CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
for CRVS Systems

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SNAPSHOT

OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS IN THE

KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

ECA

Program information

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Housed at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems is a global knowledge and resource hub that actively supports national efforts to develop, strengthen, and scale-up CRVS systems. It collaborates with organizations and experts to broker access to information and expertise, including global standards, tools, research evidence, and relevant good practice.

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The information was collected through a questionnaire completed by the Civil Registration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs in November 2020 and supplemented by a desk review of available documents. Among other things, the report presents:

- Background information on the country;
- Selected indicators relevant to CRVS improvement;
- Stakeholders' activities; and
- Resources available and needed to strengthen CRVS systems.

Brief country profile

The Kingdom of Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, was officially renamed in 2018. This landlocked country in southern Africa is bordered by Mozambique to the northeast and South Africa to the north, west, and south. The country, once a British protectorate, gained independence in 1968. The Swazi are a homogenous group of people sharing a common language and tradition.

Eswatini is divided into four regions: Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini, and Shiselweni. Each region has several rural councils (*tinkhundla*; singular *inkhundla*). Each region is managed by a regional administrator, who is aided by elected members in each *inkhundla*. The local government is divided into differently structured rural and urban councils, depending on the level of development in the area. Although the local authorities have different political structures, effectively the urban councils are municipalities, and the rural councils

Kingdom of Eswatini

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

are *tinkhundla*. There are 12 municipalities and 59 *tinkhundla*. The population grew from 929,718 in 1997 to 1,018449 in 2007 to 1,093,238 in 2017.[1]

- Land area: 17,364 km^2
- Population: 1,093,238,[2] with an annual growth rate of 0.7 percent[3]
- Capital city: Mbabane
- Official working languages: Swazi and English
- Ministry responsible for civil registration: Ministry of Home Affairs
- Civil registration agency and national identity agency: Civil Registration Department
- National statistical office: Central Statistical Office, under the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development

CRVS dimensions

Births	
Completeness of birth registration[4]	19.6% (2018)[5]
Children under 5 years of age whose births were reported as registered	43% (2017)[6]
Births attended by skilled health personnel	82% (2010)[7]
Women aged 15–49 who received antenatal care from a skilled provider	76% (2015)[8]
DPT1 immunization coverage among 1-year-olds[9]	85% (2018)[10]
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	27.92 (2018)[11]
Total fertility rate (live births per woman)	3.15 (2018)
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 years)	0.004 (2017)[12]
Population under age 15 years	404,306 (2017)[13]
Institutional deliveries: percentage of deliveries in a health facility	Not available
Deaths	
Completeness of death registration	Not available
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	8.91 (2018)[14]
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	47.87 (2018)
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	74 (2017)
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	452 (2017)[15]
Marriages and divorces	
Marriage registration rate	Not available
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 15	9.7% (2017)
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 18	9.2% (2017)[16]
Divorce registration rate	Not available
Vital statistics including causes-of-death data	
Compilation and dissemination of civil registration–based statistics	2016 to date
Medically certified causes of death	62% (2018)

Civil registration system

Civil registration in the Kingdom of Eswatini was introduced in May 1927 and was mandatory for European and coloured races. It was further extended and made compulsory for all races in 1971.

The legal basis of civil registration is the *Births, Marriages and Deaths Act 1983* and its regulations, replacing the 1927 Act.

Legislative framework

CRVS and identification are guided by the following legislation:

- *Births, Marriages and Deaths Act 1983*;
- *Children's Protection and Welfare Act 2012*;
- *Marriage Act 1964*;
- Identification Order 1998;
- *Citizenship Act 1992*;
- Children's Policy 2010;
- Constitution of the Kingdom of Swaziland 2005;
- *Statistics Act 1967*;
- *Census Act 1904*;
- *Adoption of Children Act 1952*;
- *Administration of Estates Act 1902*;
- *Maintenance Act 1970*; and
- *Change of Name Act 1962.*

Management, organization, and operations

The entities responsible for the registration of vital events and identification are:

- Ministry of Home Affairs – Civil Registration Department;
- Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, Department of Government Computer Services; and
- Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Home Affairs – Civil Registration Department's mandate is to register and archive all vital events occurring in Eswatini as well as those occurring among citizens abroad. Individuals must notify civil registration officers of the occurrence of vital events.

The department has an obligation to ensure that the civil registration system operates continuously, universally, and permanently, with enough infrastructure to facilitate the population's access to local registration services.

The Government of Eswatini shares the responsibility with its citizens and residents to ensure that the identity of each person is officially recognized and that no one is left behind when it comes to the right to pursue opportunities in life.

National CRVS systems coordination mechanisms

National coordination mechanisms have been formalized. A technical working group provides a forum for CRVS systems. Stakeholders have developed terms of reference as the legal instrument facilitating the formation of these mechanisms.

The mechanisms are made up of two committees: The Senior Advisory Committee and the Technical Working Group. Both have representation from:

- Central Statistical Office through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development;
- Deputy Prime Minister's Office;
- ICAP at Columbia University;
- Ministry of Education and Training;
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology;
- Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration;
- Office of the Attorney General;
- United Nations Children's Fund;

- United Nations Population Fund;
- World Health Organization; and
- World Vision.

Administrative-level registration centres

The lowest administrative unit where civil registration offices are found is the chiefdom. There is a total of 66 civil registration centres in the Kingdom of Eswatini: 4 regional offices, 7 service centres, and 55 *tinkhundla* service centres.

Twenty-five civil registrars are mandated to supervise 44 registration officers.

Accessibility of civil registration services

The average distance to civil registration centres is more than 10 km. Most people travel to these centres on foot or by car.

Registration of vital events

The civil registration system in Eswatini was legally established through the *Births, Marriages and Deaths Act* in 1927. The revised Act of 1983 mandates that the Ministry of Home Affairs' Civil Registration Department register and archive all vital events occurring within Eswatini as well as those occurring to citizens abroad. The Act makes it compulsory for individuals to notify a civil registration officer of the occurrence of vital events.

There are two types of event notifiers: health institutions and non-health structures. Health institutions notify for events that occur in their respective facilities, while chiefs or *tindvuna* and the Royal Eswatini Police Service notify for events that occur at home or in the community.

