



# Children and Youth in Asia and the Pacific Speak on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics



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## Executive Summary

This document highlights children’s voices and views on civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) across Asia and the Pacific. Through national level consultations and a regional forum, children and youth across the region expressed their views, experiences on CRVS, as well as their recommendations.

A series of consultations were held from March to April 2021 in eleven countries across Asia and the Pacific, with 561 children and youth participants. These countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. In these consultations, over 63% were children (below 18 years old) while the rest were aged 18 to 24. The majority of both children and youth participants identified themselves as females.

A regional forum, via zoom on May 29, 2021, followed the consultations. During the forum, the representative children and youth initiated the drafting of the joint video statement on CRVS that will be presented at the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in November 2021. Sixty-one child and youth participants attended the forum, representing Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Fifty-four percent were children and sixty percent of all participants were females.

### The Consultations

For the participants, registration is the gateway to government services. CRVS proves their identity, legitimizes their citizenship, and serves as the key to accessing their rights.

Many of those included in the consultations shared how the lack of registration has been an intergenerational problem—parents who lack marriage certificates have unregistered children who in turn cannot access marriage registration when they marry. Many revealed that they lost opportunities and claims to property simply because they were unable to prove their age, identity, and residence.

The participants also identified the challenges that hinder access to registration. They specified **institutional weaknesses** such outdated and inadequate legal framework and processes governing CRVS, the lack of coordination between government offices, and capacity gaps in the CRVS-related agencies. **Social barriers** also hinder them from accessing CRVS. People, especially in poor, rural, and remote areas do not have sufficient information on the need for registration. Even if they do, poverty hinders them from registering births, marriages, and death. Logistical and financial costs are too steep for them to meet. Some families are locked in bonded labor, which deprives them access to CRVS.

The participants provided several recommendations to overcome the barriers to registration. These include improvements at the institutional level that will ensure all births, marriages, and deaths are registered. They recommended the facilitation of registration for home births and provision of an alternative registration system and inclusive services for vulnerable groups such as orphans, migrants, and refugees, too. They also cited the need for better infrastructure and data system, enhanced cooperation between CRVS-related agencies, and capacitating of hospital staff, clinics, and churches for the provision of CRVS support. This should be complemented with on-the-ground work, i.e., information dissemination on the importance of CRVS in delivering basic human rights and awareness raising activities on the need for CRVS and the processes it involves.

To enhance marriage registration, participants specified mandatory marriage registration, a clear marriage registration process, and a strong government mechanism at the village level. They also identified the need for information dissemination and awareness raising activities for this type of registration. For death registration, the participants proposed ensuring the responsibility and accountability of hospitals, government, and families in registering deaths, setting up a dedicated office for the registration of home deaths, providing guidance on the processing of death certificates, and online death registration and correction of wrong information. They also cited the importance of increasing awareness on the death registration process and its importance to statistical purposes, public health, and to the families and heirs of the dead.

### The Regional Forum

The regional forum that followed the consultations made use of breakout sessions and a plenary to surface the participants' answer to two main questions: 1) How do you want to say the results of the country consultations in the joint video statement? 2) How do you want to support the statement?

The participants proposed emphasizing the message "Certificates are human rights" to present the importance of CRVS in the joint video statement. Without birth registration, they said children do not legally exist in the system. Without it, they cannot access services. To support this statement, the participants proposed gathering the perspectives of children who experienced problems regarding the birth certificate. Bringing this to the attention of policymakers in the upcoming Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS is a step closer to the video statement's ultimate goal of urging policymakers to get everyone in the picture.

In discussing the challenges to be integrated in the video statement, participants highlighted poverty, illiteracy, and lack of awareness as key barriers to accessing CRVS. Many of the delegates shared experiences that support this statement. One striking sentiment was shared by a son from a bonded laborer family whose parents are illiterate. He said the government does not provide them opportunities for and access to education. His parents' wages are not enough for them to access educational facilities.

The participants emphasized making accurate registration free for all to improve CRVS. After the thematic groups finished discussing the messages they would like to include in the video statement, they chose 15 representatives to represent them to the Statement Core Group which will finalize the planned video.



# 1 Introduction

This document presents the results of the in-country consultations of children (below 18) and youth (18-24) on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific and the key points discussed by children and youth delegates in the regional forum. The consultations took place, mostly online, in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand from February 11 to March 27, 2021. Five hundred sixty-one (561) children and youth discussed their experience on or knowledge of birth, marriage, and death registration. They also shared their recommendations to improve registration.

The organizers also asked partners in Fiji, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Singapore, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to conduct consultations, but the partners were unable to do so because of the pandemic and limited resources. Partners in Myanmar were among the first ones to prepare but were unable to carry them out due to its political situation.

Fifteen organizations from the 11 countries volunteered to be the organizers and facilitators of the in-country consultations. The organizations include the following:

## **Afghanistan**

- UNICEF-Afghanistan
- Vital Statistics Department, Ministry of Public Health (Afghanistan)

## **Cambodia**

- Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC Cambodia)

## **Indonesia**

- Indonesia Joining Forces to End Violence Against Children

## **India**

- World Vision India
- Lucknow ADP (India)
- ADP KUMARKAND-EZ
- Sambalpur ADP

## **Nepal**

- Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN)

## **Pakistan**

- Group Development (GD) Pakistan

## **Philippines**

- GITIB, Inc.
- Mindanao Migrants Center for Empowering Actions, Inc. (MMCEAI)
- Mindanao Action Group for Children's Rights and Protection (MAGCRP)
- Tambayan Center for Children's Rights, Inc.

## Thailand

- The Life Skills Development Foundation (TLSDF)
- World Vision Thailand

## Sri Lanka

- SoS Children Village Sri Lanka
- Generation Never Give-up Care Leavers Organization (GNG)
- World Vision Sri Lanka
- Kalpitiya North Area Program
- Neluwa Area Development Program
- Nuwara Eliya Area Development Program

## Samoa

- Samoa Victim Support Group

A regional forum, held online via zoom on 29 May 2021, followed the consultations. The organizers originally planned to hold three subregional forums, one for South Asian, one for Southeast Asian, and one for Pacific countries. But, due to the pandemic and the lockdowns that ensued, the organizers opted to hold one regional forum instead to ensure the safety of delegates. Sixty-one children and youth delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand attended the forum. The regional forum built on the results of the earlier consultations and started the process of coming up with a video statement on behalf of the children and youth of Asia and the Pacific. It also facilitated the selection of children and youth representatives who would be part of the Statement Core Group that would finalize a video statement on CRVS. CRC Asia, World Vision, and UNICEF jointly organized the forum.

The consultations and forum with children and youth are part of the preparations for the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific slated for November 16-19, 2021. In 2014, Asia-Pacific countries represented in the First Ministerial Conference on CRVS for the region adopted the Ministerial Declaration to *“get everyone in the picture”* and envisioned that *“by 2024, all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development.”*<sup>1</sup> The First Ministerial Conference also declared 2015-2024 as the *“Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade”* and endorsed the *Regional Action Framework on CRVS for the region.*<sup>2</sup>

The Regional Action Framework outlines three goals and seven action areas to achieve the vision for 2024. The three goals are:

Goal 1: Universal civil registration of births, deaths, and other vital events.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, “Ministerial Declaration to ‘Get Every One in the Picture’ in Asia and the Pacific” (2014), [https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Ministerial.Declaration.English.final\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Ministerial.Declaration.English.final_0_0.pdf): p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Goal 2: All individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration, 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 on causes of the death) are produced based on registration records and are disseminated.

The seven action areas are: (1) political commitment, (2) public engagement, participation, and generation of demand, (3) coordination, (4) policies, legislation, and implementation of regulations, (5) infrastructure and resources, (6) operational procedures, practices, and innovations, and (7) production, dissemination, and use of vital statistics.<sup>3</sup>

During the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in November 2021, Asia-Pacific country representatives will review the progress of each country and the region on the goals and action areas set in the Ministerial Declaration on CRVS in 2014 and in the Regional Action Framework on CRVS for the region.<sup>4</sup> To prepare for this and to ensure the inclusion of children and youth in the process, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), the Ministerial Conference’s development partner, World Vision, CRC Asia, and their respective partners conducted consultations that concluded in a regional forum.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid. *Also in* Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, “Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific” (2014), [https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific_0_0.pdf): paras. 7-8.

<sup>4</sup> Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, “Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific” (2014), [https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific_0_0.pdf): para. 62(b). See also “Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific Brochure,” accessed January 3, 2021, <https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/FINAL%202020%20MC%20Pamphlet.pdf>.

## The Participants

Three hundred fifty-five children (63%) and 206 (37%) youth from 11 countries in Asia and the Pacific participated in the in-country consultations. The in-country partners reached out to these children and youth participants because they had views on CRVS, they wanted to be consulted, and they could represent groups hypothesized to have issues with CRVS (see Table 2). The in-country partners did not randomly select the participants and thus, the participants' views do not statistically represent that of the children and youth of their represented countries.

Half of the child participants were younger than 15, two of whom were only six years old, while the other half were not older than 17. Half of the youth participants were between 18 to 20 years old and the other, between 20 to 24. More than half (53%) of the child participants were girls and six in ten (61%) youth participants were women.

**Table 1. Children and Youth Consultation Participants by Country and Gender (Count)**

Countries	Children			Youth				Overall Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Others <sup>+</sup>	Total	
Afghanistan	15	21	36	10	10		20	56
Bangladesh	0	0	0	15	15		30	30
Cambodia	31		31	7			7	38
India	91		91	35			35	126
Indonesia	5	15	20	4	7		11	31
Nepal	12	15	27	7	14	2	23	50
Pakistan	21	9	30	7	12	1	20	50
Philippines	9	14	23	1	6		7	30
Samoa	17	16	33	6	10		16	49
Sri Lanka	20	14	34	4	12		16	50
Thailand	10	20	30	7	14		21	51
Total	109*	124*	355	61*	100*	3	206	561

Note: <sup>+</sup>LGBTQ/Prefer not to say; \*Excluding Cambodia and India

Over a quarter (26%) of the participants, from nine of the 11 countries that submitted complete data, belong to organizations working with children. Almost a quarter (24.18%) were from child-led organizations. About 17% come from communities that are considered isolated or remote in their respective countries, 11% belong to ethnic minorities, and 10% are working children. Children and youth from indigenous and migrant communities, children in alternative

care, young couples, and children/youth from other groups were also represented in the consultations. Table 2 provides the details.

**Table 2. Groups of the Children and Youth Participants (% to total/country; sorted)**

Group	AFGH <sup>5</sup>	BANG	IDSA	NEP	PKST	PHIL	SAM	SRL	THAI	Asia-Pacific
Child agency/organization	37.5	3.33	6.45	18	30	66.67	8.16	0	60.78	25.94
Child-led organization	16.07	66.67	6.45	64	26	0	10.2	0	29.41	24.18
Isolated or remote community	0	13.33	74.19	10	8	0	10.2	28	23.53	16.88
Ethnic minority	0	3.33	0	0	4	33.33	4.08	48	11.76	11.34
Working children	30.36	0	16.13	6	14	26.67	2.04	0	0	10.33
Indigenous community	0	0	16.13	20	2	33.33	10.2	0	0	7.81
Migrant community	32.14	0	0	12	4	10	0	0	3.92	7.81
Children in alternative care	0	0	6.45	12	2	3.33	10.2	32	0	7.81
Children/youth born out of wedlock	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.04	40	0	5.29
Young couple	0	6.67	35.48	0	4	3.33	2.04	0	0	4.28
Out of school youth/children	0	0	3.23	8	4	20	2.04	0	0	3.53
Teenage mothers/fathers	0	0	0	8	0	6.67	12.24	0	1.96	3.27
Children/youth in conflict with the law	0	0	0	6	0	0	8.16	0	0	1.76
Children/youth who identify as LGBTQ	0	0	0	4	0	0	4.08	0	5.88	1.76
Persons with disability	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	1.51
Adopted children/youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.08	4	0	1.01
Others (Orphans, Urban Poor)	0	6.67	19.35	18	4	0	0	14	3.92	7.05

<sup>5</sup> AFGH-Afghanistan, BANG-Bangladesh, IDSA-Indonesia, NEP-Nepal, PKST-Pakistan, PHIL-Philippines, SAM-SAMOA, SRL-Sri Lanka, THAI-Thailand

For the regional forum, there were 61 participants from eleven countries.

**Table 3. Children and Youth Regional Participants by Country (Count)**

Countries	Children			Youth			Overall Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Afghanistan	1	1	2	2	-	2	4
Bangladesh	-	2	2	2	1	3	5
Cambodia	2	2	4	-	-	0	4
India	3	3	6	-	2	2	8
Indonesia	-	5	5	2	-	2	7
Nepal	1	3	4	2	2	4	8
Pakistan	1	1	2	2	2	4	6
Philippines	2	1	3	-	3	3	6
Samoa	-	2	2	1	2	3	5
Sri Lanka	-	-	0	-	2	2	2
Thailand	1	2	3	2	1	3	6

## The Consultations

The consultations followed a focus group consultation or an interview format. At least one country, Cambodia, did a survey. Almost all were conducted online. Table 5 details the different consultation modes used by the organizers in 11 participating countries.

Using qualitative methods, the consultations aimed to capture the range of and the salient among the expressed views in response to open-ended and pointed questions. The questions revolved around five main inquiries: general experience on CRVS; challenges in the registration process; experience and perceived usefulness of registration; accuracy, validity, and quality of registration documents and challenges they encountered in correcting these; and their recommendations to improve CRVS. All in-country partners were given consultation guidelines which include the questions shown in Table 4.

**Table 4. Consultation Questions**

Questions
What are your experiences/stories regarding birth, marriage, or death registration/certificate?
Based on your experience or the experience of the people you know, how does the government/authorities process/record the birth/marriage/death of a person? What do you think are the challenges in recording the birth/marriage/death of a person?
In your opinion, is it important to have birth/marriage/death certificates? Is it difficult to get the certificates? When do you use these certificates? Did you know of anyone who experienced difficulty in getting their certificates? How did the lack of certificates affect you/person you know?
Are the details in your certificates correct? What happens if there are incorrect details? <i>How have these mistakes/incorrect details impacted them or someone they know? Have these been resolved? If yes, how? If no, what should be done about it?</i>
What are your recommendations to improve birth/marriage/death registration? Recommendations to address challenges in recording/registering the birth/marriage/death of a person? Recommendations to address the challenges in getting certificates? Recommendations to address the challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct?

The questions and the consultation guidelines were developed with the unique and specific contexts of participants in mind. UN ESCAP, World Vision, and CRC Asia, with inputs from in-country partners, refined the questions and the consultation guidelines, ensuring that these responded to the varying contexts of the different countries in Asia and the Pacific. They made the consultations to focus on birth, marriage, and death certification/registration, the life events likeliest to be relevant to the children and youth. They also provided guidance for in-country partners to facilitate inclusive representation of children and youth, ensure the implementation of child safeguarding guidelines, and provide adult and professional support. They coordinated with the in-country partners and provided support.

The consultation guidelines included tools for in-country partners, i.e., the Consultation Reporting Template, Registration/Attendance template, and Evaluation template. It also provided different options (i.e. offline, online, mix of platforms) for the safe and inclusive conduct of the consultations during the pandemic. It allowed room for making the consultations child-friendly and for children to provide inputs to the consultation process. The consultation modes used by each country to elicit answers to the questions are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5. Consultation Modes**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Mode</b>
Afghanistan	Face-to-face consultation
Bangladesh	Online interviews
Cambodia	Online survey
India	Face-to-face consultation
Indonesia	Online consultations
Nepal	Face-to-face consultation
Pakistan	Face-to-face consultation
Philippines	Online consultation
Samoa	Face-to-face interview
Sri Lanka	Face-to-face consultation
Thailand	Combination of face-to-face and online consultation

The nine basic requirements for effective, ethical, and meaningful child participation guided the development of the consultation guidelines. Primary consideration was given to everyone’s safety during the consultations, especially of children and youth. A Child Safeguarding Protocol was a key requirement for the conduct of the consultations and the forum. Although the in-country partners have their own child safeguarding policies that are different from CRC Asia’s own Child Safeguarding Policy, CRC Asia still prepared a set of activity-specific Child Participation and Child Safeguarding documents. In-country partners with financial support from CRC Asia/UN ESCAP were required to use this, while the rest were encouraged to also do so.



## Results of the Consultation

### Children's Experience and Knowledge of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Over 80% of the consulted children and youth shared their direct or indirect experience of registration, the lack of it, and the impact of these experiences on their lives or on the lives of people they know. The less than 20% who participated in the consultations had views on CRVS although they did not express having direct or indirect experience of CRVS. The majority shared their problems with their own experience of or their knowledge of the problems of other people's registration. Many shared that they or someone they know have not yet registered their birth, their marriage, or the death of a relative. There were also some who shared positive experiences with their registration process.

#### Positive registration experience

Participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, and Thailand shared positive experiences of the registration process. Two factors are common from their experiences. One is the government—how it made the registration process easy, affordable, and accessible to their constituents. Another factor is the parents who valued registration, were themselves registered, and who processed their children's registration. A good government registration system and the parents' value and support for registration played a key role in the children and youth's positive civil registration process.

*"I easily got her birth certificate because the government made it mandatory, and her father went to our village to process it."*

The children and youth who shared positive registration experiences also had common characteristics. They were:

- from families who had been living in their urban communities for a long time (stable urban residence)
- citizens of the countries they lived in (citizenship) and
- born in clinics and specially in hospitals (for birth registration) or their relatives died in hospitals (for death registration)

Without these factors and characteristics, the children, youth, and their families found it difficult to go through the registration process. Some opted not to register at all.

#### Reasons for non-registration

Some participants from Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka shared that they, or someone they knew, were unregistered. They shared several reasons why some have not

registered their births or their marriage, or the death of their relatives, the majority of which were personal. These include:

- lack of awareness of the importance of registration and its process
- some had no concept of registration or record-keeping
- some did not take registration seriously, and
- some feel that they did not have a choice

*“I came from a bonded labor family and I think we have no right to have birth certificates. Our births, marriages, and deaths are never registered.”*

Two personal reasons are particularly alarming and need to be highlighted. One involves the children and youth who belong to bonded labor families. Participants from Pakistan shared that since they belong to bonded labor families, they do not have the right to be registered. “Belongs to a bonded family and I think we have no right of the certificate, because our parents spend their life without registration, our marriages and births have never registered. So, we...will spend our life like this (*sic*),” said a 14-year-old boy from Pakistan. Their employers enforce this situation. “I belong to a labor family,” said a 12-year-old boy, “and we are bonded labor at a brick kiln. And this is common that BK (brick kilns) owner not allowed workers to register their selves (*sic*) and their children.”

The other reason comes from the children and youth who grew up in SOS villages in Sri Lanka. These children and youth have probable birth certificates that are not officially acknowledged as substitute to birth registration and there seems to be no way to inexpensively and easily convert them to an actual birth registration.

Other reasons pointed to family situations. The family is poor. The parents are not registered and not familiar with the registration process. Family births and death took place at home. The family resides in rural areas. These personal and familial reasons were compounded by the inaccessibility of registration centers and processes. Participants said registration places are far, and the processes were unclear and not widely known.

