



Lessons learned from Namibia

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Outline

- A historical perspective
- Strategy and development of new approaches to scale up Civil Registration
- Key lessons learned

A Historical Perspective

- At independence in 1990, the new Namibian government inherited a Civil Registration System built on the apartheid ideology's principles of segregation, economic and cultural discrimination and control of social and physical mobility.
- Coloured and blacks were typically only registered if staying in urban centres, and in separate registers.
- The birth and death registers were manual and fragmented.
- In 1979, an South West Africa ID with biometrics was introduced to all residents, the main objective of this card being to control the movement and access to resources. The ID consisted of 13 numbers, two of the digits described your racial classification.
- Therefore many people got an ID (often with wrong details) before their birth had been registered.

A Historical perspective, con.

- In order to rectify the situation, the government conducted mass mobile campaigns to register all people despite age for birth certificates.
- Many of birth records were created with no or little verification, resulting in endless mistakes, duplications, and creation of multiple identities.
- Another challenge was that the parents identity were not established yet, so wrong names were written on the birth records
- The birth, death and marriage registers remained manually and fragmented until 2011.

New Strategies

In 2007 the Ministry of Health and Social Services published the Demographic Health Survey, which provided a worrying state of particularly birth registration in Namibia. Despite recognition of the right of all children to birth certificates, the data of the DHS revealed that only 67, 1% of Namibian children under 5 years old had a birth certificate

Key strategic objectives:

- Improving access to Civil Registration Services
- Review of Legislation and re-engineering processes
- Development of a new integrated National Population Registration System (NPRS)

The strategy was also based on UN Definition of Civil Registration

- the continuous, permanent, compulsory, and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events (live births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, and divorces)
- And a child's right to a birth registration

Strategic objective 1: Improving access to Civil Registration

Access Improvement Initiatives:

- Opening of 22 hospital-based offices for birth
- Additional sub-regional offices
- Mobile Campaigns

- Closer partnership with Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and Ministry of Education.

Strategic Objective 2: Review of legal framework (Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration, no.81, 1963)

- In October 2012 the Department of Civil Registration announced the beginning of a law review to prepare a new bill on civil registration.
- The aim of the review was to draft a new bill which was more appropriate to the needs of all Namibian and more feasible to implement.
- Due to the complexity of the law review, lack of internal capacity, the process was partly outsourced to an organization with expertise in law reform, whom besides providing technical assistance, also was in charge of the public consultation and development of material. Technical and financial support was also provided by UNICEF. The process was guided by a multi-sectoral Technical Working Group and had seven key steps.
- All current laws were merged into The National Population Registration Bill

