

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

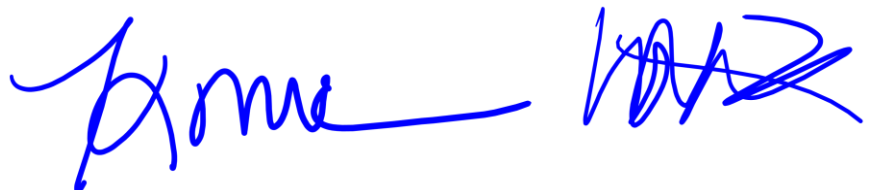


REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING ON ANALYSIS OF VITAL EVENTS DATA AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST ZANZIBAR VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

ZANZIBAR, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

8TH - 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

**EAC SECRETARIAT
Arusha, Tanzania
September, 2025**



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Convening of the Meeting

The national training on analysis of vital events data and development of the first Zanzibar vital statistics report was held from 8th - 13th September 2025 in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania. The main objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the Zanzibar in analysis and production of vital statistics reports. Specifically, the meeting was set:

- a) To strengthen capacity of participants in compiling, analysing, and presenting vital events data in a structured report format;
- b) To familiarize participants with international concepts, classifications, and standards on production of vital statistics indicators;
- c) To sensitize the Zanzibar TWG on the draft guidelines for harmonization of compilation of Vital Statistics within the Community; and
- d) To support OCGS in production of the 1st Zanzibar Vital Statistics Report.

The meeting was attended by Institutions that are involved in the production of Vital Statistics report in Zanzibar. The meeting was facilitated by the EAC Secretariat, the ONS-UK, UNECA, KNBS, and NISR. The list of participants is hereto attached as **Annex I**.

1.2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted and is hereto attached as **Annex II**.

1.3. Constitution of the Bureau

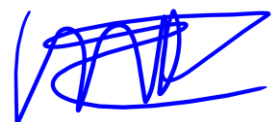
In accordance with the EAC procedures for conducting meetings **Mr Abdul-majid Jecha Ramadhan** chaired the meeting while **Mr. Haji Vuai Ali** was the rapporteur.

1.4. Opening Session

1.4.1. Statement by ONS-UK

On behalf of the Office for National Statistics (ONS-UK), Mr. Mark Gautrey expressed gratitude to the East African Community (EAC) for the invitation to the meeting. He reaffirmed ONS-UK's commitment to supporting EAC Partner States in the production of quality vital statistics to inform evidence-based programming.

Mr. Gautrey emphasized the importance of developing a comprehensive vital statistics report and ensuring its timely dissemination to stakeholders. He also shared that ONS-UK is currently working to formalize its collaboration with the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), with a particular focus on capacity strengthening in this sector.



He noted that the ONS-UK team looks forward to both learning from and sharing their experiences in vital statistics production during the training period. He concluded by wishing all participants fruitful deliberations throughout the week.

1.4.2. Statement by the UNECA

Mr. William Muhwava, Chief Demographic and Social Statistics at the African Centre for Statistics of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in his remarks informed the meeting that UNECA has a coordination role of the Africa Program for Accelerated Improvement for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS). UNECA under the umbrella of APAI-CRVS also coordinates the network of development partners working in CRVS on the African Continent. Under the program, he informed the meeting that UNECA has engaged in initiatives to develop CRVS through systems strengthening and transformation, improvement of the operational efficiency of producing vital statistics reports using R programming language, promote operational research through the CRVS Applied Research Training (CART) initiative, and adaption of existing global guidelines to the African context.

Mr. Muhwava emphasized to participants that producing a vital statistics report is not merely an endpoint, but rather a step towards advancing equity, inclusion, and human dignity. He also noted that while robust data management processes are essential, it is equally important to ensure effective dissemination and meaningful engagement with key stakeholders. He anticipated that the training will be productive and provide valuable insights for contributing to a comprehensive vital statistics report, thereby supporting enhanced reporting for policies and SDG 16.9.