### Registration woes

Most of the children and youth in the consultations were registered. However, some of them encountered problems in the registration process. These registration problems are intergenerational. Parents whose births are unregistered do not find value in registering their children’s birth. They also find the registration process difficult. Parents whose marriages are unregistered cannot register their children’s birth. An unregistered parent’s death hinders a child from applying for a passport. Children and youth from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand mentioned these intergenerational registration woes.

*“My parents’ birth and marriage are not registered. My birth is not registered, too.”*

The registration problems are also interconnected. Couples whose birth are unregistered find it difficult to register their marriage. An unregistered marriage makes the birth registration of children born from that marriage difficult.

The rigidity of the requirements for registration, especially for late registration and the correction of details, is also a cause of these registration problems. Children, youth, and families who moved residence need to go back to where they transferred from to be registered. There are no recognized registration processes for migrants, refugees, and the stateless.

*“They want us to go back to the province where I was born and register there. We couldn’t and because of this, I left school in Grade 3. I am now a working child.”*

## Significance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

The children and youth were aware of the importance of registering birth, marriage, and death. Over 80% based this evaluation on their own experience or on the experience of someone they know.

### Importance of birth registration

According to the children and youth, birth registration is important for the government and the population it serves. They provided three primary reasons why birth registration is important for the population:

*“Birth registration is the gateway to government services.”*

- (1) birth registration confirms one’s national identity
- (2) birth registration is a requirement to access services and support, i.e., school enrolment, employment, travel, medical/health services, financial services, licenses and other certifications such as driving, national identification card, marriage, and death and
- (3) birth registration is a requirement to do civic duties like voting in elections

For the government, birth registration is important in keeping track of the population it serves, especially in planning and implementing services.

### Importance of marriage registration

Marriage registration is important for the children and youth because of the following reasons:

- (1) it proves a marriage is legal and prevents fake marriages
- (2) it prevents marriage without consent and decreases violence against women
- (3) it is a requirement in some processes and services, i.e.,
  - accessing benefits due to spouse
  - accessing and processing insurance

- accessing and processing inheritance and in case of divorce/separation, division of assets
- accessing and processing of financial services such as banking
- establishing guardianship, especially in times of emergency, for the spouse and/or the children and
- registering the birth of children

(4) Marriage registration is also a requirement in filing for adultery, annulment, and/or divorce

### Importance of death registration

Death registration is important for the children and youth for the following reasons:

1. it proves the death of a person and shows the cause of the death
2. it is a requirement for some processes and services, i.e.,
  - accessing government financial assistance
  - processing inheritance, pension, and settlement of assets
  - passport application of children and
  - in some cases, the processing of the burial of the dead person
3. it is used by the government to track population, especially the health situation of the country.

### Challenges to Registration

#### Birth registration

The children and youth identified three challenges to birth registration. The most common barrier they face is the lack of education and awareness on the importance and process of birth registration. There is not enough information disseminated on this.

*“Lack of education and awareness, lack of access, and problems with the registration process make it difficult for us to register .”*

They also lack access to and coverage of birth registration. This is evident in the absence of proper birth registration procedure for home birth and the difficulty of accessing registration centers due to its geographical distance or the lack of government facilities for registration. This lack can also be seen in the difficulty or inability of some groups to process birth registration. Some groups, such as those who can’t read or write, with disability, children of migrants, and who live in remote areas, find it hard to access birth registration.

Problems in the registration process also hinder birth registration. The children and youth shared several types of problems they encounter in the registration process.

- a. Problems with the process
  - the process is complicated and long
  - a short time is given for the processing

- there are long lines in the registration centers
- b. Problems with the registration staff
  - registration staff are not accommodating and helpful
  - there are staff who bully and discriminate
- c. Problems with requirements, such as government-issued identification, that are stringent
- d. Problems with affordability of the registration process.
- e. Problems with data
  - there are wrongly entered information
  - data are not confidentially handled

### Marriage registration

The children and youth identified several challenges to marriage registration. These include:

- (1) Limited options for marriage registration
  - Some areas do not have an office or agency for registering marriage. People living in provinces/rural areas find it difficult to register their marriage. Some may need to come to the city for marriage registration
  - Online registration is not an option
- (2) Lack of awareness on the importance of marriage certificate. Some may not register their marriage at all
- (3) Lengthy registration process
- (4) Registering child marriage. Since child marriage has been outlawed, married Nepali children are unable to register their marriage. Their woes are, thus, multiplied: they find themselves in an unideal situation of being trapped in a marriage not legally recognized, without the protection of and benefits from the government and society
- (5) Parents lacking marriage registration are not eligible to register the birth of their children

### Death registration

The children and youth identified the following challenges to death registration:

- (1) Lack of accountability from the registering agencies
  - Hospitals and the government do not take death certification seriously
  - Private hospitals issue fake death certificates
  - Inaccurate details in the death certificate
- (2) Lack of education and awareness on the importance and on the process of death registration
  - There is lack of interest to secure death certificate; people do not register deaths
- (3) Complicated and lengthy death registration process
- (4) Death certificate is not issued if death occurred at home even if the family goes to the hospital
- (5) Children of the unregistered dead will be deprived of receiving monetary help or resolve inheritance and settlement

## Recommendations to Improve Registration

### Birth registration

For birth registration, the children and youth offered three major recommendations:

- (1) ensure the registration of all children, wherever they are born
- (2) ensure fast registration (within 30 days after birth) and
- (3) ensure accurate registration

To achieve these recommendations, the children and youth presented detailed actions that the government and other stakeholders can do.

- (1) Government can ensure registration of all children by
  - a. increasing the number of places for registration especially in remote areas
  - b. facilitating birth registry for home births
  - c. establishing alternative registration offices in hospitals or information centers to report birth
  - d. establishing alternative birth registration places and ways for special populations.
  - e. implementing alternative birth registration procedures for special populations of children and a separate procedure for un-registered orphans, migrants, and refugees
  - f. setting up a system that can ensure that all relevant documents of the child are handed over when he or she is endorsed to an orphanage
  - g. extending assistance to special groups like indigenous communities to ensure that children from these communities are also officially registered
  - h. integrating health programs related to newborn health with birth registration campaigns, such as providing birth cards during children's vaccination. Vaccination services can be supplemented with birth registration messaging
  - i. recruiting one responsible person for every village or district to register children born at home, issue birth cards, and report births to relevant organizations. This can be done through the assignment of teams to do house to house registration of children
  - j. Making birth registration mandatory. Mothers giving birth at home should take their children to hospitals for birth registration
  - k. raising awareness and conducting education campaigns on registration, on its importance, and on how and where to do it in the communities
  - l. improving its cooperation with groups involved in the registration process. Local NGOs and the government can work together to get all children registered at the right time. NGOs can also help as intermediaries in birth registrations.
- (2) Government can ensure fast registration by
  - a. increasing the number of persons who can do the registration
  - b. mobilizing health personnel to ensure the provision of birth registration cards to mothers
  - c. strengthening institutional cooperation and train hospital staff so that they can provide birth registration cards and coordinate with the civil register on birth registration

- (3) Government can ensure accurate registration by
  - a. training the persons involved in the registration properly
  - b. improving the systems or ways of processing registration
  - c. improving the digital/internet/computer system supporting the registration
  - d. improving cooperation between national and local governments for the proper monitoring and follow up on the needed system and infrastructure improvement for CRVS

### Marriage registration

For marriage registration, the children and youth provided four main recommendations:

- (1) make marriage registration mandatory
- (2) improve marriage registration services and processes. This can be done by giving more options for couples to make their marriage legal in the nearest possible place, like their own village, and making the process free of charge
- (3) clarify marriage registration processes and raise awareness on the process and
- (4) ensure a fast marriage registration process (within 30 days)

### Death registration

For death registration, the consulted children and youth have three main recommendations.

- (1) Make death registration easier. This can be done by
  - a. establishing an office in every district for easier registration of deaths, especially deaths at home, and where family members can immediately inform authorities
  - b. allow religious leaders (imams/priests/pastors) presiding over funeral services to check death registrations and do the registrations, and
  - c. make death registration free of charge
- (2) Improve death registration services or processing. This can be done by
  - a. clarifying who should do the registration and where could it be done and
  - b. ensure that details of death, such as the cause of death, are accurately recorded and verified
- (3) Increase awareness on the death registration process, especially on how and where to do the registration



## The Regional Forum

To provide participants a conducive, child-friendly, and language-friendly environment to discuss their experiences and recommendations on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, the organizers initially planned to hold three subregional forums (i.e. Greater Mekong/Southeast Asia, South Asia, and The Pacific). When the list of participants was finalized in March 2021, the organizers found it more suitable to reduce the number of subregional virtual forums to two, and to conduct them as forums for South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific. However, due to lockdowns imposed in May 2021, especially in South Asia, the organizers decided to conduct only one regional forum for children and youth who can safely participate from their respective homes. The in-country consultation participants elected from among them the children and youth who participated in the forum.

The organizers conducted the forum to enable the children and youth representatives of the in-country consultations to begin the drafting of their joint video statement. The regional forum provided them an online meeting lasting more than two hours to finalize the statement. Since a two-hour meeting is not enough to draft a joint video statement, a core of their chosen representatives will finalize it based on the consolidated outputs of the in-country consultations.

To guide the children into making the video statement and to prepare them for the forum, the organizers packaged the consolidated outputs of the in-country consultations into a child-friendly information document and distributed it to the delegates before the regional forum (Annex 5: Information Pack about the Regional Forum for Children and Youth, p. 100). The organizers also consolidated the key points discussed during the regional forum into an information pack and provided to the delegates (Annex 6: Information Pack for the Statement Core Group, p.124).

The regional forum began with a welcome address by Tanja Sejersen of the UN ESCAP. She emphasized the importance of civil registration and vital statistics, and that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to it. Her address was followed by remarks from Kathrine Yee, Regional Advocacy Director of World Vision International, who explained the purpose and the objectives of the forum. The forum intended to initiate a video statement on behalf of the children and youth of Asia and the Pacific to be presented at the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in November 2021. It also aimed to facilitate the selection of children and youth representatives who will be part of the Statement Core Group that will finalize the video statement.

The regional forum included workshop sessions and a plenary discussion to achieve these objectives. The workshop sessions provided the delegates a venue to discuss the results of the consultations, how they want to present these findings, and how they intend to support them. The workshop sessions tackled three themes:



1. Importance – Why is it important to have birth, marriage, and death certificates?
2. Challenges – What are the challenges we face in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?
3. Recommendations – How can the government and other people help us in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?

The delegates' preference for workshop themes informed the formation of the workshop groups. Two groups tackled "importance." Importance Group A was made up of delegates from Indonesia, Philippines, Samoa, and Thailand, while Importance Group B was made up of delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. Three groups discussed "challenges." Challenges A was made up of delegates from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Challenges B from Afghanistan, Nepal, and Pakistan, and Challenges C was comprised of delegates from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Philippines, and Thailand. One group tackled "recommendations," which was made up of delegates from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. To guide the discussions during the workshop, the following questions were asked:

1. How do you want to say this result in the video?
2. How do you want to support this statement?

Question 1 allowed the delegates to validate the findings of the consultations and to formulate their video statements that would express these findings. Question 2 elicited the recommended follow-up actions to support these statements. The session also became a venue for the participants to select among themselves representatives to the Statement Core Group.

## Proposed Video Statement

### Importance of registration

To present the importance of CRVS, the delegates want to emphasize the message "Certificates are human rights." To convey this message, they recommended including marginalized groups in the planned video and showing the problems they encounter due to the lack of civil registration. The video, they said, should be short and sweet (not more than 3 minutes), informative, meaningful, and can be created with the help of animation.

*Certificates are human rights, and without it, children do not legally exist in the system.*

To further stress the importance of registration, the participants expressed that without birth registration, children do not legally exist in the system. They see it as the gateway to access services. They also cited how marriage certificates and birth certificates are inter-related. Children born in a marriage without a certificate are perceived to be illegitimate. Without a marriage certificate, the child cannot be registered, too.

The children want the following details to be included in the video, too, to highlight the importance of registration:

- the current CRVS situation, the challenges, and the opportunities
- the participation of marginalized groups, using their own local language
- the problems of all the children and youth including children in alternative care settings, street children, and refugees, among others

### Challenges to registration

When asked on what challenges they want to include in the video statement, a delegate from Pakistan shared that poverty and illiteracy are barriers to accessing registration, and that the government is not doing enough to help them. A son of a bonded laborer family, he shared that his parents are illiterate, and the government does not provide them opportunities for and access to education. His parents' wages are not enough for them to access educational facilities.

*Poverty, illiteracy, and lack of information hinder registration.*

A child from the Philippines also pointed out the role poverty plays in accessing registration facilities. In rural areas, many cannot access registration facilities because they live in remote areas and do not have the money to travel to registration centers. In Bangladesh, a participant shared that sometimes registration officials ask for money and intentionally delay registration processes. In Cambodia, a participant said that lack of awareness and knowledge among parents about the importance of registration and the processes it involves hinder access to registration, too. Another delegate said that promoting information dissemination about the importance of birth certificate and providing assistance in processing birth certificates, especially among minority groups, should also be included in the video statement. Other items mentioned by the delegates include:

- the need for marriage and death certificates for a child to access opportunities and services, such as education, scholarships, claims, and inheritance
- not enough facilities for registration
- the difficulty in correcting wrong information recorded in certificates

### Recommendations to improve registration

The participants to the forum provided one major recommendation they want to include in the video that can help address these challenges: make birth, marriage, and death registration easily accessible, free of charge, and without erroneous information.

*"Make registration accurate, easily accessible, and free of charge."*

## Follow-up Actions and Selection of Representatives

The delegates were generous with their knowledge and experience on CRVS that echoed and validated the findings of the consultations. However, not many had enough time to voice out follow-up actions that could support the video statements they proposed. Technical and translation issues limited the participant's time to discuss these. Even then, the forum was still able to elicit meaningful ideas for follow-up actions.

The group tackling the importance of registration proposed gathering the perspectives of children who experienced problems regarding birth certificates. This proposal emerged when one representative from Indonesia expressed that the video statement's ultimate goal is for policymakers to act on getting everyone in the picture, or simply, ensuring everyone is registered, so bringing the situation to their attention can urge them to do so. Delegates from Samoa shared that a follow-up action can include filing child abuse cases.

*The ultimate goal of the video statement is for policymakers to act on getting everyone in the picture.*

The recommendations group provided several follow-up actions to support the statements they wished to include in the video. These recommendations spring from their real-life experiences of being deprived of access to registration. They wanted these to be included in the video:

- Increase the number of people who are responsible for the registration centers
- Increase infrastructure and create mechanisms so people can get important documents more easily
- Review registration procedures
- Improve capacity of registration staff
- Ensure accountability in registration process to minimize errors
- Review benefits and salaries of registration staff
- Prioritize connectivity and digitalization
- Provide comprehensive information at the district office providing registration services, not just in the online platforms

After the discussions, the participants chose their representatives to the Statement Core Group. They chose 13 representatives from 9 countries (i.e., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) to the Statement Core Group. To ensure the representation of all 11 countries in the finalization of the joint video statement, the organizers have asked, through the in-country partners, the delegates from Cambodia and Samoa to nominate a representative to the Statement Core Group. In June 2021, the Statement Core Group had a total of 15 members tasked to work with facilitators to finalize the joint video statement to be presented to the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in 16-19 November, 2021.



## Summary of Results

The consultations and the forum reveal the vast knowledge and experience of the children and youth participants on civil registration. Their accounts narrate how they have lived through the impact of the lack of registration. They also describe the difficulty of accessing it when they do get the opportunity, time, and money to avail of registration.

The participants to the consultations shared both positive and negative experiences with CRVS. Those who had positive experiences said that registration was relatively smooth because the government had installed a good system and their parents had a high regard for CRVS. Consultation participants who had registration woes shared that rigidity of requirements, lack of facilities, unclear processes, parent's lack of birth and marriage certificates, and poverty contributed to their negative experiences with CRVS. The forum delegates, on the other hand, shared mostly negative experiences with CRVS. They specified the same factors the consultation participants identified as causes of their negative experiences with CRVS.

For the children and youth participants to the consultation, birth registration is very important because it establishes their legal identity. It is the key to accessing rights, entitlements, and services. They also see marriage registration as very important because it establishes a person's civil status and provides him or her legal protection in the event of deceit, violence, or separation. A marriage registration is also a requirement for registering the birth of children, accessing financial claims and benefits, and in filing for adultery, annulment, or divorce. The participants also shared that death certificates are important, too, because it proves a person's death and facilitates the access to financial assistance, inheritance, pension, and settlement of assets. It is also needed for the burial of the dead. The delegates of the regional forum echoed and validated these perspectives. They intend to present the importance of registration by incorporating into the video statement the message "Certificates are human rights. Without it, children do not legally exist in the system."

Participants in the consultations and the regional forum also tackled the challenges to registration. In the national consultations, the participants bared the various obstacles they face in accessing civil registration, which fall into two categories: institutional and social barriers.

Institutional barriers refer to challenges emanating from the policies and practices of CRVS-related agencies. These include the outdated and inadequate legal framework that governs CRVS, the lack of coordination between government departments, the lack of human resource skills, and the capacity gaps in the agencies in charge of CRVS processes.

Social barriers refer to demand-side challenges that may hinder timely registration. These may include lack of understanding and awareness of the importance of registration and the

difference in the language and cultural practices of a person to a country's lingua franca and common practices. Poverty is also a social barrier as the prohibitive cost of registration, its time-consuming processes, and expensive travel expenses are too steep a payment for many impoverished households, especially those in remote areas.

The participants of the regional forum echoed and validated these challenges. Many of them reported experiencing difficulties in accessing registration facilities and talking to registration personnel. Many of them also shared that poverty, illiteracy, and lack of awareness are major obstacles to birth, marriage, and death registration. The participants wanted to incorporate these realities into the video statement, as failure to overcome these challenges takes away their access to registration, which perpetuates poverty and deprives them of opportunities and services. This is especially true among families whose parents lack marriage certificates, which is a requirement for birth certificates. The lack of one means the lack of the other.

Both events also surfaced the participants' recommendations to improve registration. The recommendations of the consultation participants can be categorized, again, into two: institutional and social.

To improve birth registration at the institutional level, the participants suggested improving the process for birth registration, especially for home births, those who live in remote areas, and for marginalized and vulnerable groups. They also pointed out the need to build the capacity of hospital staff and increase their numbers to ensure all are registered at birth. These changes should be complemented with a better infrastructure and data system and improved cooperation between the national and local government. In the regional forum, the participants focused their recommendation on improving access to registration. The recommendation they wanted to integrate into the video statement is simple and straightforward: Make registration free for all.

The participants in both events have manifested their vast knowledge and experience on CRVS. Many of their accounts were vivid, rich, and moving. They should be heard. The results of the in-country consultations as well as the key points raised by the delegates were consolidated into an information pack, annexed with this report (Annex 5 Information Pack about the Regional Forum and Annex 6, Information Pack for the Statement Core Group p.100 and p124, respectively). Annex 5 prepared the delegates to the regional forum by providing information what they should expect, do, and accomplish before, during, and after the said event. Annex 6 aims to help the Statement Core Group finalize the joint video statement. It provides information on what the joint video statement aims to do, what are the roles of the members of the Statement Core Group, who are the members, and the resources they can use. The information pack also provides the key discussion points raised during the regional forum.