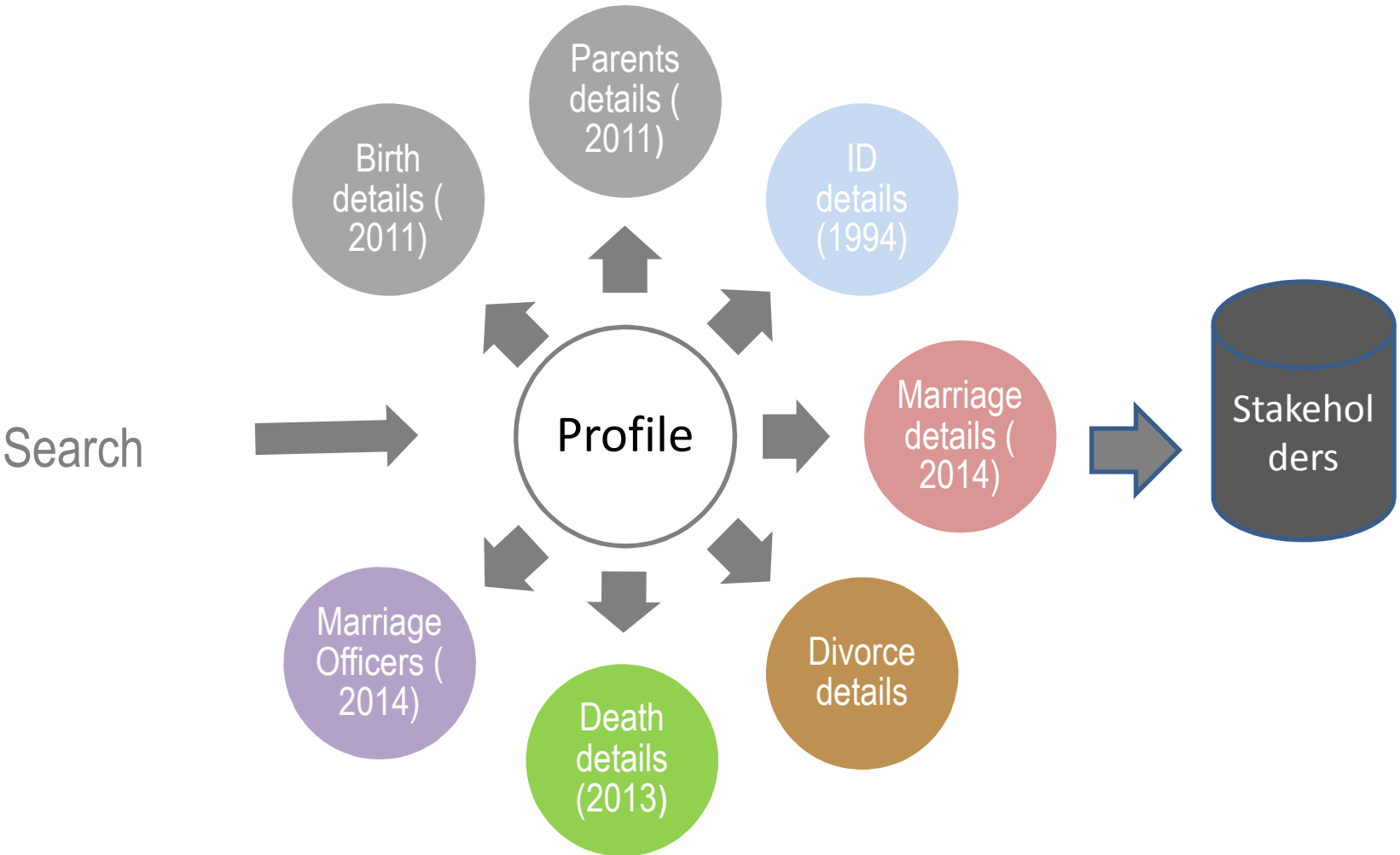
Strategic Objective 3: NPRS

- The aim of the integrated and web-based of the National Population Registration System (NPRS) to find solutions to administrative challenges within the existing manual systems and guarantee the integrity of the records.

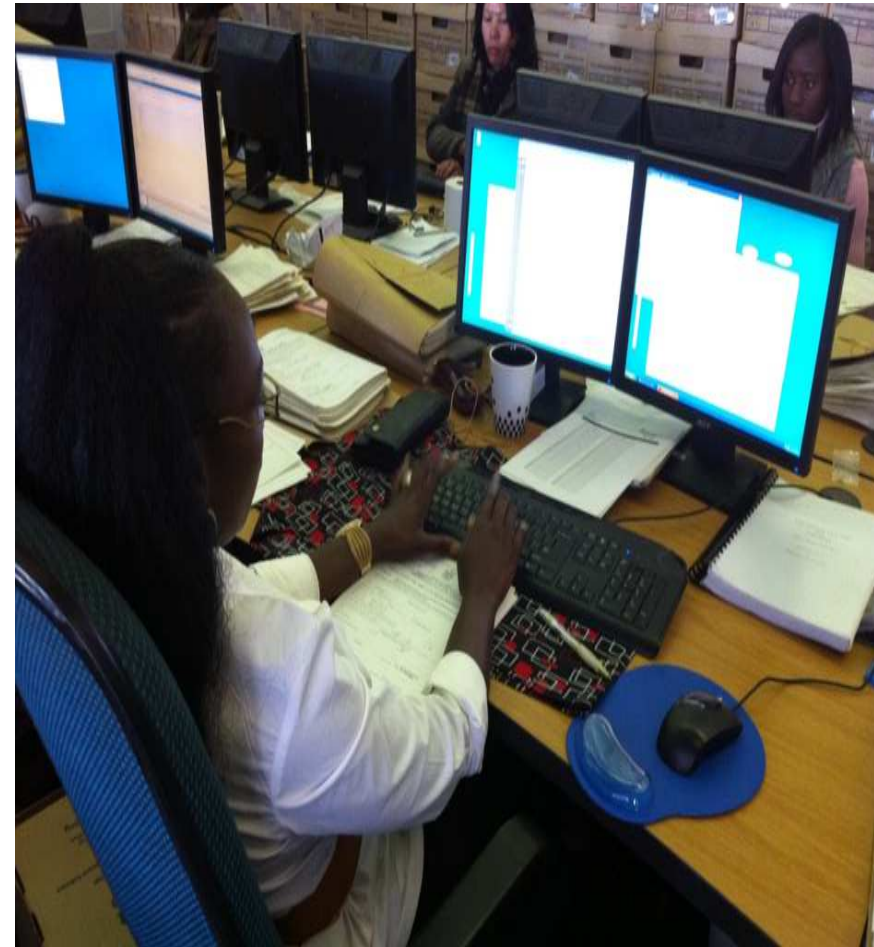
Business requirements:

