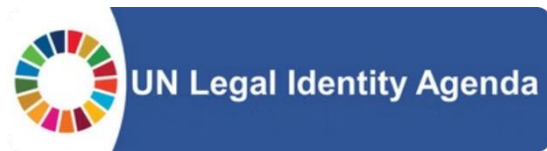




Rationale for CRVSID Integration

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15 May, Abidjan | ID4Africa Annual General Meeting

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Core Objectives of CRVS and National ID Integration

CRVS: Foundational Lifelong Identity

Legally establishes who a person is — from birth registration through death — creating the authoritative record of civil status.

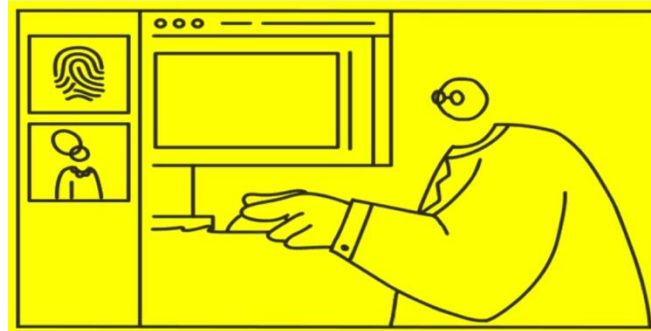
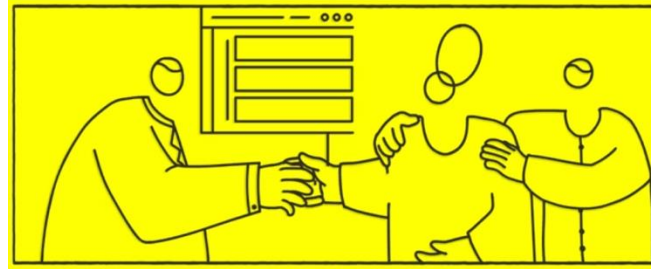
National ID: Secure & Unique Identity Use

Enables the legal identity established by CRVS to be authenticated, referenced, and applied consistently across systems and services.

Integration: Rights & Service Delivery

Strengthens inclusion, efficiency, and accountability — while eliminating duplication, reducing costs, and empowering citizens throughout the life course.

Civil Registration Office.



National Identity Registration Office.



If the case is so clear, why do only **one in three African countries** have integrated CRVS and National ID systems?

Strategic Drivers and Outcomes

A **whole-of-government approach** was referenced repeatedly throughout Day 1 — reflecting cross-sectoral consensus on the need for coordinated identity infrastructure.

Strategic Goal Setters (why this matters)

Agenda 2063

AfCFTA and the Digital Trade Protocol

African Union Digital Transformation Strategy (2020–2030)

Malabo Declaration and AU Decisions on Legal Identity

Africa's Demographic Dividends and Jobs Agenda

Use of AI

Intended Outcomes (Why this is urgent and feasible)

Digital transformation and legal identity as foundations for inclusive development

Demand for trusted digital identity and cross-border interoperability

Vision for DPI, including digital identity and interoperable systems

Commitment to universal legal identity and strong CRVS systems

Digital identity essential to scale education, jobs, and social protection

Close the digital divide

❓ Can the objectives of universal coverage, service efficiency, and legal inclusion truly be achieved without integrating the two foundational systems: **CRVS and National ID**?



What Does the User Want?

CRVS–ID integration shifts identity systems from being process-heavy for institutions to **simple, predictable, and user-centric** for people.

From the End-User Perspective

- Smoother ID registration and credential issuance from birth onward
- Fewer in-person visits and paper requirements
- No repeated collection of the same biographic or biometric data
- Faster verification to access services
- Lower direct and indirect costs: travel, time, and lost income
- Incentives to register

From the System & Front-Line Perspective

- Collect data once, use it many times across CRVS, ID, and service systems
- Avoid duplicate data capture and verification processes
- Reduce multiple office visits and manual hand-offs
- Streamline workflows for registration, updates, and authentication
- Improve efficiency, accuracy, and service turnaround time

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Birth registration is the gateway to a child's legal identity, rights, and protections.



For every child, it's time to scale-up and sustain CRVS across Africa.

