

# Embedding CRVS improvements in a national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS)

## SAMOA

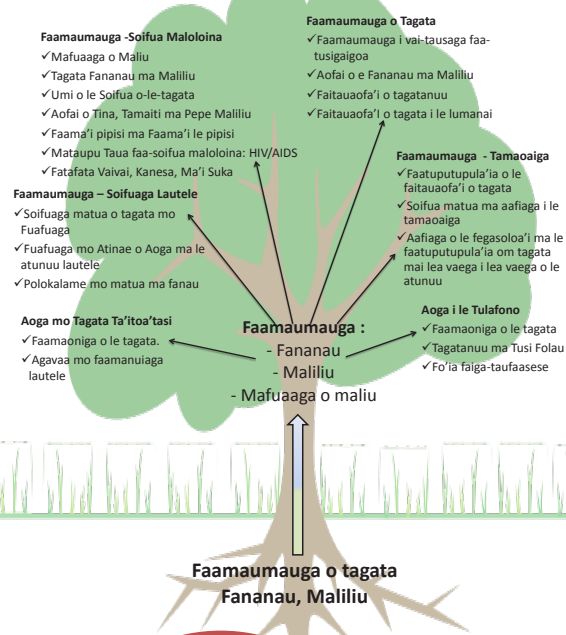


*A key goal of the NSDS is: Comprehensive, timely and reliable population, demographic and vital statistics to provide the necessary information so that population and related policies can be formulated and monitored*

- Samoa formalized their national CRVS committee and completed an in-depth assessment and mapping of their CRVS system
- The committee developed a draft National CRVS Improvement Plan and began implementing a range of projects to improve CRVS in Samoa
- CRVS features strongly in the National Statistics for Development Strategy which has been nationally adopted.
- Linking the CRVS Improvement plan to the broader NSDS allows CRVS to be elevated in the national agenda – highlighting the importance of this data to population policy and governance.

### The CRVS tree – Uses of Data in Samoa

(adapted from the ABS)



### CRVS in Samoa

The Civil Registry in Samoa sits under the Samoa Bureau of Statistics, and is responsible for the legal registration of all births and deaths. There are two offices, one on each of the main islands, and families are required to present to the office in person.

Both the National Health Service and the Ministry of Women, Community, and Social Development have important roles in collecting data on births and deaths, with legislation requiring these agencies to share data with the Registry office. The Samoa Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Health have key roles in analysis and dissemination of vital statistics.

### What was done

Members of the National CRVS committee were actively engaged in the NSDS development process, and were therefore able to contribute findings from the work already done on CRVS assessment and mapping.

The CRVS committee has focussed heavily on identifying data users and key stakeholders for CRVS data to ensure broad engagement and support for CRVS.

Key improvements already completed or underway include:

- IT upgrades for the national Civil registry system
- Changes to the medical certificate of death in line with international standards
- Training for doctors in medical certification of death
- Procedures to ensure data from the NHS is routinely provided to the national registry office.

A key challenge in Samoa was bringing together strong national departments with very different mandates, needs, and structures.

Strong leadership from the National Statistics Office has been essential for stakeholder agreement and the development of a nationally cohesive plan.



Next steps include formally endorsing the national improvement plan, and conducting a review of legislation to better define roles and responsibilities.

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