The birth and death registration process is initiated by an informant, usually a parent or next of kin, who begins the process by informing a civil registration officer within 60 days of the event. A late registration can be done after 60 days. Registrations after 60 days are done through an application process to the national civil registrar, who clears the application after checking it to ensure compliance.

Events covered by the civil registration system are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Events covered by the civil registration system.

Vital event	Is event covered?	Are definitions aligned to UN suggested definitions?	Additional remarks
Live birth	Yes	Yes	
Death	Yes	Yes	
Marriage	Yes	Yes	
Divorce	Yes	N/A	Divorce is under Ministry of Justice legislation
Adoption	Yes	Yes	
Other: Stillbirth			

The legal framework for **birth registration** in Eswatini is stipulated in the *Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act*. The father, mother, an ascendant, or any person who attended the birth is mandated as a declarant for birth registration.

Requirements for birth registration include:

- Proof of birth;
- National identity cards;
- Marriage certificate or proof of marriage (if parents are married);
- Identification of the child's father, father's presence at registration, father's consent;
- Identification of the child's mother, mother's presence at registration, mother's consent;
- Birth notification/immunization card; and
- Name of the child.

Note: The father's presence is not compulsory. The mother can register without the father.

The key data elements collected at birth registration include:

- Child's name, date of birth, sex, weight at birth, place of occurrence [of the birth], date of registration, place of registration, type of birth (single, twin, triplet, etc.);
- Mother of the child, date of birth or age, ethnicity, place of usual residence, place/country of birth, birth (or parity) order, number of children born alive during her entire lifetime, number of fetal deaths during her entire lifetime, date of marriage; and
- Father of the child, date of birth or age, ethnicity, place of usual residence.

A birth certificate is required for proof of identity.

There are two birth processes, depending on whether it is an institutional or a community birth.

To register a child born in a health facility, the family brings the proof of birth issued by the facility to the Civil Registration Department. The parents must present their national identity cards: if they do not have one, then they must register for one prior to registering the birth. Registration for the personal identification number (PIN) effectively enters them in the National Population Register (NPR), thus ensuring that the birth registration is linked to the new record.

The civil registration officer completes the birth registration form manually, and a typist enters the information from the completed registration form into the NPR. Once it is in the system, the birth registration is complete, and the infant receives a birth certificate with a PIN.

In the case of a stillbirth, the family receives a certificate of stillbirth signed by medical personnel and uses this documentation to register the stillbirth at a civil registration centre.

Figure 1 highlights the birth registration process in health facilities, with links to other institutions responsible for CRVS.

Figure 2 highlights the birth registration process outside of a health facility, with links to other institutions responsible for CRVS. The process is like a birth in a health facility, except that the family does not obtain a proof of birth issued during delivery. Instead, the family produces the immunization card obtained at the health institution during post natal care or at immunization.

Figure 1: Birth registration process for health institution births.

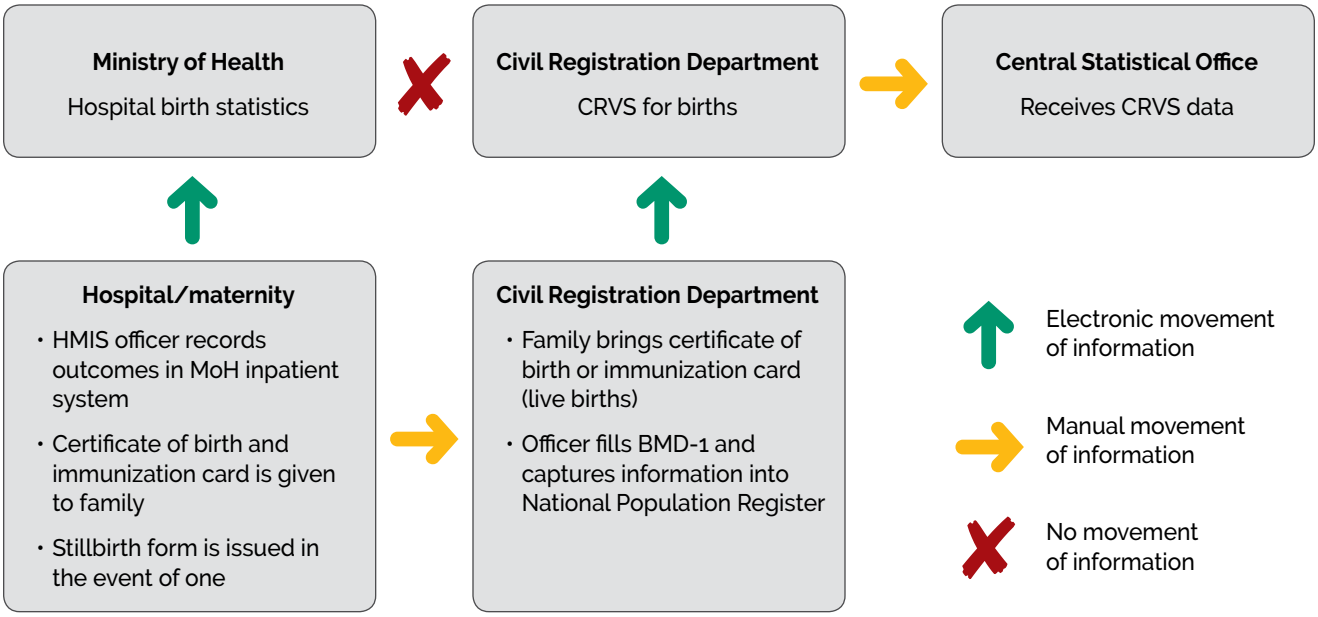
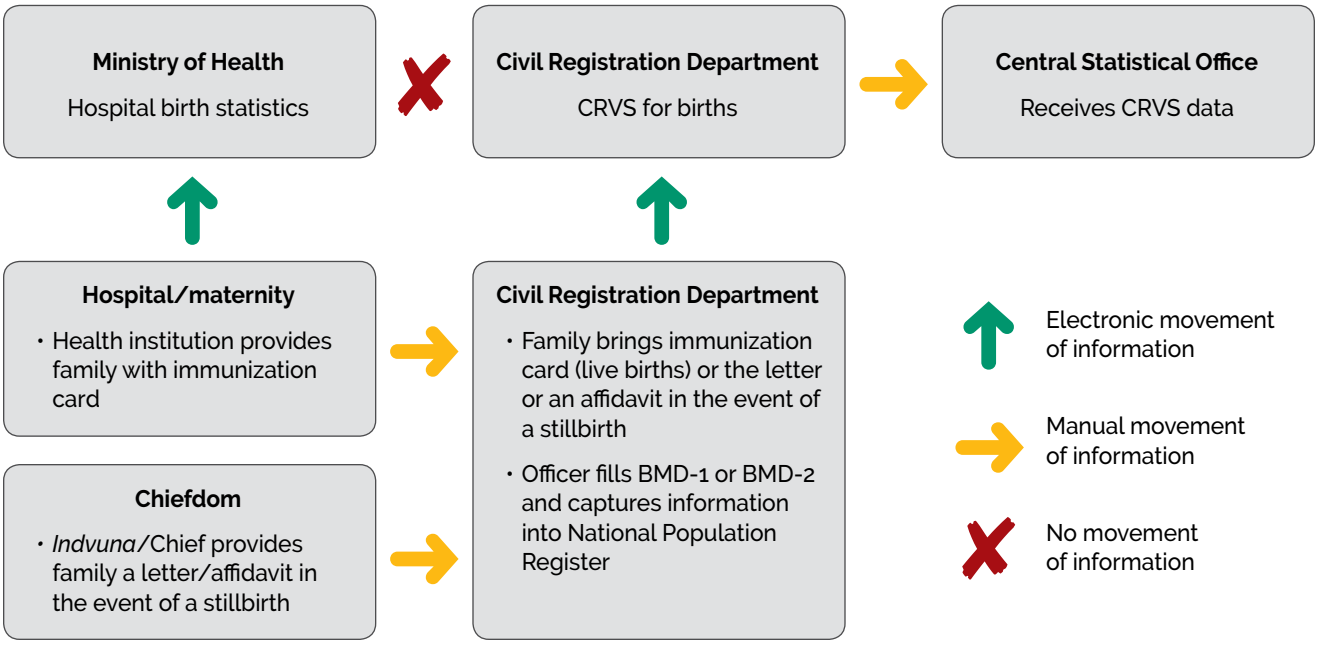


