



CIVIL REGISTRATION AND IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SITUATION

Approximately 9% of children under 4 years are unregistered in Latin America and the Caribbean. Worldwide 230 million of children under five haven't been registered at birth. It means that 1 of 3 children do not have any identification.

CAUSES

Causes of under-registration are manifold: Geographic barriers, poverty, lack of education, lack of political awareness and priorities, lack of investment, lack of knowledge about the importance of a legal identity, cultural and ethnic resistance, as well as exclusionary practices and political conflicts; all contribute to under-documentation of children and adults.

CONSEQUENCES

Basic identity documents, including birth certificates and national ID cards, are key for being recognized as a citizen. This allows access to rights and benefits such as school enrollment, health services, marriage, voting, banking, and inheriting, among others.

As long as there is a problem of under-registration of births and deaths, countries will continue to have incomplete vital statistics and information systems required for decision making. This lack of identity documents can increase the exclusion levels affecting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



RELEVANCE

Accurate birth and death registration is the basis for continuous population data providing a crucial tool for policy planning and the timely supply of public services such as health care, education, pension systems, among others. Without exact knowledge of the size of a population, public budget will most likely be miscalculated, and MDGs may not be accurately met.

IDB APPROACH

The IDB is working to promote a culture of efficient and timely registration in the region, through national and regional policy dialogues with governments, and through financing of projects that aim to modernize civil registry and identification systems.

Since 2002 the IDB has:

- contributed to the reduction of under-registration in the region from **20% to under 10%**
- supported **15 technical cooperations** of more than **\$7 million**.
- been supporting modernization projects in **10 of the 26 countries** in the region
- developed training modules for **identity management**
- approved **\$78 million** in loans to support modernization projects
- promoted the **collaboration** between civil registries and line ministries and statistical agencies

REFERENCES

<http://iadb.libguides.com/registros>

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