## Annexes

### Annex 1

#### Stories of Access to Registration

##### Nepal

###### A Child of the Streets

Aparna (not her real name) is a child of the streets of Kathmandu. Her father was an alcoholic who mentally and physically abused his wife and two children. He died when she was five years old.

Her mother married again, this time to a man who was a rag picker like herself and who also had two children. Aparna and her sister never received the love they deserve, causing her to run back to the streets. She was rescued numerous times and brought to shelter homes, yet she always goes back to the streets. She is now married to a former street dweller. She has a five-year-old daughter and is now four months pregnant.

Aparna is one of the many people in Nepal without a vital registration certificate. Because both her parents lacked knowledge about the importance of having vital certificates, they never got registered. According to her, she has missed out on various opportunities as well as basic rights guaranteed by such certificates. She laments not being able to receive a good education due to lack of any identifying documents such as birth certificate. This adversely affected her chances of having the life she dreamt off. She said that ever since she was a kid, she always wanted to break free to escape the life she was living. The lack of such crucial documents has hindered her dreams.

When her father died, they were not able to get a death certificate because he did not possess any evidence or proof of identity. This hampered their chances of finding their father's ancestral home to claim for property rights. Furthermore, due to lack of a birth certificate, she was also not able to get her citizenship card. Because she did not have identity documents and was deprived of education, she was forced to work in the streets as a rag picker.

She married at the early age of 14 to a boy who was also living in the streets who was a year older than her. They have a five-year-old daughter and are living in a rented room. She was also not able to file a birth certificate for her child because she and her husband do not have any supporting documents for registration, such as a citizenship certificate or marriage certificate. According to her, her biggest fear in life is her daughter having the same fate as hers due to lack of vital registration certificates. With the help of an NGO, she was able to send her daughter to school, but she worries that the absence of the birth or citizenship certificate will hamper her daughter's chances of receiving all the perks and services provided by such certificates.

She also shared her experience about the numerous visits she did to concerned government offices responsible for providing these vital certificates. She said that she has visited the ward office multiple times to file her certificates. However, due to lack of other supporting documents she was unable to register and get them. When she heard that she might be able to obtain the certificates using her father's identity documents, she travelled to their ancestral place in search of a relative or anyone who can identify her deceased father in front of a concerned government officer as this might help obtain her father's certificate. However, she was unable to find anyone who knew her father in Kavre District.

She feels that government should make some special provisions and policies in favor of vulnerable children and youths so that they can also get birth, citizenship, and marriage certificates irrespective of whether their parents do not possess such vital certificate. She asks, "I am a Nepali who was born and brought up in Nepal. Why am I not able to receive my certificate?"

There are many children and youth in Nepal who face the same problem she does. They ask themselves and society the same question. By coming forward and sharing her experiences, she hopes to highlight the difficulties people like her face in obtaining the certificates. She hopes that responsible authorities take the necessary actions so that other children and youth do not have to suffer like her.

### **Children of Early Marriages**

Rama (not her real name) is an 18-year-old, Grade 11 female student. She lives with her parents and her two-year-old son in a rented flat in Kathmandu. Her story is a case prevalent in Nepalese society—marriage before the legal age of 20 and its consequences.

Many children and youth in Nepal are married before the legal age. A UNICEF report states that 40% of Nepalese girls are married before their 18th birthday and 7% are married before the age of 15. About 10% of Nepali boys get married before the age of 18. Their young age deprives them from getting a marriage certificate as well as the birth certificate of their children.

Rama fell in love when she was fifteen-year-old with a boy who was a year older than her. She was still an elementary student when she became pregnant. When her parents found about her pregnancy, they contacted the father of the unborn child and his parents. Eight months into her pregnancy and with the consent of their parents, she was sent to the boy's home. They had an informal marriage ceremony witnessed only by their parents.

When the baby was six months old, she came back to her parents. To continue her studies, her parents decided to enroll her in Grade 10 and asked her to stay back until she completes her education. This caused the rift between her and her partner. It has been more than two years since she went back to her parents. She does not have good relations with the father of the baby.

Being an educated girl, she knew about the importance of the birth certificate. She wanted to register her son's birth. However, because she did not have a marriage certificate since she was married before the legal age, she was unable to file for the birth certificate of her child. To secure the future of her child, she requested the child's father to help in obtaining the birth certificate. He demanded for the custody of the child before he would help.

She heard the father of the child is getting married to another person. Because they do not have a marriage certificate, she cannot do anything about it, if it were really true. She cannot claim for property rights since they were never formally married or divorced. She could not even ask for child support. Her biggest concern is that the identity of her child will be hampered.

She has visited ward offices to secure her child's birth certificate using her own as basis, but she has always been denied. According to the law, details of both parents are needed to obtain a birth certificate. Rama believes that the government should amend the policies to allow a child to register and receive birth certificate based on their mother's certificate only. There might be many children facing a similar situation. Moreover, since there are many adolescent and young adults who get married before the age of 20, there should be special provisions for children who are born of such marriages so that they can also receive their birth certificates.

### **Pakistan**

#### **The Lack of Registration Denies People their Rights**

My name is Ali Hassan and my story revolves around my birth certificate and its importance.

I belong to the small village of Takkar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province-Pakistan. I grew up there and had no clear knowledge of what a birth registration is. I was not registered until I reached the age of 16, when I realized how important it is.

It surprised me to know that I have been living and growing up in Pakistan but officially, I was not their citizen. I cannot claim or prove my identity, which deprives me of my "Right to Identity." It can also make it difficult for me to travel locally and internationally.

When I learned all these, I decided to fill out Form B and register my birth. I went to the National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) Mega Centre with my parents who were already registered. It was a great experience for me because I was able to do it without any hurdles, even on a Sunday. The facility was open 24/7 in my locality.

It took me less than an hour to register, but the wait for my turn was long due to the heavy workload. Verification was easier because it was carried out biometrically by my mother. The great thing was that there were no mistakes in recording the data. If there were, they can be corrected in a few minutes without any hurdles or extra fee. You just need your parents for verification/attestation. I also learned that it can also be done on your own through your Union Council officer. This is easier, but it is important to get it done on time otherwise you will need the medical board for your age determination.

Without my birth certificate, I would have been deprived of my right to identity, my right to getting education, my right to travel and move locally and internationally, and my right to health. Having my birth certificate allowed me to get a passport allowing me to travel internationally in 2019. When I first went to the Immigration Office to apply for a passport, I was shocked to learn that I won't be able to get it because at the age of 16, I still did not have a birth registration. This meant that I was not a registered citizen of Pakistan and my parents were not aware of it.

Based on my experience, I would recommend the following:

- We should raise awareness. Many people like me are not aware of the importance of birth registration.
- There should be a specific policy and age limit for birth registration which all parents should be bound to do for their children.
- There should be interlinkage and coordination between authorities like hospitals, schools, among others, to gather data on unregistered children.
- The Nadra centre or offices should be made accessible to everyone and there should be load management to make the process quicker and reduce waiting time.
- There should be yearly updates of birth records with the NADRA centre so that if any mistake is recorded, it can be corrected

### **The Lack of Registration Denies the Right to Citizenship**

My name is Saba and I have two children. My family is engaged in the labor of brick kiln. I married 5 years ago. The Nikah (wedding) ceremony was held in the local mosque of the brick kiln where we worked in 2016. We are not aware of the importance of the marriage registration at the time of Nikah and did not bother to register it and to get a certificate from the local union council.

After the birth of our first child, we felt the need for the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) for the birth registration of our child. We learned that the CNIC is a mandatory document for birth registration or B-form. When we inquired with the National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) for our CNIC, we were asked to present our marriage certificate, but we did not know how to get it. When we inquired about our Nikah registrar, we learned he died and no one knows about our Nikah record. Our marriage was never registered because the Molvi who married us did not process the Nikah in the Union Council Office.



Now, whenever we go to that mosque for our marriage certificate, the staff say they have submitted it to the Union Council. But the Union Council is not cooperating with us; it did not provide us a relevant certificate even with repeated visits and follow-ups.

Because we of our lack of awareness and the carelessness of concerned authorities, we cannot get our marriage certificate from the Union Council and are unable to process our CNICs. Our children's birth cannot be registered until we have our CNICs. Our lack of a marriage certificate, CNIC, and birth certificates deprive us and our children the get our Pakistani citizenship. Without citizenship, we are unable to get Social Security, Education, Health, Wages, and other Government facilities.

### **The Lack of Birth Registration is a Barrier to the Right to Education**

My name is Anum Khaliq. I work as a teacher at a non-formal basic education school. Almost 60 students enrolled in my school get education under my supervision. This school is for poor, needy, and laborer- class children. The students enrolled in our school belong to the lowest-income families of remote communities. Our school helps poor parents provide education to their children.

Many parents do not have their computerized national identity cards. The lack of this card is a key hurdle to student's birth registration at the Union Council or at the Nadra. These parents belong to the laborer class. They have very low income and face great difficulty in fulfilling their basic needs. Many of them are illiterate and are not aware of the significance of birth registration and how to proceed with it. Many of them do not have the knowledge and awareness about the basic rules and regulations in dealing with the registration process. Some parents cannot afford the costs associated with registration, including travel to registration sites or late fees. Thus, many are unable to register their children.

Birth registration is a basic document required for enrollment to any public-sector run institute. Many students do not have birth certificates. Because of this, we are unable to complete their enrollment process. The concerned government officials must pay special attention to resolve this issue so that the children can enjoy their basic right to education and continue their learning journey.

### **Samoa**

#### **The Importance of Birth Registration**

When I played in our school's rugby team, our coach asked us to bring our birth certificates to confirm that we satisfied the age requirement. We all brought our birth certificates. Those who qualified for the team were those born in 2000. There was one other boy who was born in 1998. In his desire to play and be part of the team, he crossed out the year 1998 and wrote the year 2000 on his birth certificate.

The teacher did not notice the change, until the game's officials received many complaints about this overage boy playing in our school rugby team. An investigation ensued and it was discovered that the boy tampered his birth certificate. An inquiry into the Birth, Deaths, and Marriages Offices, which produced the boy's actual birth certificate, confirms the document was tampered. He was immediately taken off the team.

This experience taught me about the seriousness of tampering with registered documents and the importance of being registered. If this boy was not registered at birth, the rugby officials will find it difficult to confirm the boy's actual date of birth.

The story illustrated a real need for registrations to be compulsory and for their processes to be accessible to all. The certificates validate the existence of and the status of a person through birth, death, or marriage.

- The participant is now attending the National University of Samoa. While the incident happened while he was in college, the lessons learnt remained with him to date.

### **Lessons from a Birth Registration**

My experience with the registration process is through the birth certificate changes I requested for my first-born child. I experienced a problem not at the time of my son's first registration, but when I went back to the Registration Office to change his last name.

When my son was born, I registered my child and specified my name and his biological father's name as his parents. At the time, his father and I were still in a relationship but we were not married. We separated and I married a different man. Since I married and my son's biological father does not contribute to raising my son, my husband and I agreed to replace my son's last name with my husband's last name.

When I went to the Registration Office, I was told that I can only do this if the biological father will give his consent. In the end, I did not get exactly what I wanted. Instead, my son's last name was changed from his biological father's to my last name, which is my father's surname. This taught me a very important lesson about registration. It is not something you can change whenever you feel like it; there are processes and procedures that we need to comply with for changes to be officially recognized.

- The participant is a young mother who complied with the registration requirement to have children registered soon after birth. However, this is a common experience for young defacto couples who ended up marrying other partners and where children are involved.

### **A Victim of the System**

I did not have a direct experience with registration, but I am regarded as a victim of the system, my mother's irresponsibility, or my grandmother's concern that I may not have a birth record. For some reason, I used to have two birth certificates, each with a different birth date and different parents.

According to my mother, she used the card from the hospital stating my date of birth to apply for a birth certificate immediately after my birth. Because I was raised by my grandparents when my mother moved overseas, my grandmother took charge of my baptism some years later. She was issued my baptism certificate, which contains the wrong date of my actual birth. She used my baptism certificate to register my birth, and on this birth registration, my grandmother wrote both her name and my grandfather's name as my parents. The registration went through alright. It was not until my mother's return for the holidays and my birthday did we find out about the error. During all the time my mother was overseas, we were celebrating my birthday on a wrong date, the date in based on the birth certificate my grandparents prepared. While that did not make a big difference in my schooling as the year of birth remain the same for both certificates, the fact that I used to have two birth certificates in the registration system meant that there could have been gaps in the system at the time of my registration that failed to pick up this double registration.

My mother had to get her birth certificate, my father's birth certificate, and the hospital card of my birth, together with my baptism certificate, to confirm my actual date of birth, and for the office to declare void my second birth certificate on the system. I blamed my mother for the different information on my birth certificates because she left for New Zealand without leaving my original and correct birth certificate with my grandparents.

## **Thailand**

### **The Lack of Registration Denies Children their National Identity**

Nong A (not his real name) has no house registration. He only has a birth certificate that has inadvertent errors on it. Because of this, he cannot get an identity card (ID). He uses a Thor Ror. 14 instead, which is a house registration of persons—Thai nationals and aliens—entitled to permanent residence in the Kingdom of Thailand. He has to ask for this document every month because he is not a Thai national since he does not have an identity card.

He did not know how, where, and what to do when he applied for an identity card. He went to many places—including the Chiang Mai Municipality at the White Pagoda, but he could not get it there. He went to the district office where he was looked down on by the officials because he was not a Thai. Anong A realized that he should find more information in advance. Finally, he went to the Mengrai District Office where the staff provided very good information, enabling him to get request no. 725/2544 so he could be issued a Thai ID card. He had to take several days off from school to get this.

He went to submit the pertinent documents, including a certificate from the Ban Mae Taman School, to the district office. He was insulted there because his father's and mother's names were not in the birth certificate. His parents were foreigners and could not speak Thai clearly. They submitted his certificate late and provided the wrong information. The officials said that the parents' names were not correct.

Nong A's father is already dead and without a death certificate because he died in Burma. Since his mother's name in the form was also not correct, he cannot apply for an ID card. The officials also said they don't have his data in the civil registration system.

Because he has no ID card, it is difficult for Anong A to travel. He cannot travel past the checkpoint. Without a driver's license and any identifying documents, if he were arrested, it would be very difficult for him.

### **The High Cost of Civil Registration**

Nong B (not his real name) was born in the San Sai District of Chiang Mai. His father's employer brought him to the district office to file for his birth certificate. Nong B knew that the process was very complicated and that he had to pay a big sum of money because the district was notified late of his birth.

His parents did not have a house registration. They hold an ID card with the number 0 which means a 10-year temporary stay for people who did not have legal status. His parents could not speak Thai clearly. His father's name is Geng, but when he applied for an ID card, the officer spelled it Deng, so his father's name on his ID card was wrong. The registrar said that he could not change the name on that ID card.

When he went to the district office to apply for his own ID card, Nong B had to pay for transportation and document costs. He also had to travel to many places, too, because he was born in San Sai. This cost not only money, but time.

Now Anong B is 16 years old, but he cannot not change the title of his name to master yet. He cannot open a bank account. All because the title on his card do not match.

### **The Difficult Process of Civil Registration**

Nong C (not her real name) is a 14-year-old girl. She was born in Maesot but now lives in the border of Thailand and Myanmar with her family. Because she had a none-Thai status, it would take 10 years to get a birth certificate. She also needed Thai witnesses in their community for which her family must pay.

The process was difficult for her. She and her mother does not look alike so they had to pay to prove their kinship. She also had to bring her deceased father's picture. They had to do these in lieu of a DNA test. From this process, she got an identity number, but it would take two more years to get a "Pink ID Card," an ID card initially issued to stateless people to restrict their movement within the Kingdom of Thailand.

Nong D (not her real name) is C's 18 years older sister. She had a different identity verification experience from C. She was born in Mae Tao Clinic, a Burmese local hospital that Thai officials do not recognize in approving birth certificates. She did not get a Pink Card (Non-Thai) like C, she only has a white card (Non-register status) because she has no birth certificate, witness, or other documents. She lost them all in a big flood.

Nong D also faces another registration issue: inaccurate date of birth. This affected her official documents such as the national test, registration, statistic data, and election, among others. This most especially affects her right to access further education. She hopes that once she graduates from college, she can get finally get her birth certificate for her national identification. This will secure her rights.

### **Stateless and Without an Identity**

Annie is a 15-year-old girl from Sangklaburi, which lies on the border of Thailand and Myanmar. Her family migrated to Thailand without any document, rendering their status in the Kingdom 'stateless.'

Annie just got her nationality and ID two years ago. She dreams to be a doctor. During the span of time when she lived as 'stateless,' she felt inequality. The stateless child has no surname. She cannot access state services such as basic education, entrance to college, or a certificate of graduation.

Annie finally received her ID when she was 13 years old, simultaneously with her sister who was 8 years old then. The process took one year of waiting, a community leader proving her identity, and payment for administration costs to get the card and surname. One village would have same surname.

When she got her ID, Annie knew it was her ticket to access official services. She plans to buy a land for her family in the Kingdom of Thailand so she can finally call it her real home.

