In-Depth Review and Needs Assessment of CRVS System to Develop a CRVS National Action Plan

15-19 JUNE 2020 | Bangkok, Thailand


Dr. S.M. Mursalin
National Technical Adviser
Technical Support Unit – CRVS
Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform, Islamabad
Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) is the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events of the population in accordance with the law.
Virtual Event 15-18 June 2020
2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics Week
Leaving no one and nowhere behind

Why CRVS is critical?

Benefits to Individual
- Access to government services (e.g. health, education and social protection)

Benefits to the State
- Real time information
- Planning population’s needs
- Improve health administration
- Efficient electoral processes
- Measure population dynamics (diminish need for census/surveys)
- Track development goals

Individual identity

DECade of Action
UNITED NATIONS ESCAP
ukaid
Status of Birth registration under 5 Years

Pakistan Demographic & Health Survey-2019
Study Area

• The study was carried out in the biggest Punjab Province (having 110M inhabitants with > half the population of Pakistan) to;
Methodology & Approach

- **Desk review on reports and publications** on CRVS (in Pakistan in general, and Punjab in particular).

- Development and **application of a questionnaire to collect** data in 800 out of 1,001 Union Councils, 1800 respondents – 28% Females (10 out of 36 districts randomly selected in Pb).

- **In-depth interviews** and FGDs to complement the information gathered. **Four levels of data collection**, ranging from Deputy Directors LG, UC secretaries, Health and Community.
Virtual Event 15-18 June 2020
2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics Week
Leaving no one and nowhere behind
Salient Strengths & Gaps

- Govt and Partner’s Commitment to invest and improve CRVS. Ongoing Efforts.

- Nationwide CRVS Infrastructure like NADRA, Registration Points, CRVS Coordinating Units at Federal/Provincial levels, internet support.

- Present Administrative structure for civil registries is complex leading to non-uniformity of registration practices, such as;

- Ambiguities in interpretations of laws, regulations and SOPs.
Salient Observations/ Findings

- **Variation in capacities** between the Union Councils Registration points, when it comes to registration routines, document issuance routines.

- **Data Quality** due to Incorrect and inaccurate registration due to various reasons, insufficient maintenance of archives.

- Insignificant Inter-sectoral coordination among key stakeholders both at operational and strategic levels.

- Weak system for flow of Vital Statistics—especially Deaths/COD information. Clarity for compilation, analysis and disseminating the official Vital statistics.
Salient Observations From Community data

- Familiarity with Registration Requirements & Procedures
- Women’s Ability to register her child
### Barriers to Registration of Vital Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITIZENS</th>
<th>PUBLIC SECTOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic barriers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Institutional barriers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Poverty</td>
<td>• Limited administrative capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Access (distance)</td>
<td>• Inadequate or lack of ICT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Time</td>
<td>• Limited Geographical Presence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal barriers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Legal barriers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Difficult to understand procedures</td>
<td>• Overlapping jurisdictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lack of knowledge of time limits for registration</td>
<td>• Convoluted legal framework for CR and VS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural barriers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Budgetary restrictions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Language, customs</td>
<td>• Lack of resources for investment in staff, infrastructure and ICT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Distrust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discrimination against women and minorities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall CRVS Challenges

- Need for a **sound legal framework** and inter-institutional collaboration across sectors, especially health, local govt. statistical departments etc.

- Need for significant **administrative and management reforms** for registration at local level.

- Strong need for **CRVS Demand Generation**. Passive system relies on civil society collaboration for notification of births & deaths.

- Address major funding gaps for further analysis on **issues related to disabilities, minorities and gender disaggregated**
Virtual Event 15-18 June 2020
2020 Asia-Pacific
Statistics Week
Leaving no one and nowhere behind

Thank You!