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ORGANISATION AND STATUS OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION
AND VITAL STATISTICS IN AFRICA

Prepared by
Iwao M. Moriyama
IIVRS

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Civil registration systems have been in existence for more than 50 years in 28 out of the 36 countries on the African continent, according to information collected by the United Nations Statistical Office ^{1/} and by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ^{2/}. These data are summarized in Table 1. In 8 of these countries, namely, Algeria, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Sierra Leone, a civil registration system had been established before the turn of the century. In most African countries, civil registration dates back into colonial history.

2. The data presented by Makannah show that the registration laws in the colonial period encompassed only nationals of the colonial power, or the European population. Later legislation included the Asians and then possibly the entire population of the country. In most countries of French-speaking Africa, registration was first limited to French subjects. In 1950, the registration law was extended in a number of these countries to include all inhabitants residing within 10 kilometers from the registration centers. In still other countries, civil registration is compulsory only for the principal cities and towns and/or for the capital city.

3. Although information concerning the establishment of a civil registration system is available for only 36 out of the 55 African countries from the two sources cited, it is probable that virtually all of the countries of the region have some form of registration system. It is also likely that the registration laws of the majority of countries provide for registration coverage of the entire population of the country.

4. In order to study the organization of the civil registration and vital statistics systems in the various countries of the world, the IIVRS embarked on a questionnaire survey in August 1984. In the initial mail out, a vital statistics questionnaire and a civil registration questionnaire were sent to the respective offices represented in the IIVRS membership. This was later supplemented by a questionnaire to the national statistical offices on the United Nations Statistical Office mailing list which were not in the IIVRS membership directory. The returns on the vital statistics questionnaire frequently provided the name of the national registration office. This was followed up with a civil registration questionnaire to the office so identified.

^{1/} United Nations Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods. Vol. II Review of National Practices. Series F No. 35, United Nations. NY 1985.

^{2/} Makannah, T.J., Methods and Problems of Civil Registration Practices and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa. Tech. Rept. No. 16, IIVRS, 1981.

5. The quality of responses received was generally good, but the response rate was not. After 3 follow ups over a period of 7 or 8 months, only 64 per cent of the questionnaires sent to vital statistics offices in the various countries of the world were returned. The response rate for the national registration offices was considerably poorer, 40 per cent.

6. The response rates for the African countries are summarized in Table 1. Only 56 per cent of the vital statistics questionnaire were returned whereas the response rate for the civil registration questionnaire was less than half that, 26 per cent. The response rate for the English-speaking countries was relatively high whereas they were low for other countries. Actually, out of the 21 francophone countries in Subsahara, only one country, Zaire, returned a completed civil registration questionnaire.

Table 1. Questionnaire Response Rate in Percent

	VS	CR
African Continent	56.4	25.5
Anglophone Subsaharan Countries	75.0	56.3
Francophone Subsaharan Countries	38.1	4.8
Other	61.1	22.2

II. STRUCTURE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

7. The organisation of the civil registration administration may be centralized or decentralized. A centralized system is one where the network of local registration offices is directly controlled and administered by a central authority or an agency in the national government. A decentralized registration system is one in which the local registration offices are supervised or administered by some authority at a subnational level such as a district, region, state or province. In these instances, there is no national office to oversee the local registration operations. However, there may be a national agency for the coordination of the registration system and/or for establishing national standards such as uniform registration laws, definitions of vital events, registration practices, etc. In this region, there is at least one country, Malawi, with a national registration office which coordinates but does not supervise or direct the District Commissioners responsible for civil registration. This office also maintains a file of individual birth and death records. In addition to Malawi, there are 3 countries, Central African Republic, Somalia, and Swaziland with no civil registration authority in the central government. The Central African Republic was anticipating, at the time of the survey, the creation of a national center for civil registration. In some countries, there

appears to be a dual system of registration. For example, in Ethiopia the Ministry of Interior is responsible for the registration of births and deaths in the rural areas, whereas the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development registers the vital events occurring in the urban areas. In Botswana, civil registration is the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs. In addition, the Ministry of Health receives birth and death notifications on institutional as well as on non-institutional events.

