



**LESSONS LEARNT FROM LOCAL
INITIATIVES SUPPORTING
SUSTAINABLE CIVIL
REGISTRATION AND VITAL
STATISTICS IN AFRICA – THE
CASE OF BOTSWANA**

NEO CORNELIAH LEPANG ©

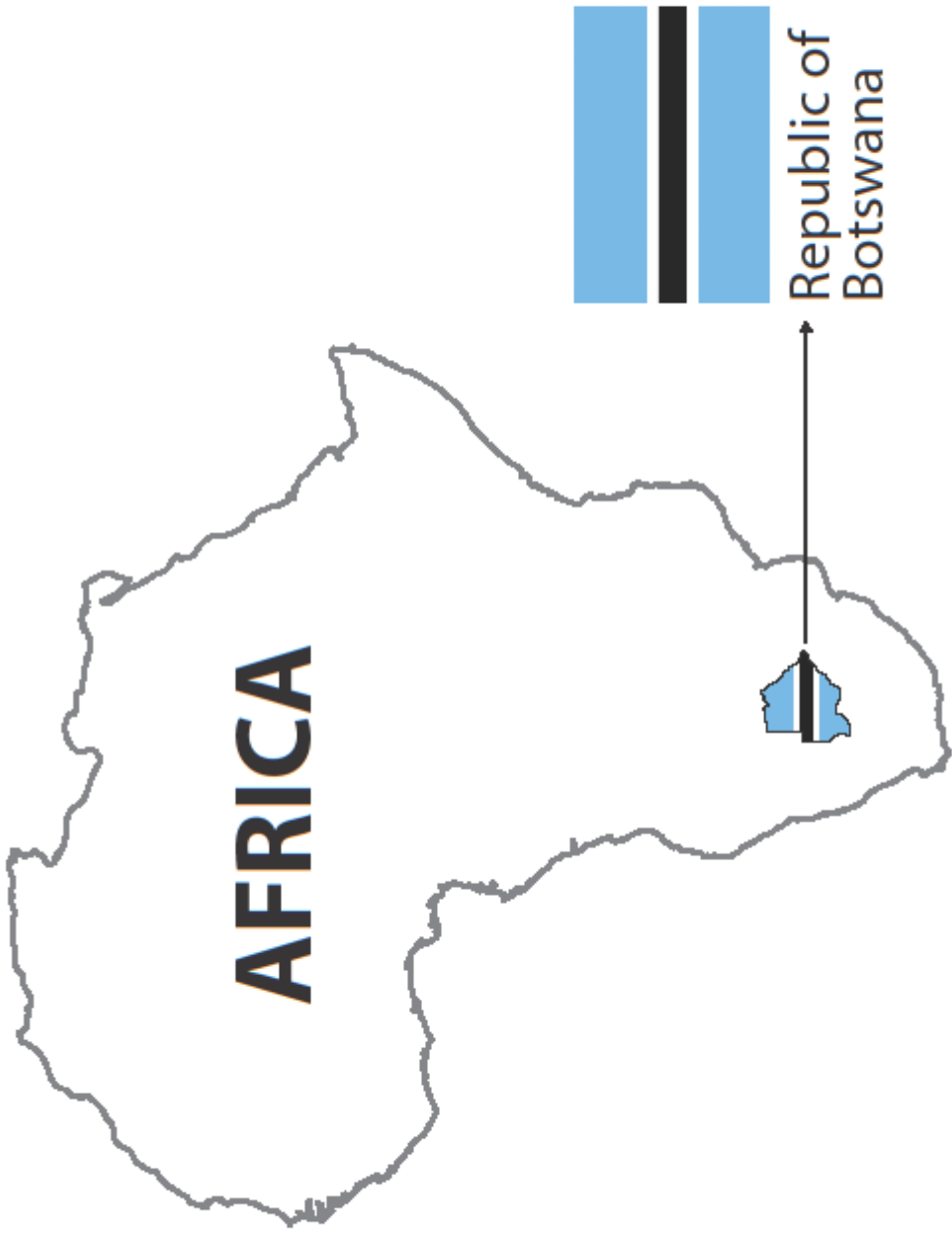
**DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND
NATIONAL REGISTRATION**

sebolaonc@gmail.com

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- The context- Botswana
- Introduction and Background
- Local initiatives -
 - Supply side initiatives
 - Demand side initiatives
- Conclusion





