

CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

SOMALIA COUNTRY PROFILE



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Executive summary

Civil registration of vital events during the life course of individuals (births, marriages, deaths) is a major function of government that establishes the identity and civil status for ensuring human rights and access to services. Vital statistics from registration records are also useful for government policy and planning purposes, and such data are directly related to achievement of several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

However, owing to disruptions to government services during the civil war, there is a need to reinstate Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems across the country, so that both individuals as well as society could derive the related benefits from such services. To guide this process, UNFPA commissioned this CRVS Country Profile for Somalia which documents the activities currently being undertaken for CRVS development in the country, and makes recommendations regarding the next steps and priorities for implementation.

From an administrative perspective, Somalia is currently governed by a federal structure comprising 7 states / autonomous regions. CRVS activities should therefore be designed to meet the specific development needs of each sub-national jurisdiction, in terms of legal provisions, administrative structures, and operational aspects for implementation. To fulfil these requirements, the Federal Government of Somalia has undertaken a series of activities between 2015 and 2021, which have progressively established a legal and administrative basis for CRVS design and implementation across the country.

Somalia continues to face notable conflict and fragility. The current situation makes it difficult to build on the policy and legal framework that has recently been developed and translate it into civil registration services around the country. There is no civil registration system office or department in Somalia, civil registration completeness is currently low, inadequate infrastructure for CRVS, coordination of civil registration across different organs of government needs to be improved and lack of Vital Statistics Production.

The report provides a range of strategic directions that vary from a decentralized mechanism for the design and administration of the CRVS system, availability of infrastructure, relevant organizational and societal aspects for CRVS operations in the states, the need to establish a generic legal framework, strengthen coordination between national partners in charge of CRVS programme and reinforce capacities to produce vital statistics production.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

Acknowledgment	3
1. Executive summary	4
2. Introduction	2
3. Background	4
4. Objectives	5
5. Overview of recent CRVS system strengthening initiatives	5
Re-establishment of civil registration system, 1991	5
WHO CRVS assessment, 2015	6
CRVS national stakeholder consultation 2018	8
Somali registration and identification policy 2018	10
Insights from SHDS 2020	10
6. Current status of CRVS strengthening efforts	10
7. Challenges in strengthening CRVS system	13
8. Summary and conclusions	14
Bibliography	15

2. Introduction

Somalia's economy has shown remarkable resilience over the past years. Throughout the years of fragility and conflict, Somalia's vibrant private sector has helped to maintain economic activity through provision of trade, money transfers, transport, and telecommunications services. The lack of statistics continues to make it hard to precisely estimate the size of Somalia's economy. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates Somalia's GDP at about US\$6 billion, which is six times that of the pre-war (1985-1990) average of US\$1 billion. Consumption remains the key driver of GDP with gross fixed capital formation accounting for only 8 percent of GDP in 2015. The economy is highly dependent on imports, which account for more than two-thirds of GDP, while exports account for only 15 percent of GDP. The result is a large trade deficit, mainly financed by remittances and international aid. Remittances constitute 23 percent of the GDP. A projected GDP growth rate of 3.2% in 2020 was interrupted by a triple crisis of COVID-19 (coronavirus), locust's infestation and floods which caused the economy to contract by 1.5%. Per capita income for Somalia is estimated at US\$435, making it the fifth poorest country in the world¹.

The population of Somalia is estimated to be over 15 million² of which 42 percent live in urban areas, 23 percent are rural inhabitants, 26 percent are nomads and 9 percent live in IDP settlements mostly located near or within major towns. Three-quarters of Somalis are less than 30 years old, and around 46 percent of the population is below the age of 15³.

Universal civil registration of vital events across the life course (births, marriages, divorce, deaths) is crucial for the establishment of legal identity. Proof of legal identity is critical, in protecting essential rights and affording individuals with social, economic and political opportunities across the life course. Well-functioning CRVS systems can ensure that all individuals (including vulnerable groups, women and children) can benefit from access to financial services, claims to inheritance, protection from human trafficking and child marriage, amongst other services. Registration records are also a conventional source for compiling vital statistics on fertility, nuptiality, mortality and causes of death. Overall, national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems are essential to monitoring progress of 67 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) indicators, and are directly related to achieving 12 of the 17 SDGs.⁴

¹ World Bank. Somalia Economic Update, June 2020.

² Independent Panel of Experts 2019.

