OpenCRVS FAQs

Who owns the data if we implement OpenCRVS and where is it stored?

OpenCRVS can be deployed in a local data centre or using cloud infrastructure as per a country's legal requirements and capabilities. All data is owned by the country and they alone will have access to this data.

What costs are there associated with an implementation of OpenCRVS?

There are no licence costs to use OpenCRVS - the code is freely available on Github.

There are, however, costs associated with implementing OpenCRVS, including:

- Design and configuration of the product for the local context
- Any additional customisations i.e. features that don't already exist but need to be designed and built for that context
- Testing of the proposed configuration in multiple contexts
- Infrastructure and networking required to support the deployed solution
- Ongoing application support and maintenance
- The other components of a successful technology transformation, such as (i) regulatory and legislative assessment and change, (ii) change management, (iii) communications & behavioural change campaigns, and (iv) continuous improvement activities.

How does OpenCRVS ensure data protection and security?

OpenCRVS is secure by design. The product maintains best practice security approaches throughout including secure device access through 2 factor authentication and by encrypting data both in transit and at rest. The application and infrastructure has been security tested by an independent, CREST certified 3rd party to UK government standards.

The security of your OpenCRVS instance is also dependent on the security of your infrastructure. Whether it is deployed in your own national data centre or in the cloud, you need to consider the risks and benefits for both e.g. when OpenCRVS is hosted on Tier III cloud infrastructure it will take advantage of the highest infrastructure security standards and ensures compliance with strictest data protections laws and policies.

Who can I work with to configure and implement OpenCRVS?

As a digital public good, you can work with a host of different partners and system integrators to implement the system. This growing community of OpenCRVS implementation experts will create a community that can sustain the product in the long-term.

NB. whoever you work with should have the appropriate skillset, if you need to better understand what this is, please get in touch.

If there is an existing legacy digital CRVS system in place, can we use specific parts/modules of OpenCRVS?

OpenCRVS is built in a modular way using a microservices architecture. This means that each microservice can work independently as well as part of the whole. In theory, this means that you can choose different components to work with any existing legacy system. Remember - for this to work, work will likely have to be done to the legacy system (so that it can communicate in a standards-based way with OpenCRVS) so the time and effort associated with this should be assessed before making a decision.

What health systems can OpenCRVS work with?

The technical architecture of OpenCRVS was designed to conform to the Open Health Information Exchange (OpenHIE) architectural standard and HL7 (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) or FHIR. FHIR is a global standard application programming interface (API) for exchanging electronic health records.

By following the OpenHIE framework, OpenCRVS seamlessly connects civil registration to health services and other systems. As long as the health system in question uses these standards, OpenCRVS can easily communicate with them. For health systems that do not follow these standards, additional development work with be required.

Can OpenCRVS integrate with NID systems?

Yes, we use OpenHIM to receive information and expose registration events to any other technical system incl. National ID. In Bangladesh we have integrated with their NID system via the "Eksheba" service. This allows OpenCRVS to (i) verify the authenticity of individual NID numbers, and (ii) auto-populate fields associated with the individual using information from the NID system.

How does OpenCRVS work in countries where CRVS is decentralised, including data ownership and revenue management?

OpenCRVS instances can be deployed at national or sub-national level as per country requirements. Local configurations can be made at a sub-national level and OpenCRVS can be deployed, managed and maintained locally if required. Choosing an approach like this will likely have financial implications.

Which languages is OpenCRVS available in?

OpenCRVS can be easily translated into any language required in any country. Countries can operate using as many languages as they want and will need to provide translations of the master dat dictionary.

Does OpenCRVS work offline?

Absolutely. OpenCRVS allows users to work offline and once connectivity is re-established any data transmission required will take place. Certain functionality does require connectivity such as NID verification, sending applications for approval, and downloading applications to review them.