



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
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SNAPSHOT

OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS OF

MALI



ECA

Program information

About the Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems

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.

The Centre of Excellence was established with funding from Global Affairs Canada and IDRC and contributes directly to the work of the Global Financing Facility, a key financing platform of the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health.

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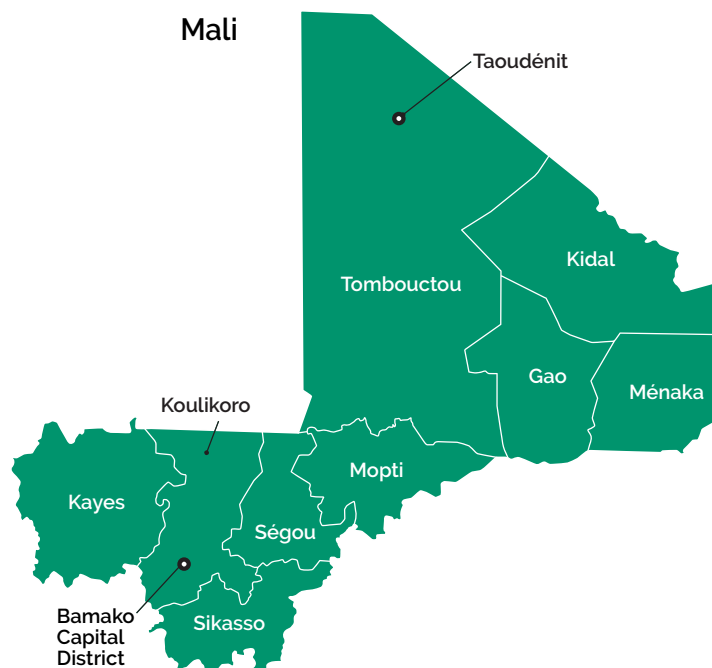
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The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in Mali.

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

The report will also serve as an important benchmarking tool for the improvement initiatives of other countries.



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

The Republic of Mali (in French, *République du Mali*; Bambara, *Mali ka Fasojamana*; and N'Ko script, **𞤈𞥅𞤀𞤢𞤊𞤂𞤏𞤢𞤁𞤉𞤃𞤸**) is a landlocked country in West Africa bordering Algeria to the north, Niger to the east, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire to the south, Guinea to the southwest, and Senegal and Mauritania to the west. Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa.

Since 2016, Mali has been divided into 10 regions and the District of Bamako. Each region has a governor. The implementation of the two newest regions, Taoudénit (formerly part of Tombouctou Region) and Ménaka (formerly Ménaka Cercle in Gao Region), has been ongoing since January 2016; a governor and transitional council have been appointed for both regions. The 10 regions in turn are subdivided into 56 *cercles* and 703 *communes*.

- Land area:¹ Just over 1,240,000 km²
- Population: About 19.8 million (estimated 2018), with an annual growth rate of 3 percent. In 2017, 67 percent of its population was estimated to be under the age of 25.
- Capital city: Bamako
- Official working language: French
- Ministry responsible for civil registration: Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization
- Civil registration agency: National Directorate of Civil Status (DNEC).
- National statistical office: National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT).

CRVS dimensions

Births	
Completeness of birth registration ²	71% (2018) ³
Children under 5 years of age whose births were reported as registered	87% (2015) ⁴
Births attended by skilled health personnel	44% (2018) ⁵
Women aged 15–49 who received antenatal care from a skilled provider	67% (2015) ⁶
DPT1 immunization coverage among 1-year-olds ⁷	70% (2018) ⁸
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	42.08 (2018) ⁹
Total fertility rate (live births per woman)	5.9 (2018) ¹⁰
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 years)	167 (2017) ¹¹
Population under age 15 years	Not available
Institutional deliveries: percentage of deliveries in a health facility	67% (2018) ¹²
Deaths	
Completeness of death registration	7.19% (2018)
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	9.98 (2017)
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	61.96 (2018) ¹³
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	97.8 (2018) ¹⁴
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	620 (2015) ¹⁵
Marriages and divorces	
Marriage registration rate	Not available
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 15	Not available
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 18	Not available
Divorce registration rate	Not available
Vital statistics including causes of death data	
Compilation and dissemination of civil registration-based statistics	Not available
Medically certified causes of death	Not available

Civil registration system

Before the end of the colonial period until independence in 1960, there were two civil status systems in French West Africa: citizens with French civil status subject to the French civil code with a modern civil status on the one hand, and those subject to customary status with an Indigenous civil status on the other.

In African societies, each family, village, or tribe had its own methods of calculating and identifying the individual. Civil status in its modern form was introduced in Africa by colonization. The evolution of civil status in Mali after independence involved the unification of the status of Malian citizens and the civil status system in 1961 under Circular N° 27/DI-2 of 1961. The purpose was to break with the colonial period, when the regime was different for nationals and emancipated Indigenous people.

The year 1962 saw the implementation of the first Marriage and Guardianship Code under *Act No. 62-17/AN-RM of 3 February 1962*. All marriages contracted before its promulgation are legal and can be the subject of a supplementary judgement. As of 1968, all Malian citizens have been obligated to declare their civil status. Implications of *Law No. 68-14/AN-RM of 17 February 1968* include the automatic registration of all facts by civil registrars and the decentralization of the system through the creation of auxiliary centres in villages.

The Project for the Improvement of Civil Status Registration and Statistics was launched in 1985. This was cancelled with the termination of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) funding.

Law No. 87-27 of 10 March 1987, supplemented by *Law No. 88-37 of 5 April 1988*, deal with the generalities of civil status (centres, officers and civil registrars, their duties, notebooks, and registers), common and specific rules for civil status records, consular civil status, and penalties.

The next major reform was in 2003, when the Civil Status Consolidation Support Mission was created. This recommended

- adaptation of the civil status system;
- organization of the administrative census for civil status purposes; and
- adaptation of the civil status system to the context of decentralization in 2006.

Law No. 06-024 of 28 June 2006 relating to civil status included six major innovations:

- Free birth and death declarations;
- Delegation by the sub-prefects of the status of civil registrar of the main centres to the mayors of the communes;
- Production of civil status documents exclusively by the Ministry in charge of civil status;
- Drawing up of supplementary judgements under strict conditions;
- Revision of the conditions and modalities for the creation of civil status centres with a view to increasing their accessibility to the population;
- Adaptation of penalties to the provisions of the new Penal Code.

In 2009, the government carried out the Administrative Census of Civil Status. Some of the major results included:

- 15,246,644 people enrolled;
- 14,529,317 people holding national identification number (NINA) cards; and
- The creation of a population database at the Civil Status Data Processing Centre.

Additional reforms to civil registration in Mali included the creation of the National Directorate of Civil Status (DNEC) in 2011 by *Law No. 2011-069 of 25 November 2011*; hence, the Adoption of *Law No. 2011-087 of 30/12/2011* on the Code of Persons and the Family, Book 1, Title IV of which is devoted to civil status. In addition, the Civil Status Data Processing Centre was created by *Law No. 2013-008 of 6 May 2013*.