- Create a consolidated view of civil registration processes and data;
- Reduce data duplication;
- Improve the quality of civil registration data and deliverables;
- Improve service delivery by integrating and improving internal civil registration business processes;
- Increase accessibility to civil registration data and services for clients and stakeholders; and
- Improve decision making and planning at all levels.

Building the National Population Register System step by step



Historical records (4 million)



Turnaround Strategy

- In June 2015 the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, Penukoni Livuala-Ithana launched the Turnaround Strategy. (18 months)
- The purpose of the Turnaround Strategy is to transform the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration into a high efficient organisation, all processes were reviewed, re-engineered and standardised.
- The project was launched at a time, where the Department of Civil Registration was experiencing major challenges with massive backlog at the NPRS system. New processes and management tools were introduced, and all birth, marriage, death and ID records are captured timely in the NPRS, meaning that timely statistics can be drawn from the system.

Lessons learned

- **Easy Access to Civil Registration Services key to universal birth and death registration**
- An inter-ministerial approach to reach universal birth and death registration is essential.
- Creation of physical and mobile registration points

Status of Birth Registration

Population with birth certificate according to statistics from 2011 Namibia Population and Housing Census (complete registration: 90 %) (2008: 32% of babies were registered with the first year)

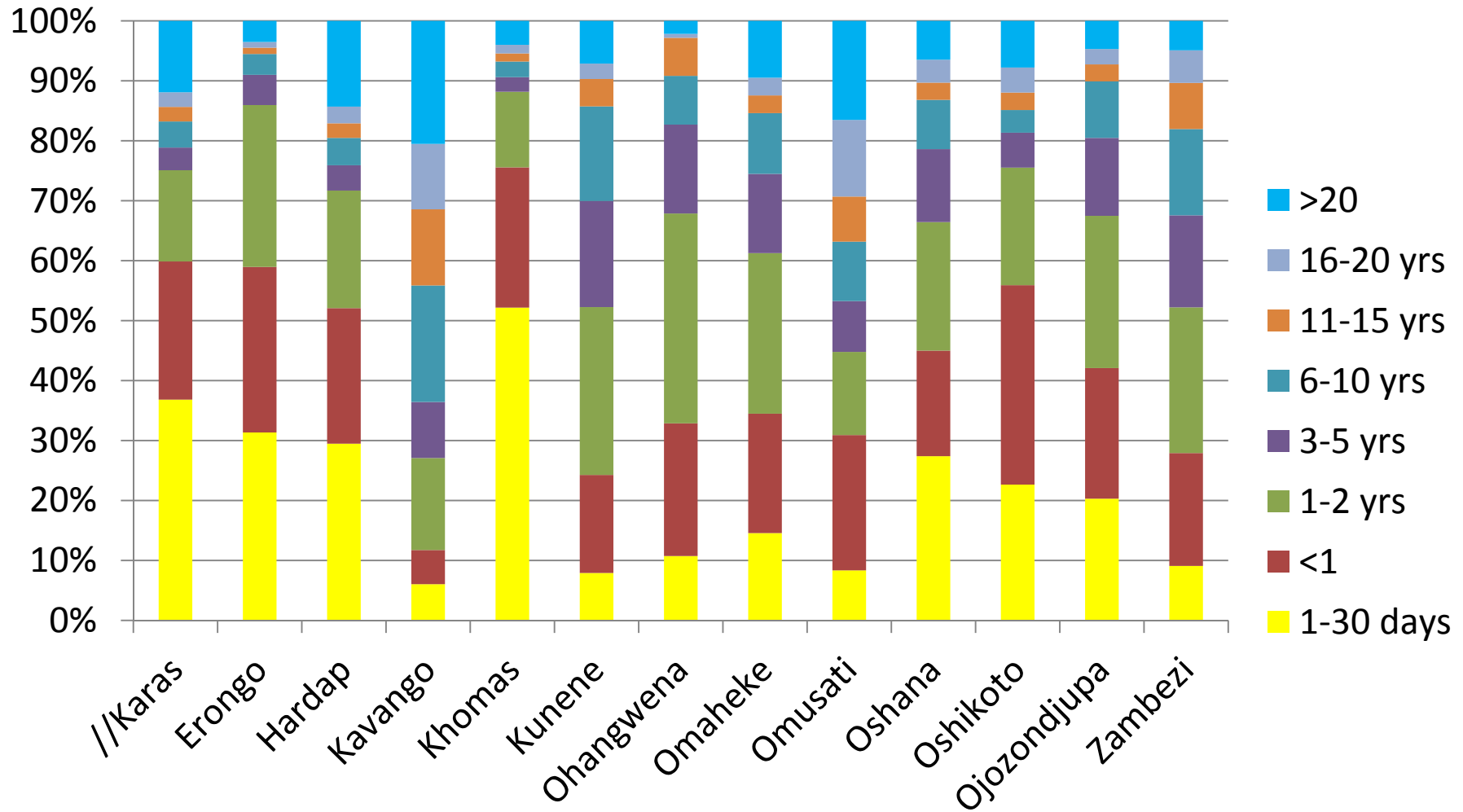
| Area | Population with BC | % aged < 1 with BC |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total | 89.3 | 68.9 |
| Zambezi | 82.4 | 57.6 |
| Erongo | 93.8 | 87.2 |
| Hardap | 95.9 | 88.0 |
| //Karas | 95.9 | 92.9 |
| Kavango (E&W) | 76.9 | 48.7 |
| Khomas | 91.2 | 85.1 |
| Kunene | 88.6 | 64.0 |
| Ohangwena | 88.5 | 58.4 |
| Omaheke | 92.5 | 68.2 |
| Omusati | 90.5 | 69.4 |
| Oshana | 94.1 | 77.3 |
| Oshikoto | 89.7 | 56.6 |
| Otjozondjupa | 87.9 | 69.0 |