³ UNFPA. Population Estimation Survey for Somalia 2014.

⁴ United Nations Population Fund ConVERGE Programme: Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality. Centre of Excellence in CRVS Systems; IDRC, Canada. 2020.

In recent years, there has been increased efforts to advance civil registration and vital statistics in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. In 2007, Unicef noted that children's right to be registered at birth and their right to a name and identity are even more critical in conflict and fragile settings, and that 'invisibility' of non-registered children increases their vulnerability (Unicef, 2007).⁵ The African Programme on Accelerated Improvement of CRVS Systems has also drawn attention to the notable vulnerabilities of people living in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and the importance of robust civil registration systems in protecting their rights and promoting visibility and accountability.⁶ Most recently, the Centre of Excellence of CRVS Systems has documented a diverse set of examples of CRVS in the context of responding to natural disasters, serving as a safeguard for gender equality during conflict, protecting the rights of refugees and migrants, and ensuring proper death registration for all.⁷

Given the protracted nature of conflict and fragility in Somalia, a robust and resilient civil registration and vital statistics system is an important tool in supporting the rights of all Somali throughout the lifecycle, from birth to death.



⁵ Unicef Innocenti Research Centre, Birth Registration and Armed Conflict, 2007. Available <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/insight-br-eng.pdf>

⁶ African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa, Civil Registration in Armed Conflict and Emergency Situations, 2019. Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/33070-wd-civil_registration_in_conflict_and_emergency_situations_en.pdf

⁷ International Development Research Centre, Compendium of Good Practices: CRVS in Conflict, Emergencies, and Fragile Settings, 2021. Available at https://crvssystems.ca/sites/default/files/assets/images/CRVS%20in%20Conflict%2C%20Emergencies%20and%20Fragile%20Settings_Full%20Compendium_e_WEB.pdf

3. Background

Civil registration in Somalia dates back at least to the period of colonial administration, when the British issued civil registration certificates for British Somaliland up until 1973 and the Italian colonial authorities issued civil registration documents for Southern Somalia up until 1975 (Landinfo, 2009).

From an administrative perspective, Somalia is currently governed by a federal structure which is divided into states under the Federal Government namely Puntland, Jubaland, South-West, Galmudug, Hir-Shabelle and Banadir Administration with Somaliland self-declared status not recognized internationally.

All archives and public offices were destroyed during the civil war, leaving Somalia with no remaining registers, copies or originals which can be used for comparing or referencing documents and certificates. After 16 years of absence of state institutions mandated to issue or register official documents, The Federal Somali Transitional Government (TFG), started issuing new passports in 2007. Since then, successive governments have been producing passports, IDs and certificates. However, all documents and certificates issued by various institution agencies rely on information provided by the individual concerned (with witnesses when appropriate) or relatives.

Prior to 1991, only births and deaths that occurred in hospitals were issued with birth and death notifications respectively. The family would then have to submit the hospital document to the municipal administration, along with two attending witnesses from the clan/sub-clan, following which the event would be registered and the relevant certificate would be issued. Procedures for marriage, divorce and the transfer of custody of children followed religious and/or traditional regulations, which did not exist in written form. After the religious ceremony, the marriage would be registered and the couple would receive a marriage certificate. There was no system for the registration of civil marriages in Somalia.

The last population and housing census in Somalia was held in 1975.⁸ Currently, the only recent source of demographic data for Somalia is the national Demographic and Health Survey (SDHS) of 2019-2020 and the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia (PESS) (United Nations Population Fund, 2014; Central Statistics Department, 2020).⁹ These surveys provides valuable evidence on key population and social parameters. However, they do not provide detailed information for the estimation of all the indicators of fertility, mortality and nuptiality that are required for population administration, human development programmes, and health services planning and research. Although there are traditional household record systems maintained by local community leaders and religious authorities, these systems are not formal, systematically maintained and centrally coordinated.

As per information from the 2019-2020 SDHS, only 4% of children below two years had been registered, and less than 1 percent had birth certificates. This highlights the substantial Hence, the CRVS system in Somalia needs to be re-established at local, regional and national levels, to provide relevant individual records of civil status as well as comprehensive data to derive the required vital statistics.

⁸ UNFPA (2016). Methodology and Assessment of Data Quality of the Somali People. Available at: https://www.nbs.gov.so/docs/Analytical_Report_Volume_1.pdf.