Figure 2: Birth registration process for home births (births outside a health facility).



When a **death** occurs, an official death certificate is issued to the family of the deceased after registration. The mandated legal informant to register a death is a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of the deceased. A two-month period is allowed for registration.

At registration, no fee is paid, but penalties are charged for late registration. No other official fees are involved in the death registration process. The registration requirements or fees are not specific for the deaths of people who were residents in the country and of foreign nationality. Declarants are required to have a birth certificate, a citizenship certificate, or a permit that allows them to be in the country lawfully, and a passport if they are not Swati, as well as an identification card, age at death, date of death, medical death certificate, or confirmation from the chief to facilitate death registration.

The key data elements collected at death registration include:

- Name, sex, date of birth or age, marital status, place of usual residence, and place of usual residence of the mother for deaths under 1 year of age;
- Date of death, place of death occurrence, date of registration, place of registration, and cause of death;
- In cases of fetal death:
  - Sex of the fetus, date of occurrence of fetal delivery, place of occurrence, date of registration, place of registration;
  - Mother of the child: Date of birth or age, number of children born alive during her lifetime, number of fetal deaths during her lifetime, date of last live birth, date of marriage, place of usual residence; and
  - Father of the child: Date of birth or age of the father, place of usual residence.

A death certificate is required for cremation, burial, inheritance, and obtaining social assistance.

The death registration process at the health facility requires qualified medical personnel (such as the physician attending the patient) to complete the medical certificate, including the cause of death. The family presents this at the civil registration centre.

At the civil registration centre, the civil registration officer completes the death registration form manually, and a typist enters the information into the NPR. Once it is in the system, the death registration is complete, and a death certificate is issued. For unnatural deaths, however, including accidents, suicides, and homicides, the police and/or a medical-legal authority provide documentation of the death to the family so they can register the death and obtain a death certificate.

Figure 3 highlights the death registration process in health facilities with links to other institutions responsible for CRVS.

Figure 4 highlights the death registration process outside of health facilities with links to other institutions responsible for CRVS.

The process is like that for a death in a health facility, except that if the family does not obtain a medical certificate of the cause of death, it will instead request a letter signed by a chief or *indvuna*. Cause-of-death information is not available for deaths occurring in the community.

Figure 3: Death registration process in health institutions.

