THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN GHANA/COORDINATION AMONG THE REGISTRATION, STATISTICS AND HEALTH SECTORS

Presented by
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Principal Assistant Registrar
Ghana
Background to vital registration in Ghana

- 1888-Vital registration started in the Gold Coast (now Ghana) - regulated by Cemeteries Ordinance
- 1912-Births, Deaths and Burials Ordinance enacted to replace law of 1888- birth registration introduced
- 1965- Registration of Births and Deaths Act passed to:
  - Ensure compulsory and universal registration of births/deaths in Ghana
  - Promote public health in the country.
  - Establish an efficient system of births and deaths registration records for the citizenry
  - Obtain vital statistics data which are adequate and efficient enough for deriving reliable demographic estimates to support public health planning, for policy formulation at various levels of governance and for development planning in the country
Birth Registration Process

Live Births occurring in Hospitals/Health Facilities

Public Hospitals
Private Hospitals
Clinics
Maternity Homes

Medical Certification (Road to Health Card)
(Doctor/Midwife/Child Welfare Clinic)

Parents/Relative

Births and Deaths Registry
(Birth Certificate)

Parents/Relative

Live Births Occurring outside Health Facilities

Home
TBA
Others

Abandoned Children

Police
Social Welfare
Children’s Home

GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE
Death Registration Process

- Deaths occurring in Hospitals /Health facilities
  - Public Hospitals
  - Private Hospitals
  - Clinics
  - Medical Certification (Medical Certificate of Cause of Death) (Doctor)
  - RELATIVE
  - Cemetery
  - (Burial Permit)
  - BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRY
  - Ghana Statistical Service

- Deaths occurring outside health facilities
  - Home
  - Police
  - Coroner
  - (Coroner’s Inquest Report)
  - RELATIVE
  - Others
  - Community Volunteer
  - Cemetery
Operational Structure

National data organised and disseminated from here

10 Regional Offices
Supervise registration in regions

170 District offices

227 Registries and reporting centres at the community level

Central Registry Office

Regional Registration Office

Regional Registration Office

Regional Registration Office

District Registration Office

District Registration Office

District Registration Office

registry

registry

registry

Reporting centre
### The Staff Situation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>POPULATION (2000 POPN. CENSUS)</th>
<th>NO. OF REGISTRIES</th>
<th>NO OF STAFF</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL STAFF REQUIRED</th>
<th>NO. OF VEHICLES</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>12</td>
<td>184</td>
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<tr>
<td>U/WEST</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>115</td>
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Partnerships and linkages

Hospitals, clinics

CHPS, CHN, DSS

Police, Coroner Social Welfare

(Births and Deaths Registry)

Volunteer, TBA, Chiefs

National identification

Education, passport, social security

Employment, electoral commission

Statistical Service

District level planning

Regional Level planning

National Level planning

District level planning
## Registered births (0-12 months only) 2000-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>EXPECTED BIRTHS</th>
<th>REGISTERED BIRTHS</th>
<th>% COVERED</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>18,912,079</td>
<td>756,483</td>
<td>236,335</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>19,422,705</td>
<td>776,908</td>
<td>211,081</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>19,947,118</td>
<td>797,885</td>
<td>138,151</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>20,485,690</td>
<td>819,428</td>
<td>239,919</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>21,038,804</td>
<td>841,552</td>
<td>430,127</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>21,606,852</td>
<td>713,026</td>
<td>476,251</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>22,190,237</td>
<td>732,278</td>
<td>391,841</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>22,789,373</td>
<td>752,049</td>
<td>466,129</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>23,404,686</td>
<td>772,355</td>
<td>392,898</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALL REGIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Coverage and completeness of system**

- Ghana’s popn. 2000 census = 18,912,029
- Total popn with registration facilities = 4,609,523
- Coverage of registration = 25%
- Completeness of registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Birth(%)</th>
<th>Death(%)</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>25%</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Registered deaths (within 12 months of occurrence only) 2000-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>EXPECTED DEATHS</th>
<th>REGISTERED DEATHS</th>
<th>% COVERED</th>
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<td>226,945</td>
<td>45,402</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>19,422,705</td>
<td>233,072</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>19,947,118</td>
<td>239,365</td>
<td>49,530</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>20,485,690</td>
<td>204,857</td>
<td>47,492</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>21,038,804</td>
<td>210,338</td>
<td>50,625</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>21,606,852</td>
<td>216,069</td>
<td>52,079</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>22,190,237</td>
<td>221,902</td>
<td>51,841</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>22,789,373</td>
<td>227,894</td>
<td>54,234</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>23,404,686</td>
<td>234,047</td>
<td>52,382</td>
<td>22</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ALL REGIONS**

- 2008: 23,404,686  234,047  52,382  22
Challenges

Major challenges include:
- Low utilization of vital statistics for policy decisions
- Limited Access to registration facilities
- Low public knowledge about importance of registration
- Inadequate staff
- Inability to attract and retain highly qualified personnel due to low remuneration and poor service conditions
- Inadequate funding for the Registry,
- Difficulty in motivating registration volunteers
- Lack of logistics including accommodation, vehicles, requisite statistical software and programmes.
- Absence of training opportunities for sector staff
- Weak monitoring and supervision mechanisms.
Strategies to improve coverage

- BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
  Collaboration with Ghana Health Service-
  participation in Child Health Promotion Campaign,
  Integrated Maternal and child health programmes, May & Nov. Every year

  - Trained Community Health Workers (1,000) & Community Volunteers (1,250) to collect info. on vital events

  - Collaboration with Ghana Statistical Service, District Assemblies & Plan Ghana to pilot a Community Population Register Programme in 4 regions
Strategies to improve coverage cont’d

- **AWARENESS CREATION**
  - Public education initiated-use of radio, TV & press
    - Community Durbars
    - Mobile registration
    - UBR Campaign- led by “Goodwill Ambassador” for birth registration

- “Births and Deaths Registration Day” celebration instituted in Ghana – 1\textsuperscript{st} September every year since 2004
Improving quality of data

- Computerising data storage, management, analysis & retrieval
- Early registration of vital events- community based operatives get first hand information of vital events
- Capacity building for Registration staff- training in statistical data analysis, management and reporting
- Development and use of Standard operating procedures country wide
- Reviewed data capture documents to conform with international standards
Form Processing Environment
Way Forward

- Make registration facilities accessible to rural populations by expanding community population register programme to cover more rural communities in Ghana
- Step up and sustain public education on importance and benefits of vital registration
- Strengthen collaboration with all stakeholders to achieve universal registration
- Training and scaling up of verbal autopsy nation-wide
Way Forward cont’d

- Pursue total computerisation of programme – link all regional offices to Central office through WAN in the short term and in the long term all district registration offices.
- Capture backlog of data stock- 1912 to 2008
- Interface with stakeholders-
  - Ghana Health Service
  - Ghana Statistical Service
  - Ministry Of Health,
  - National Identification Authority
  - Electoral Commission
  - Ghana Immigration Service
  - SSNIT, DVLA, etc
Making vital registration relevant

- Ghana will seek to improve on its vital registration system by:
  a) Increasing coverage of the registration machinery (operationalising population registers in all communities) especially in rural areas
  b) Fine-tuning data capture, processing, management, storage & retrieval
  c) Make vital registration data available for use by health institutions, researchers, policy makers, development planners.
THANK YOU!
Clips from BDR day Celebration 2007