

Civil Registration – Critical national and regional infrastructure

Jeff Montgomery

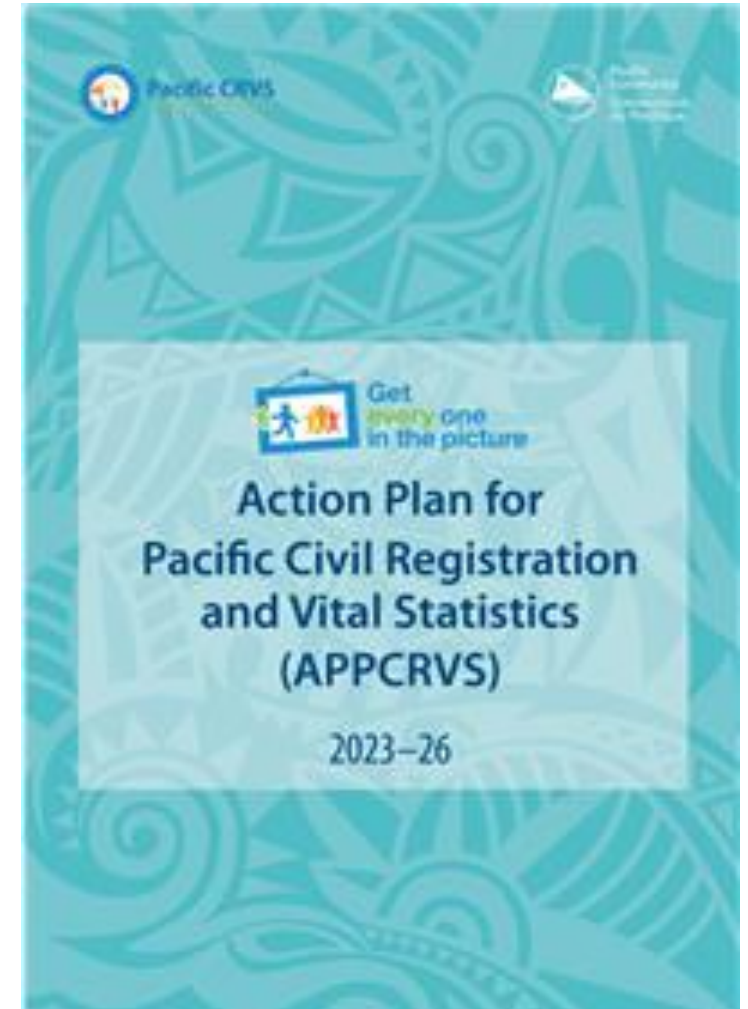
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Adviser

The Pacific Community (SPC)



- Premier technical and scientific organisation in the Pacific
- Oldest Pacific regional organisation (est. 1947) and the largest (27 members; 700 staff; €115m budget)
- Areas include Public Health, Fisheries, Geoscience, Environment Sustainability, Human Rights and Social Development, and Statistics

CRVS Co-ordination – a family of partners



CRVS 101

“The continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events of the population in accordance with the law.”