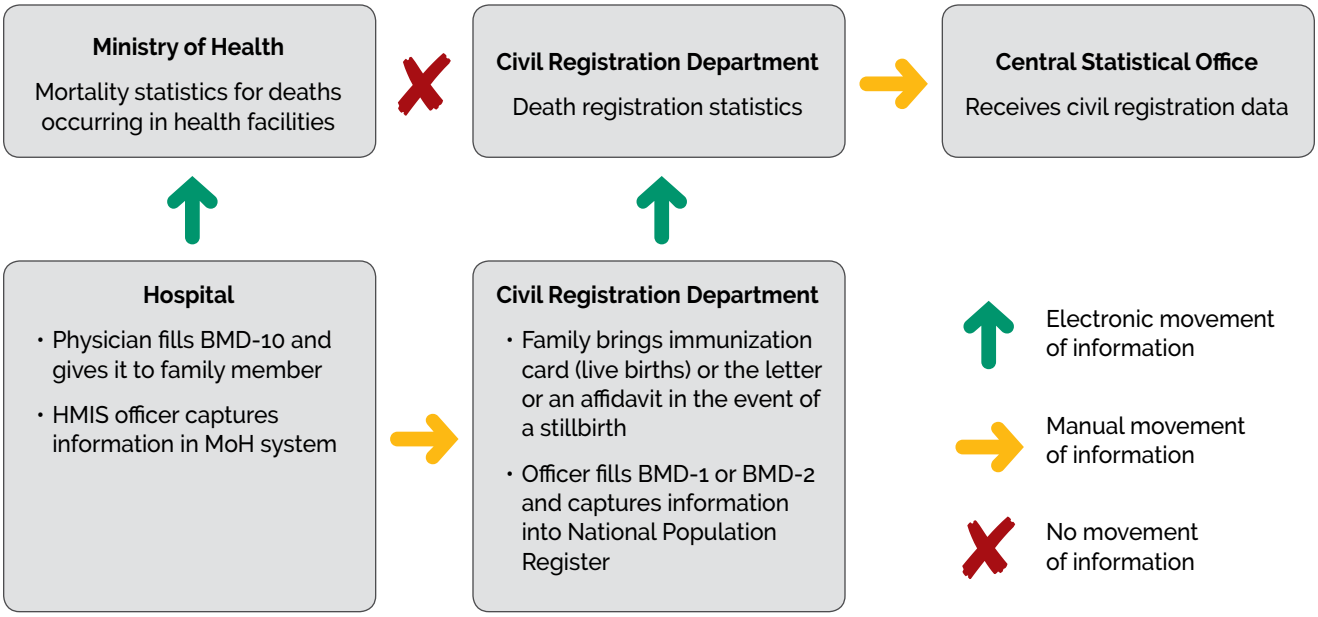
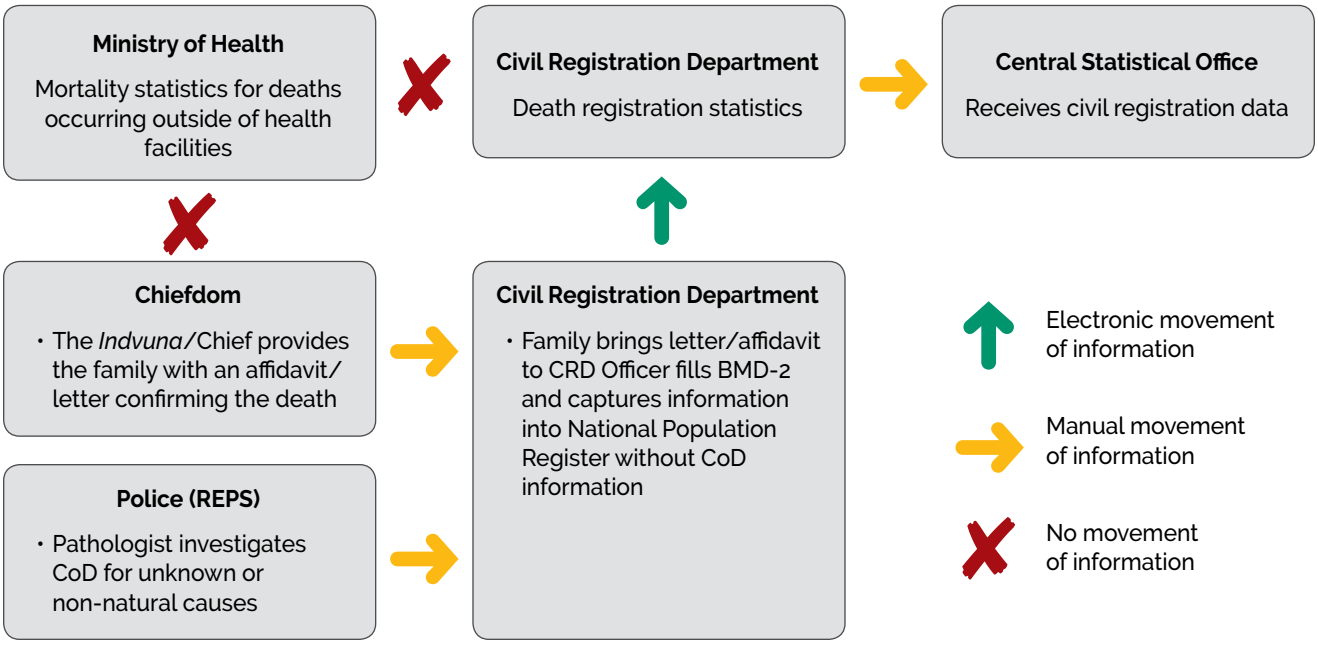


Figure 4: Death registration process for deaths outside a health facility.



The legal framework for **marriage registration** is stipulated in the *Marriage Act* of 1964; the legal age for marriage is 21 years for both men and women. Exemptions are provided with parents' or guardians' consent: 16 years for women and 18 years for men. Persons who have previously been married, in accordance with Swazi law and custom or civil rights, shall not be regarded as minors. There is a legal obligation to register marriages; the time allowed for registration is 7 days for civil marriages and 14 days for customary marriages, with varying fees for "special" or customary marriages.

Penalties are levied for late registration: within 45 days for marriages under Swazi law and custom and within 7 days for other types of marriages. The place of registration is the civil registration office, local authority, community, or place of occurrence of the marriage.

The requirements for marriage registration include:

- National identity card for bride and groom;
- Husband's presence at registration;
- Wife's presence at registration;
- Proof of husband's age;
- Witnesses to the marriage; and
- Marriage officer.

The following information is collected in the marriage register:

- Spouses: Date of birth or age of bride, place of usual residence of bride, ethnicity of bride, date of birth or age of groom, place of usual residence of groom, ethnicity of groom;
- Marriage: Date of occurrence, date of registration, place of occurrence, place of registration.

A marriage certificate is also essential for registering children and transferring or sharing land ownership.

Fees

There is no cost to register vital events, but there is a fee for late or delayed registration. The costs of registering and certifying vital events are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Fees for issuing vital events certificates.

Vital event	Certification fee	Certification cost	Remarks
Birth	US$1	US$2	Less than 60 days is free; after 60 days, the cost is less than US$2
Marriage	US$1	US$5	Customary and civil rights (banns) marriage is less than US$2 A civil rights special license is less than US$5
Divorce	US$2		
Death	US$1	US$2	Less than 60 days is free; after 60 days is less than US$2

Backlog of unregistered births

The estimated backlog of unregistered births is 70 percent.[17]

Sample registration forms

Registration forms are processed manually (on paper). All vital events are directly recorded on non-standardized forms: fields are filled in manually in cursive writing, which makes it impossible to scan them using optical character recognition. All Civil Registration Department offices capture the manual information from the forms into the automated system to issue a certificate for the registered vital event.

Samples of registration forms and certificates can be found on the UNICEF Eswatini website:

- Birth certificate
- Marriage certificate
- Death certificate

Vital statistics system

Vital statistics

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development is empowered by the *Statistics Act* of 1967 to collect and analyze statistics, including demographic and vital statistics. The mission is "to effectively coordinate the National Statistical System, provide high quality statistical data and information required for evidence-based policy, planning and decision-making for national socio-economic development, administration, accountability, and to promote a culture of using statistics."

