

Eighth Session of Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa VIII)

Modernizing data ecosystem in Africa
to support regional integration

DAY THREE | 26-October 2022



A DECADE INTO APAI-CRVS: REFLECTING ON PROGRESS AND ACCELERATING EFFORTS TOWARDS 2030 THROUGH TRANSFORMED SYSTEMS

HIGHLIGHTS

A Decade into APAI-CRVS: Reflecting on progress and accelerating efforts towards 2030 through transformed systems

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Statistics experts gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24 to 28 October 2022, for the Experts Group Meeting of the 6th Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CoM6) organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The meeting reviewed progress in developing civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems over the last ten years, including taking note of new developments since the previous Ministerial Conference and the fast-approaching deadline of the 2030 agenda. The meeting also shared innovative practices and strategies for developing CRVS systems. It also provided policy directives on priority measures for accelerated improvement of CRVS systems which constitute the new regional CRVS strategy and plan.

Oliver Chinganya, Director of the African Centre for Statistics at the ECA, explained that the meeting was important in "identifying priority strategic actions that will accelerate the progress of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa over the next eight years. The meeting was also aimed at ensuring considerable progress in achieving 100% and 80% registration of births and deaths

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR STATISTICS



Mr. Oliver Chinganya, Director of the African Centre for Statistics

It was a great pleasure to welcome you all to Addis Ababa and to have seen you during the meetings of the eighth Statistical Commission for Africa, the eighth United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa), and the Experts Group Meeting of the 6th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration.

I want to thank the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their great hospitality in welcoming us to the wonderful city of Addis Ababa. Thank you for the excellent support in facilitating the necessary arrangements for all participants to join us in the meetings in person and virtually from all corners of the globe. We enjoyed the memorable visits and access to the incredible Science Museum and Friendship Park organized for all of us.

Dear participants, thank you for participating in the various pre-events and the plenary sessions of these meetings that deliberated on numerous issues on statistical development as well as

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respectively as set by the 2030 Agenda.

“Africa needs to build its statistical capacity to produce accurate, high quality and timely data to inform policies that will support the full implementation of the sustainable development goals and the continent’s Agenda 2063,” said Mr. Chinganya, noting that, “Timely, accurate, high-quality data and statistics to inform policy remains a significant

challenge across Africa.”

The Expert Group Meeting brought together country experts drawn from Ministries responsible for Civil Registration, Ministries of Health, National Statistical Offices, and National Identity Management offices, Young African Statisticians and development partners for technical deliberations aligned to the theme and the statutory issues of the meeting.

Message from the Director of the African Centre for Statistics, continued from pg. 1

improving our civil registration and vital statistics systems and geospatial information. I greatly appreciate your time, views, examples, and experiences shared, presented and exhibited during the past few days.

A warm appreciation also goes to development partners for your continued support and your critical role in developing the African statistical system in your respective domains.

I offer my sincere gratitude to all my ECA staff and particularly the African Centre for Statistics, who have worked diligently, mainly behind the scenes, to enable us to deliberate quietly and effectively in all three days’ work programmes.

Much has been said during the meetings, and we passed many resolutions on several fronts at all levels. It is now high time to implement the resolutions we made at the closing

of the StatCom-Africa meeting. I, therefore, call for action, individually and collectively, to modernize and transform our statistical production processes. Let us also explore Big Data and data science tools to meet the increased demand to fill data gaps for Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

On behalf of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, I wish you all safe travels back to your destinations. All the best wishes in your work to develop our continent and fulfil Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

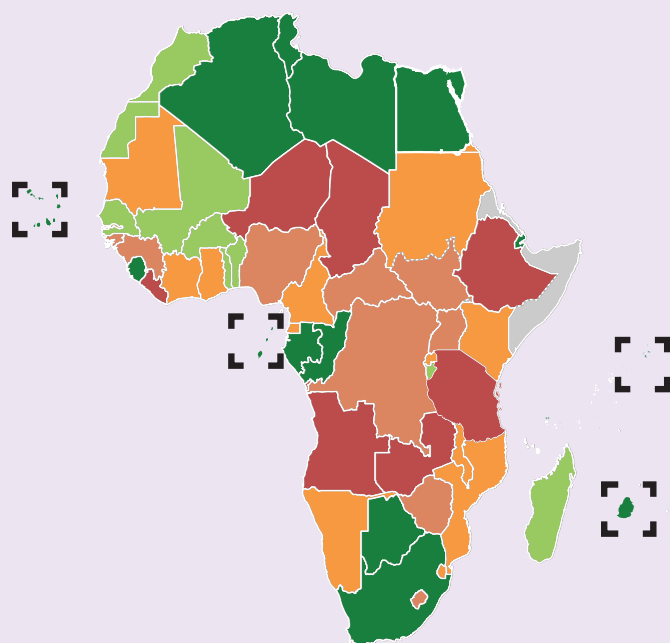
I thank you.