BOTSWANA – THE CONTEXT

- ❑ Population – **2.06 million**; Pop Density – 3.6/Km²
- ❑ Country size – **581, 780** sq km, almost the size of France.
- ❑ Birth rate: 22.02/1000; Death rate: 12/1000
- ❑ Births registered: **75%**; Deaths registered: 13000 /Year (Population Census 2011), (working on current statistics), **76.6 %** as 2012 Vital statistics Report.



INTRODUCTION

- ❑ **KEY MESSAGE:** Local initiatives which accelerated CRVS in Botswana and progress achieved
- ❑ **CRVS DEFINITION:** “universal, continuous, permanent, and compulsory recording of vital events provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of each country.”
UNSD



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- ❑ Births and Deaths Registration Act
- ❑ Children's Act
- ❑ National registration Act
- ❑ Change of Name
- ❑ Marriage Act
- ❑ Married Person's Property Act
- ❑ Statistics Act

UNSD PRINCIPLES REGISTRATION PRINCIPLES

- ❑ Mandatory and targeting full coverage
- ❑ Time bound
- ❑ Continuous and permanent
- ❑ Confidentiality



INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, ORGANISATION AND MGT

- ❑ One Registrar for both Civil and National Registration – advantage – synchronization of processes and decision- making
- ❑ 37 Stations across the country, 13 on site registration centers at Health facilities with 457 staff complement
- ❑ On-site registration centres for immediate issuance of certificates;
 - improved data integrity;
 - process efficiency ; and,
 - immediate enjoyment of the right to birth registration and identity .
- ❑ Mobile Registration – taking services to the people complements institutional registrations
- ❑ Free of charge enrolments



SUPPLY SIDE INITIATIVES

- ❑ Adequate legal framework with acceptable implementation compliance.
- ❑ Decentralized institutional framework and outreach hence improved accessibility of services by clients
 - Establishment of Onsite registration centers in health facilities in 2011- a breakthrough (40 %)
- ❑ Commitment of national political and executive leadership to drive vision and strategy
- ❑ Collaboration, coordination and establishment of partnerships
 - CRVS Agencies – synergy of procedures and process
 - Development partners both local and international to benchmark on cutting edge expertise and resource mobilization – UNFPA, UNICEF, AFDB, WHO, Project Concern International (PCI funded by USAID)
 - Local non-state actors – for enhanced mobilization of potential clients - Masiela Trust Fund, Okavango.



SUPPLY SIDE INITIATIVES CONT..

- ❑ Automation of critical functions for improved efficiency
- ❑ Comprehensive Assessment of CRVS
- ❑ Investment Plan **2015-2020**
 - Universal registration of all vital events leading to complete and reliable civil registration
 - Legal identity for all
 - Availability of accurate and timely vital statistics
- ❑ Training and development
 - University of Botswana and Institute of Development Management – diploma and certificates on population dynamics, HRM
 - Botswana Police Service - Investigation Skills; Interviewing Skills and Document Fraud
 - Other institutions – ICT training



DEMAND SIDE INITIATIVES

- ❑ Universal Registration campaign targeting the ‘last mile’ – 23.4% (76.6 %) on value of CRVS
 - Information, education and communication through print and electronic media – adverts, news items, special programs
 - Community leadership engagement and involvement
 - Political forums
- ❑ Waiver on late registration fees and fines to improve accessibility and coverage
- ❑ Special project on the registration of the vulnerable people targeting inclusivity and universality – orphans, those in remote and difficult to reach areas.
- ❑ Mobile Registration or Taking services to the People
 - House to House Special Registration Project Registration for the Remote and difficult to reach in 7 districts (November December in the Okavango district targeting 40 villages due to difficulties in accessibility situated within the delta area– Project ongoing with 22 villages already covered. – on-going



