

Background on CRVS

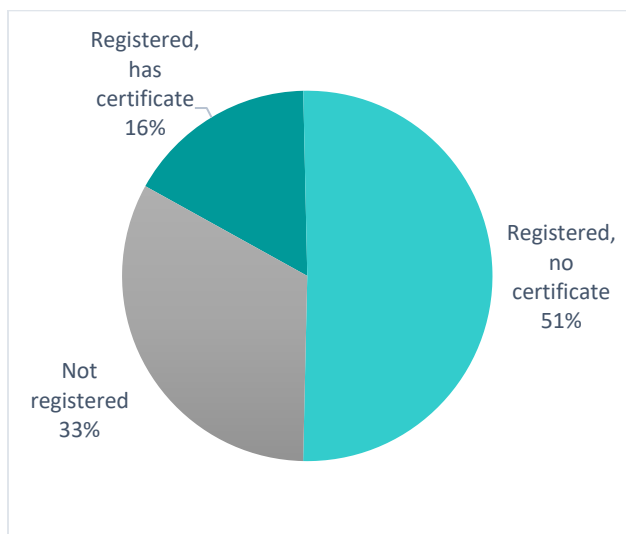
- The registration of births and deaths in Malawi is governed by The National Registration Act of 2010.
- The National Registration Bureau, under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, is responsible for registration of births, deaths and marriages.
- Registration is compulsory and mandated to take place within six weeks for both births and deaths.
- There are no fees charged for registration of both births and deaths and issuance of death certificates. However, fees are charged for issuing birth certificates.
- Registration is undertaken manually and electronically through computers or tablets.
- An electronic village register for births and deaths, linked to the National Registration Bureau electronic system, has been implemented in 50 villages.
- A national CRVS coordination committee has been established; rapid CRVS assessment completed.

Status of CRVS

Birth registration

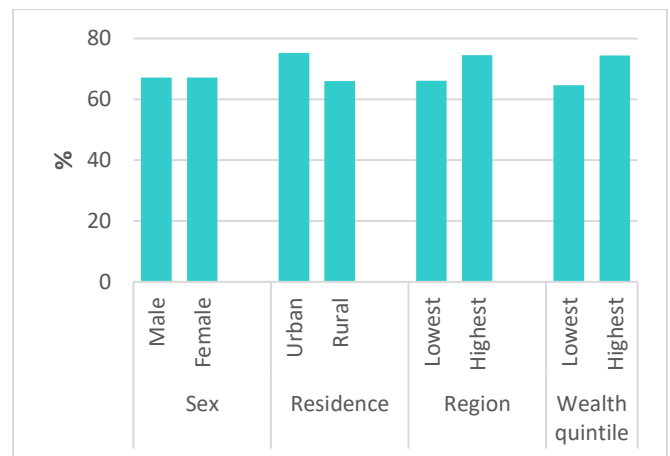
- About 67% of children aged below five years in Malawi were registered in 2016/17 (Figure 1).
- Less than a quarter of those registered (24%) had birth certificates.

Figure 1: Birth registration status: Malawi, 2015/16



- In 2016/17, there were virtually no differences in birth registration by sex; but modest difference observed by type of residence, region and wealth quintile (Figure 2).
- Birth registration in urban areas was higher (75%) than in rural areas (66%).
- For the regions, the Northern region had the highest birth registration (75%) and the Southern region the lowest (66%).
- Birth registration for children from the wealthiest households was highest (74%) and lowest from the poorest (65%).

Figure 2: Birth registration by background characteristics: Malawi, 2015/16



Death registration and causes of death

- There is no information on the coverage of death registration.
- The international medical certificate of causes of death is used for death registration.
- Malawi is implementing the Sample Vital Registration with Verbal Autopsy, representative at the national, urban/rural, regional, and ministry of health “zone levels”.

Registration of marriages

- There is no information on the coverage of marriage registration.

- About 42% of women aged 20–24 got married before aged 18, making Malawi one of the countries in developing countries with highest prevalence of child marriages.
- Legal age at marriage for girls is 18 years, but the Constitution permits age 15 with the consent of parents and guardians.

Vital statistics

- No vital statistics is produced from the civil registration system.

Areas of improvements in CRVS

- Scale up birth registration to all facilities.
- Train physicians on medical certification practices and ICD cause-of-death reporting.

- Train statisticians on analysis and standard reporting of mortality data.
- Train cause of death coders using automated software using ICD standards.
- Conduct information, education, and communication campaigns.

CRVS stakeholders

- National Registration Bureau, Ministry of Health, National Statistical Office
- CDC, UNICEF, WHO, Data for Health Initiative, UNDP, BRAVO, Baobao Health Trust, Global Fund