⁹ https://somalia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/slhd2020_report_2020.pdf <https://somalia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Population-Estimation-Survey-of-Somalia-PESS-2013-2014.pdf>.

4. Objectives

The objectives of this case study were to

1. summarize the recent developments in the area of civil registration and vital statistics in Somalia,
2. review the current status of CRVS strengthening efforts in Somalia, and
3. identify practical strategies and activities to further strengthen the CRVS system, as part of advancing integrated population data systems in Somalia.

This case study drew on a combination of document review and national stakeholder consultations.

5. Overview of recent CRVS system strengthening initiatives

In this section, we review the following CRVS strengthening efforts in Somalia:

- The re-establishment of the civil registration system in 1991;
- A comprehensive assessment of the CRVS system in 2015;
- CRVS national stakeholder consultation, 2018
- Somali registration and identification policy, 2018
- Demographic and Health Survey, 2020

CRVS development in Somalia is an evolving process, and there have been several important activities that have been conducted in recent years. A chronological review of these activities is described below, which provides relevant context for the current status of CRVS strengthening, and the direction, priorities, and pace of development.

Re-establishment of civil registration system, 1991

Two and a half decades of conflict, concentrated mainly in southern Somalia, have destroyed much of the country's governance infrastructure, including the institutions mandated to provide civil registration or identification. Since the war, Somalia has not consolidated identity management around a single national system. It lacks any type of population register or national ID system, and has a limited and poorly functioning civil registry. The civil registration system is that it is completely decentralized and implementation is uneven. Currently, some of the country's 22 municipalities (local governments) are charged with civil registration—including maintaining registers and issuing certificates for births, deaths, and marriages—and producing municipal ID cards. However, the implementation of these responsibilities by municipalities has been poor. For example, Mogadishu municipality has only recently started producing birth, death, and marriage certificates and ID cards¹⁰.

¹⁰World Bank 2016. Toward a Somali Identification System: ID4D Diagnostic

WHO CRVS assessment, 2015

In 2015, a comprehensive assessment of the CRVS system was conducted by national stakeholders, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO). The assessment was based on a standard international assessment framework that examined the legal basis and resources allocated for CRVS, prevailing registration practices, and aspects of data availability and quality regarding mortality and causes of death.¹¹

The key findings from the 2015 CRVS assessment were that there were no specific laws on civil registration of births, deaths and marriages in Somalia, no central coordinating authority for the registration of vital events and/or the production of vital statistics, a lack of coordination between institutions involved in the notification, registration and certification of vital events, limited training of accredited officials in registering marriages, and no vital statistics outputs produced in Somalia in recent years.

The current CRVS legal framework is framed around the National Law No. 7 of 2003, in which article 9.10 bestows the responsibility of local government to register births, deaths, marriages and divorces.¹² In addition, the National Principles of Justice for Children affirm the rights of children through universal birth registration. Somalia's Family Code recognizes the need for marriage and divorce certification.¹³ However, there is no specific detail regarding the process for registration, the use of standard forms and time periods for reporting births or marriages. The assessment report also mentions that there is inadequate infrastructure for CRVS.

There is no civil registration system office or department in Somalia, except the ministry of public security which operates a department that provides visa authorization, and collects information on deaths caused by accidents suicide, explosions and any death caused by a crime. A population registration department started operation in Mogadishu in July 2014, which issues birth certificates for passport and visa purposes. For deaths, although some hospitals do maintain death records with causes of death coded to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), there is no specific requirement for reporting of deaths or causes of death, except in the case of deaths from injuries.

For marriages, 500 sheikhs under ministry of religious affairs and *awqaf* and 200 Qadi under ministry of justice SCZ are allowed to license of Contracts of marriage registration of in addition a pilot project trained only 40 Qadi but there are more than 1500 Qadi? are not trained in whole Puntland available in some regions.

Routine compilation of vital statistics is not implemented, and hence no statistical reports on vital events have been submitted till date as part of the United Nations annual Demographic Year Book series, or to the World Health Organization mortality database.

¹¹ Comprehensive CRVS System Assessment Framework.

¹² Citation to national law No 7 , 2003.

¹³ Need to cite Somali Family Code.

