The world is facing an identity crisis. 
**One in seven people have no official identification**, including 500 million children. They are **invisible** and uncounted.

If they don’t legally exist, they cannot exercise their rights. Without a birth certificate, people struggle to legally access public services like health care, education, and protection from child marriage and child labor. Without a death certificate, family members cannot prove entitlements to inheritance and guardianship.

**For people to count, they must first be counted.**
That’s what a civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system does, recording major life events like births, deaths and marriages. A quality CRVS system is critical to a country delivering services, raising revenues and making progress on more than half of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Yet **100 countries do not have functioning CRVS systems.**

**Most CRVS systems are:**

- **Inefficient**
  - Manual, paper-based processes that gather poor quality data.

- **Unconnected**
  - Unable to share data with other government systems such as national identification, health care and social protection systems.

- **Inaccessible**
  - Cannot reach the most marginalized people, especially those living in rural and remote areas.

- **Expensive**
  - Many registration services require significant time, money and travel costs to access.

**A bold solution**
With a holistic CRVS systems-strengthening model adapted for local needs, we can collaborate with governments to register every birth and death, and ensure that every individual on the planet is recognized, protected and provided for from birth.

The model is based on **OpenCRVS**, a universal, freely available software product for civil registration in low-resource settings. The technology is:

- **Accessible offline**
  - Designed by and for the people it serves to be accessible even with network disruptions or limited infrastructure.

- **Open source and interoperable**
  - Meaning freely available and easy to integrate with existing health and identification systems.

- **Enabled with clear and actionable data for governments**
  - Using global best practice data protection, data encryption and a rights-based approach to limiting sensitive data use.

- **Easy to deploy**
  - Requires minimal skills for customization, maintenance and support.
The proposed model is more than just technology.

Based on decades of experience registering millions of children worldwide, Plan International and our partners understand that the long-term impact we seek only comes through an integrated program approach that drives demand for registration rights by:

- Informing, educating and empowering individuals to realize their right to be counted.
- Expanding grassroots and community-led campaigns for registration.
- Integrating into existing government programming and registries.
- Building the capacity of individuals across all levels of administration to provide high-quality civil registration services.
- Advancing national commitments to register every birth by 2030, and digitize public services.

We implement the model through a network of trusted agents like community health workers, local health clinicians and mobile birth registration units so that existing government structures are leveraged, services are easy and accessible, and the hardest-to-reach children and their families can be counted.

Why now?

Being recognized from birth is one of the first and most foundational rights a person has.

The global community has called out the significance of “providing every person with a legal identity, including birth registration” in SDG 16. The United Nations, World Bank and Center for Global Development have all recognized that if governments prioritize progress on this goal now, they can unlock new ways to achieve several other interrelated SDGs by 2030, such as eradicating poverty or ending preventable deaths of newborns.

And yet, this fundamental problem persists, particularly in low-resource settings around the world. This global problem needs a global solution.

It is possible...

for countries to address the world’s identity crisis,
for nations to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, for everyone to count.

But this bold solution requires bold investment.

Learn more at opencrvs.org or watch this video!

Brit Rocourt
Sr. Director, Corporate & Foundation Partnerships
Britney.Rocourt@planusa.org
202.617.2260  |  800.556.7918

In partnership with:

The impact of your investment

With your help, we can make a transformational impact on the world’s identity crisis.

Plan International and our partners — Vital Strategies, Jembi Health Systems, Simprints, and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health — have spent decades working on universal civil registration around the world, and have deep relationships with governments and communities.

**WITH $100 MILLION**
we can register all births and deaths in Bangladesh and one other country at national scale, directly impacting 7.5 million lives over the next five years. This can unlock access to critical health services for millions of children, and would set an example for other countries to follow. Implementation would include birth and death registration, research on sustainability models and further scale-up, and exploring the future of civil registration through research and development activities.

**WITH $10 MILLION**
we can fully implement the proposed solution in 10 out of 64 districts across Bangladesh to register an estimated 360,000 births within 45 days of birth, and 110,000 deaths.

**WITH $5 MILLION**
we can register an estimated 144,000 births in four districts across Bangladesh.

**WITH $1 MILLION**
we can extend our current pilot program in two districts of Bangladesh.

All investment levels mentioned will improve our ability to integrate the OpenCRVS solution with health services, education services, and marriage registration, as well as provide unique identification of children.

Proposed partners, project implementation and impact estimates would be subject to the availability of funds.

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