Legislative framework

The law governing civil registration in Mali is the Persons and Family Code, which was adopted and came into force in 2011.

Demographic events indicated in legislation include births, marriages, and deaths. The law covers all legal geographic areas of Mali, its diplomatic and consular representations, and its entire population, including non-citizens and refugees. The law also has a provision for the collection of vital statistics.

Management, organization, and operations

In Mali, DNEC under the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization is the institution responsible for civil registration in the country.

The other ministries and agencies responsible for notifying and registration of vital events are:

- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Religious Affairs and Worship;
- Ministry of Justice;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; and
- Ministry of Security and Civil Protection.

Municipalities have been delegated the responsibility for drawing up civil status documents. The organizational civil registration mandate in Mali is under the organic frameworks of the DNEC and its Civil Status Processing Centre. The organizational structure is highlighted in Annexes 1 and 2.

National CRVS systems coordination mechanisms

Civil registration in Mali uses a multisectoral approach, with several actors involved in civil status. These include institutions (ministerial departments) and staff with specific responsibilities.

There is a national coordination mechanism that provides a forum for stakeholders in CRVS systems, which are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: National coordination committees.

National coordination mechanisms	Member departments, services, and agencies
National Committee for the Coordination of the Civil Registry System and Vital Statistics (Decree No. 2016-0330)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization • Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation • Ministry of Religious Affairs and Worship • Ministry of Justice • Ministry of Health and Social Affairs • Ministry of the Economy and Finance • Ministry of Malians Abroad • Ministry of Population • Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family • Civil Status Data Processing Centre • General Directorate of Territorial Communities • National Institute of Statistics
Technical Committee for the Coordination of the Vital Records and Vital Statistics Registration System (Decree No. 2016-0330)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Directorate of Civil Status • General Directorate of Territorial Administration • General Directorate of Territorial Communities • National Directorate of Borders • Human Resources Directorate of the Administration Sector • Planning Unit of the Administration Sector • General Directorate of Health • Health Planning Unit • Vital Statistics Processing Centre

Decree No. 2016-0330 established a CRVS national coordinating committee and stipulated its operations.

Administrative-level registration centres

The lowest administrative level is at the parish level. Mali has 1,047 civil registration centres (main and secondary), 51 of which are abroad, and the special centre housed at DNEC. This number will increase following the creation of new communes in the new regions in Mali.

Mali has 1,506 civil registrars: 1,414 at the commune level, 91 abroad, and 1 at DNEC's special centre.

Accessibility of civil registration services

The average distance of most households from the nearest local registration office is 5 to 10 km. The average estimated time it would take most households to reach their nearest local registration office on foot or by bicycle is 1 to 4 hours; by car and by motorcycle, less than 1 hour.

Registration of vital events

The events currently covered by the civil registration system include those in Table 2.

Table 2: Events covered by the civil registration system.

Vital events	Is event covered?	Are definitions aligned to UN suggested definitions?	Additional remarks
Live birth	Yes	Yes	
Death	Yes	Yes	
Marriage	Yes	No	
Divorce	No		Marginal entry in the registers
Adoptions	Yes		Cases of adoption by descent: marginal mention in the registers

The physical forms for registration of vital events — the birth and death registration forms — do not contain information on capturing vital statistics, so the civil registration and vital statistics documents are also prepared separately. Vital statistics records are prepared separately.

The departments involved in the functioning of civil status include the following:

The **Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization** manages the civil status system and is responsible for:

- The preparation of legislative and regulatory texts governing civil status;
- The general organization of the system, recruitment, training, and retraining of civil status personnel;
- Technical and administrative control of the system and raising public awareness;
- The transmission and use of civil status documents;
- Intervention in the event of violent or suspicious death, since civil registrars and reporting agents who register deaths must ensure that the death is natural;

- Coordinating and monitoring the action of public services and agencies in the implementation of national civil registration policy;
- Carrying out all research needed to implement the civil status policy;
- Defining the procedures and administrative channels needed to operate a computerized civil status management system and the National Register of Natural Persons;
- Managing the National Register of Natural Persons and the civil status archives;
- Defining the procedures for interconnecting applications managing data relating to the identity of Malians;
- Participating in the drafting of legislation on the protection of personal data;
- Tracking the training and retraining of staff responsible for managing civil status;
- Producing statistics on civil status events on an annual basis; and
- Transcribing the records of Malians who hold civil status documents issued by foreign authorities.

The **Ministry of Justice** is responsible for the following civil registration activities:

- Participating in the drafting of texts on civil status;
- Giving authenticity to certain civil status documents (the initialling and scoring of civil status registers);
- Guaranteeing the veracity of certain declarations by suppletive judgements; and
- Carrying out regular checks on declaration registers and civil status registers.

The **Ministry of Health** plays a very important role upstream for the establishment of birth and death records, as the civil registrar can only establish a birth and death record on the basis of the declaration component most often recorded in health facilities. During their home visits, community health workers in the villages collect information about newborns that they report to the village or health reporting officer.

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** oversees the civil status centres set up at Mali's diplomatic and consular missions. These are responsible for collecting the civil status records of Malians abroad. The established records are transmitted to DNEC through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The **Ministry of the Economy and Finance's** agreement regulates the resources derived from issuing copies of civil status certificates and civil status booklets.

The **National Institute of Statistics** is involved in the generation and use of vital statistics, specifically:

- Collecting statistics concerning births, which allows the government to know the number of births and their geographical distribution;
- Collecting statistics on deaths to provide information on the causes of death and enable appropriate measures to be taken, if necessary;

- Gathering marriage statistics to have proof of the creation of a family and to design family health programs on that basis.

The **Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family** intervenes within the framework of advocacy with decision-makers and raises public awareness about the role of civil registration.

The **Ministry of Religious Affairs and Worship** plays a role too. Religious marriages are celebrated by officers of worship, who forward the relevant cards to civil registry officers for transcription into the civil registers.

Procedures for registering civil status records

Next, the persons in charge of civil status include the registrars of civil status and the agents of civil status declaration, according to Article 91 of *Law No. 2011-087 of 30 December 2011 on the Individuals and Family Code*.

The civil registrars are designated in civil status centres to establish and sign civil status documents, celebrate marriages, and keep and transmit civil status documents (art. 92, Law No. 2011-087). Civil registrars are the mayors and deputy mayors or communal councillors to whom the mayors have given a delegation.

Ambassadors and consuls general are also civil registrars. In the event of the dissolution of the communal council, members of the interim authority exercise the functions of civil registrars by delegation under the authority of the president of the interim authority.

There are instances where special centres are created: for example, in new districts or areas outside the designated civil registration centres like Malian embassies, the authority holding the special centre shall be a civil registrar. The latter is appointed by order of the minister in charge of civil status.