UN Statistics Division



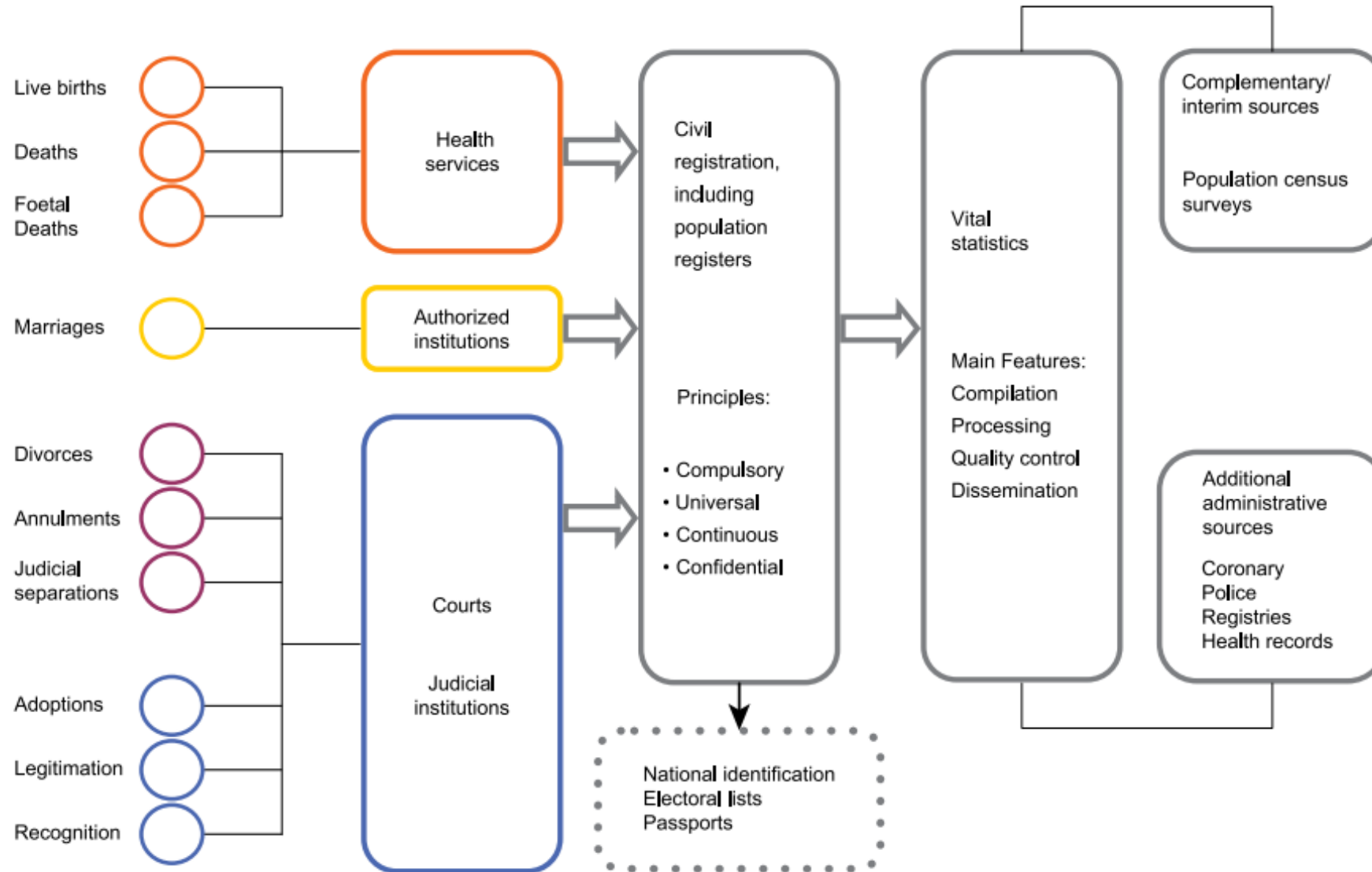
Individual benefit

- A legal identity and maybe a passport
- Access to education, health, voting
- Open a bank account or get a mobile phone
- Relationship, land and inheritance rights

Society benefit

- Statistics on population
- Develop policy and plan services
- No “dead” voters or citizens
- Report on 67 SDG indicators

Not one agency – an ‘ecosystem’



Critical infrastructure?

- A birth certificate will be the first official document a new-born receives and is a key foundational element to their identity. In the Pacific registrations levels range between 20 – 99%
- Diverse systems working together are essential. In the Pacific, government systems are often siloed and overly bureaucratic with parents/families curating information and navigating agencies (or not)
- Birth and death registration are often the “poor cousin” when it comes to investment or cross-agency collaboration