Oliver Chinganya

Director, African Centre for Statistics

INFOGRAPHICS

COVERAGE OF BIRTH REGISTRATION

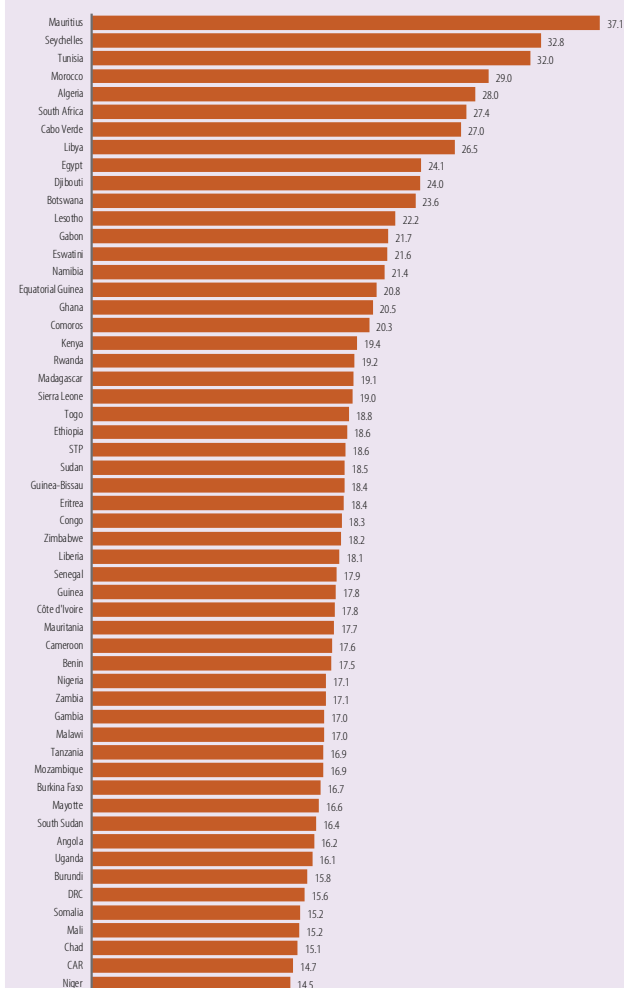


0<30% 30% to 50% 50% to 75% 75% to 90% >90% No data

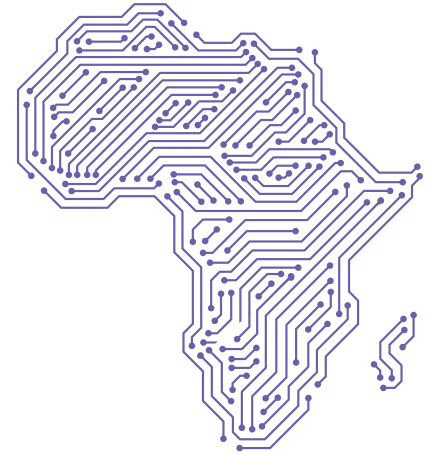
Based on latest available data compiled by the United Nations

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

MEDIAN AGE (BOTH SEXES) - 2022



The eighth session of StatCom-Africa conclusions and recommendations



The Statistical Commission for Africa,

Acknowledging that the theme of this eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, “Modernizing the data ecosystem in Africa to support regional integration”, comes at the right time, as the evolution of technology is profoundly changing the practice of statistics both in public and in the private domains,

Having considered the reports presented by the groups working on various aspects of statistical development,

Cognizant of programmatic issues, including those relating to the statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa and other statutory matters,

Noting with satisfaction the work done on statistical modernization by the Economic Commission for Africa,

Considering that the availability of reliable and accurate geographic information is one of the most important enabling factors for the expansion of national economies, that it is impossible to design the economic and social components of government services like transportation, energy, the environment, health care and education without the use of geospatial information technologies, and that the ability to make more informed decisions in the many areas of socioeconomic development can be improved by mapping the relevant socioeconomic indicators.

