



## **MINISTRY OF NATIONALITY, IMMIGRATION & GENDER AFFAIRS**

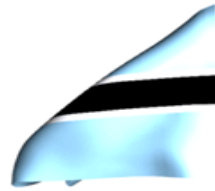
# **Botswana Strategy For The Development Of Statistics(BSDS), Civil Registration & Vital Statistics (CRVS)**

## **2016 Progress Report**

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Fairgrounds Holdings**



***Slogan: "The Future is Now,  
Transforming Botswana public service  
Innovation for agenda 2030"***



# The presentation covers

- Background
- To appreciate Botswana's progress on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
- The Overview – to explain current state of CRVS
- Challenges encountered
- Initiatives to improve CRVS

# Civil Registration Background

- In Botswana registration of births and deaths, Marriages, Change of Name and Divorce as well as national identity are compulsory.
- The services registering all the vital events are currently decentralised to 12 districts and 24 sub districts
- In 2004 an online real time registration computerized system was established linking all registration points.
- Further in 2011 birth and deaths registration was extended to 13 health facilities with maternity facility for on-spot registration and issuance of births and death certificates.
- Botswana had made great strides in birth registration, with 83.2 per cent of birth registered, most of which is in urban areas, in remote areas and among some minority groups, birth registration remains a challenge.
- the coverage of marriage registration is 98% of Civil Marriage registered as per Vital Statistics Report 2014. Customary and religious marriages are not registered

# Civil Registration Vital Statistics Legislatives

Civil registration is the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events and identity documents are a right packed as requirement to all social service.

Comprehensive set of laws and regulations govern the administration and delivery civil registration services are;

- Births and deaths Act
- Marriage Act
- Married Persons Property Act
- National Registration Act
- Change of Name Act

Some these legislations are outdated and due for review.

Besides our country's civil registration law being in place, the registration of vital events is often provided for in other policy documents adopted/ratified by other government agencies at national, regional or international levels.

- These laws needs alignment with other laws to be in compliance with national and the international standards.
- Birth and Deaths and Marriage Act are currently under review.
- To increase accessibility the Minister of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs in late 2015 waived registration charges for Orphan and vulnerable groups to encourage OVC registration and achievement universal registration.

## Improving Accessibility of CRVS

- There are still some pockets of unregistered vulnerable children in Botswana with some of these children in child-welfare institutions in the remote areas particularly the hardest to reach areas.
- These children often fall short of enjoying fulfilment of their fundamental rights which include the right to health, education, other amenities they rightfully deserve as well as protection from abuse, exploitation and neglect.
- The remote area dwellers particularly those in the Okavango, Gantsi, Kgalagadi North and Kweneng West sub-regions have always experienced difficulties in accessing civil registration service centres , thereby placing them amongst the districts with the lowest birth registration coverage.



# Initiatives To Achieve Complete CRVS

The Department of Civil Registration, continue to put strategies in place to improve registration service on issues of legislatives, infrastructure, equipments and administrative procedures.

- Registration infrastructure: in 2016 a registration office in Nata and 2 on site registration points at health facilities established to offer on the spot birth and death registration.
- In improving registration coverage, quarterly out reach visits are undertaken to provide registration services in remotest areas.
- Universal Registration Campaign (launched in conjunction with UNICEF) under the theme “ **Let You Child Be Visible , Register Your Childs Birth Today & Include Fathers Names**”
- Improvement of the quality of the paper for printing births and deaths certificates
  - Has more security features that diminish the risk of fraud & improved lifespan