DEMAND SIDE INITIATIVES

- ❑ Stakeholder Collaboration to include certificates as requirements to access services to motivate demand for registration services
- Government Ministries – MoH, MoESD, MFDP, SB, Justice, Financial institutions and other service institutions
- ❑ Integration of civil Registration with identity Management to motivate demand for births and deaths registration
- Birth registration as principal ‘Evidence of Identity’ and representing ‘Establishment of Identity’
- Death registration marking ‘End of Identity’
- ❑ Generation of vital statistics



CHALLENGES

- CRVS data quality and integrity is challenged
- Invisibility of some individuals – not yet reached universality
- Death registration lags behind – especially historical deaths
- Resource/Capacity constraints - budgetary, materials and transport, qualified personnel – caliber and numbers
- Country size is broad and population is sparsely distributed
- High demand of services outstrips capacity especially in remote and difficult to reach areas
- Integration with key CRVS systems on-going
- Cultural practices on child naming
- Poor Data use and dissemination



ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❑ Increased registration coverage towards universality 76.6 %
- ❑ Increased appreciation on the value of CRVS and registration documents
- ❑ Increased Demand for registrations services
- ❑ Improved stakeholder collaboration, teamness and harmony of effort – within Gov't institutions + within UN agencies
- ❑ Release of vital statistics reports – 2011, 2012 and the 2013 -14 in progress
- ❑ Investment Plan 2015-2020



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Batshu launches on-site registration system

By Sepametsi Kchomang

GABORONE - The on-site registration of births and deaths in hospitals by the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs will address the problem of late or delayed registrations which the country is currently experiencing.

The Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Mr Edwin Batshu said that when launching the on-site births and deaths registration services at Bokamoso Hospital in Mmopane Monday.

Minister Batshu said the initiative will help in capturing most of the births and deaths that occur, "as we acknowledge that some of the occurrences of these vital events do go unregistered".

The launch, he said, marks yet another milestone in the quest for his ministry to improve its service delivery to members of the public. "The launch of this service comes about in recognition by government of the value of births and deaths registration and the need to register each and every birth and death that occurs".

Minister Batshu revealed that the birth registration campaign was a result of the recognition of the shortfall in birth registration which was revealed by the Botswana Family Welfare study carried out in 2009.

The study revealed that only 72 per cent of the children under the age of five in Botswana had been registered, meaning that there were at least 28 per cent of children in the same cohort still to be registered thus giving birth to the birth registration campaign.



Minister Batshu and Ms Et-Halabi at the official launch of on-site birth registration services in Gaborone on Monday. The ministry has four such centres in government health facilities. Photo: Goshosang Lesego

He noted that the Gaborone Private Hospital has the centre houses at the Bokamoso Building Society and the Bokamoso one is fully operational within the hospital buildings.

The minister revealed that the next service centres are planned for Scottish Livingstone