Status of Death Registration

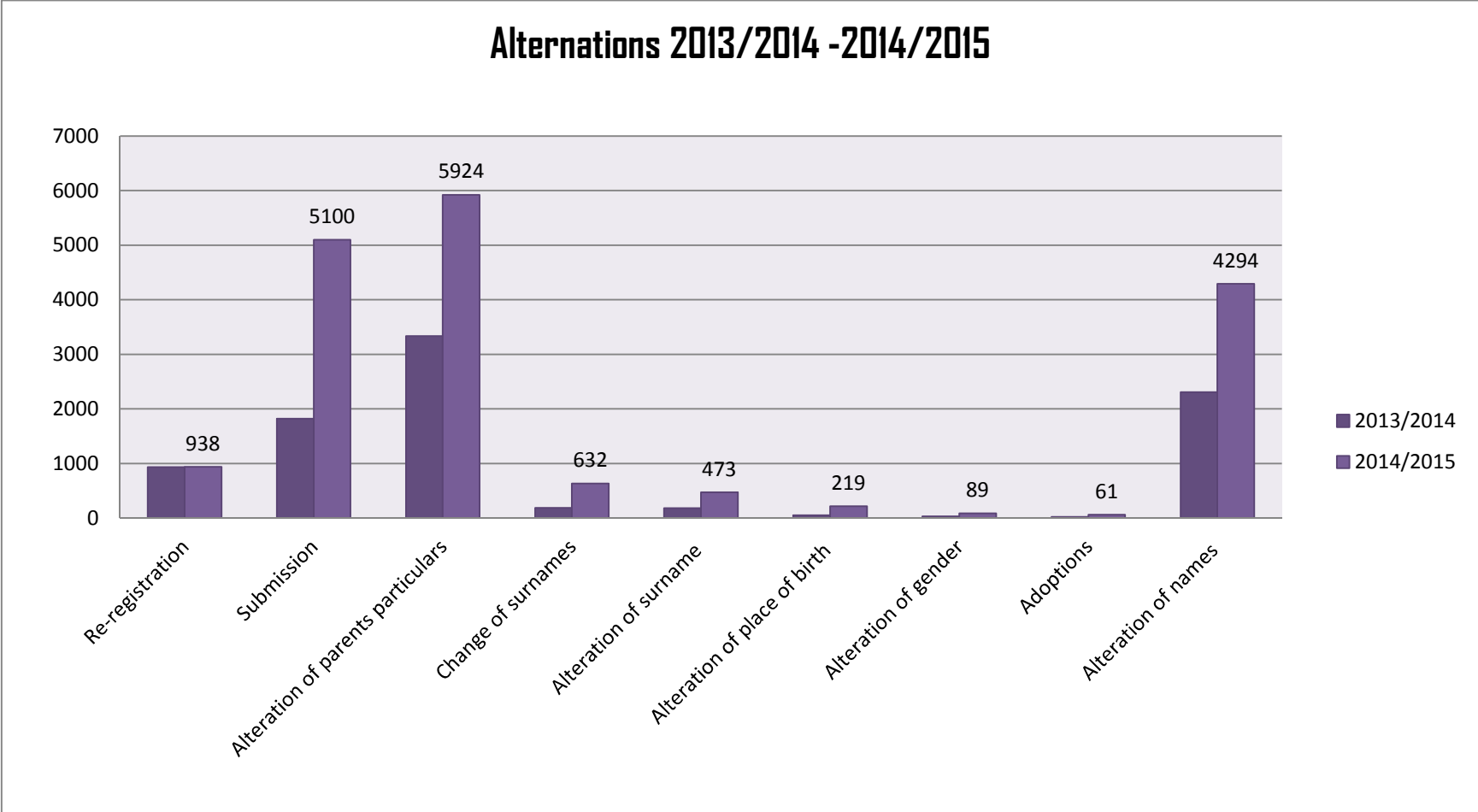
Death certificate (registration) according to statistics from 2011 Namibia Population and Housing Census