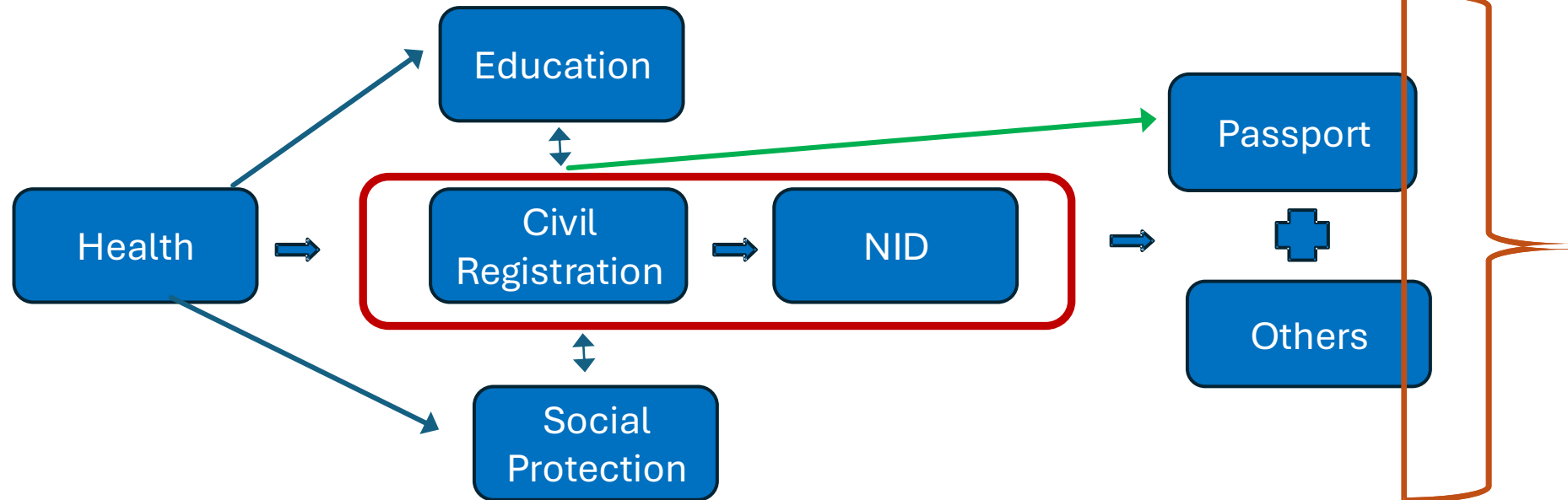
Single Source of Truth – the current situation

Basic characteristics of an individual's identity

Name, sex, date of birth, place of birth, parentage

DPI

Why is it still so hard to keep basic data fields accurate and consistent across systems?



- Unharmonized data standards
- Non-availability of individual-level data
- Insufficient & inappropriate digitalization
- Systemic flaws
- Left-out populations and many more...

Every system flaw or gap is a threat to legal identity.

Why Does CRVS–NID Integration Not Work?

Inaction: Structural and Institutional Gaps

- Siloed systems and mandates with limited coordination
- Low policy and budget priority for CRVS
- Lack of service convergence
- Absence of a human-in-the-loop during authentication and exception handling
- Limited readiness of CRVS institutions to leverage the benefits of integration
- Low coverage of birth registration and abysmally poor coverage of death registration

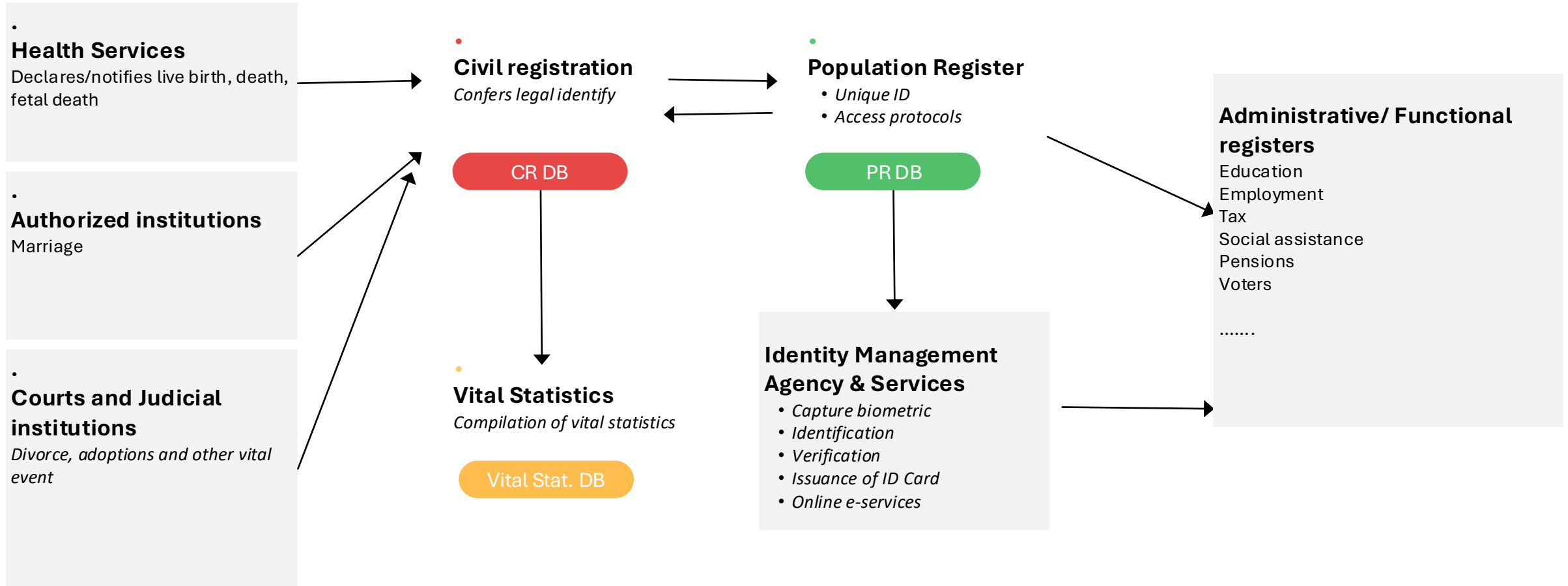
Improper Action: Design and Policy Failures

