



# CRVSID Integration Guide – A Work in Progress



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# Purpose of the Guide

- Countries are increasingly seeking to strengthen linkages between Civil Registration and National Identification systems in line with the UN Legal Identity Agenda (UNLIA).
- Despite growing experience and country examples, many countries still face challenges in identifying context-appropriate pathways toward integrated, lifecycle-based identity ecosystems.
- Countries begin from different starting configurations involving varying CRVS maturity, identity systems, baseline datasets, and institutional arrangements.
- The Guide provides conceptual clarity, analytical tools, operational guidance, and flexible pathway options.
- The objective is to support countries in progressing toward a steady state in which identity records are continuously updated through civil registration events across the lifecycle.

*“The Guide is intended as a practical decision-support tool rather than a prescriptive blueprint.”*

# Structure of the Guide

## Section 1 — Contemplating Integration

- Rationale for integration, lifecycle approach, stock–flow framework, identity ecosystem and migration

## Section 2 — Conducting the Assessment

- Initial Integration Matrix, starting configurations and pathway entry options

## Section 3 — Implementing and Sustaining Integration

- Strengthening stock and flow, interoperability, governance, steady state and vital statistics

# Methodological Approach

The Guide adopts a flexible and context-sensitive approach, recognizing that countries progress toward CRVS–ID integration through different starting points, capacities, and pathways.

- Countries do not begin integration from a common starting point
- Differences exist in stock, flow, legal framework and technical maturity
- No single linear pathway can be prescribed
- Integration is progressive, iterative and context-adapted
- Strengthening of stock and flow may occur in parallel

# Lifecycle Approach and Stock–Flow Framework

The Guide conceptualizes CRVS–ID integration as a lifecycle-based system in which civil registration continuously creates and updates identity records over time.

- Legal identity established through birth registration
- Identity records continuously updated through civil registration events
- Death registration supports closure/deactivation of identity records
- Stock = baseline person-based dataset
- Flow = continuous updates from births, deaths and civil status changes
- Objective = steady state with routine lifecycle updating

# From Initial Assessment to Steady-State Integration

The approach moves from an initial assessment of CRVS–ID integration maturity to the identification of broad configurations and feasible pathways toward steady-state lifecycle integration.

- Initial assessment examines the maturity of stock, flow, linkage mechanisms,
- Assessment also considers the enabling environment, including digitization, UINs, interoperability, legal framework, institutional coordination, and access to registration services
- Countries are grouped into broad integration configurations based on current conditions
- Configurations help identify feasible and context-appropriate integration pathways
- Progression is iterative and may not follow a single linear sequence
- The long-term objective is a steady-state system in which identity records are routinely updated through civil registration events across the lifecycle

# Initial Integration Matrix: Purpose

The Initial Integration Matrix provides a structured framework for assessing the maturity of CRVS–ID integration across key functional dimensions.

- Assesses the maturity of stock, flow, and linkage mechanisms
- Examines legal, institutional, operational, and technical dimensions
- Identifies strengths, gaps, and bottlenecks in integration
- Supports identification of broad integration configurations
- Provides a basis for prioritizing and sequencing reforms

# Dimensions of the Initial Integration Matrix

The matrix assesses multiple dimensions that influence the readiness and maturity of CRVS–ID integration.

Dimension	Description
Person-based dataset (stock)	Adequacy of baseline individual identity records
Completeness of birth registration	Coverage of birth registration
Completeness of death registration	Coverage of death registration
Digitization of civil registration	Extent to which registration data is captured electronically
Unique Identification Number (UIN)	Existence and use of a consistent identifier across systems
Interoperability mechanisms	Extent of data exchange between systems
Legal framework	Legal provisions supporting data sharing
Institutional coordination	Coordination mechanisms across responsible institutions
Access to registration services	Extent to which CR and ID services are accessible to the population

# Scoring Approach

Each dimension is scored on a progressive maturity scale that reflects increasing levels of operational integration.

Score	Interpretation
0	Largely absent
1	Limited or fragmented
2	Partially established
3	Broadly operational

- Scoring reflects actual operational conditions rather than formal provisions alone
- Dimensions are interpreted collectively rather than independently
- Results help identify feasible sequencing and integration pathways
- Assessment is indicative and adaptive rather than prescriptive

# Interpreting Matrix Results and Categorizing Configuration

The combined assessment results help identify broad integration configurations and possible directions for progression.

Broad Configuration	Indicative Characteristics
Emerging	Limited digitization and weak foundational systems
Digitizing	Increasing electronic registration and database development
Linking	Expanding interoperability and use of UINs
Lifecycle	Continuous lifecycle updating across systems

- Configurations are derived from combined assessment across dimensions
- Countries may display uneven maturity and characteristics of multiple configurations
- Configurations represent broad patterns rather than fixed stages
- Categorization helps identify feasible and context-appropriate pathways

# Pathway Entry Options by Broad System Configuration

The pathways are heuristic and illustrative rather than fixed or universal sequences of integration.

Broad configuration	Typical pathway entry options	Primary pathway emphasis
Emerging systems	Stock establishment; Incremental lifecycle	Establishing foundational datasets and introducing initial lifecycle linkage
Digitizing systems	Birth-based UIN; Lifecycle interoperability	Strengthening digitization and linking CR events with identity records
Linking systems	ID-centred; Population register-centred; Interoperability strengthening	Expanding routine data exchange and lifecycle updating across systems
Lifecycle systems	Optimization of lifecycle updating; Data quality strengthening	Improving continuity, timeliness, and quality of lifecycle updating

# Heuristic Approach to Determining Integration Pathways

Pathway determination is heuristic in nature and based on structured interpretation of assessment results rather than mechanical application of scores.

	Example 1	Example 2
Indicative characteristics	Weak stock; limited digitization; weak interoperability	Increasing digitization; stronger birth registration; emerging UIN structure
Likely configuration	Emerging	Digitizing
Likely pathway emphasis	Stock establishment; Incremental lifecycle	Birth-based UIN; Interoperability strengthening

- Similar scoring patterns may still lead to different pathway choices depending on institutional, legal, and operational context
- Countries may pursue multiple pathways simultaneously or transition between pathways over time

**Assessment → Configuration →  
Pathways → Steady-State Lifecycle  
Integration**

# Expert Group to guide the development of guidance

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