

# NATIONAL DATA ROADMAP FORUM

Strengthening Administrative Data  
The Births and Deaths Registration  
Perspective

# The BDR Perspective

- Vital Statistical data (births and deaths ) collected consistently for more than a century in Ghana.
- BDR established in 1965 – After the passing of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (Act301)
- (1965) 36 registries- 412 (2015)
- Registration coverage –births 31%- 63%(2000-2016). Deaths 20-24%

# The BDR Perspective- cont'd

- BDR has since its establishment maintained statutory partnership with the GSS.
- Partnership expanded after the conduct of the comprehensive Assessment of the CRVS system in 2014 to include other administrative data producing agencies including : Ghana Health Service, the Registrar Generals Department, the Judicial Service and the National Identification Authority.

## The BDR Perspective- cont'd

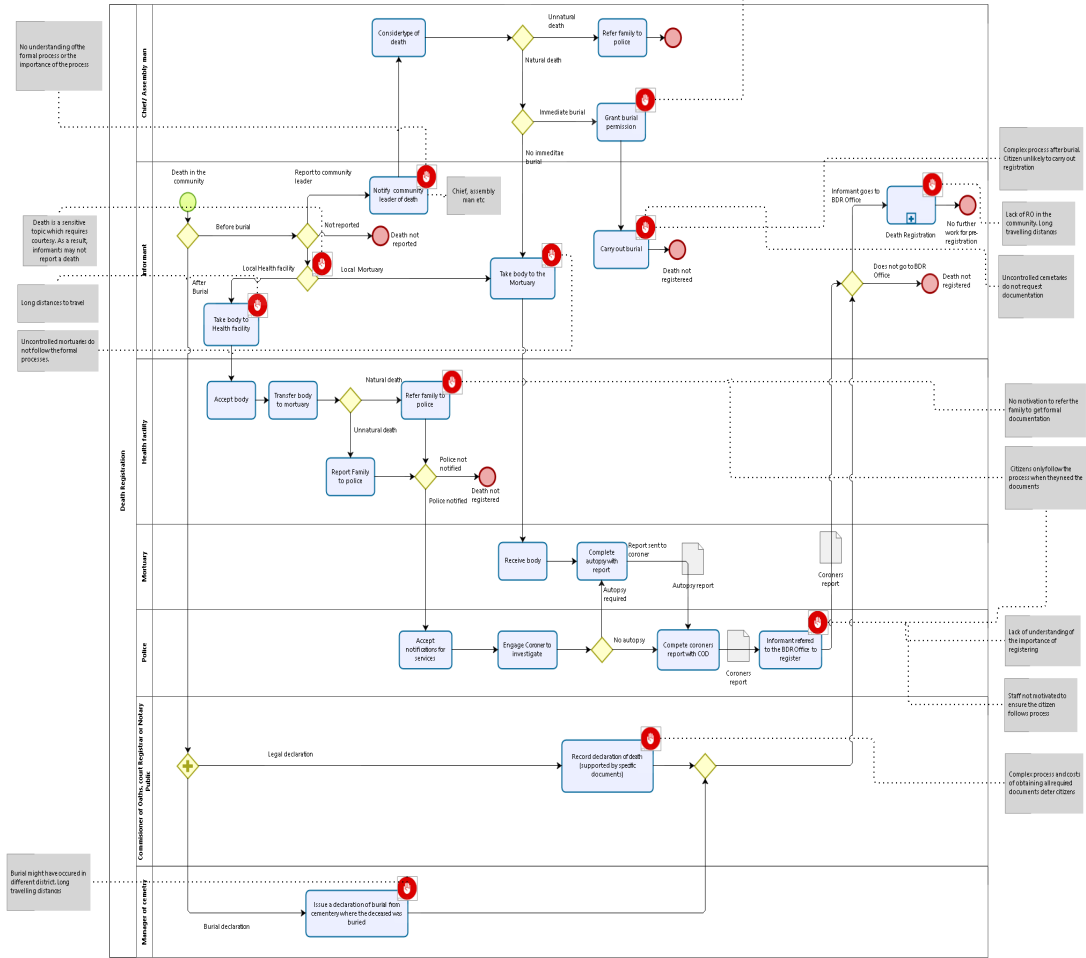
- Composite Strategic Plan (2016-2020) developed
- Business Process Maps for capture of information on births, deaths, marriages, divorce developed
- Technical blueprints for application of ICT systems in the capture, transmission, storage, management, retrieval and dissemination of CR data laid out.
- Role of key players (community leaders; community key informants; registration operatives; health workers; TBAs etc properly outlined in the process
- Establish new service delivery points leveraging health facilities and CHPS compounds( 412-2000 points)

# The BDR Perspective- cont'd

- Birth /Death Notification designed
- Redesign of Cause of Death certificate
- Introduction and pilot of Verbal Autopsy
- Interface between DHIMS and BDR District Systems
- Interoperability of BDR and NIA data systems
- Strengthening data sharing protocols between the BDR and the GSS
- Improving registration coverage consistently to near hundred percent by 2020

# BPM for capturing death in a community

Ghana - Death in a Community (Pre-Registration)  
As-Is Process



- LEGAL FRAMEWORK**
1. Registration of Births and Deaths, Act 301 (The classification of the dead is based on the certification of a qualified person or the coroner)
  2. Registration of Births and Deaths Regulation 463 of 1970
  3. Standard Operating procedures and instructions for completing the new computerised Deaths and deaths, 2009
  4. Coroners Act 1960
  5. Statistical Service Law -1985 (PNDC/L 135)

- MAIN DOCUMENTS**
- Death registration report Form B
  - Coroner's report
  - Medical certificate of cause of death
  - Burial permit
  - Death certificate
  - Registrar of deaths
  - Mortuary registration cards

- Supporting documents for legal declaration:
- Medical certificate of cause of death
  - Coroner's Certificate together with Police Report
  - Affidavits from a High Court sworn by the next of kin and another sworn jointly by head and two principal members of the family of the deceased
  - Headed letter from team, pastor who officiated the burial service
  - Headed letter from the person who gave the grave space
  - If the deceased lived in a rented house/apartment, the owner should provide a sworn affidavit



Complex process after burial, Citizen unlikely to carry out registration

Lack of ID in the community, Long travelling distances

Uncontrolled cemeteries do not request documentation

No motivation to refer the family for formal documentation

Citizens only follow the process when they need the documents

Lack of understanding of the importance of registering

Staff not motivated to ensure the citizen follow process

Complex process and costs of obtaining relevant documents deter citizens

No understanding of the formal process or the importance of the process

Death is a sensitive topic which requires courtesy. As a result, informants may not report a death

Long distances to travel

Uncontrolled mortuaries do not follow the formal process

Burial might have occurred in different district, long travelling distances