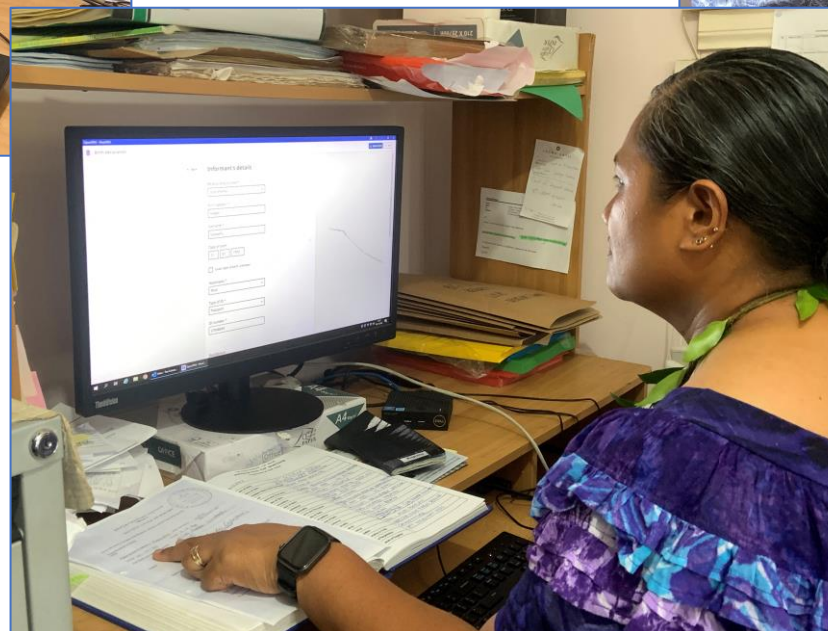
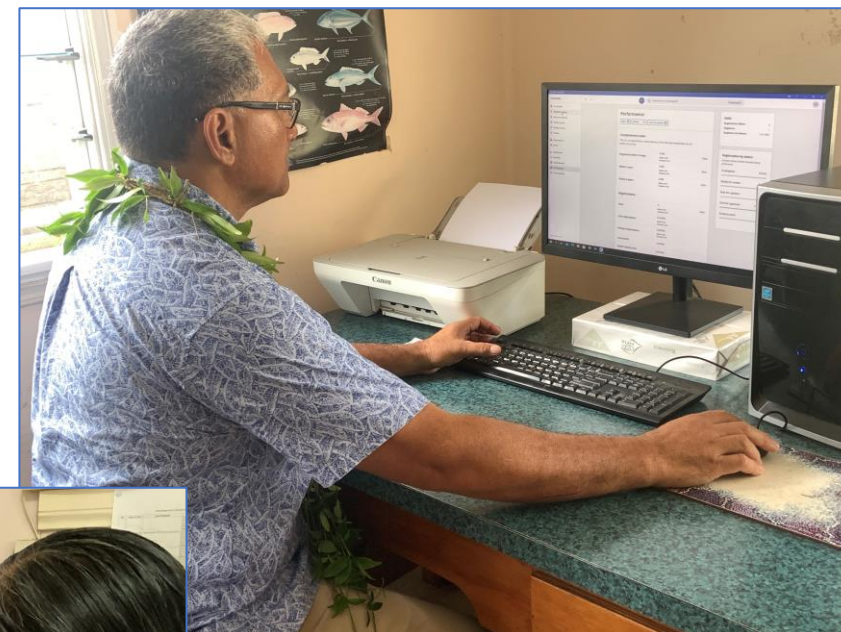
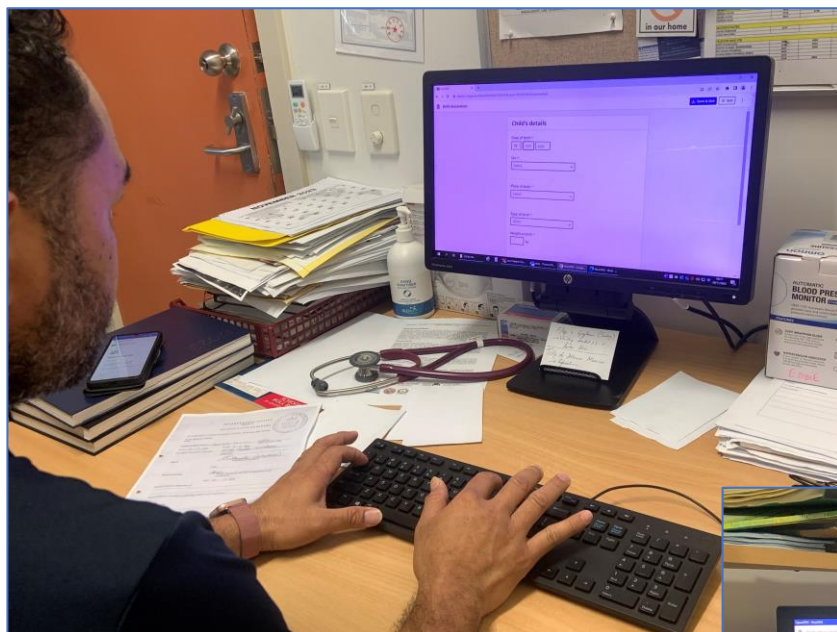


The Niue story – before ...