## Annex 2

### Matrix of Consolidated Results of the Consultation and Regional Forum

#### South Asia

#### Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS

Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS, according to the following circumstances			
	NEED/USE	CHALLENGES	OUTCOME
<b>BIRTH CERTIFICATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a required document and basis for a person's age</li> <li>• It the gateway to and a requirement for government services, and particularly for the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• school admission/enrollment from primary to college</li> <li>• job application</li> <li>• marriage certificate</li> <li>• travel (passport and driver's license)</li> <li>• financial services</li> <li>• medical/health services</li> <li>• death certificate</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Valid identification</b> (used by the government as a unique identification/recognition as a citizen/identity, e.g., ethnicity as an Afghan born abroad as a displaced person)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involves a lengthy process to obtain/tedious (others reported that they were able to obtain their birth certificate immediately or at the time of birth – mostly are born in hospital)</li> <li>• The incompleteness of national records and lack of government policy makes it difficult for vulnerable children/orphans to obtain birth certificate when their primary caregiver dies or leaves them</li> <li>• LGBTQ face difficulties in changing the gender in their birth certificate due to excessive bureaucracy and social stigma</li> <li>• Inconsistencies in details between those written in the birth certificate and in the Tazkira (National ID)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty in birth information correction</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lack of education and awareness on the birth registration process and requirements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No clear birth registration and late birth registration process</li> </ul> </li> <li>• difficulty in school admission as school authorities do not provide primary school admission</li> <li>• difficult requirements like birth certificate of the parents, income information, and vaccination card; some parents do not have their own birth certificates</li> <li>• Poverty and illiteracy also prevented people from securing a birth certificate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals resorting to using connections and bribery to fast track the process</li> <li>• Several respondents reported not knowing their exact age</li> <li>• Inconsistencies in details/ data can result to a lengthy verification process</li> <li>• Families experience intergenerational lack of birth certificates</li> <li>• Families are deprived of basic services</li> </ul>

**Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS, according to the following circumstances**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Technical issues in processing birth certificates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low internet/server connection for online registration</li> <li>• electricity problem</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>requirement for social and legal recognition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- marriage certificate is needed for divorce settlements</li> <li>- marriage certificate is needed to access benefits due to spouse, insurance, and inheritance in case of divorce/separation/death</li> <li>- a requirement for accessing financial services</li> <li>- a requirement to establish guardianship for spouse and children especially in times of emergency</li> <li>- legitimizes the birth of a child</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>marriage certificate as an important document for those wanting to go abroad/ requirement for travel and bookings</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>acquiring marriage certificate is not made a priority/not routine for newlywed couple/those married in the traditional manner, until the time they need it as a requirement to facilitate certain transactions with government</b></li> <li>• <b>lack of knowledge/awareness on the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- importance of marriage certificate</li> <li>- process and systems for securing and registering a marriage certificate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• those married in the traditional manner, which did not have formal marriage certificates, were required to present multiple witnesses as proof of their marriage, making it a more tedious and costly process</li> <li>• Couples without birth certificates have difficulty registering their children</li> </ul>
<p><b>DEATH CERTIFICATE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>accuracy of details in the death certificate has serious implications in judicial proceedings particularly in murder/homicide cases as it can make or break the case</b></li> <li>• <b>legal requirement for the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- property distribution and settlements/ transferring assets (e.g., bank deposits, etc.)</li> <li>- claiming of government benefits</li> <li>- claiming of benefits at work</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>lack of knowledge/awareness on the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- importance of death certificate</li> <li>- process and systems for securing a death certificate</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>government/insurance benefits exclusion</b></li> <li>• <b>acquiring a death certificate has a fee that not everyone can afford</b></li> <li>• <b>during the COVID outbreak, a respondent reported that only In-hospital deaths were recorded while out of hospital deaths were not</b></li> <li>• <b>there were instances of mistaken identity wherein the National ID number of a respondent was registered to someone who was already</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a suspect was acquitted due to the inaccuracy of the details in the death certificate</li> <li>• relatives of some deceased persons are not fully aware if death certificates are actually being filed and issued</li> <li>• a respondent reported an instance wherein someone easily assumed the identity of a dead person and this was not caught since the death certificate of that person was not registered to begin with</li> </ul>

**Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS, according to the following circumstances**

		<b>deceased, forcing him to file proof that he is not the same person</b>	
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**Q2. Registration process**

**Q2. Registration process according to the following circumstances:**

	<b>REGISTRATION PROCESS</b>	<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
<b>RELATED TO BIRTH</b>	<p><b>a. in-hospital birth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accomplishment of the birth registration form filled by the parents or hospital</li> <li>- the process is easier and usually has shorter lead time than birth registration from birth outside of the hospital</li> </ul> <p><b>b. birth in non-hospital setting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accomplishment of registration form to be filed/submitted at the civil registration office or related agencies</li> <li>- online filing of birth registration is an option in some countries</li> <li>- The process is harder as government office may require additional requirement like immunization card</li> </ul>	<p>the challenges mostly affect birth registration from births in a non-medical facility setting and adult birth registration. The challenges are due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>lack of awareness on the birth registration process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- different turn-around time for filing completion</li> <li>- different cost</li> <li>- lengthy process for revision of details</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>the lack of clear process led to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- higher cost in the birth registration</li> <li>- unprofessionalism/indifference of staff facilitating the registration - resort to bribery</li> <li>- inequality in the treatment of the poor and adults</li> <li>- Inadequate coordination among government units</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>lack of education and awareness on the importance of birth registration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- specifically with daily laborers, domestic workers, and migrant laborers (they feel it is not important and they will lose their daily wages)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• education and awareness drive on the importance of birth registration</li> </ul>

Q2. Registration process according to the following circumstances:			
	REGISTRATION PROCESS	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>difficulty in securing registration due to illiteracy and sexual orientation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- illiterate families are usually unaware of the process and the need for certification</li> <li>- transgender, run-away individuals were refused certification due to lack of proof of identity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>there is no existing registration process for persons with disabilities</b></li> <li>• <b>requirements that are hard to accomplish for some</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- marriage certificate of the parents as requirement for birth certification application; lack of it makes the parents not eligible to apply</li> <li>- lack of birth certificate of parents</li> <li>- lack of a national identity card</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>lack of facilities for the filing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lack of dedicated areas for the filing, only those in the cities have access.</li> <li>- challenges in electricity supply affects online registration</li> <li>- problems in computer server affects online registration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>c. birth registration of adults</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accomplishment of registration form</li> <li>- the process is harder due to various challenges, e.g., indifference of staff, inequality of treatment, especially of the poor, no standard cost, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>difficulty in registering birth certificates in adults</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- stringent requirement</li> <li>- lack of availability of the official person either authorizing or releasing the said requirement</li> <li>- difficulty of persons from other provinces to register birth in other provinces/cities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>RELATED TO MARRIAGE</b>	<p><b>a. process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the couple secures the marriage registration at the designated government agency (civil registration office or marriage bureaus), and temples.</li> <li>- in Nepal, there is an automatic marriage certification for those who got married</li> </ul> <p><b>b. requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- birth certificates</li> <li>- proof of citizenship of parents or the couple</li> <li>- presentation of proofs like photos</li> </ul>	<p>The challenges were due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marriage is performed by religious leader who is not registered</li> <li>• Elopement and live-in relationships are gaining acceptance</li> <li>• Stringent documents needed for marriage</li> <li>• Lack of available court marriage, esp. in local small towns</li> <li>• Perception on the importance of marriage certification (Some saw it as not important)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and awareness drives on the importance of marriage registration</li> </ul>



Q2. Registration process according to the following circumstances:			
	REGISTRATION PROCESS	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
RELATED TO DEATH	<p><b>a. in-hospital death</b> Hospitals issue the death certificate</p> <p><b>b. death in a non-hospital setting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the body of the deceased is brought to the hospital for storage and death certification</li> <li>- the family register the death in civil registration office or related government agency</li> <li>- provision of documents such as copy of the deceased citizenship, certificate of relationship to the deceased, and documents from hospital</li> </ul>	<p>There are challenges in registering deaths due to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of education and awareness on the death registration process. e.g., forms, turn-around time, etc.</li> <li>• Remote areas have no access to death registration</li> <li>• Unaccommodating, discriminating, and unhelpful officials hinder registration</li> <li>• Difficulty in the validation of death and requirements (if death happens outside of the hospital) due to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fear of the police verifications</li> <li>- A number of documents with recommendations from a concerned official (which is hard to secure)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Death certification is not a priority of the government and citizens. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Death certificate is only used to settle inheritance and insurance claims and dispute</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

### Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death			
	CHALLENGES	IMPACT	RESOLUTION
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of programs to increase awareness on the need for birth registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of clear birth registration process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Different turn-around time for filing completion</li> <li>- Different cost</li> <li>- Lengthy process for revision of details</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parents' lack of knowledge on the registration process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and awareness drive on the importance of birth registration</li> <li>• Awareness on the process of birth registration.</li> <li>• Establishment of a dedicated office in every part of the city or district in the province to register deaths that occur at home</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of accountability of stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration staff do not take their work seriously causing a lot of delays</li> <li>• Bribery and nepotism were used to hasten process</li> <li>• Discrimination against the poor in the provision of CRVS services</li> <li>• Inaccurate information</li> <li>• Hospitals are not registered with the government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delay in releasing of documents by the hospital</li> <li>- Births are not automatically registered</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct of field visit by registration personnel for birth registration facilitation</li> <li>• Capacitate local duty bearers</li> </ul>

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death			
	CHALLENGES	IMPACT	RESOLUTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No proper procedure for home birth</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration was not a priority of parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birth registration is not given importance</li> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Lengthy process</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of government and hospital facilities and technical infrastructure for birth registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most are born at home</li> <li>Limited access to hospital/health services in the provinces</li> <li>Limited access to birth registration</li> <li>Limited option for registration. e.g., online registration, no internet connection, power interruption</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stringent registration requirements. e.g., immunization card, national ID of parents, medical certificate, even need to give extra charge in some cases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birth registration is not given importance</li> <li>Hiring of middlemen or intermediary to facilitate registration which requires more money</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of access of some groups due to illiteracy, disability, and birth status</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harassment – some individuals applying for registration were insulted for not knowing language used in the form or not knowing the process</li> <li>Not prioritized – some children such as those in SOS villages in Sri Lanka only have probable birth certificates not acknowledged by government. They cannot convert them to actual birth certificates due to high costs and lack of access.</li> <li>Not a priority - daily laborers or migrants do not prioritize registration because they will lose daily wage to process registration</li> <li>Discriminated -such as the poor families bonded into labor in Pakistan that are not allowed to register by their employers; some poor families are denied access because of poverty/lack of money for registration</li> <li>They were demanded higher payment/higher fees to facilitate their registration</li> </ul>	
	<p>***All challenges affect school admission, govt. health services, financial services, application for support from the government, employment opportunities</p>		
<b>RELATED TO MARRIAGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack/unavailability of government office/agency in some areas for marriage registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People living in provinces / rural areas have difficulty registering marriage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faster and easier facilitation of marriage certification registration</li> </ul>

**Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death**

	<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>RESOLUTION</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of options for marriage registration application, e.g., online registration is not an option</li> <li>Lack of awareness on the importance of marriage certificate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some may need to come to the city for marriage registration</li> <li>Some may not register marriage at all</li> <li>Lengthy registration process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of an office for the facilitation of marriage registration accessible to people in either rural or urban areas.</li> </ul>
<b>RELATED TO DEATH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child marriage</li> <li>Unmarried parents are not legible to apply for a child's birth cert</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child does not have birth certificate</li> <li>A child without a birth certificate will be deprived of access to education, health, government services and other opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange service programs to encourage unmarried couple to get married</li> <li>Education and awareness on the importance of securing a birth certificate for children</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of accountability of stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private hospitals issue fake death certificates</li> <li>Inaccurate details in death certificate</li> <li>hospitals and government do not take death certification seriously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of dedicated office in every part of the city or district in the province to register all deaths, even those that occur at home.</li> <li>Duty bearer (village civil servant) guides family, or children, in the case of orphans or neglected children, in the processing of death certificate</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of knowledge on the death registration process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children of the deceased will be deprived of receiving monetary help; or resolve inheritance and settlement</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complicated and lengthy process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of interest to secure death certificate</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of education and awareness on its importance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of interest to secure death certificate</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Death certificate is not issued if death occurred at home even if the family goes to the hospital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People don't register deaths</li> <li>Difficulty in following through necessary police verifications for unrecognized reasons of death etc. and medical verification processes</li> </ul>	

### Q3. Why having birth/marriage/death certificate is or is not important

Q3. Why having birth/marriage/death certificate is or is not important	
	TOP REASONS
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education</li> <li>2. National identification</li> <li>3. Access to government services/programs</li> <li>4. Employment requirements</li> <li>5. Financial services</li> </ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Health benefits</li> <li>2. National census</li> <li>3. Travel (passport, visa)</li> <li>4. Marriage registration requirement</li> <li>5. Buy properties</li> </ol> <p>Others</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Voting requirement</li> </ol>
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requirement for birth certification of a child</li> <li>2. To prevent fake marriages (proof of marriage legality)</li> <li>3. To avail of government services</li> <li>4. Travel with spouse</li> <li>5. Financial services (open bank account)</li> </ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. To prevent marriage without consent</li> <li>7. To decrease violence against women</li> <li>8. File a divorce</li> </ol>
RELATED TO DEATH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For inheritance, pension and settlement of assets</li> <li>2. Proof and reason of death</li> <li>3. National census</li> <li>4. For passport application of children</li> </ol>

#### Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate

Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate* (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
	NOT DIFFICULT	DIFFICULT
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy to get birth certificate</li> <li>• Availability of other documents to help avail government programs/services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of knowledge/awareness on the birth registration process</li> <li>• Lack of requirements, e.g., unmarried parents</li> <li>• Lengthy process (Long turn-around time)</li> <li>• Difficult for some people                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People who live in remote areas</li> <li>- Home born birthing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lack of accountability from assigned government staff (Unavailability of assigned staff)</li> <li>• Not enough hospitals and limited number of doctors</li> <li>• Technical issues (Server problem, power outage) Office hour operation</li> </ul>

Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate* (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
	NOT DIFFICULT	DIFFICULT
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proximity of civil registration office</li> </ul>
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easy to get marriage certificate in courts</li> <li>Fast turn-around time (up to 3 days)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lengthy/complicated process</li> <li>Lack of birth certificate of parents</li> </ul>
RELATED TO DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process is easy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficult to obtain due to intensive investigation</li> <li>Process is lengthy/complicated</li> <li>Cost is not affordable for the poor</li> </ul>

### Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates

Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)	
Type	Purpose/Use
Related to birth	Education (school enrollment/admission requirement)
	Employment/Job application
	Access government programs/services (Legal support)
	Access to financial services (Open a bank account, insurance)
	National identification / citizenship
	Travelling to foreign countries
	Access medical services (vaccine, hospitalization)
	Marriage registration requirement
	Right to vote
	Access to purchase of property and assets
	SIM card registration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is to note that the top five recurring themes are highlighted above. Although the importance of birth registration as a requirement to marriage registration and vice versa were established in the previous questions, birth registration as a marriage registration requirement was not identified by most countries.</li> </ul>	
Related to marriage	Claim government benefits
	For travel with spouse (travel requirement, e.g., hotel booking)
	Access financial services (open a bank account)
	Legal purposes (filing for divorce, alimony, financial support, and others)
Related to death	Receive heritage and claim assets of the deceased
	Access government programs/services (legal support)

Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates (or whatever form it takes– signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)	
Type	Purpose/Use
	To get a passport for underage whose father died

### Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates

Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
Related to	Difficulty experienced/ circumstances	Impact/Implication
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A family was required to go back to the place of birth for the registration. The process entailed cost and time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No identification card/not recognized as a citizen</li> <li>Access to education was hindered; a child could not be admitted in school; missed scholarship opportunities</li> <li>Lack of birth registration hindered access to government programs/services, e.g., cannot get passport or visa</li> <li>The complicated and lengthy process discourages a person to go through the process of securing a birth registration.</li> <li>Lack of access to medical services</li> <li>Lack of access to job/employment opportunities</li> <li>Hindered right to vote</li> <li>Hindered access to government services for persons with disabilities</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty in registering for a home born birth. Resorted to nepotism to make the process faster.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complicated and lengthy birth registration process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>long turn-around time to complete process</li> <li>Process was not clear</li> <li>To address difficulties, some resort to nepotism to make the process faster</li> <li>Led to harassment and extortion</li> <li>Costly process of birth certificate correction</li> <li>Lack of accountability of duty bearers (not cooperative)</li> <li>Distance of the registration office could cost money on travel</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birth registration as a requirement for a national identification card</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hindered school admission</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hindered accessing educational opportunities due to the long process of birth certificate correction</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birth registration process for adults is even harder</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty for some sector to register birth (transgender, persons with disabilities) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It led to frustration because they think they are not citizen of the country</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

**Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)**

Related to	Difficulty experienced/ circumstances	Impact/Implication
	<p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p>“My cousin has faced difficulty in getting his certificates. Several times he tried to get it. Finally, he got it paying extra money to Union Porishad (the oldest and lowest local government system in Bangladesh) personnel.”</p> <p>“My sister-in-law has suffered so much just to collect her birth certificate. She does not have a birth certificate. She has fallen on harassment. She could not collect it on time. They have given her several dates and times. They asked for money from her. Frequently she went to the Union Porishad. But she did not receive it in a timely manner.”</p> <p>“My neighbor has two daughters, and their age difference was about two years but when they got the birth registration, they found that the children had the same birth date. They went to the (registration) office several times, but they could not correct the error. Because they are poor and money is a problem for them, the officer does not bother to help them to even just to affix his signature on the corrected document. “</p> <p>“As a whole, the process is complicated, and I faced a lot of problems, therefore, until it is not required no one attempts to get it. Most people who face challenges during getting the card they quit the process. Those who require it, get it by any means.”</p>	
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The process is complicated (especially for people living in provinces)</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge on the marriage registration process</li> <li>• Lack of documentary evidence to get married</li> </ul> <p>“Register marriages with other caste and other religions couples is very difficult with so many documentation processes for approval.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot go to abroad</li> <li>• Cannot travel together because they don’t have the proof to show they are spouse</li> <li>• It is not a priority for some ‘People don’t come to get register their marriages.</li> <li>• Hindered access to financial services (could not open a bank account)</li> <li>• Hindered access to purchase property and asset (Without marriage certificate the couple cannot buy estate)</li> </ul>
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claiming of inheritance and settlements</li> <li>• Complex and lengthy process due to death from unnatural or even natural causes</li> </ul> <p>“To get the pension of the husband, she was asked to present her husband’s death certificate. It took 3 months to get the death certificate.”</p> <p>“In my neighbor 2 brothers fight on land division after the death of their father, because death was not registered, and they cannot legally divide the land. “</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hindered facilitation of inheritance, insurance/pension and other settlements</li> <li>• Hindered access to government benefits</li> <li>• Challenges in getting the Tazkira for the children of a deceased</li> <li>• Death rate cannot be identified.</li> <li>• Difficult procedures for the unidentified or unrecognized death of reasons that needs follow with extensive police verification procedures</li> </ul>

## Q4. Correctness/completeness of certificate/document details

Q4. Correctness/completeness of *certificate/document details			
Certificate/ Document	Details	Impact	Resolution
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect/incomplete details, e.g., age or date of birth, mistake in permanent address, spelling of name, and no date of birth record in some cases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect date of birth caused late admission in school</li> <li>Incorrect address leads respondent to repeat the process of birth registration; thus, becoming a burden               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>entails additional cost</li> <li>Lengthy process</li> <li>Affected mental health (stress and frustration)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Deprivation of government services and other providers, e.g., benefits from government and others</li> <li>It affected school admission or getting into school, job/work application</li> <li>Affect financial services (could not open bank account)</li> <li>Challenge/difficulty of claiming inheritance due to different names of a parent and child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The birth card should be filled by qualified doctor and nurse</li> <li>To listen and cooperate to the poor and marginalized families</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenge in producing supporting documents for detail correction, e.g. marriage registration of parents is needed for birth registration correction of a child, which may not be available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lengthy and rigid process to complete supporting documents; frustration over the process was aggravated by non-cooperation and rough behavior of the staff facilitating the correction.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harassment</li> <li>Extortion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p>“In my certificate there are some incorrect details. The first is my name, I have only my nickname in my birth certificate. Due to lack of awareness of my parents they didn’t take any step to correct the certificate. The second is the serial no of the birth certificate. I received my birth certificate when I was 7. At that time, they only have 17 digits for the serial number. But at present they require the 18 digits in digital format. I have applied for the correction of my full name and an update on the 18-digit serial numbers for applying to the National Identification Card at Union Porishad. After a long series of work, I have received my updated birth certificate.”</p> <p>*****</p> <p>“My sister-in-law has suffered so much just to collect her birth certificate. She does not have a birth certificate. She has fallen on harassment. She could not collect it on time. They have given her several dates and times. They asked for money from her. Frequently she went to the union porishad, but she did not receive it in a timely manner.”</p> <p>*****</p> <p>“My certificate is not correct. My birth date is not same at birth certificate and school certificate. School teacher did not follow my birth certificate information for school certificate registration. And that time I was not also aware about the matter.”</p> <p>*****</p> <p>“Mostly the illiterate and poor parents do not keep records of date of birth of their child that confuses records to remember the exact time after a long time/months.”</p>		