The CSO makes data available on vital statistics through decennial censuses and surveys. For the generation of vital statistics, the CSO is guided on the user agreement between the parties involved in CRVS: Government Computer Services in the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, with permission from the Civil Registration Department.

The CSO extracts CRVS data from the NPR for sorting and cleaning. Frequency tables were generated under the technical guidance of ICAP. The frequencies for the different indicators were disaggregated by independent categorical variables, including but not limited to age, sex, and region. The NPR data were also supplemented with data recorded by HMIS from all health institutions in the country.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the development partner that supports the vital statistics system in Eswatini outside the government administration.

Coverage and completeness

The registration of vital events covers all segments of the population and all geographic areas in the country. Completeness of registration of vital events was last estimated in 2019 (see Table 3).[18]

Table 3: Current level of completeness of registration of vital events in the country.

Vital event	Completeness of registration[19]				Remarks
	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Live birth	8.3%	13.2%	19.6%	27.6%	
Marriage					Not available
Divorce					Not available
Death	26.5%	25.7%	25.5%		

The latest vital statistics reports are found in the Eswatini Annual Vital Statistics Report.[20]

Causes of death

Cause-of-death information collected through the civil registration system is listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Cause-of-death information collection through the civil registration system.

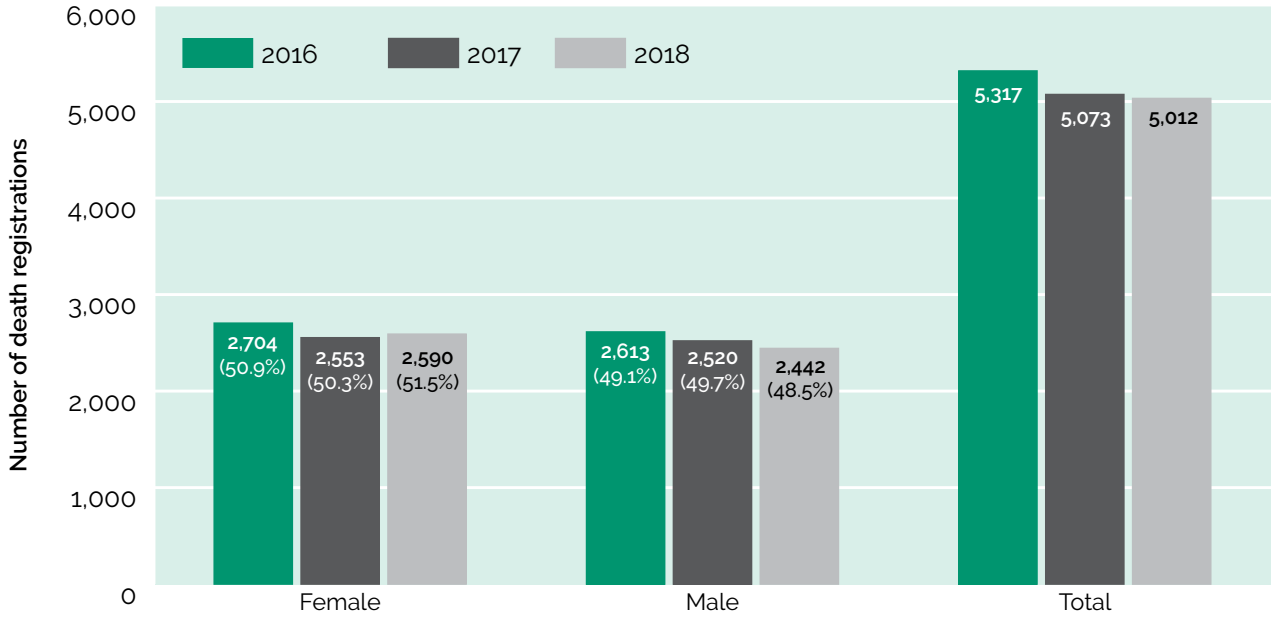
Cause of death	Is COD information collected through the civil registration system?	Is the Standard International Form of Medical Certificate of COD used to record deaths?
For deaths occurring in health facilities	Yes	Yes
For natural deaths occurring in the communities	No	No
For non-natural deaths occurring in the communities	No	No

For non-institutional deaths, verbal autopsy tools or methods are not used to collect cause-of-death information. The cause of death is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th version (ICD-10). Provisions in the *Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act* require all deaths to be medically certified, regardless of where they occurred.

The latest report on the causes of death published is in the Eswatini Annual Vital Statistics Report of 2018.[21]

Of the deaths that occurred in 2018, 5,032 were registered. Slightly more deaths of females were registered (51.5 percent) compared to males (48.5 percent). There has been a slight decrease in the number of registered deaths over the years, from 5,317 deaths in 2016 to 5,032 registered deaths in 2018. This is represented in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Total number of death registrations by sex and year.

