

## COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRATION STATISTICS

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### ABSTRACT

Civil registration statistics is very important in many developing countries; it is among the best sources of information on population change. A well organized system for collecting such information contributes enough to development of a country. A qualitative research shows that statistics are expensive for developing countries and one of solutions is the development of administrative data collection based. The study will focus on Rwanda an African country where the economy is emerging and the requirement of data is high especially on population change and the economy. Descriptive analysis will show how data from civil registration records will be used to produce indicators of population usefully in health, social protection and education program. In this study a sample survey conducted in Rwanda for the user satisfactory of civil registration data shows the importance of civil registration statistics as a tool for monitoring the systems of good governance and a key component in production of demographics statistics

Key words: administrative statistics, qualitative analysis, population change, socio demographic statistics, vital statistics.

### 1. Introduction

The civil registration system is very important in counting of population, “to make people count, we first need to be able to count people,” said Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, Director General of the World Health Organization in 2003. Historically Africa witnessed as one of the earliest attempts of mankind in counting people. During the early period of the Pharaohs from 3,340 BC to 3,050BC, Egypt saw populations being counted for the purposes of tax collection and determining fitness for military service. There are many ways of counting people through the population censuses, surveys and civil recording.

This study compare the use of civil registration as stated the theme of the 1<sup>st</sup> African Conference of Ministers in Charge of Civil Registration reflects in full the two major functions of birth and death registration: one is legal and other statistical. Unless a person not registered, she or he does not exist in the eyes of the State. Registration is the only means to establish and protect identities, citizenship and property rights. Often, in the absence of civil registration records many countries do not know their exact population.

In many developing countries, the availabilities of most recent statistics is a problem because of lack of a well established data administrative statistics system. In many times it require to base on sampling and census to make estimations and projection of population needed in national plans and programs for development.

The case of Rwanda will be used to show how the use of civil registration is very important in developing country compare to other source of information which is extremely expensive and require more times to be conducted.

In this study we will show the importance of administrative statistics, the use of civil registration and the comparative analysis of the different sources of information in Rwanda

### **Objectives**

This work has two main objectives such as the importance of the use of civil registration statistics and advantage of using civil registration

#### **2. The importance of administrative statistics**

The importance of statistics information for country life is inevitable, and there are no country that can run their economy without basing on data information from statistics which provide benchmark for estimation and projection of past present and future.

The statistical data are useful in all domains of life socio-demography, politics, economy, socio protection, human right, military and culture. It is why most of the world countries spend much money in production of statistics.

In Africa the existence of accurate statistics is a problem because it is expensive or sometimes bad governance system could not favors their existence. It has been waiting the recently two decades ago that many African countries have found the importance of owning and using timely statistical data for development and sustainable economy. Since, it has been the time for creating the independent statistical office with mandate of organization and collecting national data to be used in policy making and programs.

In Rwanda, 2005 was the time for creation of National Institute of Statistics office with the mission of coordinating all statistics activities as well as national population census, national surveys, production of economical indicators and very recently development of administrative statistics system on the main purpose of providing basic info on planning and policy making at national and local level. Actually the main sources of information in Rwanda are national population census, poverty household survey (EICV) demographic and health survey (DHS) national agriculture survey (NAS) and macroeconomics indicators estimations, the development of administrative data system will help the government to minimize the costs of censuses and surveys which took much money for the country, the system which is under the process of development will provide information on socio demographics, education, health, labour, justices, economy and agriculture it will be much used in policy making at local level because the system will put many efforts at local level which is sector and district administrative system.

### 3. The use of civil registration

The system of civil registration in Rwanda have been collapsed during the genocide of 1994 which has completely destroyed Rwandan economy and cost lives of more than 1 million peoples and aftermath that system have to be recreated or reconstructed from zero, that process were not easy but with the effort of Rwandans and government headed by Paul Kagame the process were fast reestablished as well as other systems which took the economy growth rate of 8% after 18 years and the country is becoming in the countries who has significantly changed. Statistics have been very useful in that process, civil registration system have played a key role by providing necessary information on legal aspect for family identities needed in post genocide for several policies and programs of peace and reconciliation, justice, conflict resolutions etc.

Civil registration are used both in legal and statistics domain providing information on births, deaths and marriage and also are useful in socio-demography(fertility, mortality and projection), health, education, socio protection, human right, citizenship, parental identities, migration policy, election, scientific research, insurance claims age group information and much more. The availability of information on births, deaths, marriage, divorce, recognitions, adoption and other vital records are necessary for country's economy.

In demography, data from civil registration records is very usefully especially in population estimations and calculation of vital statistics.

$$Y = B - D + (I - E)$$

Y: Population growth  
 B: Births  
 D: Death  
 I : Immigration  
 E: Emigration

By deducting the equation above the population growth are derived from adding all births recorded minus deaths and adding net migration.

