

Statement to be made by
H.E Dr Aye Tun, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Health
at Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
in Asia and the Pacific

AGENDA 10

19 November 2021

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Myanmar delegation, I wish to congratulate the Commission for organizing this 2nd Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics to celebrate the achievements of the first half of the region's CRVS Decade (2015-2024) and foster our commitment to accelerating the efforts to achieve universal and responsive CRVS systems. I also wish to convey our sincere appreciation for supporting Myanmar's participation in this Conference.

The registration of births and deaths in Myanmar started at the beginning of the twentieth century, in 1907. The system was gradually improved throughout the years in registering all births and deaths across the country. According to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in 2015-2016, birth registration coverage had reached 81.3%. However, there are differences between urban and rural, with 93.9% and 77.7% respectively.

The birth registration coverage was increased through the intervention of the birth registration campaign, refresher courses for implementers, and public awareness activities on the importance of birth registration. Nevertheless, there were some limitations for age and geographic coverage in reaching all people,

and the government has encouraged all stakeholders to cooperate in timely registering of all births and deaths that occur within country.

In accordance with country commitment to the Regional Action Framework, we have made follow-ups in assigning the Civil Registrar General and initiated the development of a comprehensive CRVS law since the beginning of the year 2020. During 2015-2020, we have worked on the Vital Registration E-Platform, and now a digital archiving system has been set up in the country that creates permanent records of vital statistics. All registration data are made accessible for planning, implementation, and decision-making. However, we are still working on digital data collection to obtain real-time data, and trying to improve its data uploading and sharing system.

In Myanmar, the Manual on Birth and Death Registration was endorsed in 2017 which guarantees Universal Birth Registration; that is, all under 10 children born in Myanmar is registered and obtained their birth certificate. As stated above, we have established the Vital Registration E-platform and scaled it up across the country during the same year. With the support of the UNICEF in 2019, Myanmar piloted the 'Mobile Birth and Death Registration (MBDR)' project in one pilot State (Mon). More than 550 midwives are using mobile tablets to collect both birth and death, upload those data for registration and certification. The evidence generated from this project is planned to be used for a national scale-up in 2021.

Chairperson, and Distinguished delegates,

Despite these promising initiatives, Myanmar still continues to struggle with the challenges which other LDCs also face in improving the CRVS system.

In this respect, the Government of Myanmar has closely collaborated with UNICEF as a long-standing partner and will continue its collaboration with all development partners, and seek both financial and technical support for strengthening its CRVS system, and making it universal and responsive in Myanmar by 2024.

Thank you very much.