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

SAMOA

- 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)

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.

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.

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