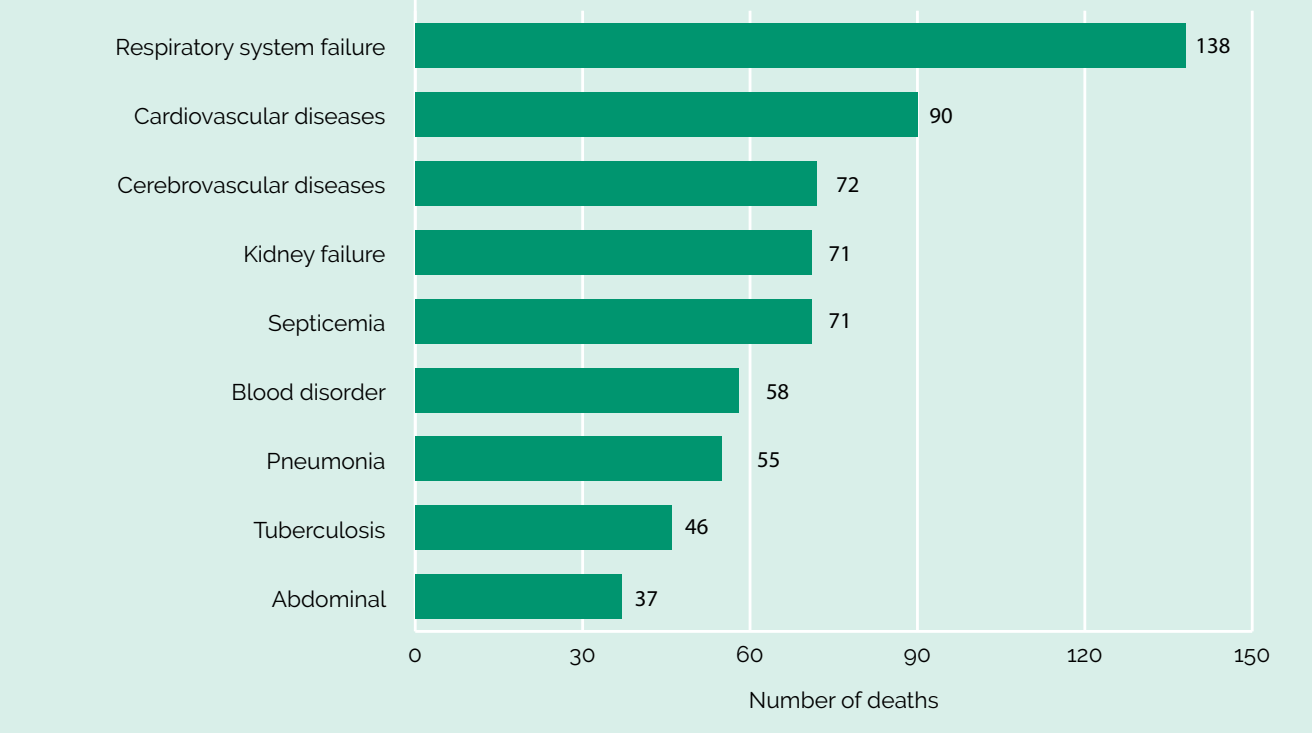


Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

Respiratory system failure was the most prevalent cause of death, accounting for 138 deaths. It was followed by cardiovascular diseases (90) and cerebral-vascular diseases (72). See Figure 6 below.

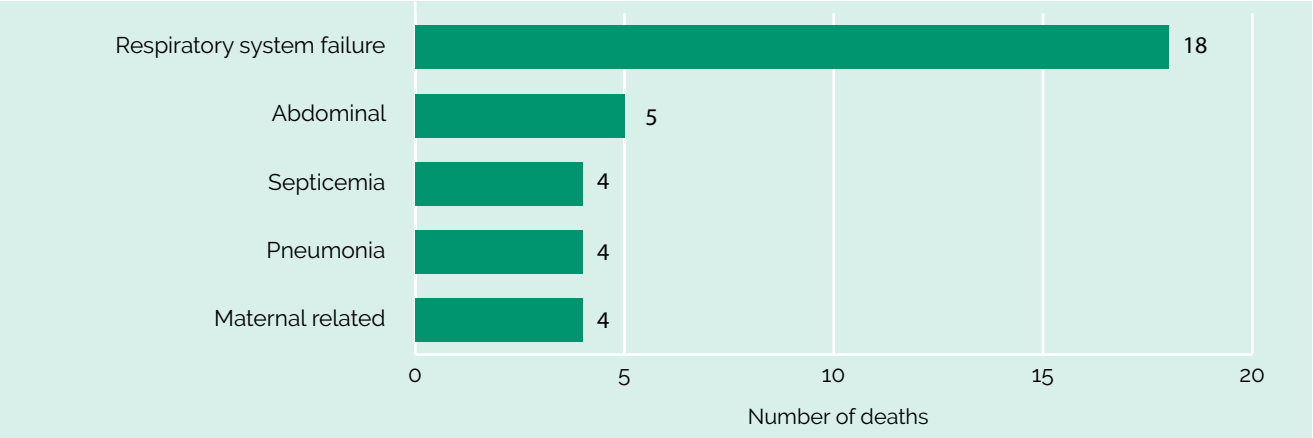
For children under 5 years old, the most prevalent cause of death is respiratory system failure, which had 18 registered cases. This was followed by abdominal conditions, with 5 cases, as shown in Figure 7 below.

Figure 6: Ten leading causes of death, 2018.



Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

Figure 7: Five leading causes of death for children under 5 years.



Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

Digitization

Government Computer Services (GCS) in the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology is responsible for the central management of government data. Since 2001, GCS has collaborated with the Civil Registration Department to design an electronic system to capture and store civil registration records. The home-built system uses the Adaptable Database System (ADABAS), which is not a purely relational database, to store the records. Ministry of Home Affairs headquarters and civil registration centres are connected via a wide-area network (WAN) fibre cable and leased data lines. NPR data are stored on the mainframe hosted by GCS and are regularly backed up onto tapes that are stored off-site.

GCS is responsible for maintaining and installing software in all civil registration centres for the Civil Registration Department and for providing access rights to various users. The department relies on GCS to produce ad hoc or preprogrammed reports of the numbers of registrations, which it submits quarterly to Parliament.

Computerization

Computer use in CRVS is outlined in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Computer use in CRVS.

Centre	Are computers used for civil registration?
Local registrars across the country	Yes
Urban centres	Yes
Health facilities	No

Mobile technology application

The Civil Registration Department does not have any institutional arrangement with mobile network operators or with the government communications commission to use mobile technology for the notification of vital events occurrence. However, a USSD code is used to check the status of an identity document after a person has applied.

Unique identification number

A unique PIN is issued upon birth registration. It is used when a person applies for ID at age 16.

Population register

The Ministry of Home Affairs – Civil Registration Department owns the NPR. GCS is responsible for maintaining and installing software in all civil registration centres for the department and providing access rights to various users. The PIN allows the NPR to link vital events and other services that individuals can access. Several government entities use information from the NPR, including the pension fund, payroll, election committee, and health and insurance systems.

The Ministry of Health plays an important role in assuring the quality and completeness of the NPR by providing documented evidence on births and deaths. Health institutions are not required to provide certification for a death occurring within 24 hours following admission into a health facility. However, the *Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act* stipulates that health returns (information on births and deaths occurring in hospitals) are to be transmitted to the Civil Registration Department by the middle of each month.

The Ministry of Health reportedly has historical individual-level statistics archived in its Health Management Information System. These permit a capture-recapture system that can compare the share of health vital statistics registered in the civil registration system.