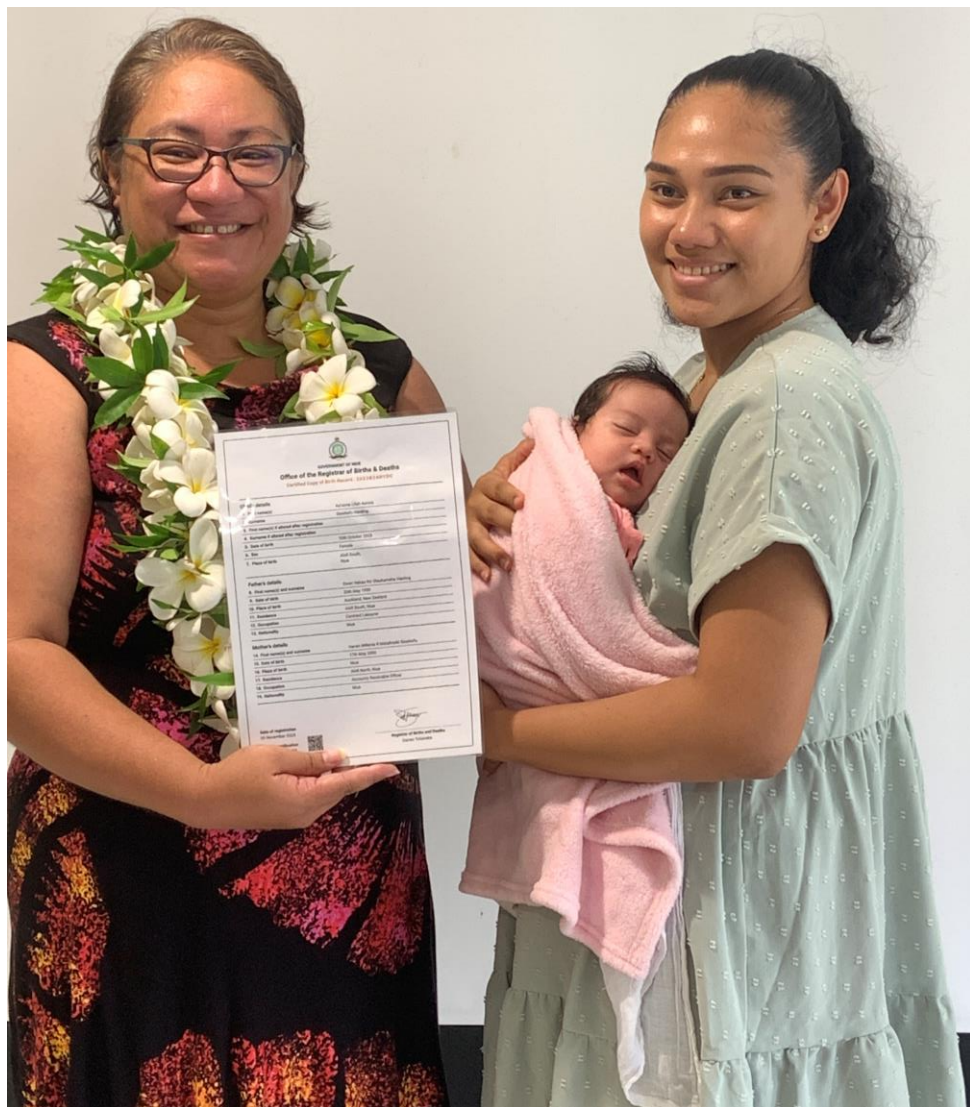
- Completely paper based.
- New parents and bereaved families had to take paper from hospital to registry office – often they didn't.
- Data was re-keyed multiple times.
- No disaster recovery.
- Months before statistics were available.



The Niue story – and after ...

