Presentation
On Civil registration and Vital Statistics system in Lao PDR

MR. VANDY CHANTHALIDETH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CITIZEN MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, LAO PDR
Outline of presentation

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I. Overview

• The Ministry of Home Affairs was established in 2011, as well as the Department of Citizen Management was established in 2012.
• Based on the family registration law amened 2018, the Civil registration organizations are the State organizations which are comprised of the sectors of home affairs, public security, justice and foreign affairs.
  1) The Civil registration organizations of the sector of Home Affairs have the rights and duties within the scope of their own responsibilities as: Registration of birth, marriage, divorce, death, change of first name or family name, change in nationality, and migration.
  2) The Civil registration organizations of the sector of public security have the rights and duties within the scope of their own responsibilities as: Registration of family registration books, Issuance of identity cards, registration of temporary residence.
  3) The Civil registration organizations of the sector of justice have the rights and duties within the scope of their own responsibilities as: registration of disappearance, child adoption, paternity or maternity, appointment of guardian.
  4) The Civil registration of the sector of foreign affairs shall be processed with the civil registration units of overseas representative offices of Lao PDR which are under the management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The rights and duties of such units are as the following: Registration of birth, marriage, divorce, death and ceding in Lao nationality.
I. Overview

The other ministries concerned with the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics are as follows:

• The Ministry of Health is responsible for issuing birth, death notification and certificates the cause of death.

• National Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment Responsible for:
  - Analyze and produce Vital statistics from the Civil registration system.
  - Survey, collect and request statistical information from local units; Produce, publish and disseminate official statistics at the national level;
  - Disseminate and use demographic data for policy-making, planning and monitoring.
I. Overview

• The Ministry of Education and Sports is responsible for promoting the issuance of birth certificates required for the enrollment of children or students who are going to study in the country or abroad;

• The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare is responsible for promoting the use of birth certificates to manage, protect and inspect the use of labor to prevent the use of child labor;
II. The importance of CRVS

- Civil registration is defined by the United Nations as the “continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events pertaining as provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements in each country.” The vital events include live birth, death, fetal death, marriage, divorce, adoption, legitimation, and recognition.
- Vital statistics “constitute the collection of statistics on vital events in a lifetime of a person as well as relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the person and persons concerned.”
- Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) provides a person’s legal identity, their rights to recognition as a person before the law, and their formal relationship with the state. CRVS provides individuals with documentary evidence—for example, a birth certificate—to prove their name, age, family relationships and the nationalities of their parents, which often provides the key to accessing essential services such as health care, education, and social protection.
II. The importance of CRVS

• Recording every life events gives an opportunity to produce the most accurate, complete, and timely statistics on the health and demographics;

• Civil Registration and Vital Statistics are one of the key components in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as 67 of the 232 indicators of that goal are based on Vital Statistics
III. The progress of the implementation of CRVS

Currently, Lao PDR has made progress in improving the registration and population statistics in many areas, including:

1) **Completed the rapid assessment on CRVS implementation in 2011 and 2012**;

2) **The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Strategy 2016-2025 was approved and promulgated in 2017**, has set a **vision for 2030**: By 2030, all Lao people will benefit from a universal and responsive CRVS system that facilitates the realization of population’s rights and supports good governance and development.
III. The progress of the implementation of CRVS

Three Goals

- Goal 1: Civil registration of births, deaths, and other vital events is universal and effective;
- Goal 2: All individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration of birth, deaths, and other vital events, as necessary to claim identity, civil status, and ensuing rights; and
- Goal 3: Accurate, complete, and timely vital statistics (including causes of deaths), based on registration records, are produced and disseminated.
III. The progress of the implementation of CRVS

- **Targets:**
  
  by 2024 Lao PDR will try its utmost to ensure that all citizen and newborn is registered and officially certified at least 70%.

3) The Law on Family or Civil Registration was amended and promulgated in 2018;

4) Law on Statistics was amended and promulgated in 2017
III. The progress of the implementation of CRVS

5) Draft and develop legislation under law such as decrees, instructions on the implementation of the Family registration law under responsibility of Home Affairs, Public Security and Justice;

6) Completed the dissemination of legislation on civil management, such as: Law on Family Registration amended 2018, CRVS strategy 2016-2025 and legislation under the law on civil registration to the local level (provinces and Districts relevant sector) to increase awareness, understanding, uniformity and compliance with the law;

7) Establish a coordination mechanism between the relevant ministries at the central and local levels, the Government assigned Home Affairs sector as key organization as the focal point for the relevant ministries, international organization, development partners and region organizations on CRVS.

8) Provided Trainings and capacity building IT knowledge as well as the Civil Registration data collection for staffs of DOHAs, POHAs nationwide.
Cloud Hosting
App
Servers
Databases
Identity
Unique identification Number & 
Certificate Issuance
Payment System 
(Future)
Grievance Redress System
Other Ministries
MAF
Social Registry
IV. Challenges

1) Dissemination of CRVS strategy, Family registration law, and legislation under the FR law is not yet widespread, especially in village level, so many people do not understand the significance of CRVS.

2) Lessons and the experience of staffs who responsible for CRVS implementation is limited in both quantity and quality.

3) Budgets and equipment are still not enough to meet demand.

4) Changing the behavior, habits and perceptions of people requires time, budget and personnel to make them to recognize and understand the importance of the registration process (especially births and deaths);
IV. Challenges

5) The provision of mobile services is still difficult, especially in remote areas due to poor access;

6) An eCRVS is being developed, and the reporting of Vital statistics is still used a paper base, so there is cause of delay
V. Action plan

In order to achieve the vision, goals and targets mentioned above, the Home Affairs sector, in collaboration with the relevant sectors, will be focused on:

1) Continue to disseminate, CRVS strategy 2016-2025, Family registration law and regulations on civil registration through television, radio, village radio and social media (facebook, youtube) to make people understanding and recognize the importance of CRVS;

2) Provide training and capacity building for personnel who is responsible for CRVS to implement the law and the legislations under the law effectively.

3) Allocate sufficient budget and equipment for the CRVS;

4) Establish a mobile registration unit to provide services to people in the remote areas and outreach;
V. Action plan

5) To complete the development and installation of eCRVS system for 18 Provincial Office of Home Affairs (POHA) and 148 District Office of Home Affairs (DOHA) nationwide by 2023 and to be completed the population and Civil registration data entry by 2024.

6) Data sharing with relevant ministries.
Thanks