Recently Rwanda have put effort to modernize the system of civil registration to be modernized and productive of vital statistics utilized in different programs of planning policies for health, justice and good governance. The system will help to avail all records of births, deaths and marriage in fixed time established by **Civil Code** and will help the country to save money spent in conducting surveys and censuses.

#### 4. Findings

##### 4.1. Comparison of civil registration census and survey

The table below shows the difference between civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) surveys and census on different dimension and there are ranked as High(H), Medium(M) and Low(L), by making a qualitative research on the production of population statistical information we have found the results shown in table below

**Comparison of Survey Census and CRVS**

Dimension	Census	Survey	CRVS	Score			Rank		
				Census	Survey	CRVS	Census	Survey	CRVS
Cost	H	M	L	5	4	3	1	2	3
Rapidity of processing and availability of reports	L	M	H	3	4	5	3	2	1
Time-series availabilities	L	L	H	3	3	5	3	3	1
High Sampling errors	L	H	L	3	5	3	3	1	3
Geographically presentation	H	L	H	5	3	5	2	3	1
Continuity of information	L	M	H	3	4	5	3	2	1
Detailed social demographics information	M	H	L	4	5	3	2	1	3
Availability of statistics at small area	H	L	H	5	3	5	1	3	1
Average				3.78	3.89	4.33			

Legend : H(High); M(Medium); L (low)

In this table we have compare the three sources of population indicators by giving the score out of 5 and classifying by rank from 1 to 3 in order to determine their importance at every dimension taken. The results shows that census is the high costing H (high) with score of 5out of 5 and ranked as number 1 compare to the survey which is medium costing and CRVS(Civil Registration and Vital Statistics) which is the lowest costing. The rapidity of data processing and availabilities of reports for the census is very low because like example of Rwanda it takes more than one year to let out the final report while the surveys took at least 3 to 6 months of preparing the final report but CRVS takes only one month to 3 months. The CRVS is very important source of deaths information and mortality indicators compare to other sources. Time series availabilities the CRVS is the best because it is the day to day data collection it is not waiting long time to be done and every year or less it could show the real picture of socio demographics indicators of a country. Sampling errors surveys have much error because it is based on sampling structures while census and CRVS are best with very minimum errors. On geographically presentation and availability of statistics at small area CRVS is the best because at sector level you can found

statistical reports and census could produce results at sector level which is very difficult for survey because of sampling frame. Continuity of information like time series the CRVS is the best because of time taken to produce final reports. On the detailed social demographic side the survey is the high ranked because is collected many information at the same time CRVS is the lowest ranking because it collect a few information mostly on vital events. Globally compare these three sources of population data the CRVS is the best one with an average of 4.33 score out of 5 followed by surveys with 3.89 and census with 3.79.

#### 4.2. Comparison of sources of information in Rwanda

The statistical office in Rwanda in charge of conducting and organizing surveys and census for collecting data on purpose of national planning and policy making, recently have conducted census, surveys and CRVS compilation in 2010-2012 in table below we are going to compare these 3 sources of information basing on time taken to be organized and the budget cost taken.

Source of population data by Statistical office

Source of information	Time of production	Cost in American dollars
National Population census	10 years	21,300,000
EICV Poverty Household Survey	5 Years	7,500,000
DHS Demographics Health survey	5 Years	2,804,000
NAS National Agriculture Survey	5 years	2,000,000
CRVS Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	1 year	100,000

In this table we show that the source of information utilized by Statistical office in Rwanda to produce population indicators, CRVS is the best one basing on time and budget taken to avail such information. The development of civil registration system and use of data from that system will help the country to minimize the money spending in those activities and resolve the problems of waiting long time to have all needed data information for policy makers.

#### 4.3. The results on the use satisfactory of civil registration records

The study conducted in 3 districts of Rwanda shows that the system of civil registration records is the best source of population change and very important for monitoring and evolution of good governance on the achievement of different programs on health, gender promotion, education justice and etc. the system in Rwanda covered information at sector level on births, death, and marriage. In those 3 districts a total of 36 bureau of civil registrations equivalent to 36 sectors have been visited to assess the difficult occurred during vital event records.

In this study we found also that the use of CRVS information is very high at local administrative level than the national level because those data are much needed in assessment of family s difficulties related to marriage matrimonial regime, heritage for children,... but the level of being used in plans of big programs is still doubtful due to different reasons such as the delay of declaration of births and death occurred which caused problems of knowing the whole population in sector and their movement.

## 5. Conclusion

Basing on the importance of using civil registration records in development of country we conclude that Rwanda is in good way of ameliorating and strengthening civil registration system, civil records constitute the vital source of vital statistics which much needed in elaboration of health, policies, programs and project of a country. It is also very important in different aspect of legal cases and socio demographic domain as well as contributes much in good governance systems which is the 1<sup>st</sup> priority of Rwandan country. The production of vital statistics from civil registration records will help country to move on civil registration data instead of national population census data which is very costly and takes much time to be conducted

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