8. In the centralized system of civil registration the organizational structure may be of two types. The first is where the local registration offices are under the direct control of the national registration authority. According to Makannah, the national registration office in the English-speaking countries of Africa is generally responsible for the supervision and coordination of all the registration units in the country. On the other hand, in the French-speaking countries, Makannah reports that "a more decentralized system exist: many local registration offices each independent of the other-usually named centres principaux- have been established, each responsible for the supervision and coordination of the functions of regional registration agencies, usually named centres secondaires". This probably means that in the francophone countries, as in many other countries in Africa and other parts of the world, the local registration offices are a part of the local government administrative services not

in the direct line of authority of the national registration office. Under this system, the local registrars may perform many tasks other than the registration of vital events. The lack of direct control or supervision over registration services by the national registration agency, and the number of other civil and legal functions competing for the attention of the local registrar make this system administratively difficult from the civil registration point of view. This situation may be further complicated in countries where the administrative organization is not the same at the subnational levels. In such cases, the national registration authority will have to work through more than one ministry or department in communicating with the local registration offices.

9. Table 2 gives the names of national agencies legally responsible for civil registration and vital statistics, and the registration authorities at the subnational level. In about 40 per cent of the countries, the Ministry of Interior or Home Affairs is responsible for civil registration. In almost 20 percent of the countries, the civil registration function is lodged in the Ministry of Justice. In another 10 per cent of the African countries, civil registration is centered in the Ministry of Health.

10. In countries with a national civil registration services, 29 out of 35 are central registration agencies. In 3 countries - Gambia, Liberia and Sudan, civil registration is the responsibility of the health administration. The central statistical office is the national authority for civil registration in only one country, Nigeria.

11. Local registration offices. In all countries, the registration of vital events takes place at the local registration office. These registration offices may be the primary registration unit or a sub-office of the primary unit. The number of registration offices needed depends upon the population distribution, and the type of terrain. In a small compact country, relatively few registration offices are needed. On the other hand, countries where the population is thinly distributed, or where there are many population clusters, will require more registration offices to provide the same services.

12. The number of local registration offices as reported to the several sources may be seen in Table 3. The information reported to the United Nations Statistical Office and to the UN Economic Commission for Africa is for the year 1979 while the IIVRS survey data are for 1984. These figures from the different sources are not necessarily comparable so too much importance should not be attached to them.

13. The number of local registration offices in a country varies greatly ranging from 4 in the Seychelles to 1271 in Tunisia. There is also a large variation in the number of inhabitants per registration office as well as in the average land area served by a local registration office. The lowest average number of population per local registration office is 2,100 in the Cape Verde Islands and the largest, 472,000, in Kenya. In terms of land area, the lowest is 44 square kilometers per registration office in Mauritius. The highest is 38,300 square kilometers per registration office in Lybia.

14. These averages are for the country as a whole. For urban areas, the actual population served by a local registration office will be much greater than the estimated average. The reverse will be true for the rural areas. By the same token, the actual land area per registration office for cities and towns will be smaller than the estimate, and larger in the rural areas. Although the estimates of the average land area covered by a registration office give some idea of the travel involved in the registration of births and deaths, they do not indicate the difficulty of access to registration offices. Some segment of the population on isolated islands without transport may have problems in reaching population centers where the registration offices are located. Mountainous terrain may make access to registration offices difficult. There may be other physical barriers which discourage registration, especially for a population without incentives to register vital events.

15. The estimates of the average number of people per local registration office were used as a population base to which the projected crude birth and deaths ^{1/} for 1984 were applied to estimate the number of births and deaths will occur in a period of a year in the area covered by the local registration unit. Because of incomplete registration in most of these countries, the actual number of births and deaths that are being registered will be much lower than the estimated number.

^{1/} From World Population: 1984. Recent Demographic Estimates for Countries and Regions of the World. ISP-WP-84. U.S. Bureau of the Census, November 1984.

16. According to the estimated number of births and deaths occurred in the various countries, the work load of an average registration office is not uniformly heavy. In some, there are fewer than one registration a day. In countries like Liberia, Tanzania, Malawi and Kenya, the registration load in an average day in a local registration office is much heavier. In Liberia, for example, some 30 registrations of births and deaths may be expected on an average day in a local registration office assuming that registration of vital events is complete. In Kenya, the estimated number of vital events occurring in an average day in a local registration area is about 95.

17. These data give only a rough idea of the work load. In some cases, it may even be misleading. For a study of the workload problem, it is suggested that the number of birth and death certificates actually filed in each local registration office over a period of time be used. Such a study will be useful for planning the establishment of sub-registration offices or for consolidation of some local registration offices.

