



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
for CRVS Systems



Canada

Concept Note

ConVERGE Side Event at UN Commission on Population and Development

Wednesday 21 April 2021 (1-2:30pm NY Time)

Title:

Harnessing Data for Women's Rights and Empowerment across the Life Course: Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality (ConVERGE)

Abstract:

Target 16.9 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda highlights the importance of legal identity for all in advancing societal inclusion. Civil registration is a key element that underpins legal identity. Civil registration is defined as "the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events pertaining to the population as provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of a country."¹ Women and girls, in particular, face remarkable challenges and obstacles in the registration of their births, marriages, deaths and causes of death.

This side event seeks to build broader appreciation of the gender transformative potential of civil registration and vital statistics systems. It also is intended as an opportunity to further align efforts in strengthening civil registration systems with efforts to improve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls everywhere.

This side event will share recent field research insights and lessons learned from ConVERGE ("Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality") - a joint multi-country initiative of the United Nations Population Fund and the IDRC's Centre of Excellence on CRVS Systems. It will highlight the strategic value of inclusive civil registration and vital statistics systems and their foundational role in advancing gender equality and bodily autonomy.

The importance of vital event registration across the life course - from birth, including marriage, through to death - will be explored through specific country examples. Barriers to birth, marriage and death registration that disproportionately affect women and girls will be shared based on recent ConVERGE field research in Benin, Burkina Faso, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Morocco and Jordan. Keynote speakers and presenters will explore how vital statistics can and are being used to advance evidence and action to address gender-based sex selection, adolescent fertility, preventable maternal deaths and gender equality within marital unions.

¹ United Nations, *Principles and Recommendations on Vital Statistics Systems*, Rev. 3, 2014. DESA, New York.

Run-of-Show:

Function	Description	Presenter/Panelist	Suggested Time Allocation
Moderator	Welcome and Quick Overview of ConVERGE Initiative, UNFPA-IDRC partnership and Generation Equality Forum + Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR	Rachel Snow, Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA	3 mins
Keynote Address	Why CRVS systems are a key tool in advancing gender equality	Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA	10 mins
Keynote Address	Building a Global movement around gender transformative CRVS Systems	Jean Lebel, President, IDRC	10 mins
	Intro to the Panel	Rachel Snow	2 mins
Pres #1	How can CRVS systems advance the work of the Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights?	Shannon Kowalski, Director of Advocacy and Policy, International Women's Health Coalition - co-lead of Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights	10 mins
Pres #2	Social and Behavioral Determinants of under-registration births: Emerging findings from Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Senegal	Prisca Umugeni, Population Data Fellow, UNFPA Benin	10 mins
Pres #3	Leveraging community networks and technological innovation to end	Ledy Manuela Mosquera Moreno,	10 mins

	preventable maternal deaths: Innovations from Chocó, Colombia	Executive Director & Midwife, ASOREDIPAR	
Reflections	Advancing gender - inclusive CRVS systems as a key pathway to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health	Muhamad Ali Pate, Global Director, Health, Nutrition and Population, World Bank Group * Director, Global Financing Facility	10 mins
Moderated Q+A		Moderator	10 mins
Remarks	Canada's Feminist Approach to Population Data Systems and Global Health Action	Tarik Khan, Director General, West and Central Africa, Global Affairs Canada	5 mins
Closing Remarks	Importance for Gender Equality Thank you, Event close	Nafissatou Diop, Chief, Gender and Human Rights Branch, UNFPA Rachel Snow, Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA	7 mins

Co-sponsors/Co-organizers: UNFPA, IDRC (Canada)

Modality: Zoom webinar, via pre-registration here -

https://unfpa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zXUOU4AVS72Xa8QMIVT5AA

Simultaneous translation: French, Spanish, English