Q4. Correctness/completeness of *certificate/document details			
Certificate/ Document	Details	Impact	Resolution
	<p><b>1. Reasons that were cited that affected correctness/completeness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of education and awareness of parents on the proper birth registration process affected the correctness/completeness of the certificates, e.g., illiteracy and ignorance</li> <li>Lack of attention of staff handling the registration</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Children born from home birthing often have no proper birth records due to the following reasons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>illiteracy of parents</li> <li>Poor</li> <li>Lack of knowledge and awareness on the registration process</li> </ul> <p><b>*** Other important points:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is to note that some respondents, specifically in Pakistan do not have birth registration/certificate.</li> <li>There is no lane for persons with disabilities to process registration/correction</li> <li>Changing address (different address in birth certificate to the current address as reflected in birth certificate) affect school admission</li> </ol>		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect address led respondent to repeat the process of marriage registration; thus, becoming a burden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>entails additional cost</li> <li>Lengthy process</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>1. Reasons that were cited that affected correctness/completeness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hide caste and religion</li> <li>Lack of education and awareness of the couple on the proper marriage registration process affected the correctness/completeness of the certificates, e.g., illiteracy and ignorance</li> <li>Lack of attention of staff handling the registration</li> </ul>		
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect death registration details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It can it possibly affect the court's decision, if the death registration is used in a legal case, e.g., criminal case</li> <li>The family will not get the death certificate.</li> <li>Incorrect address led respondent to repeat the process of death registration; thus, becoming a burden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>entails additional cost</li> <li>Lengthy process</li> </ul> </li> <li>It affects inheritance, insurance and settlements, e.g., "If the person has a bank account and dies due to incorrect details in the death certificate, the family cannot withdraw money from the bank."</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>1. Reasons that were cited that affected correctness/completeness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of education and awareness of the couple on the proper marriage registration process affected the correctness/completeness of the certificates, e.g., illiteracy and ignorance</li> <li>Lack of attention of staff handling the registration</li> </ul>		

## Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general)

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
<b>Note: The responses were arranged based on the reasons (WHY).</b>			
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast facilitation of birth registry for home born birth               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mothers give birth at home should take their children to hospital for birth registration</li> <li>"In every village or district one responsible person should be recruited to register children born at home and issue birth card or report births to relevant organization. The birth registration should be mandatory."</li> <li>Provision of birth card during vaccination of children</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>To improve birth registration coverage and access</p> <p>To avoid error</p> <p>To create fast and friendly process</p>	Health facilities, government, people
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government ensuring registry of all children, especially those living in remote areas, e.g.,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign teams to do house to house registration.</li> <li>The municipality representative (wakil gozar) should report and register those babies born at home.</li> <li>Strengthen IT support to entry Birth Certificate/Death Certificate/ Marriage certificate</li> <li>Sufficient manpower</li> <li>Ensure transparency and accountability</li> <li>Free birth registration</li> <li>Ease requirements for easier compliance; valid residential proof would be enough</li> <li>Simultaneous birth registration with citizenship; Obtain citizenship without the use of birth certificate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct awareness on the importance of birth registration through media               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form a review committee and raise Community awareness initiatives</li> <li>Parents to understand the consequences of not securing birth certificate for children</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Government; health facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase numbers of hospitals and doctors to ensure provision of birth registration cards to everyone</li> </ul>		Government; health facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building / training should be conducted               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For hospital staff on the provision of birth registration card</li> <li>Strengthening of Institutions / Trainings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Government; health facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperation between the government and stakeholders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local NGOs including the government need to work together to get the child registered at the right time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Government; stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperation between national and local government               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>proper monitoring and follow up</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		National and local governments

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternate birth registration policies for special populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special policy for orphans to be provided certificates; ensure that all relevant documents of the child are handed over when the child is being given to the orphanage</li> <li>- Migrants and refugees</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To ensure every child can enjoy their fundamental rights and for identity of everyone.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of a birth registration system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To guide staff to do their tasks according to it, and they should be monitored.</li> <li>- Ensure accountability of staff, e.g., provide penalty, and prosecution of staff taking bribes</li> <li>- To ensure timely birth registration</li> <li>- Standard time of delivery</li> <li>- User friendly, easy and accessible registration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To stop illegal ways of issuing death certificate</li> <li>• To avoid workload and mistakes</li> </ul>	Government; health facilities
	<p><b>Specific recommendations related to infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve server/internet system/data registry system</li> <li>• Need to set up digital centers to register births at ward level</li> <li>• Access of proper internet system</li> <li>• Need to improve system so that when server is down, anybody can get easily certificates. Need easy excess and easy delivery certificates.</li> <li>• To avoid certificate errors, need to improve data entry system. Data operator check the spelling and all information, Union Secretary carefully listen, collect all information, and properly upload in system. No pending work and timely response all requirements.</li> </ul>		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct awareness on marriage registration process</li> </ul>	To improve marriage registration and coverage	Government;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making marriage registration mandatory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrange a one-day service of issuing legal marriage certificate and national identity card.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Government;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend options to make marriage legal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lawyer should have the authority to officially stamp the certificate.</li> <li>- Local level marriage cell registration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To make marriage registration legal and smooth	Government;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have a clear marriage registration process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- time-bound registration</li> <li>- Mandatory registration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong government mechanism in village level to collect information about pregnant mothers</li> </ul>		
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure responsibility and accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hospital should issue death certificates</li> <li>- Families should register death and get the death certificate.</li> <li>- The government should take the process seriously and all people should do the death registration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To improve death registration coverage / access	Hospitals and civil registration office Government People

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness on the death registration process               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the culture of the process of death registration. Imams also be advised when attending the funeral to ask for the registration of death. If not registered the imams should register on the spot.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a separate office in every district for easier registration of deaths at home.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local level death cell registration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records and verification               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeping track of mortality, cause of death</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make death certificate free</li> </ul>		

### Q5.1 Recommendations to address challenges in recording/registering birth/marriage/death

Q5.1 Recommendations to address challenges (process?) in recording/registering birth/marriage/death			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who should act on them
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open options to ensure access               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online/digital registration system</li> <li>Visits and being active in birth registration in rural areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To stop opportunities for bribe and improve recording of BR To ease the process and improve birth registration coverage Easy to access, available at local and affordable for all sections of the society	Registration organizations  Local government authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accountability and responsibility               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up monitoring to ensure accountability and responsibility; prevent bribery and eradicate nepotism</li> <li>Ensure correctness and completeness of records (correct information submission of parents about birth date, name and required information, record the information very carefully)</li> <li>Responsible, polite and sincere staff, friendly environment</li> <li>Equal treatment of all persons</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure assignment of professional staff (enough information and experience, supportive and cooperative).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simplified registration process in a single window at a local level</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and awareness               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good network and communication plan</li> <li>Formation of a team to help increase awareness/ information dissemination on importance of certificates</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of new laws for special cases</li> </ul>		

Q5.1 Recommendations to address challenges (process?) in recording/registering birth/marriage/death			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who should act on them
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setup special registration for special populations               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refugees</li> <li>- Persons with disabilities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve process and access to marriage registration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- online registration/computerized</li> <li>- Registration authority/center in every district</li> <li>- Marriage to be conducted by registered authority, e.g., Mullahs should not be allowed to conduct marriages as they don't register legally.</li> <li>- The marriage should be conducted in the court and get the marriage certificate.</li> <li>- Marriage registration and marriage certificate should be issued by single organization.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To make the marriage registration smooth and accessible	Government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and awareness               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to address perception of people - they don't want to get the marriage certificate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and awareness               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness to families and the process should be mandatory.</li> <li>- People should be given awareness to get the death certificate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To improve death registration access and coverage To improve awareness of people about death registration To improve death registration process To create easiness for people to get the death certificate	Government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility and accountability               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responsibility should be given to relevant staff to register all deaths.</li> <li>- The staff should be present during working hours in their office (Death).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased accessibility               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health facilities in the provinces should be established.</li> <li>- Establish a separate/dedicated office</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

## Q5.2. Recommendations to address challenges in getting birth/marriage/death certificates

Q 5.2. Recommendations to address challenges in getting birth/marriage/death certificates			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	How
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced accessibility and coverage, specifically in rural communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The process of registration taken more the week and similarly same as during the time of citizenship too</li> <li>This will help in increasing the rate of obtaining these certificates by all the people especially those who are facing challenges.</li> <li>Current process has lead time to securing/releasing birth certificate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandatory birth registration</li> <li>Easier requirements</li> <li>Process should be done through scientific methods.</li> <li>Quick action from the government</li> <li>Proactive and responsible agencies; hospitals to give special attention to birth registration</li> <li>Incorporating new laws to allow better accessibility</li> <li>Discuss feedback and solutions with responsible agencies</li> <li>Online birth registration</li> <li>Visit door to door for birth registration.</li> <li>Accessibility option of allowing people from other state to register in their present location to</li> <li>Establish facilities in different points for birth registration</li> <li>Develop a system to register home born children</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness/publicity campaign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To understand the values of these certificates</li> <li>For the promotion and protection of human rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination and cooperation between raw people and the government</li> <li>Setting up her desk or information center</li> <li>Door to door campaign to deepen people's understanding</li> <li>Conducting campaign to spread awareness on the importance of securing birth certificate.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritize special populations, e.g., street children, orphans,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will help in securing the rights of street children in obtaining their legal identity such as birth certificate and marriage certificate</li> <li>Many people are also suffering from the same situation. This will help them to be financially independent by providing a job opportunity</li> <li>People with disability is lacking behind all the facilities provided by government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Door-to-door campaign about the importance of certificate as well as facilitate the process of obtaining the certificate. This will motivate people to register and obtain the certificate.</li> <li>Even if the parents do not have legal documents, there should be a provision of collecting recognizance from community people to get birth certificate</li> <li>Amend the policies to incorporate my recommendation by the parliament.</li> <li>Ease of requirements and process for special population, e.g., orphans</li> <li>Provide access to education even without birth registration and identity cards</li> </ul>

Q 5.2. Recommendations to address challenges in getting birth/marriage/death certificates			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	How
	Incorporating new laws to allow better accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible candidates can find a job and may live a dignified life.</li> <li>• It will help people like mothers to obtain their birth certificate on the basis of their residence</li> </ul>	Making new or amend laws and policies to make it inclusive for all
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity and training of staff</li> </ul>		Training and orientation Timely action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networking and cooperation</li> </ul>		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of policies to secure marriage certificate</li> </ul>	For solving all these problem in community level	Awareness through media and proper information about registration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and awareness on the importance of marriage registration</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased access and coverage</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marriage registration made mandatory</li> <li>• Online marriage registration application</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility and accountability</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transparent process of registration to avoid illegal ways</li> </ul>
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coverage and access</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital staff to pay attention to death certificate recording</li> <li>• Establish a dedicated office for death registration</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility and accountability</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent bribery and ensure professionalism</li> </ul>

### Q5.3. Recommendations to address challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct

Question No. 5.3. Recommendations to address challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who should act on them
Related to birth	Staff capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Different training sessions on birth registry</li> <li>- Training on record keeping and registry</li> <li>- Training on recording complete and correct data</li> <li>- Training on monitoring and validation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have capacity issue and do not have proper guidance</li> <li>• Training to ensure completeness and correctness of capturing birth data</li> </ul>	Government Parents Education and Health Department Registration authorities
	Access, coverage and verification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documents be available in local language</li> <li>- online verification using mobile application</li> </ul>	To cater to those who could not read English	NADRA (National Database & Registration Authority) /UC (Union Council) <i>[Pakistan]</i>

**Question No. 5.3. Recommendations to address challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct**

	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Who should act on them</b>
	- Systems update and renewal of documents		
	Special registration for certain populations - Revised policy/procedure to ensure inclusiveness for persons with disability, and other needs	For the special services in childhood	Government /NADRA
	Increase awareness and education - engage NGOs on the local level awareness - Raise awareness of parents on the process of birth registration and on the use of form	For the timely correction of mistakes By correcting errors and rectification of errors in certificate  By submitting correct documents with correct information  The concerned personnel should provide all the information regarding the complete process in case of incorrect details.	Government /NGO
	Improved system of operation - proper time allocation for birth registration - Recruitment of qualified/experienced staff - Recruit additional staff to prevent 'over' workload - Extensive checking of details during processing and reevaluate/ confirm that details are correct prior to release// proper verification system - Provision of suggestion box - A dedicated team for the correction of details - Verify the correctness of information with concerned parties first before the registration	Problem related to incorrect details can be solved easily  - As most of the parents are uneducated and cannot read the document	
	Linking and networking - coordination between concerned authorities and case files - Create an information center		
Related to marriage	Improved system of operation - Recruitment of qualified/experienced staff		
	Access, coverage and verification - online registration		



**Question No. 5.3. Recommendations to address challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct**

	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Who should act on them</b>
Related to death	Access and coverage - Online death registration and access to easily correct information - Retrievable death certificates information - Updated system	Information will be same	NADRA (National Database & Registration Authority) /UC (Union Council) [Pakistan]
	Improved system of operation - Assignment of supervisory team to monitor hospitals on death certificate registration - Hiring of competent staff to ensure accurate and correct recording of data		

# East Asia and the Pacific

## Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS

Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS, according to the following circumstances:			
	EXPERIENCE	NEED/USE	CHALLENGES
<b>BIRTH CERTIFICATE</b>	<p><b>Registration process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organized process</li> <li>- Free processing</li> <li>- Accommodating staff</li> <li>- Online registration</li> <li>- COVID-19 related health protocols in place (experience of in-hospital birthing)</li> </ul> <p><b>Access and coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government initiative (district and local office) to bring registration closer to people</li> <li>- In-hospital birth provides assistance in birth registration, yet, the process is still difficult</li> <li>- Access to social services and education</li> <li>- House registration as a requirement for birth certificate</li> <li>- Birth consent from the father as requirement for registration</li> </ul>	<p>Needs based on Samoa responses that were arranged based on the ranking of the responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Importance of birth certificate for future needs/requirements</li> <li>- Birth certificate as an important document in verifying one's identity</li> <li>- Birth certificate as a requirement for school enrolment and taking of examinations/employment</li> <li>- Birth certificate as a requirement to benefit from government programs/ applying to national agencies/VISA application</li> <li>- Birth certificate for statistics purposes (national records etc.)</li> <li>- Proof of being a citizen/citizenship</li> </ul>	<p><b>Registration process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lengthy processing time (resorted to the illegal services of a middleman to make the processing time faster)</li> <li>- registration steps include interview</li> <li>- Lack of marriage certificate affects processing of birth cert</li> <li>- Cost of the processing fee</li> <li>- Difficulty in producing a witness as requirement for late birth registration</li> <li>- Difficulty in birth cert replacement (lost certificate due to disaster or events - flooding, fire, etc.)</li> <li>- Required to bring photo of deceased father as proof, which could be difficult to produce</li> <li>- Was required to have a DNA test with the parent based on the perception of the registration officer that the child 'looks strange'</li> <li>- Getting witnesses entail additional cost</li> </ul> <p><b>Access and coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulty in enrolling in school; getting scholarship</li> <li>- Lack of birth cert led to inequality</li> <li>- Difficulty in accessing financial services (open bank account)</li> </ul>
<b>MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE</b>	<p><b>Access and coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- marriage without certificate is not valid by law</li> <li>- Need witnesses to submit marriage registration</li> <li>- Needed for property and asset settlement/division</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marriage certificate for statistics purposes (national records, etc.)</li> <li>- Marriage certificate as requirement for VISA application</li> </ul>	<p><b>Access and coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not valid marriage could not legally protect partner from spouse to re-marrying or collect living allowance for children</li> <li>- Born from immigrant parents with no marriage certificate creates difficulty for a child in getting birth certificate</li> </ul>
<b>DEATH CERTIFICATE</b>	<p><b>Access and coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Process of reporting death is in place</li> <li>- Requirement includes national identification cards, house registrations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Death certificate for statistics purposes (i.e., elections)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Access and coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- many document requirements for death registration</li> </ul>

## Q2. Registration process

Q2. Registration process according to the following circumstances:		
	REGISTRATION PROCESS	CHALLENGES
RELATED TO BIRTH	<p><b>Access and coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organized and structured registration process</li> <li>- Comfortable registration site with accommodating staff</li> <li>- No fee involved</li> <li>- Health protocols were put in place during the pandemic</li> </ul> <p><b>Venue for securing birth cert</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Church</li> <li>- Registration office</li> <li>- Alternative registration access               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Online registration</li> <li>- Initiative of local government official and district office to bring the registration closer to the people (cheaper alternative)</li> <li>- In-hospital birth assistance</li> <li>- Home birth - with assistance from village chief for the registration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Education and awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of education and awareness on the process</li> </ul> <p><b>Access and coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Registration entails cost</li> <li>- Lengthy processing time</li> <li>- Due to lengthy process, illegal middleman was used</li> <li>- Use of middleman entails cost</li> <li>- Lack of knowledge and awareness on the registration process</li> <li>- Lost document to claim birth registration</li> <li>- Marriage certificate was required as supporting document; in case marriage cert is not available, interview and an oat were required</li> <li>- Parents don't have birth certificate</li> <li>- Required to secure birth cert in the place of birth, which could be different from the current place of residence - it entails cost</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Uses of birth certificate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identity verification</li> <li>- for citizen application</li> <li>- For marriage</li> <li>- Death registration</li> </ul>	
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require supporting documents for registration</li> <li>• Marriage registration done in the registration office</li> <li>• Marriage registration is a requirement for divorce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many were married but no marriage certificate</li> </ul>
RELATED TO DEATH	<p><b>Registration process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require supporting documents for registration</li> <li>• Death registration done in the registration office</li> <li>• Registration is done by family/relatives of the deceased</li> <li>• Autopsy was performed as supporting document for death cert</li> <li>• Assistance by the village head, police or rescue team for the deceased with no identification card</li> </ul> <p><b>Uses of death certificate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inheritance and settlement (closing of bank account, claiming of insurance, etc.)</li> </ul>	

## Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death			
	CHALLENGES	IMPACT	RESOLUTION
RELATED TO BIRTH	<b>Registration process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lengthy process</li> <li>- Short timeline for the processing</li> <li>- Long queue in registration centers</li> <li>- Not affordable registration fees</li> <li>- Staff are not accommodating and helpful</li> <li>- Expensive cost of registration</li> <li>- Lack of confidentiality in data handling</li> <li>- Government-issued ID as requirement</li> <li>- Lead to extortion</li> <li>- Complicated process</li> <li>- Wrong entry of information</li> <li>- Bullying and discrimination</li> </ul>	<b>Registration process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waste of time - affected work and living</li> <li>- Lack of birth registration data affects development of country planning</li> <li>- Affects people with no birth cert - affect school admission and job/employment</li> <li>- Makes people reluctant to file registration</li> <li>- Discourages people from arranging their civil registration</li> <li>- people feel discouraged and intimidated to arrange the civil registration</li> <li>- Our personal information will go viral or will be seen by other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Village government should manage the birth registration</li> <li>- The child forum called the registration office to come to the village to handle the birth registration</li> <li>- Assignment of dedicated office to handle registration</li> </ul>
	<b>Education and awareness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not enough information on the registration process or the need for it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People didn't know the importance of civil registration</li> <li>• People don't understand how the registration process is done</li> </ul>	
	<b>Access and coverage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- challenge for people living in remote location or far areas</li> <li>- Registration centers far for people to access</li> <li>- Lack of birth certificate affect application for citizenship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The distance discourages people to file their certificates</li> <li>- Many people use middleman</li> <li>- The travel going to the registration center is difficult and expensive</li> <li>- Delay in parents getting their newborn children to be registered</li> </ul>	
	<b>Special groups could not register</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Illiteracy (led to not knowing the process and requirements needed for the processing)</li> <li>- Children of migrant were deprived of social services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does not have confidence in applying or requesting for their birth certificates</li> <li>- There are important personal details in the request forms that she could not answer. She would go home instead of submitting and finishing her request</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children of nationality without a surname could not access government services such as the right to study at the university</li> <li>- Those who wished to study did not receive a qualification certificate upon completion</li> </ul>	