Based on this assessment, the stakeholder team developed a set of recommendations in 2017, that cover actions and resources that are required to re-establish the national CRVS system, that are in accordance with international norms for CRVS systems. These included the following:

- a. Nominate a High Level CRVS Steering Committee with representation from key ministries
- b. Develop a national Civil Registration Act
- c. Establish a Civil Registration Authority with infrastructure in all regions, municipalities and districts
- d. Design and implement a plan of action for CRVS
- e. Create demand for birth certificates by making it a requirement for school enrollment
- f. Through appropriate government regulations, enable local clan elders as well as leaders of nomadic communities (Nabadoon) to have a legal status for notifying births and deaths to local registration offices
- g. Issue instructions to all health facilities to directly report births and deaths to the registration offices
- h. Conduct campaigns to promote birth registration and require the submission of birth certificate for obtaining National identity documents
- i. Engage with international partners and development agencies to secure funding to implement CRVS development activities
- j. Engage with WHO and other technical partners to develop training materials and resources to build capacity among health staff in ascertaining causes of death according to international standards and principles



CRVS national stakeholder consultation 2018

In follow up to the recommendations from the WHO CRVS comprehensive assessment of 2015 and a follow-up workshop in 2017, the government of Somalia designated the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED) as the interim coordinating agency for CRVS. In July 2018, the Directorate of National Statistics of MoPIED convened a two-day CRVS stakeholder meeting, which was supported by the WHO. The meeting was attended by senior and technical representatives from MoPIED as well as from the Ministries of Interior, Health, Justice, Education, Religious Affairs, and Security. At the meeting, participants agreed that it was essential to make vital event registration mandatory under legal authority, to ensure citizen compliance. All participants also acknowledged the multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary nature of CRVS system, and the requirement for each sector / stakeholder to undertake specific tasks and responsibilities towards complete and efficient system performance. In this regard, it was agreed that the roles for each sector could be considered as follows:

- a. Ministry of Health:** implementation of standard definitions for reporting of vital events including live births, foetal deaths, and causes of death
- b. Ministry of Education:** implement the requirement of a birth certificate to enable school enrolment, but not to the extent of denying enrolment if a certificate is not available
- c. Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development:** responsible for coordination, quality assurance and supervision of registration activities, as well as for production of annual vital statistics reports
- d. Ministry of Justice:** responsibilities to review and amend existing laws and regulations for CRVS, as well as draft new laws as relevant. The Ministry of Justice also has responsibilities to enable courts for registration and certification of marriage and divorce
- e. Ministry of Interior:** responsible for operating the civil management information system, and issuance of birth and death certificates
- f. Ministry of Religious Affairs:** responsible for the formalisation of marriages and divorce

In addition to agreeing to this sharing of responsibilities, there was consensus and commitment among participants in regard to the importance of formulating nationally led, concrete and time bound National Action Plans for the re-establishment of CRVS systems. As documented in a later section, the national CRVS policy developed in 2021 has assigned specific roles and responsibilities to each of these ministries. Following the deliberations, this stakeholder consultation made several recommendations for the next steps for CRVS development in Somalia, as follows:

1. There should be emphasis in all situations that CRVS encompasses not only identity management, but also notification and registration of births, deaths, causes of death, marriage and divorce, and production of vital statistics.
2. There should be follow up on earlier recommendations to review and update the legal framework and establish all aspects of CRVS under one authority, covering the entire national population.
3. The Directorate of National Statistics (currently Somalia National Bureau of Statistics-SNBS) should constitute the national CRVS High Level Steering Committee, and serve as the initial chair, with representation from all other participating ministries.

4. A CRVS Technical Working group and Steering Committee should also be established, with at least 2 officials from each of the respective ministries, along with representatives from international development partners. Specific Terms of Reference should be established for the Technical Steering Committee, which will be initially chaired by the SNBS.
5. The High-Level Committee should have a mandate to negotiate funding support for CRVS improvement activities from international partners.

The National Consultation also outlined a draft of Terms of Reference for the CRVS Technical Working Group / Steering Committee, which has now been incorporated into the National CRVS Policy of 2021 (described in a later section).

One of the key recommendations from the CRVS national stakeholder consultations was to use the methods, experiences and findings from the recent Somalia Health and Demographic Survey (2020) guide the establishment of the CRVS. The key experiences and lessons from the SHDS that could guide CRVS development are described below.