As for the civil registrar of the special centre, this person is responsible for:

- Receiving and conserving parts of documents from the civil status centres of the embassies and consulates general of Mali;
- Transcribing civil status records drawn up abroad concerning Malians;
- Affixing marginal notes on documents arriving from abroad;
- Delivering extracts and copies of the acts preserved at the centre level;
- Transmitting notices of mention to the embassies and consulates general of Mali; and
- Transmitting, if necessary, the sections intended for the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (in charge of civil status) for transcriptions made at the centre (art. 99, *Law No. 2011-087*).

In the main and secondary civil registration centres, the officers are responsible for:

- Receiving birth and death registration forms;
- Receiving marriage declarations and carrying out the celebration of marriages;
- Drawing up and signing civil status records;
- Issuing extracts and copies of the acts;
- Receiving the acknowledgements and legitimations of natural children and drawing up the record;
- Transmitting sections, tables, recapitulations, and other civil status documents;
- Ensuring the preservation of registers and civil status documents;
- Transcribing and making marginal entries;
- Receiving, signing, and forwarding requests for supplementary judgements; and
- Ensuring the conservation of civil status registers and documents (art. 97, *Law No. 2011-087*).

The agents of civil status declaration in localities where there is a health facility are appointed by decision of the mayor, on the proposal of the chief medical officer of the district health centre, the district communes and the person in charge of the private clinic.

In localities where there is no health facility, civil registrars are appointed by decision of the mayor on the proposal of the village council on the one hand, and the council of the nomadic fraction for itinerant agents on the other hand (art. 95, *Law No. 2011-087*).

Reporting agents

Apart from civil registration staff, there are other reporting agents responsible for the notification of vital events. These include:

Hospital centre staff, who are doctors, assistants, midwives, and nurses. On the occasion of a birth or death occurring and/or recorded in a maternity ward, hospital, dispensary, infirmary, clinic, or any other health facility, they establish birth declarations or death certificates. They enable the civil registry office to capture the characteristics of the events to be recorded: place, date, nature, and circumstances of the events, etc.

Reporting officers are responsible for:

- Receiving and registering birth and death declarations;
- Transmitting the sections and summary tables by administrative channels to the civil status centre of the jurisdiction where the record is to be established; and
- Transcribing and affixing marginal notes (art. 98, *Law No. 2011-087*).

They are entitled to receive declarations within the time limits prescribed by law. They perform their duties under the control of the administrative and judicial authorities and the civil registrars to whom they report (art. 96, *Law No. 2011-087*).

Magistrates, who are responsible for ensuring the legal control of the registers of declarations and civil status records,

- pass judgments relating to births, deaths, and marriages, whose transcription in the civil status registers takes the place of acts for the persons concerned;
- authorize the shortening of time limits for the publication of marriages; and
- intervene in the rectification, legitimation, annulment, and reconstitution of civil status records.

The principle of birth and death registration in Mali is that every birth of a child living on Malian territory is registered, even if the newborn dies a few moments later. The declaration of death is compulsory, even for foreigners residing in Mali.

Births are reported at the reporting centre of the place of birth or at the first stopover for children who were born or died during a road, river, or air journey.

The following actors are involved in the declaration of births and deaths:

- For births, the declarants are the father or mother; failing that, any other relative; failing that, the doctor, midwife, or any person who attended the birth; failing that, the person with whom the birth took place; failing that, the village or fractional chief or a member of the community council.
- For deaths, the declarants are the surviving spouse; failing that, an ascendant or descendant of the deceased; failing that, the village or fractional chief; failing that, a member of the village council; failing that, any person who witnessed the death.

Declaration agents are responsible for receiving declarations of birth. They transcribe them in the register of declarations of births and forward completed sections to the registrar of civil status within their jurisdiction to establish the relevant records.

The time limit for declaring a birth is 30 days from the day of birth. There is no time limit for late registration.

Where a birth or death has not been declared within the legal period of 30 days, the persons concerned are subject to a supplementary judgement procedure. The judgement handed down by the court is transcribed by the registrar either in the register for the current year or in a special register opened for that purpose.

Unlike births and deaths, which are declared at the registration centre, marriage is registered at the secondary or main civil status centre and is established at the time of publication of the banns (marriage).

Marriage is celebrated publicly before the registrar of civil status of the home of one of the future spouses. The celebration must comply with the substantive and formal requirements of the legal provisions relating to civil status in Mali (*Law No. 2011-087 of 30 December 2011 on the Persons and Family Code*, Book I, Title IV of Civil Status).

The operational process to register and declare births and deaths in Mali is indicated in Figure 1 for events that happen at home, and in Figure 2 for events that happen in a health facility.

Figure 1: Registration process in case of a birth or death at home.

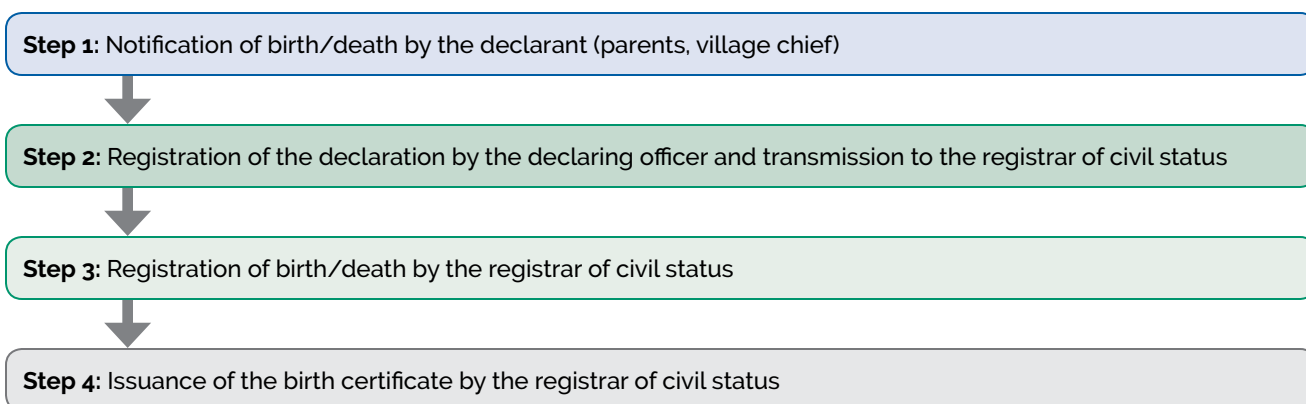
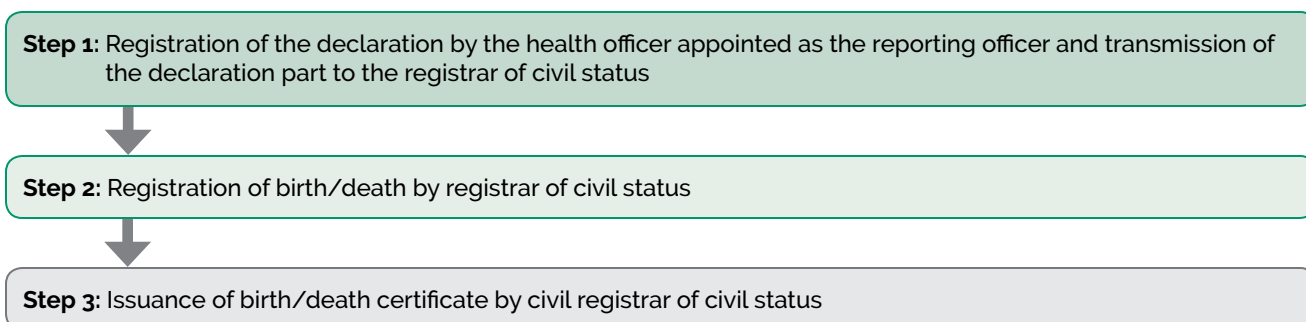