Cause-of-death information is collected through the CRVS system. Client Management Information System outpatient facilities are networked with the NPR. This offers the potential for real-time notification of hospital-based birth and death events. Health facilities access patients' PINs directly from the NPR and GCS and provide updates of new PINs through uploads using a file transfer protocol.

Link with identification system

The Civil Registration Department uses a unique number that is common to civil registration and ID management.

Data protection and data privacy

The *Constitution of Swaziland Act No. 1 of 2015* is the primary legislation from which all privacy laws flow. In the absence of specific legislation, common law applies. The basic laws on data protection are the following:[22]

- Constitution;
- Swaziland Communications Commission (Consumer Protection) Regulations, 2016, issued pursuant to the *Swaziland Communications Commissions Act of 2013*;
- *Consumer Credit Act No. 7 of 2016*; and
- Common law, as it applies from time to time.

The *Data Protection Bill No. 21 of 2017* seeks to collate all existing data protection legislation, but it has not been promulgated into law yet.

Eswatini recognizes and protects the rights of individuals to their personal information. As a result, the collection, use, and disclosure of information concerning a legal person, by means of computer or other processing, can be done only with the specific consent of the person. The unauthorized collection and processing of personal data and the disclosure of that data to third parties is prohibited and can only be done in specific instances.

Interface with other sectors and operations

No information was provided.

Improvement initiatives and external support

Improvement plan and budget

The Civil Registration Department has a strategic plan; no further information was provided.

Budgetary allocations and requirements

The total budget for the approved five-year strategic plan was not provided.

Activities identified as high priorities

The CRVS activity that is identified as a high priority in the national plan but that lacks funding is listed in Table 6 below.

Table 6: High-priority activities lacking funding in the national plan.

High priority areas in the strategic plan lacking funding[23]	Estimated cost	Expected government allocation	Expected budget gaps	Remarks
Computerization of the state system	Not yet costed			

Support from development partners

The development partners that have provided support to Eswatini's CRVS systems improvement initiative are listed in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Support from development partners.

International organizations, NGOs, and partners	Mandate
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Supports several activities to strengthen birth registration, including the 2014 Comprehensive Country Assessment. UNICEF also provides support to the Ministry of Home Affairs – Civil Registration Department to undertake a legislative review and revision of the 1983 *Births, Marriages and Deaths Act* and to accelerate the enhancement of the birth registration process.
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Technical and financial support to CSO for routine CRVS data generation. Support for production and dissemination of the Annual Vital Statistics Report.
ICAP – University of Columbia	Technical assistance to CSO for compiling CRVS-related reports. Technical support to make CRVS systems interoperable.
World Vision	Birth registration
World Health Organization (WHO)	Developed policy guidelines and participated in the Comprehensive Country Assessment in 2014. WHO will provide technical assistance, including resource mobilization and coordination.

Conclusion

The Kingdom of Eswatini has made great strides in improving CRVS. Some notable achievements include:

- Integration of civil registration and identification;
- Production of vital statistics reports; and
- Constant involvement of stakeholders in the planning and execution of CRVS functions.

The government is continuously working on solutions to improve service delivery. Some recommendations to be adopted to achieve more effective and efficient coordination among national key stakeholders at country level include:

- Issuance of birth notifications at health facilities should be improved to ensure that mothers face fewer obstacles to registration. This will require increasing awareness among healthcare workers; improved birth registration data collection, use, and dissemination; and higher-level advocacy.

- Coordination between the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health is required to further improve existing structures for birth registration to ensure they are used optimally.
- Interventions to create demand are required at all levels of service provision and policy to engage community members, facility staff, and national officials responsible for birth registration.
- Information systems between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Home Affairs should be interoperable to reduce the data burden in the registration process and improve birth registration.

The Civil Registration Department further identifies some of the social factors affecting registration of vital events:

- Lack of awareness about the importance of birth registration in the community;
- The need for family consultations in naming the child and the actual birth registration process delay initiation of the process;
- Negative public perceptions of and attitudes toward birth registration centres;
- Limited funding (internal and external) for CRVS;
- Limited human resources for birth registration within the Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Deaths are registered if there is a benefit (such as insurance claims);
- Registration of customary marriages is low because people think that once the ceremony has been performed, there is no need for registration; and
- Registration of stillbirths is very low; they are registered if there is a financial gain involved. Many believe a stillborn baby should be buried as soon as it is born.

Some upcoming priorities in the country's or Civil Registration Department planning cycle include:

- Birth registration in all health facilities where babies are born;
- Health facilities as an entry point for registration;
- Improving the issuing of proof of birth forms by health facilities to minimize the number of obstacles that mothers face during the birth registration process;
- Birth, marriage, death, and divorce registration services provided and accessed widely to ensure that all vital events are registered;
- Review of legislation; and
- Interoperability between existing Ministry of Health and Ministry of Home Affairs – Civil Registration Department information systems for birth, marriage, and death registration and for divorce data collection and reporting.

Eswatini would like to achieve more effective and efficient coordination among national key stakeholders at the country level through pooling the efforts of the actors involved in the civil status system.

The Civil Registration Department should be supported by development partners in the following areas:

- Review of legislation;
- System interoperability;
- Technical and financial assistance on drafting a strategic plan: the plan that was done during the *Swaziland Communications Commissions Act of 2013* has expired and was not costed; and
- Upgrading of the ID management system.