18. Central file of vital records. One of the essential requirements of a civil registration system is the provision for permanent storage of vital records with proper safeguards to protect the records from loss or damage. All the countries that responded to this question of permanent repository of records indicated that there was a central file of birth and death records. Most of these files are located in the local and/or State registration offices. A few maintained a national file.

19. On the other hand, 3 out of 14 of countries do not prepare an alphabetic index to these records. Without an alphabetic index, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a particular vital record on file without the knowledge of the exact place and time of registration (as contrasted to the time of occurrence of the event) in addition to the personal particulars. An alphabetic index to the vital records on file is essential to facilitate access to records of individuals for certification purposes.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

20. According to available information summarized in Table 4, the central statistical office is responsible for national vital statistics in about 80 percent of the African countries. In the remainder of the countries, national vital statistics are compiled by the national registration office and by the national health agency.

21. In most countries, the national vital statistics services depend on the network of the national registration office for the reports of vital events. In 5 countries, the responsibility for national registration and vital statistics is lodged in the same agency. In Gambia and Liberia, the civil registration and vital statistics functions are carried out in the health administration. In Ghana and Kenya they are in the national registration office. In Nigeria they are in the central statistical office.

22. An important advantage of locating vital statistics and civil registration in the same ministry or administration is the ease of communication between these two operating bodies. However, there are a number of other considerations that go into the development of a civil registration and vital statistics system. One is the relative strength of the central statistical office. If there is a strong established national statistics agency, it will be difficult to set up a new national vital statistics division in another agency. Another consideration is the existence of a national functional network such as that for local government administration or for the delivery of health services. This explains why the local registration services in so many countries are under the jurisdiction of town and municipal governments. There are much fewer countries where national and local registration services are part of the health services, but this pattern is not uncommon. In the case of health services, there is an added advantage in that many of the vital events, that is, births and deaths, occur in the health facilities. Some countries such as Kenya may elect to establish a special registration network. This is the pattern of the Registrar General's department.

23. Although a national authority for vital statistics exists, national vital statistics are not now being compiled by the following countries: Ethiopia, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Mali, Somalia and Swaziland. Although the Planning and Programming Service in the Ministry of Interior is responsible for national vital statistics in Ethiopia, it is reported that a system has not yet been established. In Botswana, the Central Statistics Office has not processed the data that have been collected thus far. It is now experimenting with a special vital statistics system on a sample basis in the rural areas. In the Central African Republic, vital statistics are compiled only for the capital city; the creation of a national center for civil registration is anticipated. In mali, vital statistics are available only for a few cities. In Somalia, there is neither a central registration authority nor a national agency for vital statistics. Some local government authorities have been collecting vital statistics but it is reported that none have been found useful. The central Statistics Department is now making national estimates of vital statistics through sample surveys in Somalia. In Swaziland, the civil registration law was implemented in January 1984 and the Central Statistical Office was expecting to start compilation of vital statistics shortly.

24. The exact count of countries which are not currently producing national vital statistics is not known because this specific question was not asked in the questionnaire. Of the 20 African countries replying to the United Nations questionnaire, 5 were not making any compilations of vital statistics. In addition, as will be seen later in the discussion of status of civil registration and vital statistics, there are a number of countries compiling vital statistics based on incomplete returns.

25. Basis of national vital statistics. Compilations of national vital statistics are generally based on individual vital records which are transmitted from the local registration offices through channels to the national vital statistics agency. However, in some countries summary reports are prepared at a subnational level and sent to the central office for aggregation into national totals. There are probably others, but of the African countries, Benin, Central African Republic, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zaire are known to use summary reports as a basis of national statistics.