Figure 2: Registration process in case of a birth or death in a health facility.



Recording of demographic events currently covers all segments of the country's population and all geographical regions of the country. However, some regions of Mali remain difficult to cover because of the crisis in the country (Table 3).

Table 3: Estimated completeness of population event registration.

Event	Completeness ¹⁶ of record			
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Live birth	58,91%	76,59%	71%	In process
Marriage			5, 9%	In process
Divorce				
Death	5,90%	7,40%	7,19%	In process

Backlog of unregistered births

The country has a backlog¹⁷ of unregistered births amounting to 4 million. This represents 20 percent of the population.¹⁸

Sample registration forms

Not available.

Registration fee

Registration and certification of vital events is free of charge except for marriages and divorces, which have a variable cost depending on the municipality.

Vital statistics system

The National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) has the legal mandate to collect, compile, analyze, publish and disseminate, and coordinate the national statistical system. INSTAT has been collecting statistics on causes of death. Most of the vital statistics have been based on projections and data collection through surveys like the ongoing Demographic Health Survey.

Vital statistics

No vital statistics report has been published, but vital statistics have been collected on births, deaths, and marriages.

Causes of death

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

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

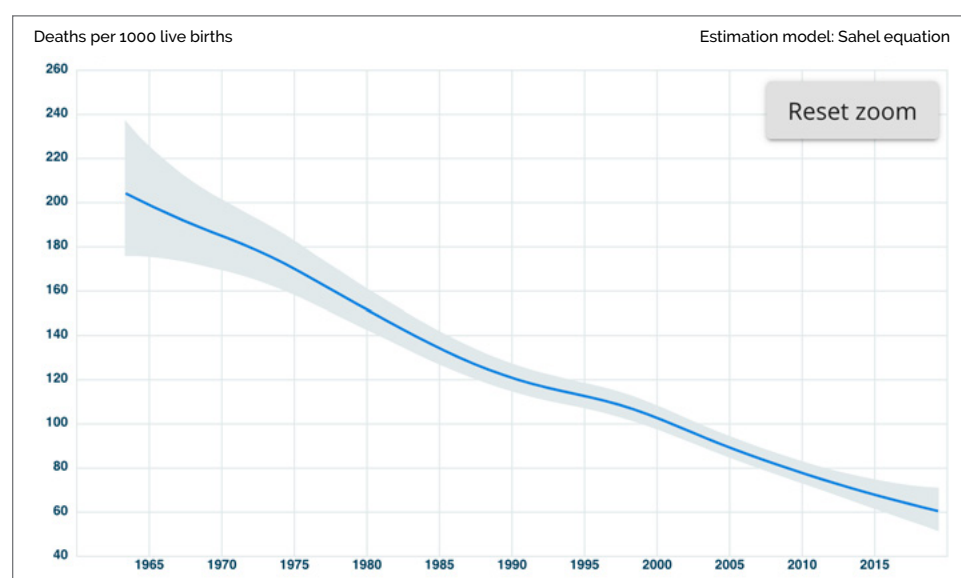
Cause of death	Is cause of death information collected through the civil registration system?
For deaths occurring in health facilities	Yes
For natural deaths occurring in the communities	Yes
For non-natural deaths occurring in the communities	Yes

For non-institutional deaths, verbal autopsy tools or methods are used to collect cause-of-death information. The cause of death is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision (ICD-10). The reports on the causes-of-

death statistics based on the civil registration system were published in 2018 using data from the Health Information System.

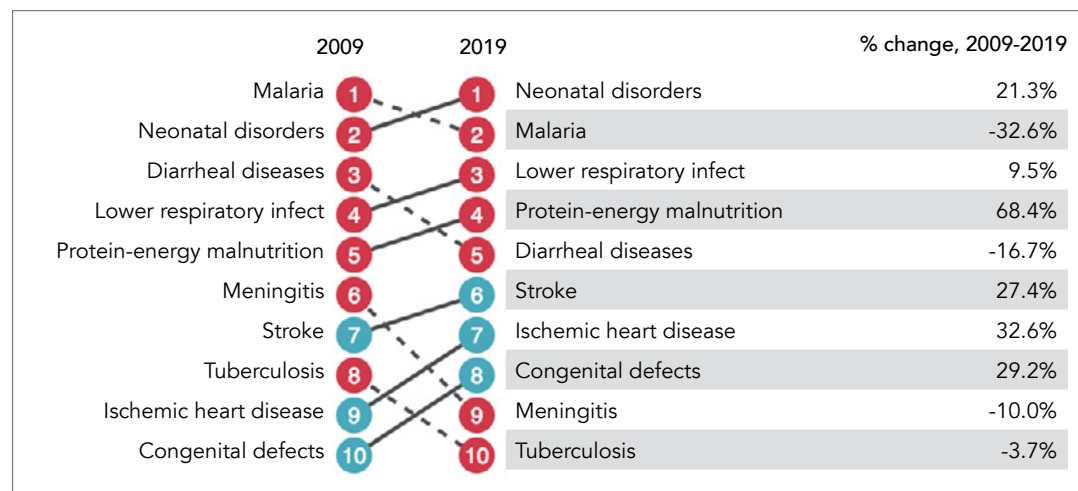
Other sources indicate the infant mortality rate at 61.96 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018.¹⁹

Figure 3: Infant mortality rate in Mali.



The IHME²⁰ lists the most common causes of death between 2007 and 2017 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Most common causes of death between 2007 and 2017 in Mali.