Resources

Websites

Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini – gov.sz/index.php

World Health Organization (WHO) Eswatini – who.int/countries/swz

UNICEF Eswatini – data.unicef.org/crvs/swaziland

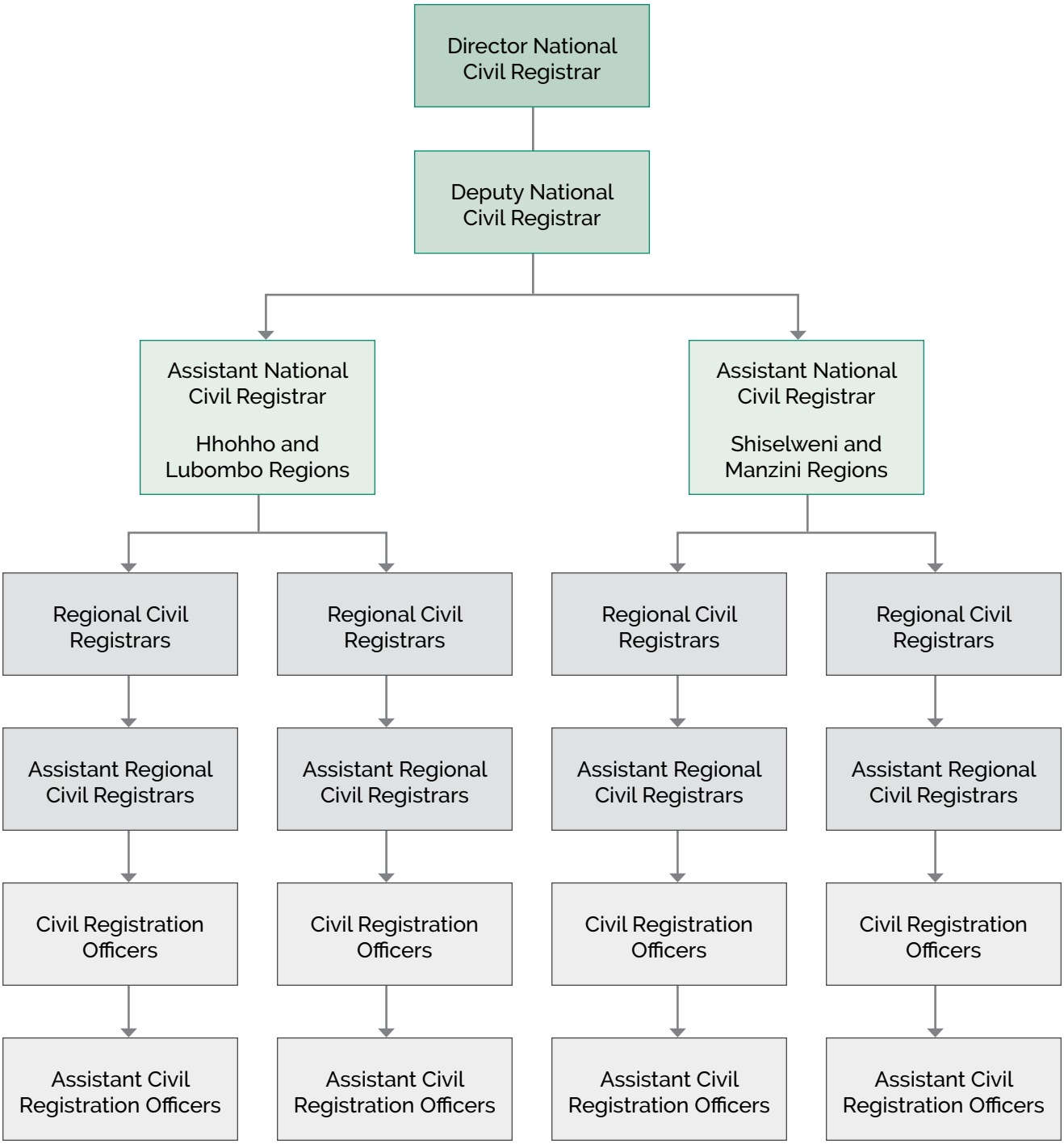
Additional materials

Swaziland. 1983. *The Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act*, 1983. data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SwazilandBirthDeathAct1983.pdf

Swaziland. 1964. *The Marriage Act.* data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/THE-MARRIAGE-ACT_1964_Swaziland.pdf

One Trust Data Guidance. 2020. Eswatini Data Protection Overview. dataguidance.com/notes/eswatini-data-protection-overview

Annex 1: Civil Registration Department Organigram



Endnotes

1 World Bank. 2019. Population Projection: Eswatini. databank.worldbank.org/views/reports/reportwidget.aspx?Report_Name=CountryProfileandId=b450fd57andtbar=yanddd=yandinf=nandzm=nandcountry=SWZ

2 World Bank. 2019. Reports on Eswatini. databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2andcountry=SWZ

3 World Bank. 2019. Population Projection: Eswatini. databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2andcountry=SWZ

4 Birth or death registration completeness means the actual number of registered births or deaths divided by the estimated number of births or deaths in a particular country or area, in a specified time period, usually one year. For further reading, see ECA, ESCAP and Statistics Norway. 2016.

5 Central Statistical Office. 2018. Annual Vital Statistics Report: January 2018 – December 2018.

6 UNICEF. 2014. MICS Report. UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women. data.unicef.org/country/swz

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8 UNICEF. 2015. MICS Report. data.unicef.org/country/swz/

9 DPT1: Surviving infants who received the first dose of diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DPT) vaccine.

10 UNICEF. 2018. MICS Report. data.unicef.org/country/swz/

11 Trading Economics. 2018. Swaziland – Death Rate, Crude. World Bank. tradingeconomics.com/swaziland/death-rate-crude-per-1-000-people-wb-data.html#:~:text=Death%20rate%2C%20crude%20(per%201%2C000,compiled%20from%20officially%20recognized%20sources

12 2017. Population and Housing Census Report.

13 Ibid.

14 Ibid.

15 UNICEF. MICS Report. data.unicef.org/country/swz/

16 Ibid.

17 Any unregistered births after one year from the occurrence of the event.

18 Ministry of Home Affairs. 2018. CRVS Report.

19 Civil registration completeness means the actual number of registered events (births or deaths) divided by the estimated number of vital events (births or deaths). Complete registration or 100 percent completeness has been achieved when every vital event that has occurred to members of the population of a particular country (or area), in a specified time period, has been registered in the system.

20 Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Central Statistics Office. 2016, 2017, 2018. Eswatini Annual Vital Statistics Report.

21 Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Central Statistics Office. 2018. Eswatini Annual Vital Statistics Report.

22 OneTrust DataGuidance. 2020. Eswatini – Data Protection Overview. dataguidance.com/notes/eswatini-data-protection-overview

23 The high priorities should be identified in the assessment leading to the preparation of the strategic plan. The priorities could differ from country to country. In general, examples could be advocacy, updating the legal framework, improving registration coverage, improving quality of registers, strengthening coordination among key stakeholders, generating vital statistics including causes of death, introducing technology, clearance of backlog of registration of births, etc.

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