

# The Births and Deaths Registry GHANA

International Conference on Identity Management.  
23-25 September, 2014  
Seoul, Korea

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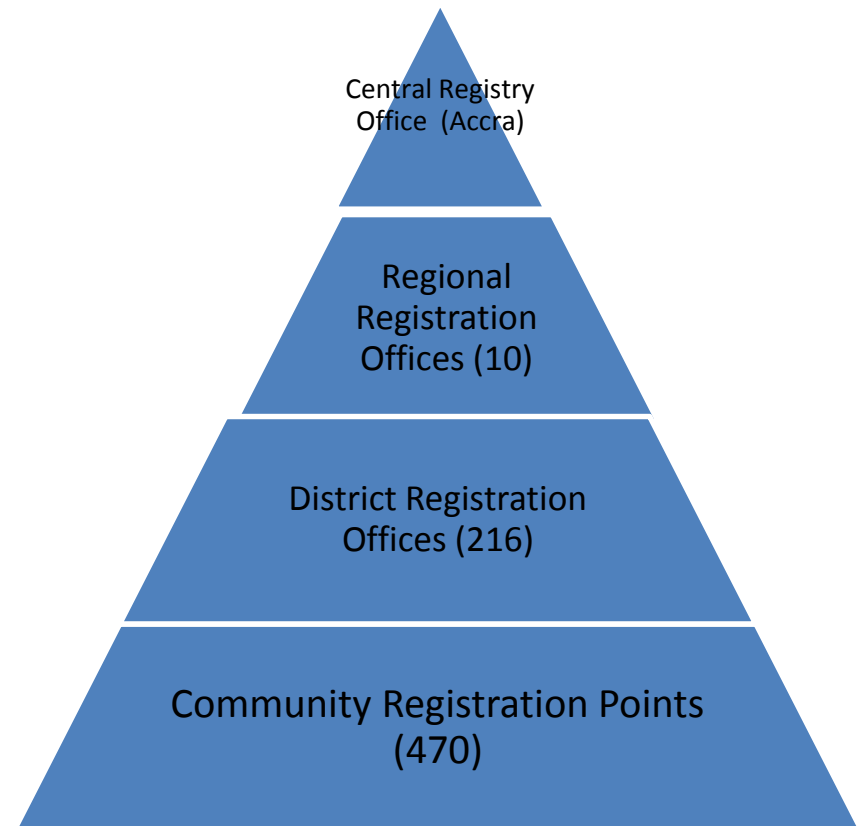
- Background
- Operational Structure of Registry
- Programmes to achieve mandate
  - Challenges
  - Way Forward

# Background

- **1888:** Civil Registration (CR) started with death Registration of expatriate staff in the then Gold Coast.
- **1912:** Birth registration was introduced but limited to few coastal and commercial towns
- **1912-1926:** CR was placed under the Medical Department of the colonial administration
- **1948-1960:** CR was placed under the Registrar General's Department
- **1965 to date :** Births and Deaths Registration Act (Act 301) passed in 1965 led to the **establishment of the Births and Deaths Registry** and placed **under the Ministry of Local Govt and Rural Devt.** to manage and promote the Vital registration system in the country.

# Operational Structure

- Registration is coordinated from the Central Registration Office in Accra
- The entire country has been divided into Registration Regions, which coincide with the political and administrative regions of the country.
- The Registration regions have been subdivided into Registration Districts, which also coincide with the country's political administrative local authority areas.
- Below the District Office is a network of Registry offices and centres located within communities where registration takes place.



# Programmes to achieve mandate

- Building Partnerships

- Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), Ghana Health Service (GHS) :Passport Office: National Identification Authority (NIA): Ghana Education Serviced (GES) :Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) : UNICEF: UNFPA; PLAN Ghana.

- Awareness creation

- Radio and TV programmes:
- Institution of annual BDR celebration day (1<sup>st</sup> September)
- Community Durbars
- Mobile Registration programmes