Digitization

Computerization

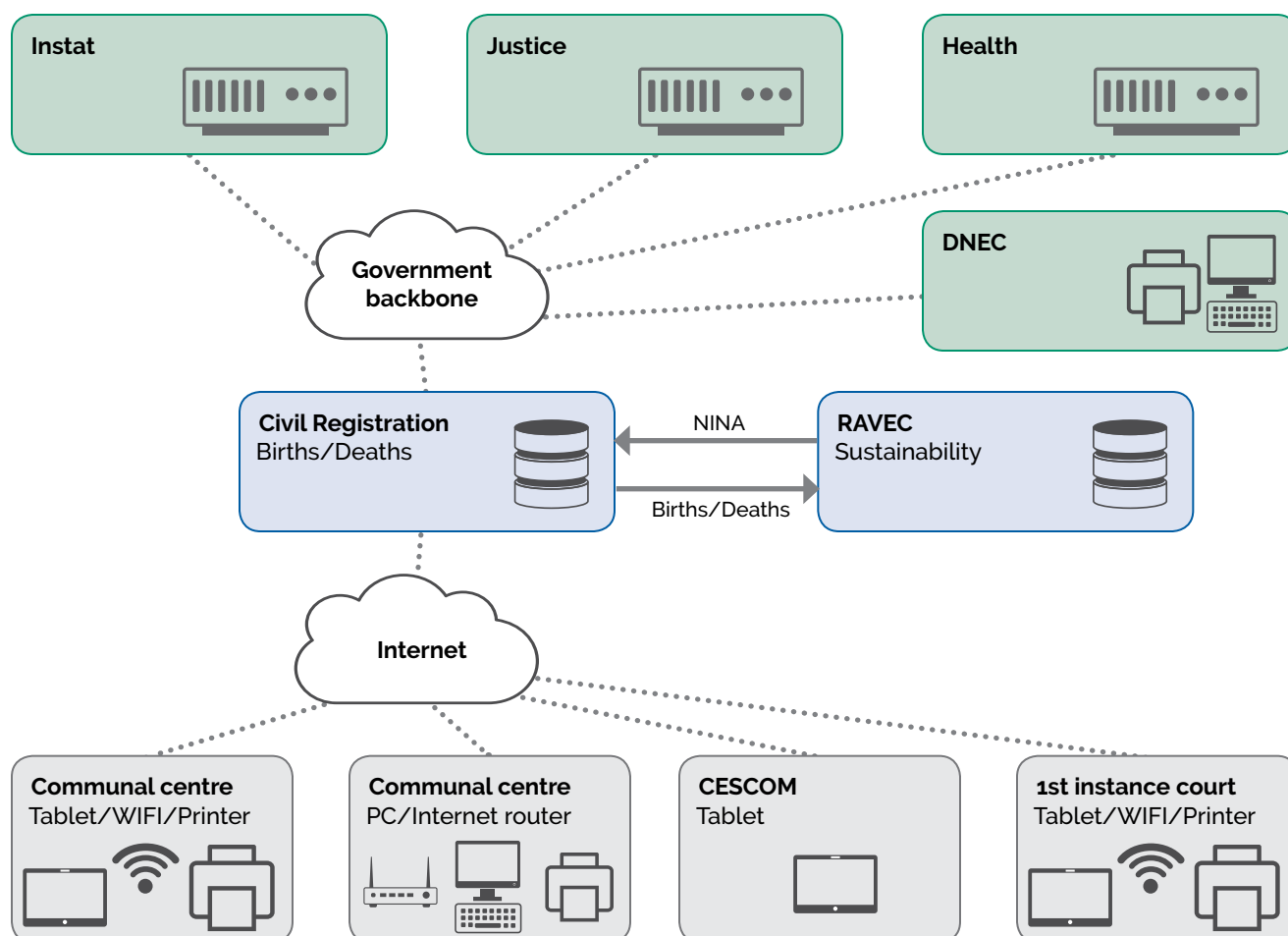
DNEC benefits from the technical support of the Ministry of the Digital Economy, the Universal Access Fund Management Agency, and the Agency for Information and Communication Technologies to support the digitization of civil registration. DNEC's technical structure is the Civil Status Data Processing Centre, which is responsible for computerizing civil status.

Since 2009, the government of Mali has been implementing a program to modernize and improve its system of civil registration. The consolidation of its civil registration system has the following objectives:

- Enumerate and identify citizens through the organization of a vital statistics census;
- Create a database containing individual data relating to civil status, location, and biometrics (for persons aged 15 and over); and
- Assign a NINA to each registered person.

In 2009, Mali acquired a software package for managing state events that aligns with the specific features of the Persons and Family Code. The resulting Civil Registry Computerized System is a centralized system, with the key objectives of accessibility, legitimacy, reliability, security, and availability of data (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Structure of the Civil Registry Computerized System.



Some of the benefits of the Civil Registry Computerized System are:

- Allows for a single process (unifies training and controls);
- Allows immediate recording from the statements (no transcription errors);
- Allows an immediate link with RAVEC for obtaining the NINA;
- Simplifies maintenance;
- Produces forgery-proof secure acts centrally or locally; and
- Allows for immediate availability of data centrally.

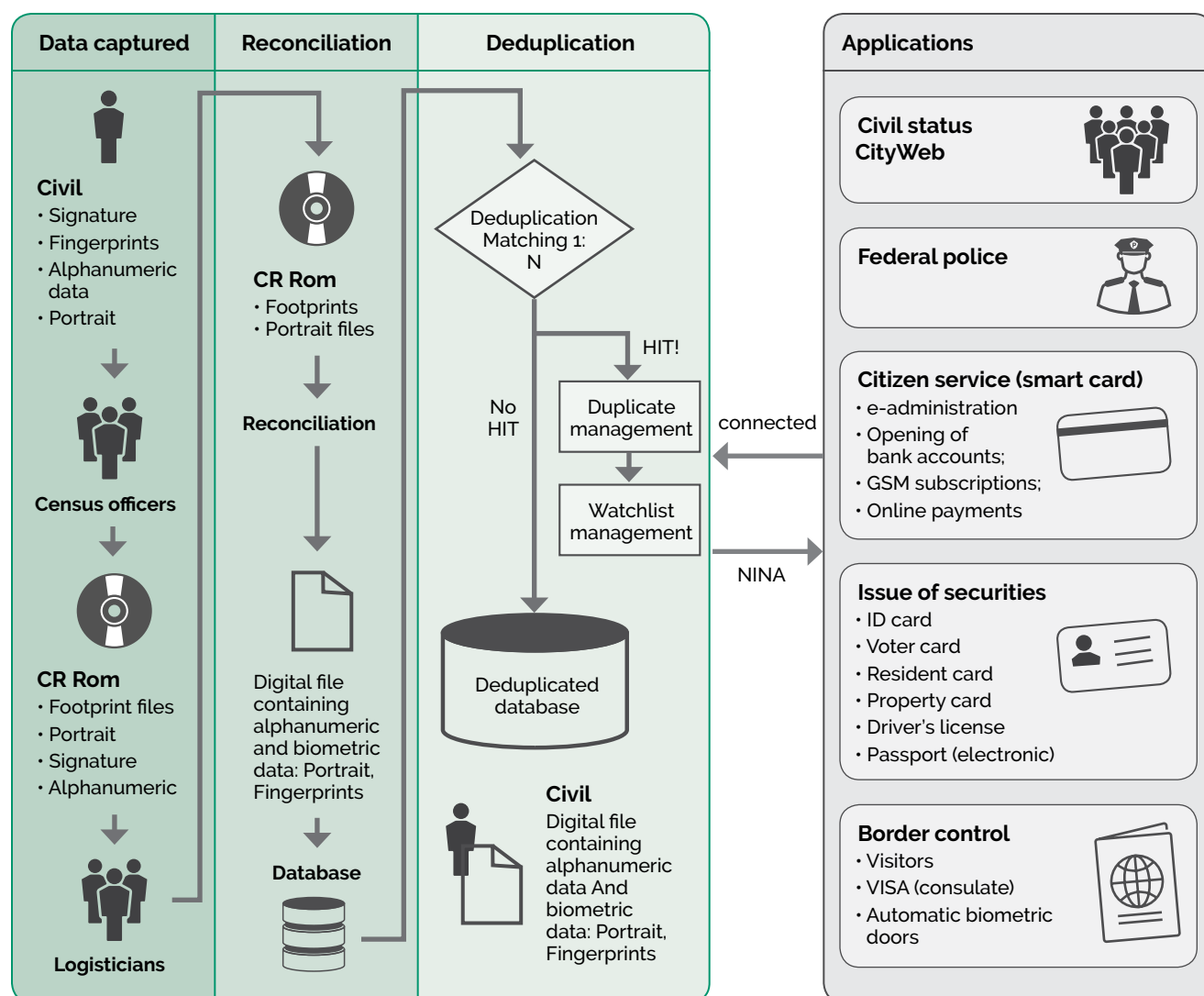
The noted disadvantage of the Civil Registry Computerized System is that it requires that each