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death			
	CHALLENGES	IMPACT	RESOLUTION
	<b>Examples</b> "Only 20% of the villagers had ID card because the village headman asked for money, 3,000 baht, for signing in the document"		

### Q3. Why having birth/marriage/death certificate is or is not important

Q3. Why having birth/marriage/death certificate is or is not important (collate repeated or similar reasons together)		
	REASONS	IMPACT
RELATED TO BIRTH	<b>On its use for the population</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Used to confirm national identity</li> <li>- Used as a requirement for school enrollment</li> <li>- Used as supporting document for employment</li> <li>- Used for traveling/visa application</li> <li>- Used as a requirement for civil related certificates (marriage, death and national identification)</li> <li>- Used as supporting document to access financial services (open bank accounts, apply for insurance, etc.)</li> <li>- Used to claim government support and services (e.g., social ameliorations)</li> <li>- Used to access medical services</li> <li>- Used as a requirement for licenses (driver's license)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides assurance of civil rights</li> <li>- Can't continue school without certificate of completion or school records.</li> <li>- Lack of birth certificate may result to legal consequences (not elaborated; info from Thailand)</li> </ul>
	<b>On its use for government's planning/country management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Used for easier management of population (government records, census, statistics)</li> <li>- Used as basis for the preparation of the government's development plans</li> <li>- Used as supporting document for job application</li> </ul>	
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Used for government record (census, statistics)</li> <li>- Used as basis for annulment or pursue adultery cases</li> <li>- Used to authenticate one's marriage, proof of legal marriage</li> <li>- Used by spouse to act as legal guardian, especially in times of emergency (hospitalization)</li> <li>- Used as requirement/basis to also access benefits accorded to the spouse</li> <li>- Used for inheritance and settlements (division of assets upon divorce)</li> <li>- To prevent subrogation</li> </ul>	

Q3. Why having birth/marriage/death certificate is or is not important (collate repeated or similar reasons together)		
	REASONS	IMPACT
RELATED TO DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Used for government record (census, statistics)</li> <li>- Used to authenticate one's death</li> <li>- Used to receive government support and services (financial assistance)</li> <li>- 'Sometimes' used as requirement for burial</li> </ul>	

### Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate

Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate* (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
	DIFFICULTY	NOT DIFFICULT
RELATED TO BIRTH	<p><b>Difficulty in the process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long period of completion</li> <li>- Complications on the process (if requirements are not complete)</li> <li>- Registration entails cost</li> <li>- Requirement to produce/present marriage registration of parents</li> <li>- Proximity of registration office</li> <li>- Lack of knowledge on the details of parents that hindered processing</li> <li>- Lack of marriage certificate of parents</li> <li>- Incomplete centralized/online database</li> <li>- Incorrect/incomplete information of parent's information did not match that of the child/applicant</li> <li>- It entails cost to get witness to sign documents</li> <li>- Producing required documents is difficult (lots of evidence are required)</li> </ul> <p><b>Difficulty in accessing services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulty in accessing school completion due to lack of birth certificate</li> </ul> <p><b>Knowledge and awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not knowing where the registration office is</li> <li>- Lack of knowledge on the registration process</li> </ul> <p><b>Difficulty experienced</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-availability of the staff</li> <li>- Ignored by staff; staff not accommodating</li> <li>- Questions of the staff intimidates the applicant</li> </ul> <p><b>Difficulty due to attitude or perception of the user</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The process is easy if the requirements are complete</li> <li>- Sub-district office for registration - which entails less expenses</li> <li>- Active assistance of village government</li> <li>- It is easy if one is knowledgeable about the process</li> <li>- Registration center is accessible</li> </ul>

Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate* (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
	DIFFICULTY	NOT DIFFICULT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not a priority of the user until it is needed/required</li> <li>- Discrimination received by indigenous peoples</li> </ul>	
	<b>Use of birth certificate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- used to verify documents such as inheritance, account closure</li> </ul>	

### Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates

Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates (or whatever form it takes– signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)	
Type	Purpose/Use
<b>Related to birth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used for school registration/scholarship application</li> <li>• Job application</li> <li>• Receive social/government services</li> <li>• To access financial services like opening bank accounts</li> <li>• To access medical services e.g., immunization</li> <li>• Support document for other identifications/licenses like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National ID</li> <li>- Passport/visa</li> <li>- Police clearance</li> <li>- Driver’s license</li> <li>- Other government-issued ID</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support document for child adoption</li> </ul>
<b>Related to marriage</b>	<p><b>Legal basis to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify status of marriage</li> <li>- Use husband’s last name</li> <li>- File for a divorce</li> <li>- For registration in real estate</li> <li>- To hold the spouse from traveling outside of the country without the consent of the partner</li> </ul> <p><b>Support document for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Job application</li> </ul>
<b>Related to death</b>	<p><b>Legal uses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To determine cause of death</li> <li>- Inheritance and asset settlement including insurance claim</li> <li>- To authenticate the identity of the deceased</li> </ul> <p><b>Supporting document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to file for a work leave (expedite travel process to attend the funeral of the deceased)</li> <li>- To access government services and assistance</li> </ul>

### Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates

Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
Related to	Difficulty experienced/ circumstances	Impact/Implication
Related to birth	Lack of knowledge/experience in processing birth certificate	Difficult access to decent or formal jobs Cannot access passport for traveling to other countries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Incomplete/incorrect information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No identified name of father to complete registration</li> <li>- Incorrect information</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Lack of birth certificate affects access to services and opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National ID</li> <li>- Access to school</li> <li>- Access to employment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>**In Thailand, birth certificate is a requirement for a national ID, which allows one to enjoy and exercise his/her rights. Lack of it deprived one from getting medical services, education, and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can hinder opportunity to get an education</li> <li>- Can hinder opportunity for employment, e.g., respondent was terminated from work after finding out that employee has no birth certificate</li> <li>- Lack of a national ID for citizen that would allow access to government services</li> <li>- Makes registration process complicated, e.g., takes time to reprocess certificate for name/info correction</li> <li>- Costly processing and reprocessing fee; some resort to illegal middlemen that entails additional cost. The high cost could discourage people from applying for one</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Birth certificate as a supporting document to other government-issued IDs and professional licenses. The lack of it will affect access to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- national identification card</li> <li>- Passport</li> <li>- Other government-issued identification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It will hinder exercise of right to vote</li> <li>- No legal identify</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Access and coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- proximity of registration office is far</li> <li>- Not familiar with technology/online registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People are discouraged/reluctant to go because of the distance</li> <li>- It made some people use a middleman to arrange the registration which caused mistype problems</li> <li>- Discouraged people from registering because of lack of knowledge in technology</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Lack of education and awareness of the process</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not understanding the importance of securing a birth certificate</li> </ul>
<p><b>Not inclusive for some groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- children born abroad have a hard time obtaining citizen from motherland</li> <li>- No documentation for children born at home</li> <li>- Affects legal adoption process</li> </ul>		



Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
Related to	Difficulty experienced/ circumstances	Impact/Implication
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marriage certificate is a requirement for a national ID. Lack of it will deprive one of government programs and services</li> <li>• Some marriage tradition was done in unofficial ceremony that does not require marriage registration</li> </ul>	
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of death certificate hinders a common-law spouse from accessing inheritance and hold a burial</li> </ul>	

**Q4. Correctness/completeness of \*certificate/document details**

Q4. Correctness/completeness of *certificate/document details			
Certificate/ Document	Details	Impact	Resolution
Related to birth	Incorrect spelling of name and incomplete date of birth and place of birth information No systematic way of registering information, e.g., “Sometimes, a child’s last name on the confirmation document will be the father’s high chief title, but when he or she is registered, the last name will be the father’s first name.” Father’s middle name was not included in the birth certificate Wrong spelling of last name due to typo error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- affected school registration</li> <li>- Affected application for a national ID and other legal documents</li> <li>- Additional cost; costly reprocessing</li> <li>- Can’t prove identity</li> <li>- Can’t access social services and medical services</li> <li>- Lack of money to reprocess correction of name</li> </ul>	Was required to reprocess application It can be resolved by providing a letter requesting repairs to the Department of Population and Civil Registry  Reconfirm or validate information first before registration
	Different birthdate in birth certificate and national ID card		It was not resolved; officer unable to do correction
	Lack of knowledge on information correction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- saw the incorrect info but does not know how to correct it</li> </ul>		
	Wrong information on blood type	Might cause problem later when blood transfusion would be needed	

Q4. Correctness/completeness of *certificate/document details			
Certificate/ Document	Details	Impact	Resolution
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect death registration details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It can it possibly affect the court's decision, if the death registration is used in a legal case, e.g., criminal case</li> <li>The family will not get the death certificate</li> <li>Incorrect address led respondent to repeat the process of death registration; thus, becoming a burden               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>entails additional cost</li> <li>Lengthy process</li> </ul> </li> <li>It affects inheritance, insurance and settlements, e.g. "If the person has a bank account and dies due to incorrect details in the death certificate, the family cannot withdraw money from the bank."</li> </ul>	
	<b>1. Reasons that were cited that affected correctness/completeness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of education and awareness of the couple on the proper marriage registration process affected the correctness/completeness of the certificates, e.g., illiteracy and ignorance</li> <li>Lack of attention of staff handling the registration</li> </ul>		

#### Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general)

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
<b>Note: The responses were arranged based on the reasons (WHY).</b>			
Related to birth	<b>Prompt registration of birth within 30 days</b>	Different practices and culture which do not necessarily register or celebrate/ commemorate certain events	Parents

**Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) \*collate/count repeating/similar responses**

	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
	<p><b>Improve services or processing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local authorities should pay more attention to details to avoid issues after processing and there should be more accommodating staff</li> <li>- Discourage bribing</li> <li>- Make process easier and provide shorter lead/waiting time; offer alternative registration platforms (online registration), but ensure access to electricity/infrastructure</li> <li>- Free processing: make it more affordable or reduce fees</li> <li>- Increase access and coverage by establishing registration centers in villages; adding more officers to handle registration; creating a mobile team to reach special population (senior citizens, etc.); establishing a disability support center; and having a one-stop service at district office.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is useful for their life in the future</li> <li>- It is important for population data management and country planning.</li> </ul>	Local authorities
	<p><b>Education and awareness on the registration process and its importance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- information drive on the process for registration in hospitals and in communities too to reach the marginalized sectors on birth/marriage/death registration.</li> <li>- Encourage hospital birthing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- people will know about its importance</li> <li>- So that people in the village will know the process to save them money from travelling to town without the proper documents for registration</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Verification and validation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure accuracy of data recording by the registration office to avoid inconsistencies in details/data</li> </ul>		
	<p>Provide access to services despite the lack of birth certificate</p> <p>“The university should provide an opportunity for children without a family name and birth certificate to study and get a graduation certificate.”</p>		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- prompt application of marriage certificate within one month</li> <li>- Improve services or processing</li> <li>- Free processing to avoid bribery</li> </ul>	<p>Process of reprocessing/correction of information takes time and costly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is useful for their life in the future</li> <li>- It is important for population data management and country planning.</li> </ul>	Couple Local authorities
	Information drive regarding the process and inquiries of the marginalized sectors on birth/marriage/death registration.		
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Immediately inform authorities on death of a family</li> <li>- Improve services or processing</li> <li>- Free processing</li> <li>- Online registry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is useful for their life in the future</li> <li>- It is important for population data management and country planning.</li> </ul>	Family member Local authorities

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
	Take their sick or dying loved ones in the hospital or report the incident for easier registration of death certificate.		

### Q5.1. Recommendations to address challenges in recording/registering birth/marriage/death

Q5.1* Recommendations to address challenges (process?) in recording/registering birth/marriage/death				
	Recommendation(s)	Why	How	Who should act on them
Related to birth	<b>Birth should be promptly registered within 30 days of nativity</b>	To avoid complications and to improve the process	Mainstreaming the importance of registration and its administrative process so parents can understand the importance of securing birth certificate (can be through various information, education, and communication materials – posters, announcements, community meetings, home visit, social media and also, commune focal person especially during important community events.	Parents
	<b>Continuous awareness and education campaign</b> - to highlight importance of birth, marriage and death certificates			Government
	<b>Improvement in the process</b> - specific staff dedicated to assist in the registration - Online system and database that can be synced for easy operation and access - Reduce application steps - provide online queue reservation to avoid long wait - Open alternative registration venues in hospitals or have an information centre to report birth - Engage NGOs to help as intermediaries in the registrations - Extend assistance to special groups like indigenous peoples (tribes)	The birth registration will be done immediately and do not need to go to the district office which is more difficult.		
	<b>Capacity building</b> - provide training for local officials on various registrations			
	To amend law on national ID registration (specific to Thailand) - To amend the law to allow all children born in Thailand, even if they are Burmese or others to be able to have a Thai ID card. Or amend the law to allow people who are staying in Thailand for more than 20 years to apply for Thai citizenship.	To have equality and equal rights		

Q5.1* Recommendations to address challenges (process?) in recording/registering birth/marriage/death				
	Recommendation(s)	Why	How	Who should act on them
Related to marriage	Continuous awareness and education campaign - to highlight importance of marriage certificates	To promote understanding of citizen about the importance of the birth certificate		Government
Related to death	Continuous awareness and education campaign - to highlight importance of death certificates			Government

*\*Note: Data only from Cambodia and Philippines*

## Annex 3

# Consultations with Children and Youth in Asia and the Pacific on CRVS: Guidelines and Tools

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## Introduction

This document presents the guidelines for the conduct of the in-country consultations of children (<18 years old) and youth (18-24) on their experiences on, and recommendations for the improvement of, the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in their respective countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It also introduces the tools to be used in the preparation, conduct, and reporting of the consultations and how to use the tools.

The consultations with children and youth are part of the preparations for the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific planned to take place in November 16-19, 2021. In 2014, Asia-Pacific countries represented in the First Ministerial Conference on CRVS for the region adopted the Ministerial Declaration to “get everyone in the picture” and envisioned that “by 2024, all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development.”<sup>6</sup> The First Ministerial Conference also declared 2015-2024 as “Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade” and endorsed the Regional Action Framework on CRVS for the region.<sup>7</sup>

The Regional Action Framework, endorsed in the Ministerial Declaration, outlines three goals and seven action areas to achieve the vision for 2024. The three goals are:

Goal 1: Universal civil registration of births, deaths, and other vital events;

Goal 2: All individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration, 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 on causes of the death) are produced based on registration records and are disseminated.

The seven action areas are: (1) political commitment, (2) public engagement, participation, and generation of demand, (3) coordination, (4) policies, legislation, and implementation of regulations, (5) infrastructure and resources, (6) operational procedures, practices, and innovations, and (7) production, dissemination, and use of vital statistics.<sup>8</sup>

During the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in November 2021, Asia-Pacific country representatives will review the progress of each country and the region on the goals and action areas set in the Ministerial Declaration on CRVS in 2014 and in the Regional Action Framework on CRVS for the region.<sup>9</sup> To prepare for this and to ensure the inclusion of children and youth in the process, UNESCAP (the Ministerial Conference’s development partner), World Vision, CRC Asia, and their respective partners conduct these consultations that will conclude in the subregional forums with the children’s and youth’s recommendations for the improvement of CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

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<sup>6</sup> Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, “Ministerial Declaration to ‘Get Every One in the Picture’ in Asia and the Pacific” (2014),

[https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Ministerial.Declaration.English.final\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Ministerial.Declaration.English.final_0_0.pdf): p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. *Also in* Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, “Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific” (2014),

[https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific_0_0.pdf): paras. 7-8.

<sup>9</sup> Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, “Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific” (2014),

[https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific_0_0.pdf): para. 62(b). *See also*

“Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific Brochure,” accessed January 3, 2021,

<https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/FINAL%202020%20MC%20Pamphlet.pdf>.

The organizations that conduct these in-country consultations are volunteers. They have answered the call of their partners (World Vision, CRC Asia, UNESCAP, and/or UNICEF) to conduct these consultations.



## Key Terms

There are terms in this document that are used with specific meanings in mind. The terms include *CRVS*, *group interview*, *salience*, *statistics*, and *vital events*. The definitions of the other terms not included in this section can be gleaned from their use in context. So, what is CRVS?

### **CRVS**

This stands for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and refers to “the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording and production of vital statistics on the occurrence and characteristics of vital events in accordance with national laws, rules, regulations and policies from time to time in force.”<sup>10</sup> The vital events referred to for recording and production of statistics comprise the following ten: (1) birth, (2) death, (3) fetal death, (4) marriage, (5) divorce, (6) annulment, (7) judicial separation, (8) adoption, (9) legitimation, and (10) paternity recognition.<sup>11</sup>

### **Group interview**

This is a similar process to a focus group discussion (FGD). But, instead of the facilitator gathering information by encouraging free discussions on a topic by the individuals in the focus group, the facilitator asks questions and, individually, members of the focus group respond to the questions without engaging with, or responding to the answers of, the other interviewees.

### **Salience, noun**

#### **Salient, adjective**

Salience refers to the topics differentially focused on or disproportionately weighted by the interviewees/discussants, given all other possible topics.<sup>12</sup> Operationally, the organizers, facilitators, and notetakers can identify the salience by answering the following questions (1) what was common among the responses of the participants, (2) what stands out among the answers of the participants, and (3) what was unique, odd, different, or unusual among the answers of the participants.

### **Statistics**

This refers to the official collection, counting, and production of the count by the government on data important in socioeconomic planning and governance.

### **Vital events**

#### **Life events, synonym**

These are the ten events, identified by the Statistics Division of the United Nations’ Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “concerning life and death of individuals, as well as their family and civil status.”<sup>13</sup> The vital events are: (1) birth, (2) death, (3) fetal death, (4) marriage, (5) divorce, (6) annulment, (7) judicial separation, (8) adoption, (9) legitimation, and (10) paternity recognition. However, in this consultation, only three will be focused on: birth, death, and marriage.

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<sup>10</sup> Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, “Regional Action Framework...” (2014): para. 4.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System: Revision 3*, Statistical Papers, Series M No. 19/Rev.3 (UN, 2014), <https://doi.org/10.18356/63cf3eba-en>: pp. 3-4.

<sup>12</sup> Shelley E. Taylor and Suzanne C. Thompson, “Stalking the Elusive ‘vividness’ Effect,” *Psychological Review* 89, no. 2 (March 1982): 155–81, <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-295X.89.2.155>.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations: pp. 3-4.

## Overview of the Consultation Process Design

As has been mentioned, the consultations aim to gather the views of children and youth on their experiences on, and recommendations for the improvement of, CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. The design of the consultations follows methods and principles of research, primarily qualitative, done at a rapid pace. Using the preferred methods and principles, the consultations aim to capture the range of and the salient among the expressed views in response to open-ended and pointed questions.