- Mandatory NID requirements for parents without universal ID coverage
- No alternatives for young mothers (<18)
- No fallback mechanisms when real-time UIN issuance fails
- Misalignment between UINs and NINs
- Misunderstanding of biometrics
- Disproportionate investments
- Imposing strategies not aligned to the country context
- No clear exit strategy, locking countries into unsustainable models

CRVS–NID integration **fails not because the case is weak**, but because systems **are either not acted upon at all or acted upon inappropriately**.

So, what is the way forward?

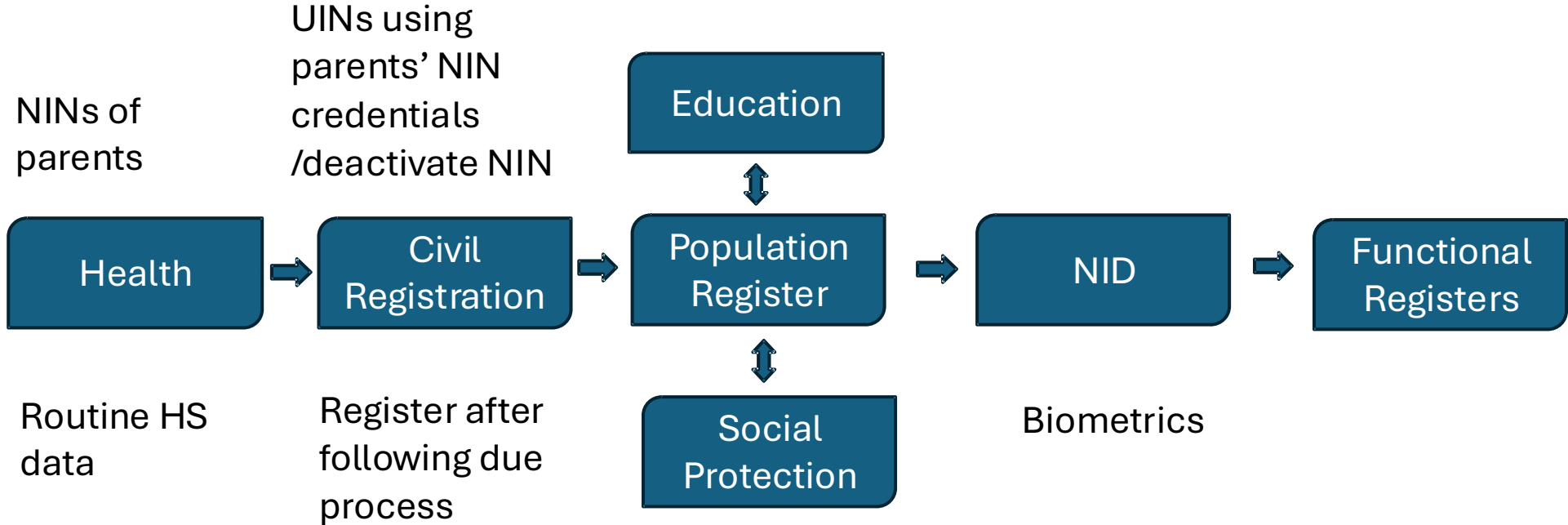
Civil Registration Vital Statistics and Identity Management (CRVSID) framework under UN Legal Identity Agenda