civil registry centre be connected to the central system.

The application can work online and offline, and there is a provision to use tablets in rural or nomadic areas with low Internet coverage. However, physical records are still being used with a paper copy of locally produced acts to ensure continuity of service in the event of a loss of Internet connection.

The systems are also interlinked, as NINA information is exchanged between RAVEC and the Civil Registry Computerized System²¹ through local servers within the RAVEC framework and within the framework of the UNICEF RapidPro system to generate and transfer vital statistics (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Interlinked system.



Computer use is outlined in Table 5.

Table 5: Computer use for registering civil status facts.

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

Mobile technology application

The DNEC has not made any institutional arrangements with mobile network operators or the Government Communications Commission. No information is provided on the use of modern technology.

Mobile technology is not used for reporting any demographic events.

Unique identification number

NINA card is an identification card that contains the unique national identification number of the holder and that can be considered a voter's card, but also an identity card.

Law No. 06-040 of 11 August 2006, establishing the NINA for natural and legal persons, states the following with regard to the NINA:

- **Article 1:** In the Republic of Mali, the national identification number for natural and legal persons, abbreviated to NINA, is hereby established.
- **Article 2:** The purpose of the NINA is to identify each natural or legal person by means of a unique number.
- **Article 7:** The NINA assigned to a natural person is entered on the national identity card, consular identity card, passport, driving license, school report, medical report, voter's card, residence card for foreigners, documents of legal persons, and civil status documents.

As of April 2016, the NINA number is included in new passports and new national identity cards. It is also currently used for voting under the *Electoral Law No. 06-044 of 4 September 2006*, amended in 2011 and 2013, as the only identification document allowed in the polling station. The NINA card is now accepted as an identity card during police checks.

The ability for individuals to correct or update information on their NINA card is governed by *Law No. 2013-015 of 21 May 2013 on the Protection of Personal Data* in the Republic of Mali. The law states the following:

- As per Article 13, any person proving his identity may require the controller to correct, complete, update, lock or delete, as the case may be, personal data concerning him, which are inaccurate, incomplete, equivocal, outdated, or whose collection, use, communication or storage is prohibited.

- When the interested party so requests in writing, regardless of the medium, the data controller must justify, at no cost to the applicant, that it has carried out the operations required under the previous paragraph within thirty (30) days after a registration request.
- In the event of a dispute, the burden of proof shall lie with the controller with whom the right of access is exercised.
- Where data has been transmitted to a third party, the data controller shall take the necessary steps to notify the third party of the operations it has carried out in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.²²

There is currently a data protection law in place, *Law No. 2013-015 of 21 May 2013 on the Protection of Personal Data* in the Republic of Mali. The law contains provisions for the Civil Status Data Processing Centre to follow when correcting or updating vital events information. For example, if an error is found on an ID, the claimant is required to:

- Go to any city hall, since the database is central;
- Check the information on his or her individual record: surname, first names, date and place of birth, parents' surnames and first names, etc.;
- If an error is found, fill in a complaint form with the corrected data, with the possible help of the person in charge of the collection unit in the town hall; and
- Get the claim form signed by the claimant and the mayor.

Claim forms are sent to the Civil Status Data Processing Centre at the end of each month, or every weekend for communes near Bamako and diplomatic and consular missions.

The following documents are required to correct the information associated with a NINA, depending on the information to be changed:

- Surname, first names, and surnames and first names of the parents: a copy of the individual's birth certificate;
- Profession: no document;
- Domicile: no document (the domicile will be verified by the commune); and
- Date of birth: copy of part 3 (the birth certificate), which can be obtained from the town hall.

An annual table of births is sent by DNEC to each town hall at the end of each year. Parents can check the data on their newborns.

Digitization of historical registration records

No information is available.

Link with identification system

There is an existing ID system that is linked to civil registration. The Civil Status Data Processing Centre is the technical service attached to DNEC that is responsible for establishing a database of natural persons identified on the basis of civil status records.

The birth certificate is used to issue the national identity card. In addition, enrolment in the vital statistics census is linked to the presentation of the birth certificate.

Interface with other sectors and operations

The health sector is well involved in the notification of births and deaths. Doctors, assistants, midwives, and nurses who are present when births or deaths occur in health facilities act as notifiers of these events. Institutional deliveries account for 67 percent of births in Mali.²³

Improvement initiatives and external support

Improvement plan and budget

Budgetary allocations and requirements

There is a five-year (2018–2022) national strategic plan to improve the CRVS system. In 2015, DNEC began a comprehensive assessment to improve the CRVS system. The total estimated cost for the entire period is US\$79 million.

In fiscal year 2019–2020, the budget allocated by the State Treasury to the civil registration system is US\$1.2 million.

Activities identified as high priorities

Table 6: Underfunded high-priority national plan activities.

High-priority ²⁴ areas in the strategic plan lacking funding	Estimated cost (in US\$)	Expected government allocation	Expected budget gaps (in US\$)	Remarks
Rehabilitation and construction of civil registration centres	5,633,793		5,633,793	
Computerization of civil registration centres	8,047,076		8,047,076	This budget corresponds to the budget for the implementation of the Master Plan for Civil Registry Information Systems.

