Use of BPI for informing ongoing CRVS digitization in the Maldives

Maldives Bureau of Statistics
Civil Registration in Maldives

- Births must be registered within seven days of their occurrence, with applicable fees
- Death has no legally defined limit, it is necessary to obtain a funeral permit and is free of charge.
- Birth registration rate is 100%
- Death registration completeness currently stands at 100% in 2020
• Maldives recently implemented ‘GEMEN’, the new online birth and death registration platform (Amidst COVID in June 2020)
• The system needs further improvement
• ESCAP provided us with an opportunity to apply the CRVS System Improvement Framework for analysis, redesigning and improving vital events registration process.
Maldivian CRVS assessment focused on the stage 1 of the Framework with two key objectives:
- 1) identifying issues affecting the performance of business processes in the CRVS system and the root causes of these issues, and
- 2) identifying redesigns that should be implemented to address the performance issues and root causes.

Following the initial consultations on the Framework and discussions on CRVS processes, Maldivian strictly focus on improving birth and death registration business processes.
In line with the Framework, the work of the Country Team was implemented through the following stages:

1. Identifying and documenting current birth and death registration processes.
2. Gathering performance information on current birth and death registration business processes.
3. Identifying performance issues of current birth and death registration business processes and identifying root causes of the issues.
For birth registration process:

1. Linking marriage records with the GEMEN system to enable the timely verification of records.
2. Linking the household register with the GEMEN system.
3. Completing collection of key parental information and automating verification of identity/marriage data already at the health facility to eliminate parental follow-up when records are communicated to the city council.
4. Standardizing the Dhivehi spelling of approved Arabic names written in Thaana script.
5. Linking the GEMEN and NARES systems to automate unique identification number assignments to newborn children.
6. Fully integrating immigration records and the work permit system with the GEMEN system.
Redesign ideas

For death registration process:

1. Re-structuring the death form to enable separate entry of burial data.
2. Creating a death registry in the GEMEN system
3. Standardizing cause of death field in GEMEN and linking with ICD-10 tables
Ongoing re-design efforts & modification of GEMEN

Following the assessment, various activities taken place to improve system efficiency:

- re-activation of CRVS Technical team and regular meetings conducted on a 2-week basis
- Various changes made to GEMEN based on the issues identified in roll-out
- Brief reporting module developed-through which able to identify which health facility/ Island Council are active/inactive within the system
- Towards a Civil Registration Act- Review of Civil Registration regulation/ guidelines to have a Civil Registration Act to provide a strong legal basis for the registration process
- Ministry of Health enforcing all health facilities to use GEMEN module based on the reported cases of islands still submitting paper based forms
- LGA providing re-training to councils/hospitals where there has been staff turn over
- E-learning module being developed for the use of GEMEN (with assistance from UNDP)
- Possibility of integrating GEMEN with DHIS tracker to monitor vaccination of new born babies
- Finance being sought for a programmer to develop the reporting module
- GEMEN is still in its infant stage
- Together with the collaboration of key stakeholders, the system has made tremendous improvement since BPI
- Multiple-agencies are making use of GEMEN