26. The advantage of summary reports is that the coding and data processing are done closer to the point of data collection, and problems arising from poor quality of returns can be more readily rectified. Another advantage is that the decentralization of coding and tabulating makes it unnecessary for the national vital statistics agency to maintain a large clerical staff. On the other hand, the centralization of coding and data processing is more efficient than a decentralized system. A much smaller clerical staff will be needed than the aggregate number of people involved in handling the same documents on a decentralized basis. More important is the possibility of obtaining uniformity in coding of records when coded by the same group centrally. Another important advantage of central coding and tabulating of data from individual records is that it provides flexibility in making data available. Summary reports limit the availability of national data to the contents of summary reports. Lastly, there is the question of timeliness. The decentralized coding and tabulating of data will take more time than the transmittal of individual reports of vital events to the national office. Because the central office will not be able to make national aggregations from these summary reports until data for the last reporting area are in, delays in the preparation of summary reports in even one area will hold up the issuance of national vital statistics. The disadvantages of a decentralized data processing system far outweigh the advantages so that serious consideration should be given to the possibility of changing over to coding individual reports of vital events and preparing tabulations in the national vital statistics agency. Despite the overall economy that will result, it will increase the national expenditure for vital statistics. Therefore, it should be recognized that the transfer of functions from the States to the national vital statistics agency may take a little time to accomplish, especially in countries with large volumes of vital records to process centrally.

IV. STATUS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

27. The evaluation of status or the present state of development of the civil registration and vital statistics systems will involve the assessment of various aspects of the registration and statistical process such as adequacy of the registration laws and regulations, promptness and completeness of registration, efficiency of services in providing certification of vital events, quality of data, adequacy and usefulness of data produced, timeliness in the issuance of data, etc. Perhaps the most useful single index of status is a measure of completeness with which births and deaths are registered.

28. Periodically, the countries are asked by the United Nations to make an assessment of the registration completeness of vital events. These evaluations, (C) for registration completeness of 90 percent or more and (U) for completeness of less than 90 percent, are published in the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. In some cases, the evaluations are based on the results of sample surveys. Most of them are "guesstimates". However, in terms of the United Nations standard of completeness, these "guesstimate" probably represent a reasonably good assessment of the situation. In a few instances, the authorities may be over-optimistic about the effectiveness of the compulsory provisions of the registration law.

29. In the IIVRS survey, the questionnaire called for the actual percentage of the completeness of birth and death registration. This precision made a proper response a little more difficult, so that in a number of returns, the item was left blank. In table 5 are shown the completeness of registration of births and deaths. The data are from the IIVRS survey, the United Nations Statistical Office and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and covers all the countries in the African continent, except 3. For these 3 countries, it would seem reasonable to assume that registration completeness is less than 90 per cent.

30. Only 15 percent of the African countries are meeting the acceptable standard of birth registration completeness. These countries are : Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Cape Verde, Mauritius, Reunion, Sao Tome & Principe and Seychelles. The corresponding figure for death registration is 11 percent and include 6 countries, Egypt, Cape Verde, Mauritius, Reunion, Sao Tome & Principe and Seychelles. All the Subsaharan countries are small insular populations.

31. The criterion of 90 percent or more as a measure of adequacy of the registration system may be too rigorous in some instances. If a segment of the national population lives outside the usual national social and economic culture, the immediate need for registration may not exist; and if, for example, the first use of a child's birth certificate is to establish age for school entrance little harm is done if registration is delayed beyond the first year. The legal record has value for proving identity, age, citizenship, filiation, marital status and so forth, primarily in the settled, largely urban populations, while nomadic and tribal populations may have little need for such proof. To bring them into the mainstream would be contingent on social change that may not be imminent in many countries. Still, in such countries, the registration system may be more or less adequately serving one of the purposes for which it exists at the present level of demand for individual documentation. On the other hand, if a country has instituted a population register or a personal identify system, the integrity of such a system cannot be maintained without an adequate civil registration system for a continuous update.

32. The present criterion of completeness was essentially developed for the use of vital records of statistical purposes. For this, it would be ideal to have a nationwide count of 100 percent of the vital events occurring in the country, and complete coverage for all the important variables. How would such data be used? For example, most countries of the world are now participating in the WHO programme of Health for All by the Year 2000. One of the important goals in this program is to reduce the infant mortality rate in the developing countries to 50 infant deaths per 1000 live births by the year 2000. It is expected that infant mortality rates for the country as a whole and for the geographic areas be used for monitoring health programs. The question is, can the various countries provide the necessary data in sufficient precision to provide health program guidance and for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the program? Unless the registration of births and deaths is reasonably complete, how would it be possible to determine if the stated goal has been achieved? Unless intensive efforts are made to improve civil registration, most of the developing countries in the region will not be in the position to make an assessment of their health program by the year 2000.