## Initiatives To Achieve Complete CRVS

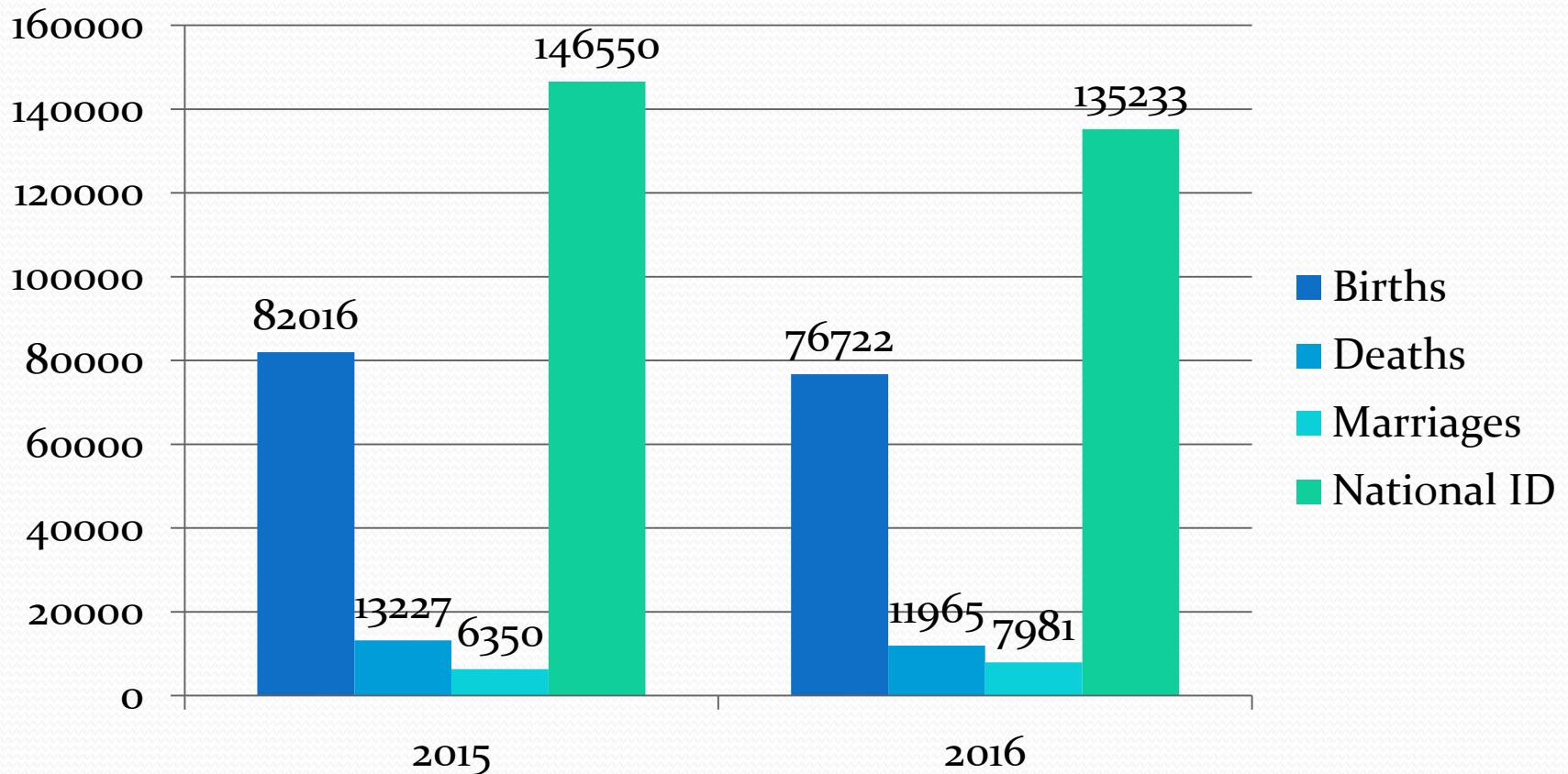
- A Mobile Registration facility developed and successfully piloted by conducted a house to house universal registration campaign in Okavango region in collaboration with UNICEF.
- In collaboration with UNICEF a Mini-Sweep project for an Affirmative Action/Registration of Vulnerable Groups was undertaken in the remote areas particularly those in the Okavango, Gantsi, Kgalagadi North and Kweneng West
- The regions experience difficulties in accessing civil registration service centres , thereby placing them amongst the districts with the lowest registration coverage.
- National ID is trusted and used for all person identity in government service and private entities.
- Birth or citizenship certificates are mandatory requirements for proof of citizenship, place and date of birth for ID application