Some of the upcoming priorities in the country's planning cycle for the National Directorate of Civil Status include:

- Training of civil registrars;
- Computerization of civil registration centres;
- Construction and rehabilitation of civil registration centres; and
- Revitalizing the coordinating bodies of the CRVS system.

Support from development partners

The international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other organizations that support the improvement of the civil registration system in the country are listed in Table 7.

In addition, the development partners supporting the generation of vital statistics in Mali are UNICEF and the European Union through the Programme to Support the Operation of Civil Status and the Establishment of a Secure Information System (PAECSIS).

Table 7: CRVS external support.

International organizations, NGOs, and partners	Mandate
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Promotion and protection of children's rights (registration of birth certificates)
European Union, PAECSIS Project	To support the universality of civil status events and contribute to the establishment of a secure information system
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Refugee protection
Norwegian Refugee Council	Protection of persons in situations of displacement (ensuring that these persons can have an identity)
Global Affairs Canada	Partially funds UNICEF's interventions

Conclusion

The National Civil Status Strategy Plan, the first of its kind in the Republic of Mali, is a framework for all civil status interventions. Covering the period 2018–2022, the plan was approved by Decree No. 2018-0668/P-RM of 16 August 2018. It results from the recognition of the importance of CRVS in promoting the development agenda in Africa. Developed after a comprehensive assessment of the civil registration system carried out starting in 2015, the plan reflects the desire of the highest Malian authorities to modernize the civil registration system and make it more secure in accordance with international standards.

The current priorities for the DNEC are:

- Strengthen civil registration systems to ensure the linkages of civil registration and vital statistics.
- Enable the provision of the statistics required to design, implement, and monitor development policies and programs.
- Ensure the civil registration system addresses the current gaps, which are characterized by the inadequacy of the texts governing the functioning of civil status and vital statistics. Such weaknesses include:
 - the replacement of rules by value judgements;
 - the lack of uniformity in the supply of services throughout the country;
 - the lack of interoperability between the institutions involved in producing civil status and vital statistics;
 - the low level of state support for local and regional authorities;
 - a lack of overlap between supply and demand for civil registry services;

- insufficient training and a lack of motivation of civil registry actors;
- a lack of awareness or insufficient information, education, and communication policies for the population;
- failure by civil registration services to respect the principles of continuity and permanence; and
- poor conservation of civil status archives.

While the situation has been aggravated by the crisis that Mali has been going through since 2012, the current national strategy is built around the following vision and strategic areas:

- Strengthening the legal, institutional, and organizational frameworks of the CRVS system;
- Improving the quality of the services offer by the CRVS system;
- Promoting public support for the systematic registration of civil status events;
- Improving the quality of the collection, production, and use of vital statistics;
- Financing the civil status strategy; and
- Steering, monitoring, and evaluating the national civil status strategy.

All of these areas contribute to the modernization of Mali's civil registry system in the service of citizens.

Resources

Websites

National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT):

instat-mali.org

National Directorate of Civil Status (DNEC):

dnec.gouv.ml

UNICEF Mali: data.unicef.org/country/mli/

WHO Mali: who.int/countries/mli/en/

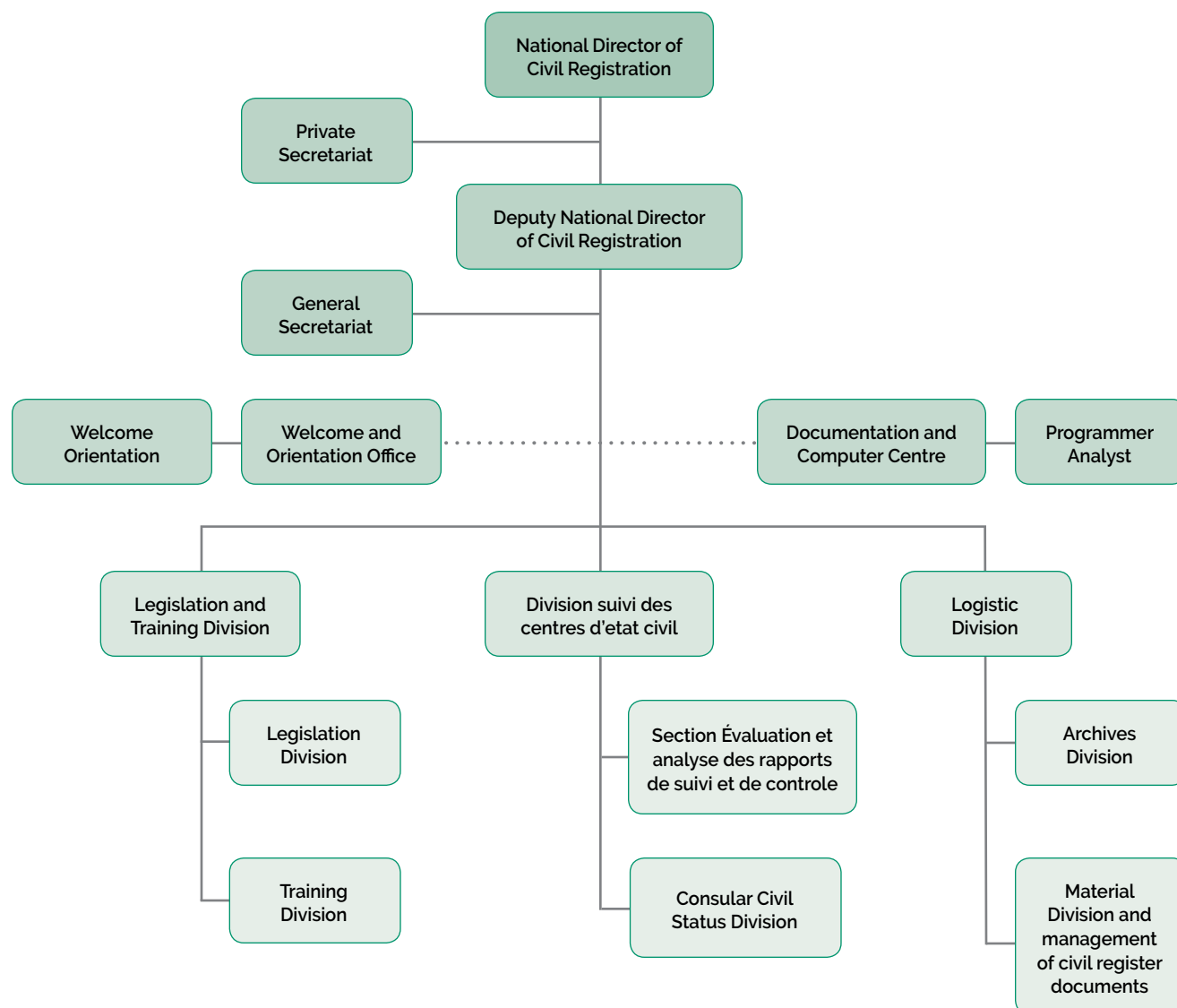
Additional materials

La Stratégie nationale de l'état Civil et le Plan d'actions 2018–2022.