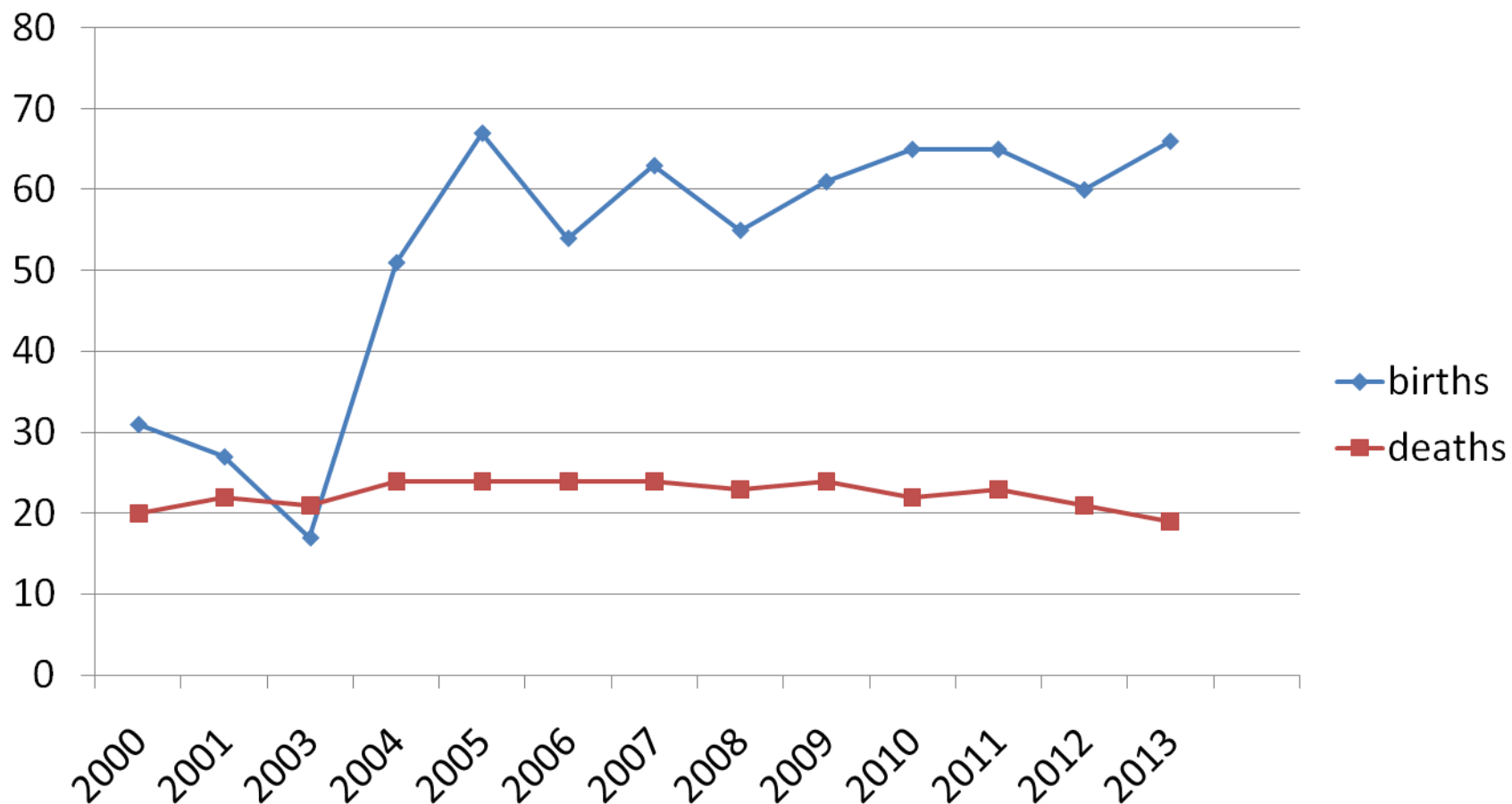
- Capacity building

- Community Population Register Programme (CPRP) running in 6 communities across five regions
- Training and use of community health nurses, community based volunteers , some unit committee members and Child Protection Team members in birth registration.

- Computerization

- Head Office: Installed server, workstations and printers- national database on registered births and deaths established.
- Expansion to all Regional offices, district offices And community registration centres. Introduction of phones/tablets for registration with support from Telecom service provider in the offing.

# Percentage coverage of births and deaths registration 2000-2013



# Challenges/Opportunities

## Bottlenecks

- Registration not linked to service delivery in early years(eg. Education, National identification)
- Low awareness about importance and benefits of early registration
- Late and Multiple registration of births
- Incomplete birth/death registration coverage- for four years running birth registration coverage has averaged 65%. Death has stalled around 24%
- Absence of registration service in rural areas.
- Limited monitoring and supervision of field staff and volunteers due to immobility.
- Inadequate Budgetary allocation leading to
  - insufficient funds to ensure all year round efficient operation of the registration machinery at the district and sub district level.
- Urgent need to provide permanent and secured offices for the Registry.

## Prospects

- Growing public awareness about use of registration documents
- Increased collaboration with stakeholders including the District Assemblies, Ghana Health Service, UNICEF, Plan Ghana, UNFPA, the Ghana Statistical Service etc..
- Enforcing the demand of registration documents by agencies like the Passport Office, Ghana Education Service, SSNIT, DVLA, the Electoral Commission, the Banks etc...
- iv) Linking births and deaths registration to the National Identification system.
- Use of ICT and Telecom services to improve access to registration services.
- Ghana to undertake Comprehensive Assessment of Civil and Vital Registration System (CVRS) as means of improving the civil registration process and system

# Best Practices

- **Free registration of births for infants (0-12 months).**
- **Institution of Annual BDR day celebrations to drive awareness campaign**
- **Collaboration with the Ghana health Service to improve coverage of birth registration through participation in the annual Child Health Promotion Week and Integrated Maternal and Child Health campaigns.**
- **Collaboration with Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the Noguchi Memorial Institute of the University of Ghana to implement Community Population Register Programme in about Sixty-six rural communities in Ghana.**
- **Introduction of Mobile Registration Services in “ hard-to-reach areas of the country.**
- **Computerization programme- introduction of computer generated certificates**  
**Pilot of Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection to link all regional centres to the national database and introduce the use of SMS and toll free lines for notification to enhance birth/death registration.**

# THANK YOU

