

FINAL REPORT:

ConVERGE Colombia 2020 - 2021

Improving the processes for monitoring and ensuring the quality of vital statistics

Context:

The primary objective of this activity, as part of the ConVERGE project, was to improve the processes for monitoring and ensuring the quality of vital statistics by developing a Power BI dashboard to track the quantities and frequencies of birth and death variables. In conjunction with DANE, a proposal for multi-phase strengthening was made, and the results contained in this report correspond to the first of four phases.

The completion time for this activity was 6 months, and involved the recruitment of a systems engineer with expertise in PowerBI, a statistician and a graphic designer. The DANE team also provided support and guidance from the Vital Statistics department of the Censuses and Demographics directorate. The UNFPA team provided assistance with the coordination of the Population and Development Outcome.

Achievements: On the basis of an Excel document provided by DANE, which was automated, improvements were made to monitoring and information visualization statistics.

Future tasks: this first phase will assist in identifying the regions with problems registering vital events. The aim of subsequent phases is to plan and deliver technical assistance in the regions. Finally, the expectation is to monitor the improvements made in the registration of vital statistics at regional level.



Article: In-depth analysis of ethnic births in Colombia (case study for the Chocó department)

Context:

The main objective of this activity, as part of the ConVERGE project, was to produce an in-depth study that would allow for a characterization to be made of the quality of the vital statistics, based on the variables recorded regarding who attended and registered births and where they took place. The most significant finding is the shortcoming identified in the registration of vital events, such as home births attended by male and female traditional birth attendants. These vital events have increased in number and frequency, although the same was not true when analysis was carried out of who registered births. According to some traditional birth attendants, various couples attended by them were found to resort to paying professional nurses to register births in order for their civil registration request to be valid. This has an effect on parents' rights for their children to be born at home, entailing extra costs when validating the registration.

The completion time for this activity was 6 months, and it included the support of a statistician and the DANE demographic analysis coordinator. The UNFPA team provided assistance with the coordination of the Population and Development Outcome.

Achievements: Identification of the shortcomings in the system for registering birth data in Colombia, which were reviewed with the DANE regional offices and the National Civil Registry. This demographic analysis was an essential input for the execution of the Partera Vital 1.0 project.

Future tasks: Partera Vital 2.0 is expected to involve work on in-depth analysis of maternal mortality, to include an examination of all possible sources for its measurements and different estimation methodologies, which will subsequently be analyzed together. The impact of Covid-19 on the rise in maternal deaths will be analyzed in the same way. This may be the first in-depth exercise carried out in Colombia to analyze historical maternal mortality trends.



ConVERGE
Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality

In-depth analysis of ethnic births in Colombia

Case study of indigenous populations in the Chocó department.

Juan Camilo Calderón González; Mariana Francisca Ospina Bohórquez; Carlos Arturo Ramírez Hernández

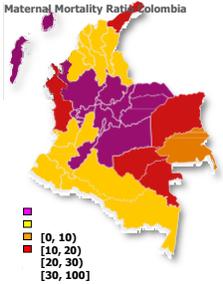
Birth registration context in the Chocó department

The following exercise was carried out in order to generate alternative analysis for statistical production and demographic monitoring, and to propose solutions to the shortcomings in the coverage of vital statistics in the regions. It also puts two issues of significance in Colombia under the microscope: the challenge of monitoring birth dynamics in indigenous populations, and the contribution of traditional birth attendants in assisting childbirth.

Therefore, the aim was to research and supplement the traditional methods of producing demographic statistics, in order to provide statistics that are more useful for designing public policies that will stimulate social development while taking into account the impact of phenomena associated with demographic dynamics, and specifically fertility.

Through this exercise, our intention is to highlight the gaps that exist in the registration of births for vital statistics, and by doing so strengthen the collection of vital data. This data collection is a priority, particularly in remote rural areas with a large presence of indigenous and Afro-descendant populations where there has been a historical absence of state presence. While these may seem to be events of low prevalence, they exacerbate the conditions of poverty and conflict that violate the guarantee of rights for the most vulnerable populations with a higher risk of dying, in particular expectant mothers and newborn babies.

For this reason, this analysis focuses on indigenous populations, showing typical characteristics in terms of birth attendance and location, and the person who registered the birth.



Maternal Mortality Ratio Colombia

[0, 10]
[10, 20]
[20, 30]
[30, 100]



Maternal mortality consultations on REDATAM

Context:

The general aim of this activity was to bring local decision makers closer to the maternal mortality data in the vital statistics, by developing an exclusive REDATAM workspace for processing maternal deaths in the region.

The completion time for this activity was 3 months, and it included support from a graphic designer and a systems engineer with expertise in REDATAM. The DANE team also provided support and guidance from the vital statistics department of the Censuses and Demographics directorate. The UNFPA team provided assistance with the coordination of the Population and Development Outcome.

Achievements: Using a similar development from Mexico as an example, together with DANE's experience of using the REDATAM platform, work was carried out on searching for similar solutions that would make it possible to familiarize the public with the maternal mortality statistics on the platform.

Future tasks: This tool will be shared on the DANE website shortly. Considering how complex it could be for some users, a decision was made to create a video tutorial for publication on this web space to give users a better understanding of the tool's functionality.