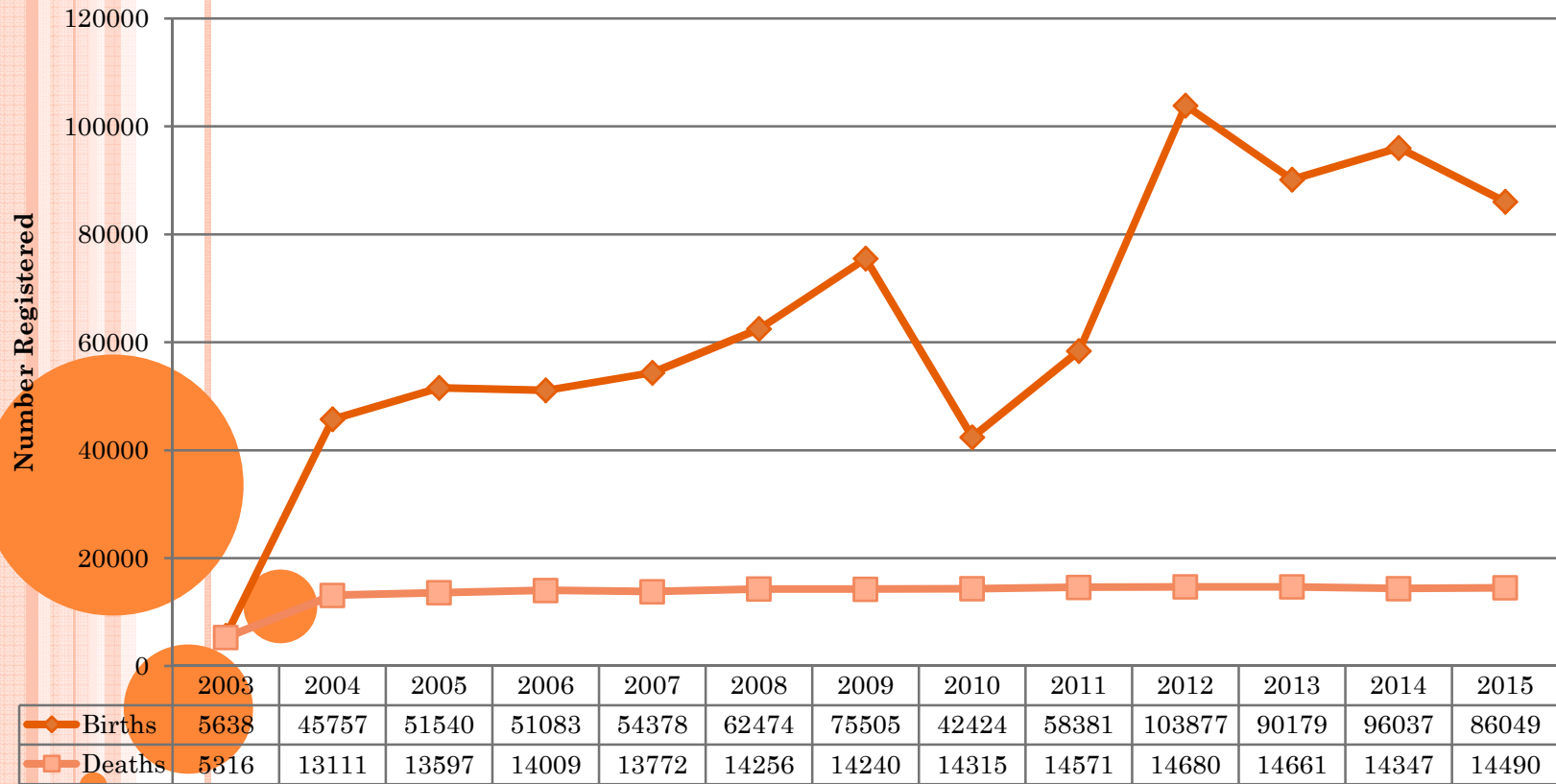
to inform evidence based health policy formulation, planning and programming", she said.

She therefore highlighted that she is happy to have such an initiative as it will serve as a source of data for health research, policy and evaluation at the right time. She said it will