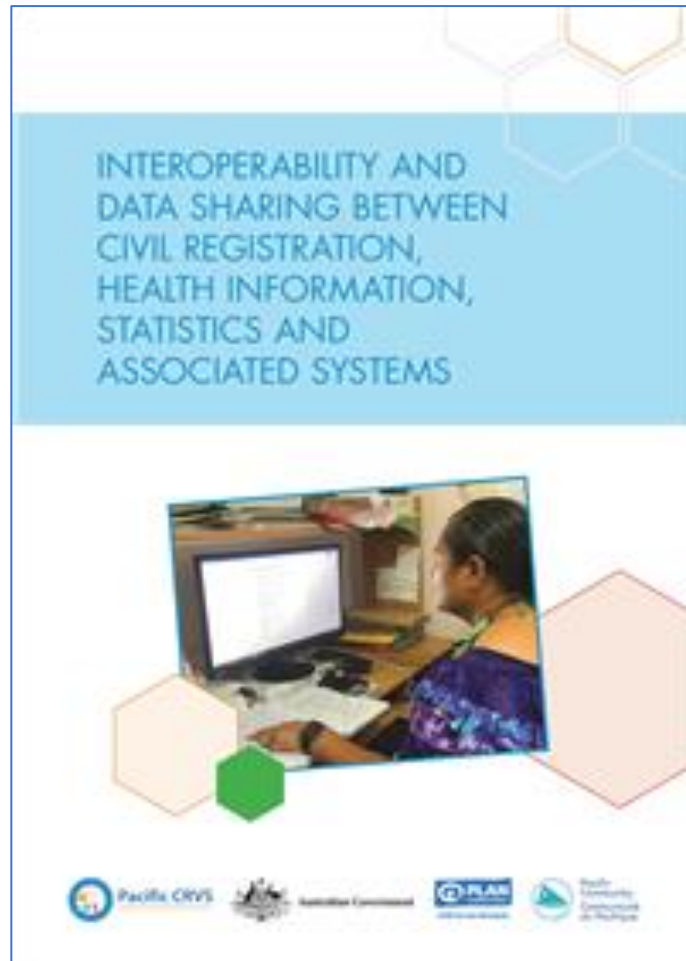


Key points



- OpenCRVS is “open source” and the country gets to own the code.
- Implementation was 3 months – not years.
- Total cost – only \$200,000
- APIs allow for connection with other government systems, eg Immigration, Passports.
- Interoperability with health and across the border is Phase 2 (2025).

Civil Registration Interoperability – Three levels



“Interoperability is the ability of **diverse systems to work together** using compatible data formats, communication protocols, system interfaces, concepts, definitions, standards, classifications and even standardised non-digital records.”

1. Between agencies with a country – eg between civil registry and passports office
2. Between countries – eg between civil registries or between countries that share passports (Niue/New Zealand)
3. Regionally – eg with Pacific Community for regional statistics

Interoperability – What we found



- Detailed examination of experiences in eight Pacific countries, with practical advice for new or replacement registration systems.
- The size of a country's population and number of births and deaths are important considerations.
- Sharing within country and between countries requires tailored solutions based on the specific requirements and constraints of each country.
- Most will need a flexible, hybrid model with both real-time and periodic data sharing.
- Must be underpinned by standardised practices and a strong focus on security and privacy.
- Interoperability with Health and Border systems presents a strong business case for joint investment into CRVS.

What can you do?

1. Be aware what is happening with civil registration in your country:
 - Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Palau – Business Process Mapping
 - PNG, Tonga, Kiribati, Solomon Islands – Action Plans
 - Vanuatu, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands – Digital Modernisation
 - Niue and Cook Islands – Interoperability across borders
2. Engage with your civil registry office to explore collaboration, strengthening and investment opportunities.
3. Contact the Pacific Community (SPC) if you need any help.

More information:

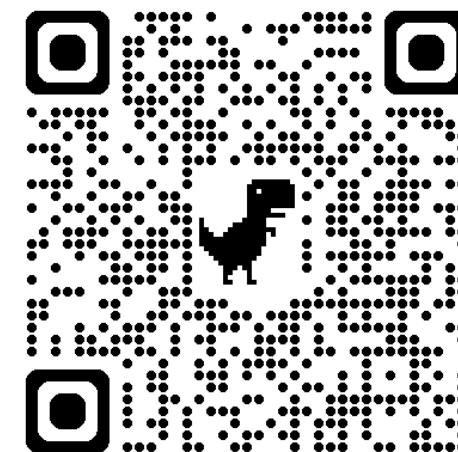
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Pacific CRVS Website
and Resources