The Commission has resolute on the following nine major domains, further divided into several subdomains.

I. On the statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa and statutory issues

- A. On the statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa: programme of work on data and statistics for the period 2023–2024
- B. On Gender Statistics
- C. On Statistical capacity development in Africa
- D. On the 2020 round of Population and Housing censuses
- E. the 2008 SNA implementation (and related statistics)
- F. On SDGs

G. On CRVS and UN legal identity agenda

II. On session Modernizing the data ecosystem in Africa

On other initiatives to modernize and transform statistical systems

III. On the Joint session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa

IV. On the Joint session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the group of experts of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration

V. On the reports on pre-events

- A. On the Forum on African Statistical Development:
- B. On the statistical development indicators tool
- C. On data science and the African regional hub:
- D. On young African statisticians
- E. On the availability and accessibility of official data and statistics
- F. On administrative-data initiatives and resources for Africa
- G. On using computer-assisted personal interviewing and computer-assisted telephone interviewing in collecting data for consumer price indices
- H. On increasing the availability and accessibility of data on the Sustainable Development Goals
- I. On sub-national GDP

VI. On the statistical capacity-building programmes of partner entities

VII. On the preparation for the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council

VIII. On the Joint closing of the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, the eighth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, and the expert segment of the sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration

DIGITALIZATION OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS

The parallel session on the application of digitization of CRVS discussed in detail the state of digitization of CRVS systems in country experiences from Liberia, Rwanda, and Benin.

In addition, a digitization assessment survey conducted by the African Development Bank illustrating responses from 26 countries was also presented. The UNICEF Global Office presented a perspective on safe digitization of CRVS highlighting the key areas of priority in modernizing CRVS. Based on the experience of the Pacific countries, a guideline of best practices in Digitizing CRVS has been presented by the UNECA. The Pacific countries experiences on digitizing CRVS particularly highlighted key principles that should be in place to effectively and safely digitize the process, offered sound lessons for member States in Africa. The principles include:

- Legal compliance
- Sustainability
- Privacy and Security by Design
- Disaster Mitigation
- Person – centricity
- Interoperability and data sharing
- Appropriateness to country context
- Easy access to data
- Country data ownership
- Flexibility
- Knowledge transfer to countries

Having deliberated on the country and global experiences, the parallel session recognized the use of digital technology as central to the modernization of CRVS systems. The digitalization of the registration process for the consolidation of data nationally, the issuance of certificates and validation of registration are some of the main areas currently being addressed in many countries on the continent. Digitization is playing a role as an enabler for the continuum of services in CRVS and integration with complementary processes such as health information and identity management systems. Similarly, it is also recognized that there are clear concerns that digitization raises in the management of the system [CRVS], the use of technology and the storage of data. Having deliberated in detail on these key issues and reviewed country experiences in digitizing CRVS in Benin, Rwanda, and Liberia, the session has forwarded the following draft recommendations for consideration.



ECA Staff, William Muhwava and Ibrahim Mamma who work on discussing recommendations for digitizing CRVS

Key recommendation:

1. The session urged countries to actively pursue the digitalization of CRVS systems to reap the full potential of those systems for the benefit of all-of-government. The digitization of CRVS systems needs to be based on a well-developed business process and focused towards advancing the coverage of registration and outreach of services. It should also strengthen safe and secure data sharing and interoperability between systems. Before doing so, countries need to take into consideration a broad range of principles and best practices, key functional requirements, different licensing and service options, hosting choices, and procurement possibilities as well as that adequate business processes are in place.
2. The session recommended that the process of modernizing CRVS Systems through integration of digital technologies should take into consideration key legal and regulatory frameworks governing national digitalization frameworks, IT systems and infrastructures at countries level. In so doing, the safety and security of data, integrity of the system and clarity on the ownership and availability of the data should be accorded central priority.
3. The session also urged that the procurement and implementation of digital technologies for modernizing CRVS system should take into consideration the technical and resource capabilities of countries on the ground and be contextualized as such. Most importantly, the digitization process should enable the development of key human resources and technical capabilities to understand, manage, and sustain the use of the system in the long run. This would avoid extensive reliance on solution providers and potential vendor lock-in. To this end, the session urges for strengthened capacity and calls upon partners to continue providing the relevant support to them in this area.



DAY 3 IN PICTURES







Acknowledgments

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