Health –CR –National ID pathway – a way forward

Single source of truth

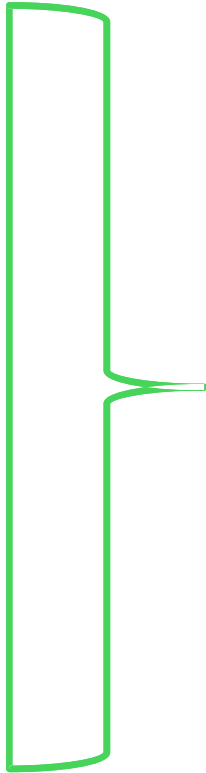
DPI/E



Collect information once, use it multiple times

Enable tracking changes, if any, where and when

Move information, not people



The fundamental characteristics of a human-rights-based CRVSID system

Eligibility for all residents

Easy access to & affordability of registration services

Prompt & high-quality service delivery

Special provisions for the needs of girls, women, & marginalized groups

Trustworthiness



Key areas of action for achieving the core principles of CRVSID system.

1.

Policies and Laws

3.

Management and coordination

5.

Human resource capabilities

7.

Advocacy and communication

2.

Business processes

4.

Digitalization

6.

Physical and ICT infrastructure

8.

Funding mechanism



CRVS and ID management are critical for the overall ID ecosystem

A single source of truth for under-18 cohort

Under 5

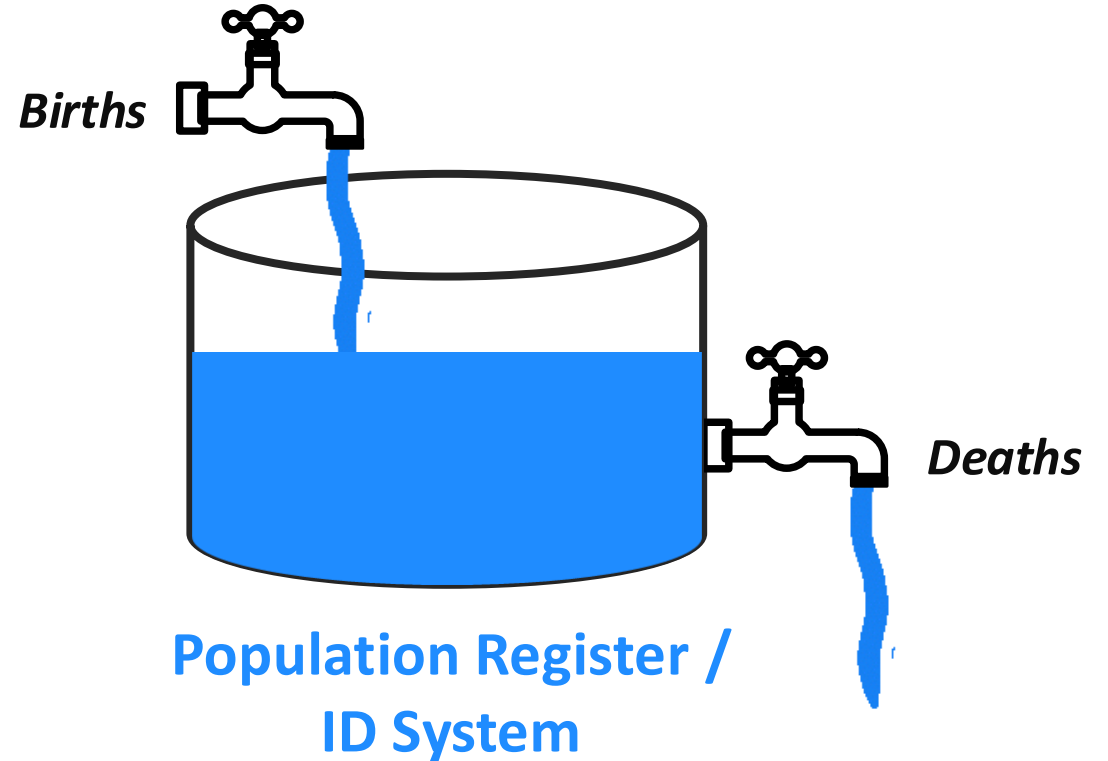
Birth registration compulsory for UINs/NINs

5-17

Verify the status of birth registrations and provide the necessary information to the civil registration authorities for any unregistered children/help register

It will ultimately cover all age groups

Linking birth and death registration with ID system



Retiring identity is essential to prevent its misuse

Thank You!