Somali registration and identification policy 2018

In a separate development, the Federal government of Somalia developed and approved the Somali Registration and Identification Policy in November 2018¹⁴. The main purpose of this policy is to guide the implementation of a modern national public identification system to register all citizens with a Unique Identity Number in a national database, and to issue individual Identity Cards that would be used by individuals as proof of identity and to facilitate access to social services. Civil registration of vital events of the public and production of vital statistics from registration records are integral functions under the Registration and Identification Policy. This policy recognizes the complementarity of vital event registration and universal legal identity via a national identity system, and facilitates the alignment and harmonization of the two systems.

Insights from SHDS 2020

The 2020 Somalia Demographic and Health Survey entailed an assessment of birth registration completeness in Somalia amongst children under 5 years. From these data, it was estimated that 3.5% of children under 5 years have had their births registered with the civil registration authority and 0.3% of children under 5 years have a birth certificate.¹⁵ These results highlight that the current civil registration system is highly incomplete. It also highlights that, even for the small proportion of births that are registered by the civil registration authority, 90% of children whose births are registered do not have a birth certificate.

6. Current Status of CRVS Strengthening Efforts

In early 2021, a draft national civil registration policy was prepared by the Civil Registration Division within the Ministry of Interior, Federalism and Reconciliation (MoIFAR). The draft policy was extensively discussed at a national Inter Ministerial Level Conference on Establishing a Modern and Adequate CRVS System in Somalia in May 2021.

The draft policy is part of the Federal Government's efforts to establish systems of public registration services, identification of key vital events and publication of official statistics in accordance with the national laws and International Standards. In essence, this CRVS policy complements the Somali Population Registration & Identity Policy approved by the Council of Ministers in November 2018, which guides the implementation and administration of civil registration and national identity through the use of modern technology. The policy provides overall guidance on the registration of births, deaths, marriages, divorces and the adoption of children.

¹⁴Directorate of Immigration & Naturalization 2018. Somali Registration and Identification Policy.

¹⁵Somalia Demographic and Health Survey, 2020. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Som%20Gvt%20UNFPA%20Press%20Release_SHDS%20Rpt%20Launch_29-04-20_Final.pdf.

The policy states the following objectives of the national CRVS system:

- Records vital events
- Provides certificates for vital events
- Implements in a decentralized manner and administered by local governments
- Is available, accessible and functional widely across the country
- Has a national central database which stores all vital event records
- Produces high quality vital statistics

For implementation, the policy states several principles that will be applied in developing the CRVS system in Somalia, as follows:

- a) Ensure the establishment of a legal framework for CRVS
- b) Ensure administrative, infrastructure, and operational capacities for implementation
- c) Design and implement robust programmes for vital event registration as well as a digitized electronic national repository for civil registration information and archival
- d) Establish coordination between all Ministries involved in CRVS operations to ensure smooth operations at federal level and sub national level

The policy documents the institutional context of CRVS in terms of the roles and responsibilities of different Ministries and agencies in implementation. In this regard, the institutional context provided in the policy essentially mirrors the framework proposed by the CRVS National Stakeholder Consultation of 2018 (see page 4). While the Ministry of interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) is the overall responsible authority for CRVS, the following network has been stated in the policy, along with their specific expected roles:

- a. Ministry of health** - notification of births and deaths through health institutions and community health staff; medical certification of causes of death according to international standards, and compilation of health-related statistics from CRVS data
- b. Ministry of Justice** - oversight of court procedures for registration and certification of marriages and divorce
- c. Ministry of Religious Affairs** - community-based practices for registration and certification of marriages and divorce
- d. National Bureau of Statistics** - production of annual vital statistics reports along with relevant data quality assurance and monitoring of registration completeness
- e. Local governments of Federal Member States and Banadir Regional Administration** are assigned direct roles in provision of registration services to the population e.g. the Ministry of Health in each Federal Member State will conduct registration activities through health institutions and community health staff; while the Ministry of Interior of each Federal Member State will coordinate the overall implementation of the national CRVS policy at state level
- f. Related roles** in regard to identity management, social protection, and access to services are assigned to the National Registration and Identification Agency, Immigration Department, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Family Affairs.