# Improving Administrative procedures & Processes

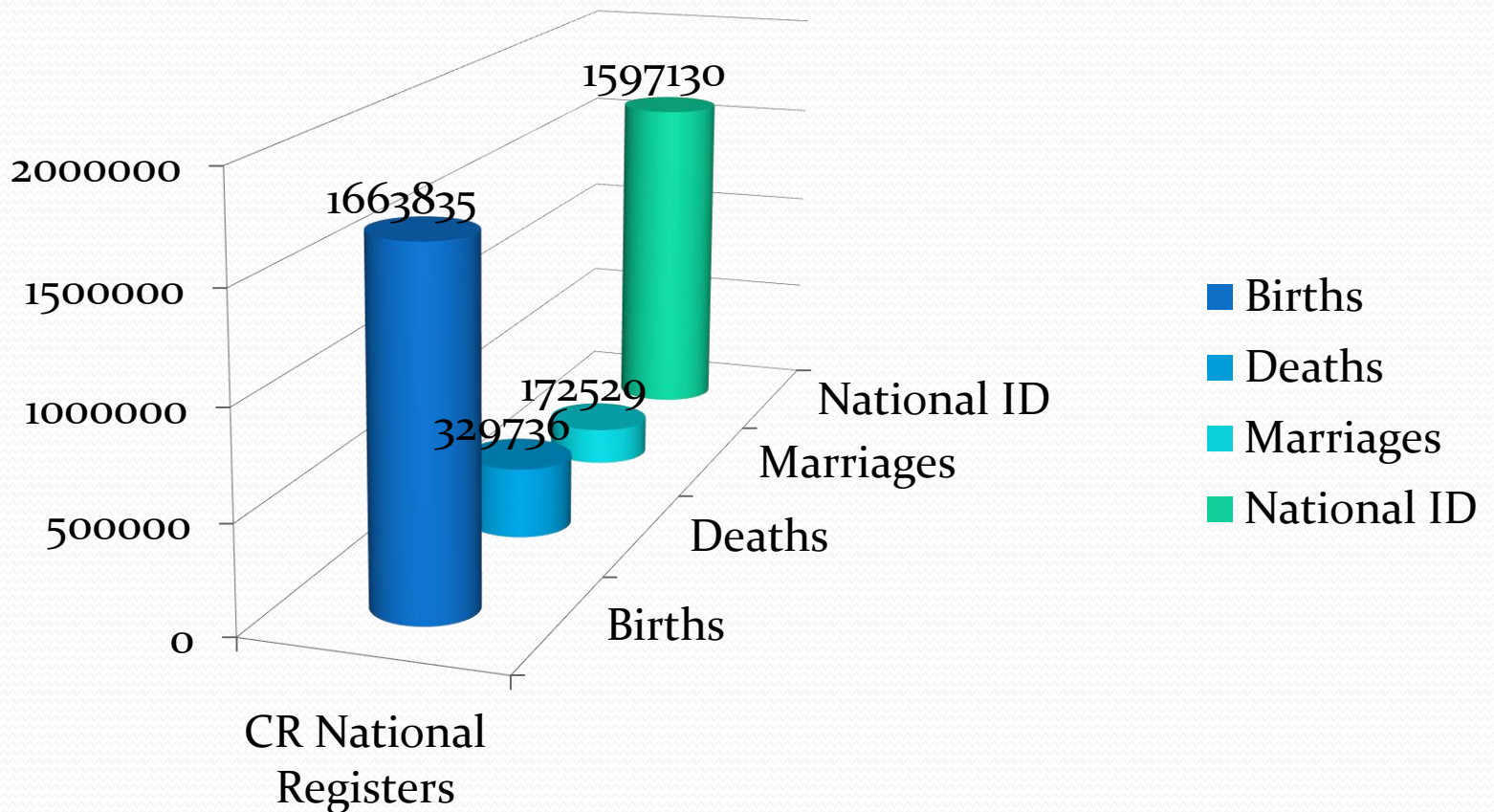
- Children are the future of this country and efforts must be made to ensure that their development is promoted.
- However, this development is often hampered by their non-registration at birth. Currently, there are some pockets of unregistered vulnerable children in Botswana, and some live in child welfare institutions.
- UNICEF once again supported the development a guiding handbook for registration of orphans and vulnerable children.
- The Handbook is an important guide for service providers, caregivers and non-state actors who are involved in registering orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) to acquire birth certificates and Omang.
- It provides some of the key processes and procedures that need to be followed when registering OVC to access identity documents
- Children are the future of this country and efforts must be made to ensure that their development is promoted. However, this development is often hampered by their non-registration at birth. Currently, there are some pockets of unregistered vulnerable children in Botswana, and some live in child welfare institutions.
- It is intended to help the government of Botswana and other key stakeholders in the quest to achieve universal birth registration

## Civil Registration Statistics for 2015 and 2016



Registration statistics for 2015 is high in births and National IDs but in 2016 there is an increase in deaths and marriages

# Total Statistics National Registers



## GAPS IN CRVS

- Although the Government has initiated several measures in enhancing CR performance, civil registration:
  - Remains incomplete
  - Varies significantly by events – births, deaths, marriages and national identity - **with serious implications for national registration and vital statistics**
  - Shows substantial differentials across geographical level, i.e., regions, districts, rural-urban, localities – cities, towns, villages
  - Incomplete coverage of marriage (only marriages solemnized by DCs systematically registered); and negligible coverage for religious and customary marriages

## GAPS IN VITAL EVENTS CONTINUE

- For the most part, in remote areas, some parents often do not see the benefits of their own citizenship, let alone the benefits that birth registration would confer on their children.
- A lack of parental enthusiasm for birth registration can undermine efforts to improve birth registration systems.
- Shortage of resources
- Network coverage in remotes villages
- The use of Mobile Registration unit encounter challenges in unelectrified villages/settlements
- Mobile equipment no adequate
- Bad terrain and shortage of suitable vehicles

# Proposed initiatives for the next financial year(2017/18)

## Implementing CRVS Strategic Plan 2016/2020

In collaboration with UNICEF the Ministry of Nationality Immigration and Gender Affairs had planned for the following programmes in 2017/2018

- Improve birth registration of vulnerable groups through technology for development (T4D) in remote areas of ( Kgalagadi North, Kweneng West Gantsi and Okavango) to increase registration coverage.
- Improve access and effective coverage of mobile birth registration in remote areas in Botswana, and its dissemination to stakeholders.
- Capacity building in operationalisation of Technology for development (T4D) on birth registration of vulnerable groups
- Development of integrated systems to facilitate other government agencies.
- Intensify use of mobile facility for on the spot registration and issuance of registration documents.
- Establish registration service points at strategic areas such as health facilities & district administration centres.
- Build staff capacity on data quality management.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of CR systems