Table 1. Year of Establishment of the System for Registration
of Live Birth and Deaths

Country	Year	Country	Year
Algeria ¹	1962	Mali ¹	1933
Benin ¹	1933	Mauritania ¹	1933
Botswana ¹	1939	Mauritius ¹	1793
Burkina Faso ¹	1933	Morocco ¹	1950
Burundi ¹	1922	Niger ¹	1933
Cameroon ¹	1917	Nigeria ¹	1867
Central African Rep. ¹	1940	Rwanda ¹	1922
Chad ²	1961	Senegal ¹	1916
Congo ¹	1922	Seychelles	1893
Gabon ¹	1940	Sierra Leone ¹	1801
Ghana ¹	1888	Somalia ¹	1904
Guinea-Bissau ²	1976	South Africa ²	1924
Ivory Coast ²	1933	Swaziland ¹	1900
Kenya ²	1964	Tanzania ¹	1917
Lesotho ¹	1880	Togo ¹	1923
Lybia ²	1968	Tunisia ²	1918
Madagascar ¹	1878	Uganda ²	1905
Malawi ²	1904	Zaire ²	1958

¹ Makannah, T.J. Methods and Problems of Civil Registration Practices and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa. IIVRS Tech. Paper No. 16, p. 15-16, July 1981.

² United Nations. Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, Studies in Methods. Series F No. 35, p. 43, 1985.

Note: There are differences in the information from the two sources. where they differ, the United Nations appear generally to relate to recent history, that is, registration systems re-established after independence. On the other hand, Makannah's data go back to the colonial period.

Table 2. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Africa

Country	Civil Registration Administration		National Vital Statistics Office
	Subnational	National	
Algeria	...	...	...
Angola	...	...	...
Benin	Maire	Ministère de l'Intérieur	Institut national de la statistique et de l'analyse économique, Ministère du Plan et de la statistique
Botswana	District Administration	Registration Section Ministry of Home Affairs	Central Statistical Office Ministry of Finance & Development Planning
Burkina Faso ¹	Centres d'état civil	Ministère de l'Intérieur	None
Burundi	...	...	...
Cameroon	Les centres d'état civil dans les communes	Direction des collectivités Direction des affaires politiques	Direction de la statistique et de la comptabilité nationale Ministère du plan et aménagement du territoire
Cape Verde	Secretariado Administrativo	Direccao Geral dos registos e notariado Ministerio la justica	Direccao Geral de Estatistica
Central African	Les centres d'état civil	None	Service de l'état-civil et du recensement démographique Ministère de l'Intérieur
Chad ¹	Centres d'état civil	Ministère de l'Intérieur	Sous-direction de la statistique, Direction du plan, Ministère de l'économie du plan des transports
Comoros	...	...	...
Congo ¹	Bureau d'état civil (de chaque zone)	Département de l'administration du territoire	Centre national de la statistique Département du plan
Djibouti	...	...	...
Egypt	...	Civil Registration Department Ministry of Interior	Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics
Equatorial	District Courts of Justice	Juzgado de Distrito Ministerio de Justicia Culto y Registro Civil	Direccion General de Estadistica Ministerio de Planificacion

Table 2. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics : Africa (Cont.)

Country	Civil Registration Administration		National Vital Statistics Office
	Subnational	National	
Ethiopia	...	Ministry of Interior (rural areas) Ministry of Housing & Urban Development (urban areas)	Planning & Programming Service Ministry of Interior
Gabon ²	Centres principaux et secondaires	Ministries of the Interior & Justice	...
Gambia	Health inspectors	Medical & Health Department Ministry of Health, Labour & Social Welfare	Medical & Health Department Ministry of Health, Labour & Social Welfare
Ghana	Regional Registration Office	Birth & Death Registry Ministry of Local Government	Birth & Death Registry Ministry of Local Government
Guinea-Bissau ¹	Delegacoes do Registro Civil (Setor Regional)	Registro Civil, Comissariado de Estado de Justica	Direcao General de Estadistica, Comissariado de Estado de Desenvolvimento Economico e Planificacao
Ivory Coast ²	Centres principaux et secondaires	Ministries of Interior & Justice	...
Kenya ¹	Local registry office & District Registers	Registrar General of Births, Deaths, Department of Registrar General	Statistics Section, Registrar General of Births & Deaths
Lesotho	Chiefs & other village administrators	Registrar General's Prime Minister's Office	Bureau of Statistics Ministry of Planning, Employment & Economic Affairs
Liberia	Country registrars	Bureau of Health & Vital Statistics Ministry of Health & Social Welfare	Bureau of Health & Vital Statistics Ministry of Health & Social Welfare

Table 2. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Africa (Cont.)