The CRVS Policy has established the CRVS Technical Working Group (CRVS TWG) based in the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), which will guide the implementation of a national CRVS improvement plan in Somalia. The CRVS TWG will include representatives from all the stakeholder ministries listed above, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Interior for each State and the Banadir regional Administration. The Terms of Reference for the CRVS TWG are as follows:

- Act as a coordination mechanism between the various stakeholders
- To oversee the design of the CRVS system improvement action plan in Somalia, and follow up in coordinating the overall implementation of the plan
- Propose a legal and regulatory framework for CRVS that would establish the basis for the implementation strategy of the action plan
- As a preliminary step for implementation, develop notification forms for births, deaths, marriages and divorce
- Establish streamlined processes for notification of vital events and issuance of certificates
- Collaborate with concerned agencies/institutions to use satellite imagery of Somalia to locate population settlements and update the administrative map of Somalia, to ensure total population coverage under the new CRVS system.
- Use the findings of the Somalia Demography and Health Survey to guide the establishment of the CRVS system
- Serve as a constant advocate for CRVS improvement at all times and in all forums

The TWG will be supported by a CRVS Steering Committee that will be responsible for strategy development, coordination and implementation of the action plan, and will be co-chaired by the Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation. The CRVS Steering Committee will prepare annual CRVS strategic plans including raising financial resources, coordinate implementation, and ensure appropriate utilisation and accountability of resources.

In particular, since the CRVS policy is yet under development, the following recommended steps could be considered under the CRVS improvement plan for Somalia.



7. Challenges in strengthening CRVS system

In recent years, the Somali federal authorities have strengthened the legal framework for civil registration and legal identity. This provides an important foundation for rollout of civil registration services and progressive strengthening of Somalia's CRVS systems. However, there are notable challenges ahead.

In 2021, Somalia continues to face notable conflict and fragility. The ongoing insecurity in the country makes it difficult to build on the policy and legal framework that has recently been developed and translate it into civil registration services around the country.

Births, marriages and deaths are important life events for individuals, families, and local communities. In that vein, such vital events are often accompanied by religious and cultural customary practices to note the arrival of a newborn, celebrate the union of a couple, and mourn the loss of the bereaved. At present, less than 4% of children under 5 years have had their births registered. To advance community awareness of the importance of universal civil registration, the federal authorities need to work closely with local community leaders in promoting and facilitating vital event registration. Such community engagement needs to harness the common language and religion shared by Somali, but also engage the identities and traditions of the 500+ clans and subclans within Somalia. Effective community engagement to advance the inclusiveness of the civil registration can help to progressively integrate the notification, registration and certification of vital events into community life across the country.

In addition to coordination and consultation with local leaders, the federal government needs to coordinate civil registration across different organs of government - ranging from the health authorities, to the ministry of interior, ministry of planning to the national statistics office. In recent years, many countries have established national CRVS coordination structures to support continuous liaison and coordination between the respective organs of government and international partners.

In recent decades, Somalia has relied heavily on periodic household surveys to understand the demographic profile of the population and the nature of population dynamics such as fertility and mortality. As a result, the National Statistics Office in Somalia has not been processing civil registration data and constructing routine vital statistics from such continuous data. Even though civil registration completeness is currently low in Somalia, as civil registration is rolled out progressively, the national statistics office should process the civil registration data and produce vital statistics to advance the rollout of the vital statistics components of the country's CRVS system.

8. Summary and conclusions

The national CRVS Technical Steering Committee and the newly established Steering committee by the Ministry of Interior, Federalism and Reconciliation has recognized the need to re-establish the national CRVS system at the local level. There is also a national recognition that there would be a need to develop a decentralized mechanism for the design and administration of the CRVS system, that would account for the varying political mechanisms, availability of infrastructure, and relevant organizational and societal aspects for CRVS operations in the states. There is a need to establish a generic legal framework that could establish the principles and institutional responsibilities for notification and registration, followed by development of specific rules for implementation by the different regions as per the prevailing norms and circumstances.

To guide the CRVS development programme, the CRVS Technical Steering Committee should conduct a formative implementation research project that will design and test the tools and processes for notification and recording of vital events. The research project should be designed with objective deliverables and quantifiable vital statistics outcomes, to enable a thorough evaluation of the experiences and lessons learnt, to inform subsequent introduction and scale up of these CRVS operations across the country. The Somalia UNFPA Country Office could act as a central facility to coordinate the activities of International development partners and bilateral / multilateral agencies with a focus on CRVS development in Somalia. The UNFPA Country Office could also provide technical support and assist with capacity development. The coordination role is necessary to ensure effective utilization of available resources without duplication, and establish synergies across activities that will enable a holistic CRVS programme to serve the identity management, administrative services, and need for vital statistics for Somalia.

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