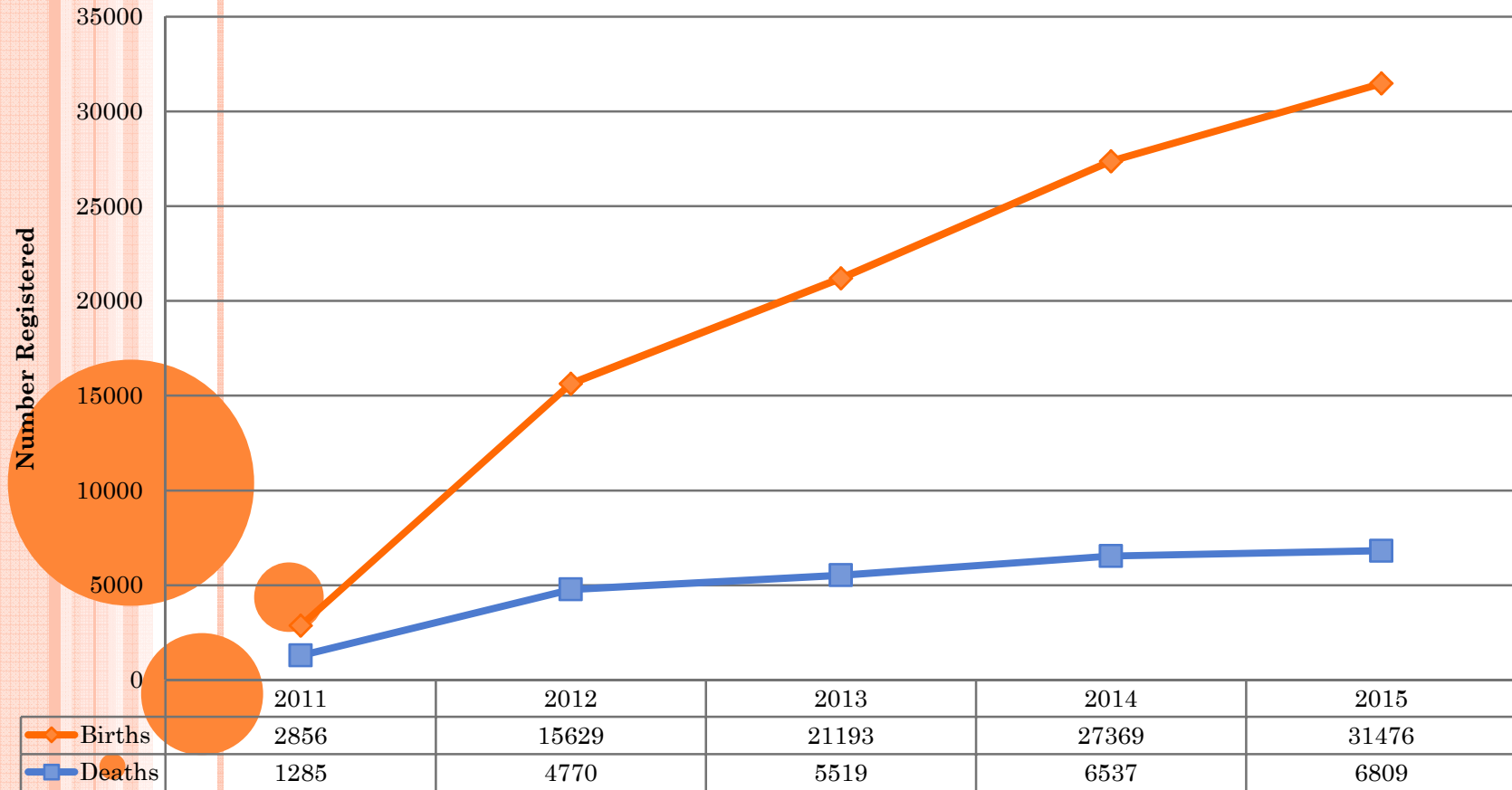
Hospital based Birth Registration



Births & Deaths Registration - Country wide



Births & Deaths Registration - On Site



LESSONS LEARNT

- ❑ Local leadership taking the lead in terms of Political and Executive commitment and strategic focus
- ❑ Consistency of national legal framework with international legal instruments and conventions (UNSD Principles, CRC, etc)
- ❑ Flexibility and responsiveness to challenges and various situations – deliberate coverage of the vulnerable people, waiver
- ❑ Innovation and initiative – On-site registration centres
- ❑ Public engagement
- ❑ Coordination and alignment of stakeholders and partners - reduced duplication and improved harmony of effort, procedure and processes



LESSONS LEARNT

- Complementarity of institutional registration with mobile registration
- Automation
- Business Process Re-engineering for harmonization of business processes across agencies
- Strategic linkages births and deaths with identity management improves civil registration coverage if ID-M is widely used and accepted by individuals and institutions
- Birth registration is a principal 'Evidence of Identity' and death registration facilitates 'End of Identity' in line with developing trends - ICAO TRIP
- Targeted mobile registration in collaboration with non- state actors



CONCLUSION

- ❑ Home grown initiatives that are locally driven has exponential impact on improving CRVS
- ❑ Political and executive leadership Commitment and engagement contributes much more than financial availability.
- ❑ Comprehensive assessments and investment planning are the way to go.