| Area | % Death Registered |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Total | 88.5 |
| Zambezi | 72.6 |
| Erongo | 94.2 |
| Hardap | 98.4 |
| //Karas | 97.2 |
| Kavango (E&W) | 79.7 |
| Khomas | 94.4 |
| Kunene | 88.0 |
| Ohangwena | 86.8 |
| Omaheke | 93.8 |
| Omusati | 89.3 |
| Oshana | 92.0 |
| Oshikoto | 89.5 |
| Otjozondjupa | 87.4 |

Birth registration by age



Amendment/correction of birth records



Lessons learned

New Legislation on Civil Registration

- The research conducted prior to the review help to set civil registration services in perspective.
- A broad consultation process is important. Questions regarding names and surnames are very cultural sensitive.
- External facilitator with expertise in law reform, and broad understand of the legal landscape is key.

Lessons learned

e- National Population Register: Digitalizing all records and process

- Clear vision and a system must directly support the core mandate of your business.
- Commitment and leadership: The creation of an integrated and web-based civil registration register is a slow and lengthy process, which requires commitment from all levels, and a high degree of inter-departmental and inter-ministerial cooperation

Lessons learned

- ICT environment: It is extremely important that a well functioning ICT environment is set up and maintained. This component can jeopardize or delay the roll out. Funds for sufficient computers, servers and speedy network installation must be prioritized.
- Internal development of software: There are remarkable benefits by government developing the software itself.
- Must be deployed in a manner that speaks directly to the capacity of the organisation.

Lessons learnt

BIRTH REGISTRATION HOW TO REGISTER THE BIRTH OF MY CHILD?

What documents are required for a free early registration service?



FIRST ISSUED HEALTH CARD (YELLOW) OR ANY PROOF OF BIRTH FROM HOSPITAL
Please note that the child must be registered on either the father's or the mother's surname

Would you like to recognise one or both biological parents on the birth certificate?

ONE BIOLOGICAL PARENT

- Notification of Birth form signed by the registering parent
- The registering parent's original documents or certified copies thereof (ID, Full Birth Certificate or Passport)

BOTH BIOLOGICAL PARENTS (Are you married or unmarried?)

NON-NAMIBIAN PARENTS

Namibian Immigration Status (Permit, Citizenship or Visa, for each non-Namibian parent wishing to be declared, stated, on the child's Birth Certificate)

MARRIED

- Notification of Birth form signed by one parent
- One parent's original documents or certified copies (ID, Full Birth Certificate or Passport)
- Original or certified copy of parents' Marriage Certificate

UNMARRIED

- Notification of Birth form signed by both parents
- Both parents' original documents or certified copies (ID, Full Birth Certificate or Passport)

Are both parents present to register the child?

ONLY ONE PARENT PRESENT

- Affidavit (statement from both parents) indicating parental consent for registration

Thank you for your attention