1.4.3. Statement by the EAC Secretariat

On behalf of the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, Mr. Michael Gitau, a statistics Expert welcomed the participants to the national training on analysis of vital events data and development of the first Zanzibar vital statistics report. He also welcomed the facilitators from United Nations Economic Commission of Africa (UNECA), Office for National Statistics – United Kingdom (ONS-UK), National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). He appreciated the team for the timely support and collaboration on among others vital statistics.

Mr Gitau, commended the OCGS for the efforts in initiating the process of compiling, analysing, and disseminating vital events registration data, noting it was a step in the right direction as only four Partner States had published vital statistics report in 2024. These efforts he noted came at a pivotal moment, as the EAC is currently developing regional guidelines to streamline and harmonize the compilation of vital statistics across Partner States. He noted that the EAC harmonised guidelines on compilation of vital statistics is being finalised, and it makes recommendations on the minimum set of indicators required in the region. the EAC Secretariat, strongly urge the team to align the



indicators in the report with the proposed EAC priority vital statistics indicators, to ensure consistency and comparability across the Community.

To conclude, Mr. Gitau encouraged the members to make contributions and seek clarifications whenever required and wished all fruitful deliberations throughout the week.

1.4.4. Statement by the Chairperson

On behalf of the Zanzibar team, Mr. Abdul-majid Jecha Ramadhan expressed appreciation to the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat for facilitating the training and for its efforts to strengthen the capacity on compilation of vital statistics across the Community. He emphasized that these initiatives are crucial for achieving regional development goals, as well as the broader objectives of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He highlighted Zanzibar's progress in modernizing its Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) infrastructure, including the rollout of digital systems for registering births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and adoptions across all districts, which has significantly improved coverage. Interoperability efforts between CRVS, the National ID system, and other sectors are also underway to enhance data quality and accessibility.

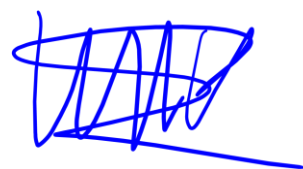
Despite these advancements, Mr. Ramadhan acknowledged ongoing challenges such as low coverage in remote areas, limited mobile registration devices, delays in registering and certifying vital events due to low community awareness, and inadequate integration of data systems for real-time reporting and analytics. To address these issues, he called for continued investment, regional collaboration, and the adoption of innovative technologies. He proposed the creation of a regional EAC platform for digital CRVS exchange and learning, enabling Partner States to share best practices and innovations. He also advocated for technical support in system integration and sustained political commitment to prioritize CRVS as a foundation for governance and service delivery.

In conclusion, Mr. Ramadhan reaffirmed Zanzibar's commitment to working closely with EAC and partners such as ONS-UK and UNECA to build resilient, inclusive, and people-centered CRVS systems that leave no one behind.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE TRAINING

Vital statistics provide crucial and critical information for monitoring of health and population intervention programmes, and the measurement of important demographic indicators of levels of living or quality of life, such as life expectancy at birth and the infant mortality rate.

OCGS requested EAC Secretariat to facilitate a technical capacity building in production of vital statistics data to a team of sixteen (16) officers drawn from OCGS and their Vital Statistics stakeholders. To leverage on the existing knowledge in the region and encourage the peer-to-peer learning concept, an expert from the National Institute of



Statistics Rwanda (NISR), and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics co-facilitated the training together with the EAC Secretariat staff. Additionally, experts from ONS-UK, and UNECA provided technical support during the training workshop.

3. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING SESSIONS

During the meeting, presentations and discussions were held in the following topics:

- a) Global perspective in compilation of Vital Statistics;
- b) Overview of compilation of Vital Statistics in Kenya and Rwanda with focus on experiences and lessons learnt over the period;
- c) Introduction to Vital Statistics data analysis steps, tabulation plans, data cleaning, Formatting, coding, rounding rules, handling outliers;
- d) Vital Statistics Data Quality Issues and how to address them with cases studies from of Kenya and Rwanda;
- e) Standard structure of a CRVS statistical report and how to adapt the global guidelines;
- f) UN template on Production of a Vital Statistics Report with focus on the priority indicators and how it has been adapted and used in Kenya and Rwanda;
- g) Overview of EAC harmonized guidelines for compilation of vital statistics;
- h) Report writing techniques and best practices—dos and don'ts
- i) Dissemination and use of Vital Statistics with focus on experiences from Kenya and Rwanda;
- j) Vital statistics report writing skills and best practices;
- k) Overview of reproducible pipelines for CRVS; and
- l) Tools for vital statistics data analysis.

The presentations for all the sessions are hereby attached as **Annex III**.

4. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations

1. Zanzibar has been producing quarterly bulletin on vital statistics which is a unique CRVS product within the Community;
2. There is need for continuous hands-on training on CRVS data analysis especially of death and cause of death records. There is need for further training on coding of cause of death statistics;
3. To ensure effective production of Vital Statistics Report for Zanzibar, there is need for OCGS and ZCSRA to put up mechanisms for data sharing, develop the necessary documentation for Zanzibar's CRVS data management processes such as data editing protocols, meta-data, CRVS tabulation plan;
4. There is need for a dedicated training on report writing and communicating statistics for different audiences; and
5. There is need for capacity building in using the R-pipeline for CRVS and other platform of statistical analysis (Stata and SPSS).

Recommendations

The participants urged OCGS and ZCSRA to;

1. Strengthen the internal staff capacity in data processing, analysis, communication, and report writing;
2. Continuously strengthen capacity of the National Statistical System to enhance the production of good quality vital statistics;
3. To ensure effective production of Vital Statistics Report for Zanzibar, there is need for OCGS, ZCSRA and MOH to put up mechanisms for data sharing and organization of the data into a single dataset for each vital event; and
4. Together with ZCSRA fast-track implementation of its work on the CRVS improvement framework, develop a CRVS strategic Plan, and a technical note on Zanzibar's vital statistics business process.

The participants urged the EAC Secretariat to:

1. Continue facilitating peer to peer learning among the EAC Partner States to improve the production of vital statistics reports;
2. Facilitate the R-pipeline training for the Zanzibar technical team as they embark on data processing and analysis for the production of Vital Statistics Reports;
3. Facilitate a communication and messaging training for the Zanzibar technical responsible for the production of Vital Statistics Report;
4. Create a regional EAC platform for digital CRVS exchange and learning, enabling Partner States to share best practices and innovations; and
5. Provide technical support in system integration and sustained political commitment to prioritize CRVS as a foundation for governance and service delivery.

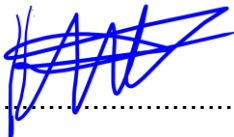


1. SIGNING OF THE REPORT

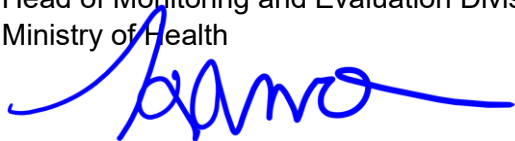
This report is hereby signed on behalf of the Zanzibar OCGS, ZCSRA, and MOH on this
13th day of September, 2025.



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EVENTS DATA AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST ZANZIBAR VITAL STATISTICS
REPORT, 8TH TO 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025
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Annex II

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

NATIONAL TRAINING ON ANALYSIS OF VITAL EVENTS DATA AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST ZANZIBAR VITAL STATISTICS REPORT, 8TH TO 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025

ZANZIBAR, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Agenda

1. Convening of the meeting
2. Strengthening capacity of participants in compiling, analysing, and presenting vital events data in a structured report format
3. Familiarize participants with international concepts, classifications, and standards on production of vital statistics indicators;
4. Sensitize the Zanzibar TWG on the draft guidelines for harmonization of compilation of Vital Statistics within the Community; and
5. Support OCGS in production of the 1st Zanzibar Vital Statistics Report.
6. AOB