

Script of Videomessage of Ms Kanwal Shauzab Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiative

- Pakistan is currently facing a population boom with 212 million observed in PDHS 2017 and continuously growing with the rate of 2.1% annually. Out of total population 60 million individuals are unregistered and do not come over the shelter of safety networks leading to scandal of invisibility. Unfortunately birth registration rate for children under 5 is at 42% while death registration rate steps down even below 5%. This has become a National dilemma and major hurdle in providing social benefits and better health care services to community.
- A uniform CRVS system would be potential solution as it readily provides reliable information on vital events to enable the production of timely and accurate population estimates and other demographic and health statistics, which contribute to more effective planning, efficient resource allocation and accurate evaluation and monitoring. It prevents the wastage of mass financial and human resources on Population Census, Demographical Surveys and provide with real-time data for effective governance.
- Each year, millions of children in Pakistan are born without any legal identity and lack their basic birthright. CRVS helps provide them with their national identity and safety networks to enable them access social benefits especially better health care services. It also provides crucial information on SDG indicators like maternal and infant mortality, and identifies population at risk. SDGs with strong emphasis on poverty eradication, governance, accountability and health must have CRVS at its core. Hence CRVS enables monitoring 15 of the 17 SDG goals, 48 of the SDG targets and 91 of the SDG indicators and the comparisons over time at national and subnational administrative level.

- Deployment of a fully functional and universal Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system is one of the government's top priorities. The Honourable Prime Minister, Imran Khan, has recently called for a “National Strategy for the development of Statistics” so that the government can have access to accurate, reliable and timely statistics but also have a solid and credible base of evidence which is critical to support the design and evaluation of policies. This reflects a clear recognition on part of the Government on the need for effectual and well-functioning CRVS system in Pakistan.