



THE REPUBLIC

OF THE GAMBIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
The Quadrangle  
Banjul

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Gambia Ministry of Health delivers large quantities of computers and other information technology equipment for the COVID-19 vaccination and for establishment of an electronic civil registration system**

**Civil registration** is the act of recording and documenting vital events in a person's life (including birth, death, marriage, and divorce). Birth registration establishes an individual's legal identity at birth, enables access to essential services such as health care, education, or cash transfer to the poor, and facilitates legal transactions such as to open bank accounts, take out loans, purchase properties, and invest in businesses.

The Gambia 1990 Act on Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces mandates the Ministry of Health to compulsorily register every birth, death and cause of death and the Ministry of Justice to register marriage and divorce. The Gambia, with technical assistance from the World Bank, has undertaken a review of the 1990 Act on Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces and has drafted a CRVS Bill.

Birth registration in the Gambia is paper-based, which makes it prone to duplicate birth certificates for the same individual. Accordingly, The Gambia Essential Health Services Strengthening Project (P173287, financed by the World Bank) is supporting the Ministry of Health to establish a functional **electronic civil registration and vital statistics (eCRVS) system**. The Project financed the procurement of the following user devices for distribution to all registration centers across the country: 140 desktops, 60 laptops, 60 tablets, 120 printers, 120 scanners, 140 webcams, 140 UPS 1000VA, 140 power line 4 plugs 10m, 8 lamination machines, 60 solar bags, 200 Office 365 packages, 8 battery backup, and 1 all-in-one printer.

"These devices will facilitate electronic registration of COVID-19 vaccine recipients," said, **Honorable Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh, Minister of Health**. "The COVID-19 vaccination program provides the opportunity to kickstart the eCRVS."

"A unique national identification number (NIN), assigned at birth, will allow the eCRVS system to be linked with other systems (such as national identity card, district health information system, civil service, social registry, pensions, passport, driver's license, finance, education, voter rolls, and immigration) to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public service delivery," said **Dr. Samuel Mills, Global Lead of the World Bank Group CRVS Program** and the [state-of-the-art, comprehensive CRVS eLearning course](#).

The Project is also supporting the Ministry of Health to go digital with the logistics management information system, electronic human resource management information system, electronic medical records, and laboratory management information system. The eCRVS, along with these information systems, will provide reliable data for informed decision making on health policies, programs, and services at all levels of the health care delivery system.

Mills, who is the Task Team Leader for the Project, emphasized that the eCRVS will become the foundation for membership enrollment into the national health insurance scheme when the insurance Bill (currently at the National Assembly) is enacted.

"The goal is universal birth registration by December 2022" said **Mr. Lamin Fatty, Registrar Births and Deaths**