Country	Civil Registration Administration		National Vital Statistics Office
	Subnational	National	
Lybia	Civil registration office	Civil Registration Section Secretariat of Utilities	Census & Statistics Department, Secretariat of Planning
Madagascar	Communes	Direction du contrôle et de la tutelle des collectivités Ministère de l'Intérieur	Institut national de la statistique et de la recherche économique Présidence chargé des finances et du plan
Malawi	District Commissioners office	Registrar General's Department Ministry of Justice (coordination & national files of births & death records)	Registrar General's Department Ministry of Justice
Mali	Centre d'état civil	Direction nationale de l'intérieur et de collectivité territoriale Ministère de l'Intérieur	Direction nationale de la statistique et de l'informatique Ministère du plan
Mauritania	...	...	...
Mauritius	Civil Status Office	Civil Status Office Prime Minister's Office	Central Statistical Office Ministry of Economic Planning & Development
Morocco	Bureau locaux d'état civil	Division d'état civil Ministère de l'Intérieur	Direction de la statistique Ministère du plan
Mozambique	...	...	...
Namibia	...	...	...
Niger	...	...	...
Nigeria	State ministries of health Local government & teaching hospitals	National Population Bureau Cabinet Office	National Population Bureau Cabinet Office

Table 2. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Africa (Cont.)

Country	Civil Registration Administration		National Vital Statistics Office
	Subnational	National	
Reunion	...	...	...
Rwanda	Bureau communaux d'état civil	Direction général des af- faires po- litiques et administratives Ministère de l'Intérieur et du déve- loppement Communal	Direction générale de la statistique Ministère du plan
Saint Helena	...	...	...
Sao Tome & Principe	...	...	...
Senegal ¹	Centres d'état civil	Ministère de l'Intérieur	Direction de la statistique Ministère des finances et des affaires économiques
Seychelles	Government Administration	Civil Status Division Department of Youth & Defense	Statistics Division Department of Finance
Sierra Leone	Births & deaths Office Ministry of Health	Office of Chief Registrar Ministry of Health	Medical Statistics Unit Ministry of Health
Somalia	None	None	None
South Africa	...	Department of Home Affairs Department of Co-operation & Development	Central Statistical Services Department of Constitutional Development & Planning
Sudan	Hospitals, dispens- aries, dressing stations	Ministry of Health	Department of Statistics Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning
Swaziland	Hospitals, clinics, police stations, chiefs of area	None	Central Statistical Office Department of Economic Planning & Statistics
Tanzania	District registry	Office of Registrar General Ministry of Justice	Bureau of Statistics Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs

Table 2. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Africa (Cont.)

Country	Civil Registration Administration Subnational	National	National Vital Statistics Office
Togo	Centres d'état civil	Division des affaires politiques et administratives Ministère de l'Intérieur	Direction de la statistique Ministère du plan
Tunisia ¹	Centres d'état civil (Commune)	Ministère de l'Intérieur	Direction des statistiques, démographiques et sociales Institut nationale de la statistique
Uganda ¹	District civil registry	Registrar General of Births & Deaths Ministry of Justice	Statistics Department Ministry of Planning
Western Sahara	...	...	...
Zaire	Bureaux de l'état civil	Etat zairois Ministère de l'administration du territoire	Institut national de la statistique Ministry du plan
Zambia	Provincial, district & subcenters (schools, health centers & local courts)	Department of National Registration Ministry of Home Affairs	Census & Statistics Department Ministry du
Zimbabwe	Provincial & district registries	Central Registry Ministry of Home Affairs	Central Statistical Office Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Development

¹ United Nations. Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods Vol. II. Review of National Practices, Series F, No. 35, p. 51, 1985.

² Makannah, T.J., Methods and Problems of Civil Registration Practices and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa, IIVKS Technical Reports No. 16, July 1981.

Table 3. Number of Local Registration Offices, Population and Land Area Served by an Average Local Registration Office, and the Estimated Number of Births and Deaths Occurring in an Average Local Registration Office: Africa

Country	No. of Local Offices	Population per Office	Area (Km ²) per Office	Estimated Annual Births	Annual Number Deaths
Benin	227 ¹	17,100	500	850	300
Botswana	17	60,000	35,300	2,740	760
Burkina Faso	746 ²	9,000	370	430	210
Cameroon	926 ¹	10,300	513	450	180
Cape Verde	15	2,100	270	70	20
Central African Rep.	183 ²	14,200	3,400	690	260
Chad	350 ²	14,600	3,670	715	270
Congo	354 ²	4,900	970	220	80
Gabon	42 ¹	20,000	5,500	2,000	400
Ghana	604	22,900	395	1,030	250
Guinea-Bissau	4 ²	210,000	36,100	3,900	4,500
Ivory Coast	1,295 ¹	7,500	250	360	100
Kenya	41	472,000	14,200	24,500	5,200
Liberia	10	216,000	11,100	9,700	3,240
Lybia	46	81,500	38,300	3,700	940
Nadagascar	1,252	7,700	470	360	130
Malawi	24	284,500	4,900	14,500	6,700
Mauritius	47	21,500	44	510	150
Morocco	880 ²	26,500	700	1,100	320
Niger	312 ¹	20,100	4,080	1,100	430
Rwanda	143 ¹	42,100	180	2,250	715
Senegal	823 ²	7,900	238	395	140
Seychelles	4	10,300	70	415	115
Sierra Leone	175	21,600	410	980	485
Swaziland	7 ²	93,000	2,480	4,510	1,440
Tanzania	88	239,200	10,700	11,100	4,300
Togo	428 ²	6,000	130	295	115
Tunisia	1,271 ²	5,600	130	175	40
Uganda	645 ²	18,000	280	860	310
Zaire	991	32,300	2,400	1,440	500
Zambia	1,772	3,700	425	175	60
Zimbabwe	59	142,000	6,600	6,600	2,200

Table 4. Countries in Africa Classified According to Agencies Providing Vital Statistics and Civil Registration Services

National Vital Statistics Services	Total	National Registration Services				No National Registration Office
		Registration Office	Health Administration	Statistical Office	Other & Unknown	
Statistical Office	29	25	1	1	1	1
Registration Office	3	2				1
Health Administration	3	1	2			
Other & Unknown	2	1			1	
No National Vital Statistics Services	2	1				1
	36	30	3	1	2	3

Table 5. Estimated Completeness of Birth and Death Registration: Africa

Country	% Registration Completeness		Country	% Registration Completeness	
	Birth	Death		Birth	Death
Algeria ¹	U	U	Malawi	1	1
Angola ¹	U	U	Mali ²	U	U
Benin ²	U	U	Mauritania ²	U	U
Botswana ²	U	U	Mauritius	100	100
Burkina Faso ²	U	U	Morocco	40	40
Burundi ²	U	U	Mozambique ²	U	U
Cameroon	...	...	Namibia	...	...
Cape Verde	C	C	Niger ²	U	U
Central African Rep.	11	6	Nigeria ²	U	U
Chad ¹	U	U	Reunion	C	C
Comoros ²	U	U	Rwanda	51	5
Congo ¹	U	U	St. Helena ¹	U	U
Djibouti	U	U	Sao Tome & Principe	C	C
Egypt	100	100	Senegal ²	U	U
Equatorial Guinea	53	58	Seychelles	100	100
Ethiopia ²	U	U	Sierra Leone ²	U	U
Gabon	...	...	Somalia	C	C
Gambia	50	10	South Africa ²	U	U
Ghana	43	28	Sudan	25	5
Guinea ²	U	U	Swaziland ²	23	26
Guinea-Bissau	U	U	Tanzania ¹	U	U
Ivory Coast ²	U	U	Togo	80	15
Kenya ²	U	U	Tunisia ¹	C	U
Lesotho	25	15	Uganda ²	U	U
Liberia	35	12	Western Sahara ²	U	U
Lybia	90	62	Zaire ²	U	U
Madagascar ¹	U	U	Zambia ²	U	U
			Zimbabwe ¹	U	20

¹ Makannah, T.J., Methods and Problems of Civil Registration Practices and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa. IIVKS Technical Papers No. 10, p. 17 and 18, July 1981.

² United Nations Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, Vol. II. Review of National Practices, Series F, No. 35, p. 73, 1965.