS.
- The integration helped us identify discrepancies between information held by the social protection sector (and in some case the documents held by citizens) and the information held in the populations register: This discovery helped to close the gaps, harmonise the systems and ensure that citizens obtain correct and up-to-date documents.



WHAT'S NEXT — Our Vision for the Future

Sustaining and Scaling Integration

- Namibia is making progress towards implementation of a national instant payment network to modernise public-sector payments and expand financial inclusion.
- The first batch of Government-to-Person (G2P) payments was made to beneficiaries under the Marginalised Beneficiaries grant category on 17 June 2026, with funds made available to recipients in near real time through the instant payment system.
- From CRVS side, Namibia is in the process of introducing an electronic identity card, which is expected to enhance security and authentication in digital services delivery.
- As part of the Social Protection Policy implementation, Namibia is working to strengthen timely birth and death registration by closely monitoring notification and registration of the two vital events through its e-notification system.
- Key Message to COM6 – CRVS: Social Protection integration is key in ensuring that the right people receive their rightful benefits. It also drives registration of vital events and identity as unregistered persons are identified and referred by the social protection sector.



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Everyone counts in Africa

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Thank you

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