The nine basic requirements for effective, ethical, and meaningful child participation also loom large in the design of the consultation. While they are addressed to child participation, the requirements, when met, make participation of any age also effective, ethical, and meaningful. According to the requirements, all child participation processes should be: (1) transparent and informative, (2) voluntary, (3) respectful, (4) relevant, (5) child-friendly, (6) inclusive, (7) supported by training (for those who are facilitating and supporting), (8) safe and sensitive to risk, and (9) accountable.<sup>14</sup>

The consultation process outlined in this document is divided into three general segments: I. Before the Consultation, II. During the Consultation, and III. After the Consultation.

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<sup>14</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, “General Comment No. 12: The Right of the Child to Be Heard,” CRC/C/GC/12 § (2009), <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC-C-GC-12.pdf>: para. 134.

## I. Before the Consultation

The consultation process requires preparation from the in-country organizers and the persons involved. The organizers are those organizations who have answered the call of their partners (World Vision, CRC Asia, UNESCAP, and/or UNICEF) to conduct these consultations. The preparation includes enlisting organization staff members or volunteers, who are skilled at interviewing and facilitating discussions of children and/or youth, and attracting children and youth to volunteer for, and can represent their peers or groups in, the consultation. The organizers will also need the support of staff or volunteers who can translate (from English to the consultation language) and back-translate (from the consultation language to English) the consultation questions, answers, and the evaluation questions and answers.

### A. Child Safeguarding Protocols

Before moving forward, this should be highlighted: the organizers, facilitators, notetakers, translators, audio/video documenters, children and youth participants, and all those involved in the consultations should observe and comply with their own child safeguarding protocols at all times. If still without a child safeguarding protocol in place, the organizer can refer to and adopt the appended activity-specific *Child Safeguarding and Child Participation Documents of CRC Asia* (Appendix D).

#### A.1. Children's Involvement Should Go Beyond Being Consultation Respondents

To ensure meaningful participation, the organizer is encouraged to involve children in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the consultation. For instance, children can:

- be part of the risk assessment
- be co-facilitators
- help in deciding whether the consultations should be conducted online, face-to-face, or a hybrid of both
- help in designing the program sessions and schedule, etc.

In this regard, the organizer has the responsibility to find the balance between ensuring that the key questions have been answered and taking into consideration the inputs of children in the consultation process.

For organizers considering the conduct of the consultation through online means, please refer to CRC Asia's *Child Participation Guidelines for Online Discussions with Children* (Appendix E).

## B. Participants and preparations

### B.1. Facilitators and co-facilitators

The organizers need to mobilize staff members or volunteers to do the interview, to facilitate the discussion, or to support either as co-interviewer or co-facilitator. These staff/volunteers should be skilled and have experienced interviewing or facilitating groups of children, in the case of those who will be working with the children, or youth, in the case of those who will be working with the youth.

#### B.1.1. Facilitator Preparation

The facilitators should prepare for the consultation by going over the guidelines with focus on the questions, the processes, the evaluation, and the report requirements. They should work with the organizers for the logistical support they anticipate needing during the consultation. They also need to work with their notetaker-partner to anticipate ways to support each other's work in the consultation process.

### B.2. Notetaker

The organizers need to mobilize staff/volunteers who can take notes of what is being said and by whom during the consultation. The notetaker should be able to take notes with ease, in the language used during the consultation, interviews or discussions with children, and have notes that are easily readable by third party readers in the language.

She<sup>15</sup> should be able to assist the facilitator during the [Review of the Notes and Initial Filling in of Appendix C](#) and [Member-checking/Validation](#) parts of the consultation. She should also be able to work with the translator and back-translator if she is not assuming these roles already.

In the case of the Big Group-Small Group discussion format, she may need to instruct and work with the volunteer participant notetakers for the small group discussions so that she may be able to capture with clarity and precision the views expressed in the discussions.

#### *B.2.1. Notetaker Preparation*

The notetaker should prepare for the consultation by going over the guidelines with focus on the questions, the processes, the evaluation, and the report requirements. They should work with the organizers for the logistical support they anticipate needing during the consultation.

They need to work with their partners—the facilitators, translators, and back-translators—to anticipate ways to support each other’s work in the consultation process.

### **B.3. Translators and Back-Translators**

The organizers need to also mobilize staff/volunteers who can function as translators. Ideally, two translators are needed:

*Translator 1:* translates the consultation and evaluation questions from English into the consultation language

*Translator 2:*

- a) translates back the translated consultation and evaluation questions from the consultation language into English and
- b) translates the responses to the country report (found in Appendix C) and the evaluation (Appendix A).

The translators need not be professional translators but should know both English and the consultation languages. They need not be individuals also but teams or groups.

If only one staff/volunteer can do the translation, she can function as both Translator 1 and Translator 2.

#### *B.3.1. Translator and Back-Translator Preparation*

### **Translating the consultation questions and evaluation**

The translators should translate the consultation questions, found in [part II section A of this document](#), and evaluation questions, found in Appendix A, with enough time for the facilitator and notetaker to read the translated version before the start of the consultation process.

The translation process should proceed along the following steps:

Step 1: The translator, Translator 1, translates the English version into the consultation language. The best consultation language is the language that is native to and commonly used by the participants. (Note: The organizers should provide interpreters and/or adult mentors for children unable to communicate the language used during the consultation.)

Step 2: The back-translator, Translator 2, independent from Translator 1, translates the translated work of Translator 1 back into English.

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<sup>15</sup> The pronoun used in this guidelines is “she” but refers to all genders.

Step 3: The translator and back-translator compare the back-translated version (the work of Translator 2) and see whether there are back-translations that did not match the original version.

Step 4: The translator and back-translator, then, work with ideally others with the language skills to iron out and produce the final translation.

It is important that the translator and back-translator work independently from each other in Steps 1 and 2 and then work together in Steps 3 and 4. Doing so is a step towards a more rigorous way of translation in research.

In the case of only one translator, the translator should still follow the steps. But instead of independent translation and back-translation, which is impossible, she should spend time away after translating before doing the back-translation.

### B.3.2. The Translations/Back-Translations Needed

Table 1 presents the translations needed.

**Table 1. Translations needed**

Parts that need to be translated	Translation type	Note
Questions ( <a href="#">see Table 2</a> )	English to local Language	Not for submission
Evaluation questions (see Appendix A)	English to local language	Not for submission
Answers to questions to fill up Appendix C	Local language to English	For submission to <a href="mailto:babisalva@gmail.com">babisalva@gmail.com</a> (right away)
Consolidated answers to evaluation questions (see Appendix A)	Local language to English	For submission <a href="mailto:babisalva@gmail.com">babisalva@gmail.com</a> (right away)

### B.4. Video/photo documenter

The organizers need to also identify a video/photo documentation lead from among their staff/volunteers. The documenter will submit photo, audio and/or video recordings of the consultation. This role requires familiarity in using mobile devices and/or DSLR and digital cameras. It also requires proficiency in uploading materials in a cloud storage. Please review Appendix F and kindly note questions or comments for discussion during the orientation.

The documentation lead will attend a session on how to document in-country consultations and online meetings, which will include technical requirements, tips on how to shoot and set up interviews, among others.

### B.5. Consultees/Participants

In general, children (<18 years old) and youth (between 18 and 24 years old), who can form their own opinion on CRVS and who want to be consulted, can participate in the consultations. The basic requirements are: (1) capacity to form own opinion on CRVS and (2) voluntary desire to be part of the consultation process.

The organizers are expected to consult a total of at least 50 children and youth, two-thirds of which (34) are children and one-third (16) are youth.

Because participation is number-limited and the consultation time-constrained, the organizers should purposively choose the participants and aim to recruit children and youth who can represent their peers or a sub-group, within their respective societies, or who are hypothesized to have unique issues with civil registration. Examples of the latter include children and youth with previous experience in accessing or understand civil registration services with specific

vulnerable backgrounds such as geographical isolation, economic marginalization, conflict with the law, disability, or from indigenous communities, among others.

Specifically, the organizers are strongly encouraged to purposively recruit at least one from each sex of the following groups:

- a. children and youth who are leaders of organizations or who can represent their organizations
- b. children and youth who are or have been part of government, civil society, or multilateral organizations, especially agencies with overview or overarching responsibility over children's rights
- c. Children and youth who can represent indigenous communities and/or ethnolinguistic minorities
- d. children and youth who can represent migrant communities
- e. children and youth who can represent persons with disability
- f. children and youth who are in communities considered isolated or remote in the country
- g. children and youth who can represent teenage mothers/fathers and young/child couples
- h. children and youth who can represent children/youth in alternative care, adopted children/youth, and children/youth born out of wedlock
- i. children and youth who can represent children/youth in conflict with the law
- j. children and youth who can represent out of school children/youth and working children, and
- k. children and youth who can represent children/youth who identify as LGBTQ

A child/youth can represent more than one of the groups identified from a to k above. For example, a child/youth organization leader identified in (a) can also represent an ethnolinguistic group (c), whose territory is in a remote/isolated part of the country (f), and she happens to also be born out of wedlock (h) and identifies as part of the LGBTQ community (k). However, the organizers and facilitators should take note of this so that during the consultation, the different identities can be tied to different experiences associated with CRVS (this can be noted down as a remark in the country report, see Appendix C).

If it is not entirely possible for the organizers to get representations from each of the groups identified above, they may work with the groups within their network and reach, and recruit children and youth who pass the two basic requirements to participate. However, the organizers should try its best to secure representations from groups identified from c to k. These groups are usually the marginalized groups in many countries, and this marginalization often translates to vulnerability that may extend to CRVS. Groups from d to e are groups that are hypothesized to have unique experiences in CRVS.

#### *B.5.1. Participant preparation*

The organizers are asked to do the following: First, they should announce at least a week before the agreed date that a consultation will be held with children (<18 years old) and youth (18-24) on their experiences on and recommendations for improving, birth registration, death registration, and/or marriage registration.

Birth, death, and marriage registrations and statistics are part of we have defined in this document as Civil Registration and Vital Statistics or CRVS.<sup>16</sup>

Second, they must brief the participants to prepare themselves for the consultations by (in order):

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<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System: Revision 3*, Statistical Papers, Series M No. 19/Rev.3 (UN, 2014), <https://doi.org/10.18356/63cf3eba-en>: pages 4 & 10, as referred to in Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, "Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific" (2014), [https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific_0_0.pdf).

- (1) Processing the consent forms, including the approval of parents/caregivers in the case of children, as required by the child safeguarding protocols
- (2) Recalling/Being aware of their own experiences on and initial recommendations to improve birth, death, and/or marriage registrations and to write these down
- (3) Familiarizing themselves with the details of the birth, death, and/or marriage registrations that they have access to (they either own the registration or hold one owned by a family member)
- (4) Recalling/Being aware of their families' experiences and recommendations. They shall ask their family members about these, too, and write down their answers
- (5) Being aware of their peer's experiences and recommendations by formally/informally asking their peers and
- (6) Bring whatever they have written down to the consultations

In asking their family members and especially their peers, the prospective participants are expected to:

- (7) Do the interview or discussion that assures the interviewee or discussant of privacy, confidentiality, and respect.<sup>17</sup> There may be stigma, negative perception, or negative implication associated with civil registration and/or with personal details captured in the registration and
- (8) Not write the names of the interviewee/discussant and write only the following details when able: the experiences, recommendations, sex, gender, ethnicity, whether with disability/not, and other individual characteristics tied to the experiences/ recommendations.

These preparatory activities are suggestions toward the participants' meaningful participation and deeper engagement in the consultations. Not doing these activities or doing them half-heartedly, except for the processing of the consent forms in (1), are okay and should not be a cause for the disqualification of any participants from the consultation.

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<sup>17</sup> A short statement stating the objective of the consultation, seeking their consent to voluntarily provide information only for the purposes of the consultation, and assurance of confidentiality will be provided and shall be translated in the local language to facilitate the data gathering.

## II. During the consultation

### A. Consultation inquiries

During the consultation, the facilitators elicit children and youth participants' thoughts and opinions on the following: (a) their experiences of CRVS and (b) their recommendations to the different stakeholders of the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. In this section, the document presents the primary questions and the probes. How they are to be asked is presented in [C.3. Consultation Proper](#) below.

The inquiries are focused on five general areas: (1) general experience, (2) registration process and challenges, (3) Importance/use and possession of registration/certificate, (4) accuracy and problems encountered, and (5) recommendations to improve registration. Again, the inquiries aim to elicit the **range** of the experiences around the five general areas as well as the **salient** from among the experiences. Salient responses are those responses that (1) are common, (2) stand out, and/or (3) are unique, odd, different, or unusual. **However, the in-country consultation stops at recording the range.**

Table 2 details the consultation questions. The questions are detailed to remind facilitators to allow participants to expound and deepen their responses. The formulations of the questions are not meant to be taken rigidly. The facilitators are allowed flexibility to reformulate these questions, on the fly, specially to allow for the use of child-friendly words or more easily understood terms and concepts in the local context, fluid discussions in the consultation language and ways of the participating children and youth.

However, in the on-the-fly reformulation, the facilitators should be guided by the inquiry focus and by inquiry aims (range and salience). The facilitators should ensure that the reformulations are scaffolded: fundamental, simpler, and direct experiential questions before the complex, abstract, and evaluative questions. The questions should also be reformulated in neutral and not leading ways to ensure that when scrutinized, although far-fetched, we cannot be accused of suggesting responses to especially the children. Children have been shown to be suggestible in interviews.<sup>18</sup> Studies have shown that one way to avoid this suggestibility of children is to ask open-ended questions.<sup>19</sup> This consultation also uses qualitative research methods and so, if close-ended yes/no questions are used, they are used only to give way to the open-ended questions.

**Table 2. Consultation Questions**

Questions	Inquiry Focus
<b>1. What are your experiences/stories regarding birth, marriage, or death registration/certificate?</b>	<b>General experience</b>
<b>2. Based on your experience or the experience of the people you know, how does the government/authorities process/record the birth/marriage/death of a person?</b> <i>Probe: where the registration took place, who took the registration, how much, etc.?</i> <b>2.1. What do you think are the challenges in recording the birth/marriage/death of a person?</b> <i>Probe: how the challenges impacted them and up to when, whether the challenges have been resolved and how, etc.</i>	Registration process and challenges with registration process
<b>3. In your opinion, is it important to have birth/marriage/death certificates?</b> <i>Probe: Why or why not?</i> <b>3.1. Is it difficult to get the certificates?</b>	Importance/use and possession of registration/certificate

<sup>18</sup> Stephen J. Ceci et al., "Repeatedly Thinking about a Non-Event: Source Misattributions among Preschoolers," *Consciousness and Cognition* 3, no. 3 (September 1, 1994): 388–407, <https://doi.org/10.1006/ccog.1994.1022>. *This is just one study among many.*

<sup>19</sup> Sonja P. Brubacher et al., "How Children Talk about Events: Implications for Eliciting and Analyzing Eyewitness Reports," *Developmental Review* 51 (March 1, 2019): 70–89, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dr.2018.12.003>.



<p><i>Probe: Why or why not?</i></p> <p><b>3.2. When do you use these certificates?</b> <i>Probe: Are the certificates requirements for children/youth to be enrolled in school, get healthcare, open a bank account, travel, etc.?</i></p> <p><b>3.3. Did you know of anyone who experienced difficulty in getting their certificates?</b> <i>Probe: What happened?</i></p> <p><b>3.4. How did the lack of certificates affect you/person you know?</b> <i>Probe: What are the impacts to children if they will not be able to get these certificates?</i></p>	
<p><b>4. Are the details in your certificates correct? What happens if there are incorrect details?</b> <i>Probe: If yes, what were these mistakes/incorrect details? Do you know the reason behind the mistake(s)/incorrect detail(s)?</i></p> <p><b>4.1. How have these mistakes/incorrect details impacted them or someone they know? Have these been resolved? If yes, how? If no, what should be done about it?</b></p>	Accuracy and problems encountered regarding these
<p><b>5. What are your recommendations to improve birth/marriage/death registration?</b></p> <p><b>5.1. Recommendations to address challenges in recording/registering the birth/marriage/death of a person?</b> (Facilitator can anchor on the responses to Question 2)</p> <p><b>5.2. Recommendations to address the challenges in getting certificates?</b> (Facilitator can anchor on the responses to Question 3)</p> <p><b>5.3. Recommendations to address the challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct?</b> (Facilitator can anchor on the responses to Question 4)</p>	Recommendations for improving civil registration

## B. Consultation Formats

The format of the consultations can be in-person or virtual individual interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), group interviews, and/or big group-small group discussions. The choice of doing the consultation online or in-person depends on the COVID-19 situation in the organizers' areas and the advisories of the public and health authorities. The safety of all those involved in the consultations should be prioritized.

The choice of format will also depend on the characteristics of the children/youth participants. Opting for the group formats is reasonable, considering the number of participants required to be consulted and the short period given for the consultations. However, there may be children and youth who are unable or uncomfortable to talk in a group setting because of their disability; or the organizer may want to consult children from certain groups and locations but could not form a group for whatever reason. In this case, the organizers can choose to do individual interviews.

The organizers can choose to conduct group interviews, especially among younger and less communicative children/youth. Facilitators can decide to turn a group interview into an FGD if the participants start discussions themselves, or turn an FGD into a group interview when, even after few encouragements, discussions do not take off. The organizers can also do big group-small group discussions where they can break the big group into smaller groups to discuss answers to questions on their own or with facilitators. Kindly ensure that in both big and small groups, there are notetakers on hand to capture the discussion and response to the key areas of inquiry of consultation.

The organizers can do a mix of these four formats which Table 2 details.

**Table 3. Consultation Formats**

	<b>Individual interview</b>	<b>FGD or Group Interview</b>	<b>Big Group-Small Group Discussions</b>
<b>Good for</b>	Children/youth who are unable or uncomfortable to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Most children/youth</li> <li>▪ Younger and less communicative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Most children/youth</li> <li>▪ In case of only one facilitator:</li> </ul>

	<p>speak in group settings because of disability</p> <p>Children who are from hard-to-reach areas and groups</p>	<p>participants should have the group interview instead of FGD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Switching allowed</li> </ul>	<p>children/youth who can manage to do group sharing on their own</p>
<b>Facilitation team per consultation</b>	<p>1 interviewer</p> <p>1 observer and notetaker (especially in the case of children)</p>	<p>1 facilitator</p> <p>1 notetaker</p>	<p>At least 1 facilitator</p> <p>At least 1 notetaker</p>
<b>Number of participants per consultation</b>	<p>1</p> <p>(will have to organize a maximum of 50 separate 1:1 interview if the organizer opts for this as the only format)</p>	<p>5-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the younger the group, the smaller the number</li> <li>group interview: smaller number</li> </ul>	<p>Big group: 50 (maximum)</p> <p>Small group: 5 (for break-out)</p>
<b>Duration per consultation<sup>20</sup></b>	<p>2-3 30-minute sessions + 15-30 minutes for evaluation</p>	<p>~2 50-minute sessions with breaks in between + 15-30 minutes for evaluation</p> <p>If virtual: The maximum for a half day should be two 50-minute sessions</p>	<p>~2 hours with breaks in between and plenary sessions not more than 50 consecutive minutes + 15-30 minutes for evaluation</p> <p>If virtual: The maximum for a half day should be two 50-minute sessions</p>
<b>Grouping per consultation</b>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separate consultation by developmental ages. These ages are suggested to be grouped together: 5-9, 10-13, 14-17, and 18-24.</li> <li>Separate consultation by groups represented. Suggested grouping (see section I.A.1, on participants): a &amp; b, c-f, and g-k.</li> </ul>	<p>Big group: separate children and youth</p> <p>Small group: same as for FGD/Group Interview</p>

## C. Consultation Processes

In general, the consultation should flow as follows:

1. Introduction
2. [Pledge/Consent and confidentiality statement](#)
3. [Consultation proper](#)
4. [Review of the notes and initial filling in of Appendix C](#)
5. [Member checking/validation](#)
6. [Evaluation](#)
7. [Closing](#)

### C.1. Introduction

The consultation should start with an introduction that, at the minimum, should consist of the following six elements:

- (1) introduction of the facilitators and the participants
- (2) introduction of the consultation objectives, the consultation flow, and the consultation rules

<sup>20</sup> If the organizer and facilitator have vast experience of working with their children and youth events like the consultation, they should follow their experience tested to be effective and friendly to the children and youth.