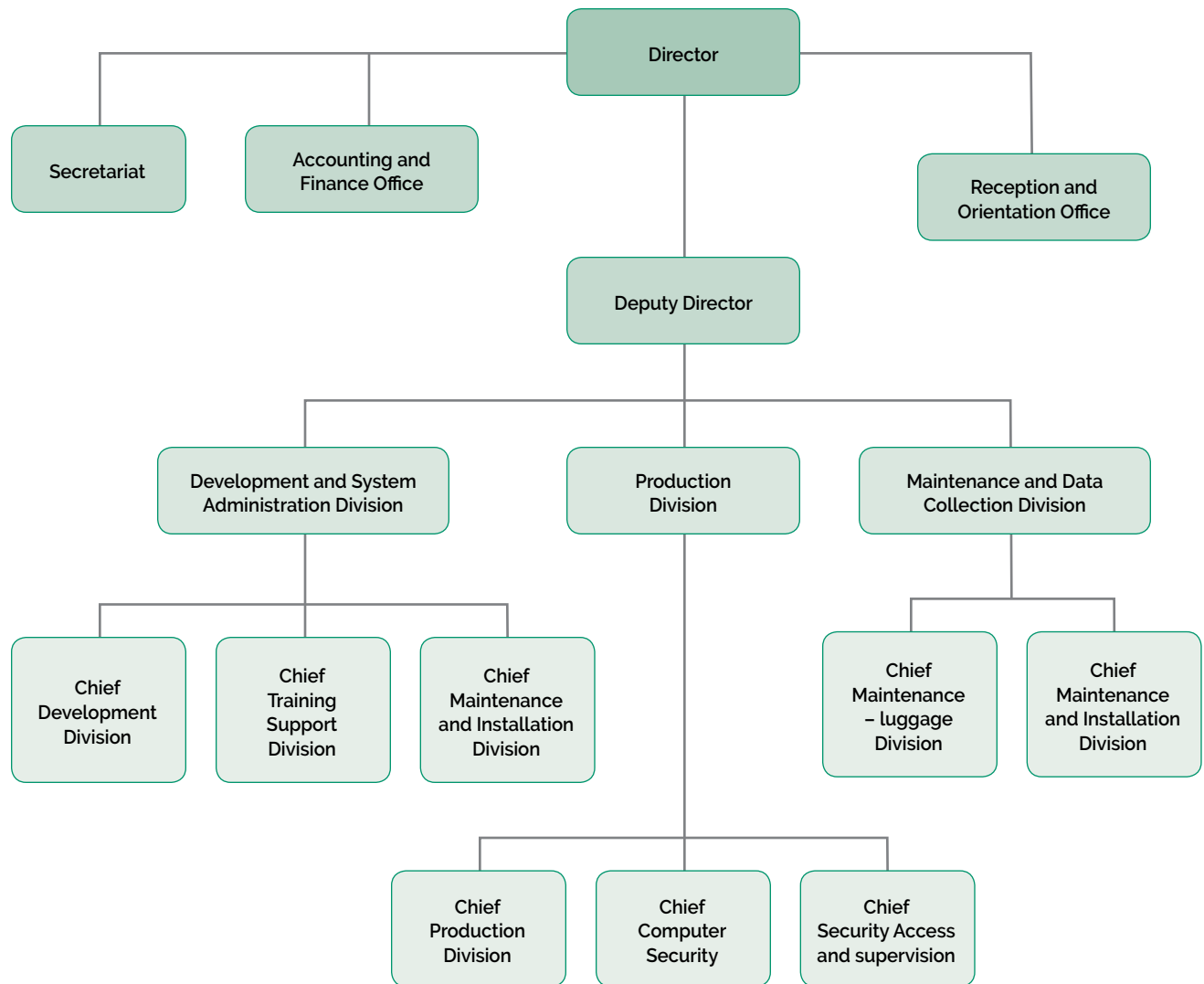
Berthé, S. and Chajes, M. 2019. Modernisation du système d'état civil au Mali. ID4D presentation. id4africa.com/2019_event/presentations/InF1/3-Sibiri-Berthe-Mali.pdf

Law No. 2011-087 of 30/12/2011 on the Code of Persons and the Family.

Annex 1: Organizational structure of the National Directorate of Civil Status



Annex 2: Organizational structure of the Civil Status Processing Centre



Endnotes

- 1 United Nations. 2018. Demographic Yearbook – 2018.
unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/dyb_2018/
- 2 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 a year. Source: ECA, ESCAP, and Statistics Norway. 2016.
- 3 DNEC response to questionnaire. March 2020.
- 4 UNICEF. 2015. MICS 2015. UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women.
data.unicef.org/country/mli/
- 5 World Bank. 2018a. Country Profile – Mali. databank.worldbank.org/views/reports/reportwidget.aspx?Report_Name=CountryProfile&Id=b450fd57&tbar=y&dd=y&inf=n&zm=n&country=MLI
- 6 UNICEF. 2015.
- 7 UNICEF. 2018. Percentage of surviving infants who received the first dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) vaccine. UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women.
- 8 World Bank. 2018a.
- 9 Trading economics. 2018.
tradingeconomics.com/mali/health-expenditure-total-percent-of-gdp-wb-data.html
- 10 World Bank. 2018a.
- 11 World Bank. 2018b. Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19).
data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.ado.tfrt
- 12 UNICEF. 2019. Joint UNICEF/WHO Skilled Birth Attendant Database.
- 13 United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. 2018. Total Under-5 Mortality Rate, Infant Mortality Rate and Neonatal mortality database 2018. childmortality.org/
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 World Health Organization (WHO). 2016. World Health Statistics 2016: Monitoring health for the SDGs.
who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2016/en/
- 16 Completeness of registration means the current number of demographic events (births or deaths) divided by the estimated number of demographic events (births or deaths). A complete registration or 100 percent completeness is achieved when every demographic event that occurred in the population of a given country (or region) during a specific period has been recorded in the system.
- 17 All unregistered births in the year following the occurrence of the event.
- 18 DNEC response to questionnaire. March 2020.
- 19 UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. 2018. childmortality.org/data
- 20 Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. 2020.
- 21 Berthé, S. and Chajes, M. 2019. Modernisation du système d'état civil au Mali. ID4D Presentation.
id4africa.com/2019_event/presentations/InF1/3-Sibiri-Berthe-Mali.pdf
- 22 Republic of Mali. 2013. *Law No. 2013-015 of 21 May 2013 on the Protection of Personal Data*.
- 23 UNICEF. UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women. data.unicef.org/country/mli/
- 24 The high priorities should be identified in the assessment used to prepare 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, and clearing the backlog of registration of births.



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