

MY IDENTITY

MY POWER

MY NAME

MY DREAM

MY RIGHT



To act now for birth registration, please contact:

Cecilie Modvar

Child Protection Specialist
(Civil Registration and Vital Statistics)
UNICEF West and Central
Africa Regional Office
Email: cmodvar@unicef.org

Valerie Taton

Senior Regional Advisor, Partnerships
UNICEF West and Central
Africa Regional Office
Email: vtaton@unicef.org

UNICEF's MyName campaign aims to generate continental mobilization for universal birth registration in Africa, using the power of sport. This includes working with some of the continent's leading football stars to showcase how registration and identity has empowered their path to success.

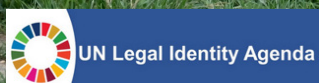


Legal
Identity

A GATEWAY FOR
DEVELOPMENT
AND PROTECTION

MY NAME

MY RIGHT



#COUNTINGEVERYONE



MY NAME IS PROTECTION



MY NAME IS EDUCATION



MY NAME IS FREEDOM



MY NAME IS HEALTH



MY NAME IS IDENTITY



MY NAME IS POWER



Tremendous progress has been achieved over the past decades throughout Africa

Enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 7 and 8), and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Article 6), the right to be recognised as a person before the law is a critical step in ensuring lifelong protection and may be a prerequisite for exercising other rights.

Out of the 164 million children under the age of five years old worldwide without birth registration, more than half (around 91 million) live in Africa. Without substantial progress, the total number of unregistered children in Africa will continue to rise and will easily exceed 100 million by 2030¹.

The opportunity

UNICEF's ambition is to ensure universal access to birth registration and legal identity for every child born in Africa. The easier the process, the better the results.

Evidence from UNICEF-supported programming shows that digitisation, decentralisation, and twinning birth registration and health services are some of the most significant game-changers for boosting registration.

There are five critical entry points for the twinning of birth registration services with health services, including the interoperability of data systems, to achieve scale and efficiencies.

Donate

Donate now to ensure that every child is registered and can fulfil their dreams.



<https://help.unicef.org/wcaro/>



My Name, My Identity, My Right: Birth registration protects children

Why does this matter? Birth registration grants children a proof of legal identity, essential to claim rights and services. It is a gateway for access to health, education, social protection and justice services. Without a legal identity, children are invisible to society. Their childhoods are at risk as they are more vulnerable to exclusion from services, exploitation, to being married as children or becoming caught up in child labour. A birth certificate, as a proof of age, also protects children from being tried as adults when in contact with the justice system or from underage recruitment into military groups or armed forces. Without radical measures, Africa will not reach universal birth registration by 2030, as demanded by SDG target 16.9, which aims to ensure a legal identity for all.



1 During antenatal care

Parents should be provided with information about the birth registration process when participating in antenatal care consultations, as it allows them to prepare the necessary documents that might be required for registration of their child.



2 At maternity wards and health centres

The twinning of birth registration with health services aimed at newborn children has been singled out as one of the most significant game-changers for birth registration. This entails proactive systems for sharing data, and a mechanism to ensure delivery of the birth certificate to the parents at the place of delivery or when parents return for immunization.

3 Through community health workers

Where services are insufficiently decentralized, birth registration should also be introduced to the tasks performed by community health workers, given their hands-on knowledge of the communities under their responsibility. With delegation of authority from the competent authorities (civil registry), they can sign the birth declaration forms, which is the proof for registration and issuance of the birth certificate. They could then deliver the birth certificate during their next visit.

4 At vaccination services

This includes outreach, routine immunization and supplementary immunization activities (catch up and outbreak responses). There are additional efforts aiming at reaching under vaccinated and zero-dose children, which could also constitute an opportunity for the integration of birth registration.

5 Walking "the last mile"

Last, but not least, and to maximise investments in ensuring that no child is left behind, there should be a joint effort from health and civil registration entities targeting the most underserved communities. This also implies coordination with education and social protection services.

UNICEF works closely with other UN agencies, including UNDESA, UNECA, UNDP, UNFPA and UNHCR under the UN Legal Identity Agenda, which promotes a One UN approach to support Member States building holistic, country-owned, sustainable civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems.