CONTRACT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Names: Mr David Nzeyimana

Position: Consultant, UNECA

Period: November 2021- January 2022
BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the huge gap in identity coverage that exists. The global COVID-19 pandemic makes the identity gap challenge even more urgent, as CRVS systems are pressured by the challenge of remaining functional during the pandemic and national resources are diverted.

The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic has also raised awareness of the challenge of building CRVS systems and national identity systems to support inclusion without compromising basic rights to privacy and data protection. To improve the functioning of CRVS to achieve universal civil registration and meet the Sustainable Development Goals, ECA and other partners have designed initiatives such as the Legal Identity Agenda - which promotes a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics, and identity management.

Another initiative is the CRVS Mentorship Programme, which is designed to provide systematic support to African countries with low civil registration coverage in developing their CRVS systems. The program facilitates the placement of a mentor (a national consultant) within the civil registration office to support the country in a variety of activities, including conducting an assessment of CRVS business processes to identify key bottlenecks that impede the development of the CRVS system, designing a multi-sector action plan based on the assessment undertaken, and implementing the plan. All of these initiatives are implemented and managed by the APAI-CRVS Secretariat.

ECA has recruited Mr. David Nzeyimana as a member of the APAI-CRVS Secretariat. He is supporting the integration of civil registration and identity management and the CRVS mentorship programme in pilot countries in Francophone Africa. His contract runs from November 2021 to January 2022 and this report summarizes the accomplishments during this contract period.
ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Preparation and Organisation of the Expert Group Meeting of Africa Registrar Generals (EGM-RG)

As a member of the APAI-CRVS Secretariat, Mr. David organized the aforementioned meeting in Kigali, Rwanda from November 23-26, 2021. It was organized in a hybrid format allowing country delegates to participate both physically and electronically via a zoom platform. Senior Officials from thirty-two countries participated physically while an additional eight senior officials accompanied by their technical experts participated virtually. In addition, representatives from the Pan-African organization - the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank - and the following development partner organizations participated: World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Vital Strategies, and the United Kingdom Office of National Statistics.

EGM-RG Accomplishments

- Review of progress of the regional APAI-CRVS program and best practices to accelerate progress. This will contribute to the second phase of the regional improvement programme of CRVS.
- The meeting provided a platform for peer-to-peer learning among African registrars through sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices in the development of CRVS systems, including strategies for developing resilient systems as a key lesson following the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Deliberation on the formation of the Committee of Registrars General of Africa.

Next steps:

- Follow up on the implementation of the meeting recommendations
- Develop the report on the implementation status of COM5 resolutions and recommendations

2. Support the CRVS mentorship programme

The mentorship initiative has provided new ways to help national stakeholders understand their systems and build their capacity to develop and implement new innovative methods or quick fixes to improve civil registration rates. This is done through the integration of a national expert who liaises with the APAI-CRVS Secretariat and other international stakeholders for technical support. The national expert has the advantage of understanding the local context, but must work with other international experts in different areas of CRVS improvement to integrate international experience, best practices, and objectives.

The mentorship program has expanded to additional countries, from the original six countries to twelve. This expansion is the result of significant successes and opportunities created to improve national capacity to sustainably improve operations performance in target countries.
Key Achievements
One of the key ingredients for a successful mentorship programme is having a good national expert or mentor to coordinate and ensure good collaboration among key national stakeholders in the CRVS. During the current period, David worked with senior ministry officials from Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Togo, Guinea Conakry, and Djibouti to identify the national expert. For Chad, Equatorial Guinea and DRC, the national experts are fully onboard and have received basic orientation. In the other countries, the process of recruiting the national mentors/experts is still ongoing.

Next steps
Conduct in-country start-up missions to launch and introduce the CRVS mentorship programme to all country CRVS stakeholders. Country missions will support and provide in-country technical assistance on CRVS systems and document current stakeholders and linkages.

3. Support countries selected for the mentorship programme to access important preliminary tools and resources to support the implementation
Three countries were assisted in accessing some online tools that can be used to guide the process of improving CRVS. Other resources and capacity building initiatives are being developed for implementation in the near future.

Three countries have received technical support to apply for catalytic grants and are likely to receive the funds to implement the proposed ideas, given the quality of the projects submitted. The ideas submitted by the three countries are as follows:

Burkina Faso: The overall objective of the project is to map civil registration processes, identify gaps, bottlenecks and challenges that exist, and inform the development of a new comprehensive CRVS law in Burkina Faso.

Chad: The proposed project aims to contribute to the strengthening of the civil registration governance system among stakeholders for the achievement of universal registration of key life events. It will support the improvement of the operational processes of civil registration and the production of vital statistics and will ensure capacity building of civil registrars on the implementation of the CRVS improvement framework and the adoption of international practices and recommendations.

DRC: Support the ongoing revision of the legal framework for registration through the implementation of a transparent process of consultation and involvement of all technical services and the adoption of international recommendations and best practices.

4. The United Nations Legal Identity Agenda
Rapid assessments of legal identity were conducted in Senegal and Guinea, the two Francophone pilot countries that had not previously conducted rapid assessments. During the period of the completed contract, the assessment reports were finalized. Mr. David is also part of the team providing technical assistance for the ongoing development of the national strategic plan for CRVS in Senegal.
SOME CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES
The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the progress and pace of in-country CRVS initiatives implementation, with travel restrictions still in place in the region. As a result, technical support was mostly virtual, which affected the level of commitment and timeliness of implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS
• Currently, we need to maintain regular contact with countries to ensure that momentum is maintained and country implementation is supported.
• Member states should continue preparations for COM6. UNECA should share the status of COM5 implementation by countries.

Prepared by Mr David Nzeyimana
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