- (3) reminder to all of the child safeguarding protocols, including the introduction of the child safeguarding team and ways to contact them
- (4) reminder that the proceedings will be photo and video documented and those who do not consent to their being photo/video recorded, *which is not a criterion for disqualification from the consultation*, should remind the facilitating team (especially the photo and video documenter)
- (5) asking for whether all participants have submitted a completely signed consent form and
- (6) brief presentation on CRVS

For the presentation, the organizer and facilitator can create their own audio-visual presentation or use the <2-minute videos from these YouTube playlists. The presentation should provide a sufficient summary on CRVS and its relation to children’s rights.

- Canada's International Development Research Centre  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1l\\_CkWnoLS4&list=PLhhb-JA5bQ7PZCkgCzc2n-1GcaPLF4lyR](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1l_CkWnoLS4&list=PLhhb-JA5bQ7PZCkgCzc2n-1GcaPLF4lyR) (especially “Boundless Potential”)
- CRVS Knowledge Gateway of the University of Melbourne  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AsZ0S2TeyE&list=PLQfUxrZQ\\_vdgRUGgZgQu1y8piu0MxlXUt](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AsZ0S2TeyE&list=PLQfUxrZQ_vdgRUGgZgQu1y8piu0MxlXUt)

During the Consultation Proper, the facilitator/interviewers should be ready to provide input on CRVS and its relation to children’s rights when it is called for.

## C.2. Pledge

After the introduction, the facilitator should lead the participants in pledging or pinky-swearing the following:

- I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge that:
1. *I am participating in this consultation voluntarily and I know that I can stop my participation anytime during the consultation;*
  2. *I will actively participate in this consultation;*
  3. *I will participate in ways safe for everyone and I will not hesitate to call the attention of the facilitator or organizers when I or some other participants do not feel safe in the consultation;*
  4. *I will honestly answer or give my own opinion to the questions of this consultation to the best of my ability;*
  5. *I will respect whoever is giving his/her answers or opinions by listening and not reacting, through my words or gestures, in a negative way, and*
  6. *I will respect the privacy of the participants in this consultation and not repeat whatever is said outside of the consultation.*
  7. *I also expect the confidentiality of my participation in this activity, and that the data collected will be solely used for the purposes of the consultation.*

*I pledge this on \_\_\_\_\_ day of the month of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.*

The formulation of the pledge can be changed, especially to make it more fun for the participants to do, as long as the gist of the seven statements are present.

The organizers can print copies of the pledge and have the participants sign them. Although a recent study finds no evidence that signing honesty statements are effective,<sup>21</sup> the pledge is a good way to remind the participants of their rights and duties during the consultation.

## C.3. Consultation Proper

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<sup>21</sup> Ariella S. Kristal et al., “Signing at the Beginning versus at the End Does Not Decrease Dishonesty,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117, no. 13 (March 31, 2020): 7103–7, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1911695117>.

The facilitator should do the consultation for each of the five question groups: (1) general experience, (2) registration process and challenges, (3) Importance/use and possession of registration/certificate, (4) accuracy and problems encountered, and (5) recommendations to improve registration. She could do the facilitation fluidly shifting from one question group to another as long as all the questions are asked, the answers probed, and the 50-minute time chunk per session is observed.

#### FGD or Group Interview Consultation: Starting and Moving Through

In an FGD/Group interview consultation, the facilitator should follow the four steps:

**STEP 1:** The facilitator should start the consultation by asking for a show of hands on those who can, want, and have something to tell stories (theirs and someone they know) on registration on the three life events—birth, death, and marriage—one after the other:

- (1) Who among you have some stories (and want) to tell about their birth registration/certificate or the birth registration/certificate of someone they know?*
- (2) Who among you have some stories (and want) to tell about death registration/certificate of someone they know?*
- (3) Who among you have some stories to tell (and want) about marriage registration/certificate of someone they know?*

This is to give the facilitator an idea on how to proceed with [the consultation questions outlined in Table 2](#). If none of the participants can, want, or have some stories to tell about marriage registration, for example, then the facilitator can rule out questions related to marriage registration.

**STEP 2:** Then, depending on the initial survey, the facilitator proceeds to asking the first consultation, “What are your experiences on birth registration/certificate? Marriage registration/certificate? Or, death registration?”

The facilitator should ask the questions about the registration experience that the participants said that they have and want to tell stories on. The “registration” is the main focus of this question. “Certificate” as substitute makes “registration” more tangible.

**STEP 3:** The facilitator should also explain the meaning of the question and the key words or phrases in the question. The facilitator can inquire from the participants which of the elements in the question are unclear.

**STEP 4:** The facilitator should give the participants time to think about their individual answers first. The facilitator can give the participants the option to draw or write as they think about their individual answers. With drawn responses, younger and artistic participants express their thoughts better when sharing; with written responses, participants have ready materials to read when expressing their views.

The facilitator can also ask the participants, who have prepared for the consultations and wrote notes in response to the announcement, to look at what they have written and, if they want, to add more. In the next step, the facilitator should ask these participants to share what they have written for each question.

**STEP 5:** After the time for thinking and drawing or writing the answers, the facilitator can begin the discussion by asking a volunteer to present her answer. From here, the facilitator can move along many paths so long as by the end of the interview or discussion, the facilitator will have asked all the questions in the question group, satisfactorily probed the responses, and will have allowed all participants to equally speak.

After this first question group, the facilitator can jump from one question group to another among the six question groups, taking off from the exchanges during the discussions.

### *Big Group-Small Group Consultation: Starting and Moving Through*

In a Big Group-Small Group consultation, the start is different from the FGD/Group interview. In the Big Group-Small Group discussion, the facilitator should start by presenting all the questions in a question group per time-chunk. The facilitator can do this with ease by preparing a written presentation of the questions.

The facilitator should then follow Steps 3 and 4 of the FGD/Group Interview consultation process.

**Step 5:** the facilitator divides the big group into small groups of 5 participants. The facilitator should assign the group to avoid having participants left out and to ensure that group composition is according to the suggested age grouping. The group process is also faster this way. In virtual setting, the facilitator should have already assigned the participants to breakout rooms.

There are merits to grouping participants from the same background and of grouping participants from diverse backgrounds but managing the age grouping would be key in ensuring that they are supported well during the session; the facilitator will have to decide on this.

The facilitation of the small group discussions can be done by assistant facilitators, if there are, by a volunteer participant in a group, or a mix of both. Younger participants may need experienced facilitators. Thus, the consultation format needs to be decided on ahead, to sort out the needed logistical requirements for its successful implementation.

The facilitator should remember to provide sufficient time for the small group discussion or sharing.

**Step 6:** After the small group discussion, the facilitator brings the participants together in the big group and ask the groups to present. During the presentation, the facilitator can ask for clarification from the presenters and for resonance from the rest of the participants. The facilitator can provide a summation of each presentation after each presentation or after all the presentations.

### *Taking notes of the responses, probing them, and finding resonance*

During the interviews and/or discussions, the notetaker should be present to take notes of the responses and those who responded them. In an FGD/Group Interview, the notetaker can write the responses in a medium where she alone could see it during the consultation or in one visible to all to enable participants to see their response and the facilitator to use it as part of the facilitation. The notetaker must ensure not to lose any of the notes taken during the course of the presentation and discussion. The facilitator can also write notes to remind herself of the responses and of aspects of these that need probing, or to find resonance in responses to lessen redundancies and move the discussions forward with haste.

In the small group discussions/sharing, notetaking can be done by a volunteer participant if she can. This is still possible if all the participants in this group are still unlettered, in which case the responses can be drawn, which may need a lot of effort, or the individual participants' drawings can be made into a collage or quilt. The same volunteer notetaker should prepare a presentation of their group's responses that could be presented by the notetaker or another volunteer from the group. In any case, the organizers must ensure that a stand-by documenter is at hand, to capture both verbal and non-verbal data generated from the consultation activities.

The facilitator and notetaker will make use of the notes later for the review of the notes and initial filling in of Appendix C.

### Note for One-on-One Interviews

For one-on-one interviews, interviewers should have a copy of the consultation questions and be ready to note answers that are required for Appendix C. The interviewers can use Appendix C as guide and can already start filling in Appendix C as they go through the interview.

#### C.4. Review of the notes and initial filling in of Appendix C

After the consultation proper, the participants will be given a long break, around 15-30 minutes. During this period, the facilitator and the notetaker should go over the participants' responses to each question and do an initial filling up of Appendix C.

In this review, the facilitator and notetaker should answer the following questions:

- (1) Have all the questions been asked?
- (2) Are all the responses recorded clear?
- (3) Are all responses complete?

A “no” answer to any of these three questions should be resolved in the next step, C.5.

#### C.5. Member Checking/Validation

The notetaker and/or facilitator should report back to the participants a summary of their responses to each question number. They can use the initially filled-up Appendix C or the notes from the notetaker. In this report, the notetaker and/or facilitator have the following tasks:

- (1) After the summary of the responses for each question number, the notetaker & facilitator should ask the participants whether the summary is correct, to correct what is not correct, and ask the participants whether the correction is acceptable
- (2) After the summary of the responses for each question number, they should ask whether the participants want to add more and to ask the participants whether addition is acceptable
- (3) To ask the participants the questions that have not been asked as discovered in C.4  
**(NOTE: IF THE PARTICIPANTS DON'T HAVE ANSWERS TO A QUESTION, THEN REFLECT THAT IN APPENDIX C)**
- (4) To clarify from the participants the responses that have not been noted clearly and ask the participants whether the clarification is acceptable
- (5) To make complete the responses from the participants which showed incomplete in the notes or in answering during the consultation and clarify whether the completed responses are acceptable.

After this process, the facilitator/notetaker should inform the participants that the organizer would be reporting back to the participants the consolidated results of all the consultations in the country. The facilitator/notetaker should be clear about the period when this would be expected and in what medium (face-to-face in-person/virtual gathering, through written message, through the organization's website/social media site, etc.). See [Presentation of the Country Consultation Results](#).

#### C.6. Evaluation

After the validation process, the facilitator will then lead the participants in evaluating the consultation process. At this point, the facilitator will provide a short explanation on the value of the evaluation to improve the next consultation/participation process.

For younger participants, the facilitator should go through the evaluation items, one after another, explaining item when needed and answering queries.

## C.7. Closing

In closing the consultation, the facilitator should thank the participants for their active participation and explain what would be expected next.

The organizer at this point can lead the participants to a process of selecting the representatives of the group to the sub-regional forum or inform the participants of the next process and what they can expect from the sub-regional forum. The organizer should explain their process for selecting the representatives and respond to the participants' views on the matter.

### III. After the Consultation

After the consultation proper, the organizer has FIVE tasks ahead of it: (A) prepare the country report and send the country report to the research team, [\(B\) prepare for the sub-regional forum](#), [\(C\) present the country consultation results](#), [\(D\) translate and implement a possible survey that the research team will create based on the results of the consultations](#), [\(E\) gather signature for the Asia-Pacific Children and Youth Joint Statement on CRVS](#).

#### A. The Country Report

The organizer should submit reports to the researchers in the form of the following:

- (1) English summary of accomplished evaluation (Appendix A).

**NOTE:**

- **ONE TRANSLATED SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHED EVALUATION PER FGD/INTERVIEW/DISCUSSION.**
- **SUBMIT RIGHT AWAY.**

- (2) Registration details without names using the Registration Template (Appendix B).

**NOTE:**

- **SUBMIT RIGHT AWAY.**

- (3) Accomplished report template (Appendix C).

**NOTE:**

- **ONE ACCOMPLISHED REPORT TEMPLATE (IN ENGLISH) PER FGD/INTERVIEW/DISCUSSION.**
- **SUBMIT RIGHT AWAY.**

- (4) Standout stories from the participants during the consultation (which will be used to illustrate specific case examples from the countries).

**NOTE:**

- **TWO-THREE STORIES PER IN-COUNTRY PARTNER.**
- **SUBMIT RIGHT AWAY.**

##### A.1. English summary of accomplished evaluations

The organizer should summarize the responses to the three evaluation questions and send an English translation of the summary to [babisalva@gmail.com](mailto:babisalva@gmail.com) **NOT LONG AFTER THE FGD/INTERVIEW/DISCUSSION.**

##### A.2. Registration details

The accomplished registration form should also be sent to the researchers, but without the names of the participants (refer to voluntary and confidentiality statement), **DIRECTLY RIGHT AFTER THE CONSULTATION. NOTE: ONE FORM PER FGD/INTERVIEW/DISCUSSION.**

##### A.3. Accomplished report template(s)

The organizer should fill out the report template found in Appendix C. **NOTE: ONE FORM PER FGD/INTERVIEW/DISCUSSION.** This is the main report of the consultation. Following the process of the consultation should help the organizer to fill out this form with ease. The organizer should send then email the filled-out form to [babisalva@gmail.com](mailto:babisalva@gmail.com) **NOT LONG AFTER THE FGD/INTERVIEW/DISCUSSION.**

##### A.4. Standout stories from the consultation

The organizer can also prepare two-three stories (**NOTE: ONE FORM PER FGD/INTERVIEW/DISCUSSION**) that stood out during the consultation or that the organizer feels should be heard by persons or groups outside of the participants. The stories can be reported in the form of brief written narratives (1-2 pages, single space) or short video interviews (not more than 5 minutes per story) of the participant who shared it.



The short video should be in the language that the child or youth can express herself better. If it is in a language other than English, an interpretation should be sent along with the video. The interpretation can be voice translation interspersed with the interview, can be in the form of subtitles, or can be a transcription.

The videomaking team of the consultations and forums recommends transcribing the interpretation over the interspersed voice translation and subtitling. But, the transcription should be timecoded.

The organizer should ask the consent of the participant and, if she is a child, of her parents/caregivers, twice. The consent of the participant must be secured before writing the story or recording her video interview. The consent of the parents/caregivers should be secured after the organizer reads the story to the participant and her parents/caregiver or show the video that would be submitted to the researcher. Consent forms must accompany the story or video provided.

Email the stories to [babisalva@gmail.com](mailto:babisalva@gmail.com).

#### *A.4.1. Choosing a Standout Story*

What is a compelling standout story? It is one that illustrates a real need, a real lack, a real deprivation.

How to choose a compelling standout story?

- Choose a story that resonates well among participants – one that typifies an experience shared by many.
- Choose a story that shows a specific problem or intervention that profoundly affects participants – one that shows how one single omission or lack, for example, has far-ranging effects in a child's/youth's life.
- Choose a complete story. A complete story is a story you can verify - one that concretely answers the four Ws and one H– WHO (was affected), WHAT (happened), WHERE (did it happen), WHY (did it happen, did it affect you), and HOW (did it affect you?)

## **B. Prepare for the Sub-regional Forum**

To set up the sub-regional forum, the organizer should prepare the following: (1) selection of the representatives, (2) selection of the adult mentors of the representatives, (3) assigning interpreters for the sub-regional forums (if needed), and (4) preparation of both representatives and mentors for their participation in the forums.

### **B.1. Selection of child/youth representatives to the sub-regional forums**

The consultation participants should select the representatives of the forums with the facilitation or in partnership with the organizer. The representatives should be one male child, one female child, one child who belong to CRVS-marginalized group, one male youth, one female youth, and one youth who belongs to a CRVS-marginalized group ([see different children and youth categories on page 8](#)).

### **B.2. Selection of adult mentors to accompany representatives to the sub-regional forums**

The consultation participants should also select the adult mentors who will accompany the representatives of the forums with the facilitation or in partnership with the organizer. One adult mentor should accompany each child, and at least one can accompany the youth representatives. The adult mentor of the child representatives should be the parents/caregivers of the child, if possible. The adult mentor of the youth representatives can be any adults who can help the representatives.

### B.3. Assigning interpreters for the sub-regional forums

If the selected child/youth representatives express themselves better in language other than English, the organizer must assign interpreters that would assist during the sub-regional forums. The adult mentors, if able, can take also take on this role.

### B.4. Preparation of the representatives to the sub-regional forums

The organizer should prepare the representatives and mentors for their participation in the sub-regional forum. This can be done by familiarizing them with the results of the consultation outputs, using the report templates, giving them training on improving their skills in participating and presenting during the event, and facilitate the drafting of a proposed recommendation for the Asia-Pacific Ministers that could be voted on during the forum.

## C. Presentation of the Country Consultation Results

After all the country reports from each organization, who did consultations with children and youth in the same country, have been submitted, the research team will share the complete submissions to all the organizations in that country. This will be in two different media in two different occasions: (1) all the raw Appendices A-C from each of the organizations for each of the FGD/Interview/Discussion in the country once complete and (2) in-country consultation report prepared by the research team. The organizers are tasked to present the results in either (1) or (2) back to the consultation participants through the most appropriate medium.

## D. Translation and Implementation of Survey

The research team may create a survey to validate the results of the consultations on a wider audience in the Asia-Pacific region. The organizer will have to prepare to translate and back-translate, [following the process mentioned in Part I Subsubsection B.3.1.](#), and implement the survey through the organizers' and their partners' social media accounts.

## E. Gathering signature for the Asia-Pacific Children and Youth Joint Statement

The research team will send a survey that the organizers are asked to translate and disseminate through their social media accounts. The survey will contain the joint statement that will be the output of the sub-regional forums and question asking whether the responds agree/disagree with the statements, as a whole or point-by-point. The survey will also ask the birthdate, the gender, the general location (region and country), and special group (if applicable) the respondents are part of; it will not ask the name.

## Annex 4

### Information Pack about the Regional Forum for Adults



# Children & Youth

CONSULTATIONS ON CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

## REGIONAL FORUM OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH ON CRVS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

29 May 2021 | Online | 12:00 to 15:30 (GMT+8)

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## Introduction

From January 2021 until April 2021, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) and World Vision International (WVI), in partnership with UNICEF, organized Country-level Consultations<sup>22</sup> to gather the experiences and recommendations of children and youth on issues related to the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in their respective countries. As a follow up to this activity and as part of the whole Project, a Regional Forum of children and youth will be conducted to inform the development of recommendations targeted to regional-level decisions and actions.

This document presents the guidelines in conducting the *Regional Forum of Children and Youth on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific*, which will be held online via Zoom video conferencing on May 29, 2021 (Saturday).

The objectives of the sub-regional forums are:

1. To kick-start the development of the joint public Video Statement on CRVS on behalf of the children and youth of Asia and the Pacific, and
2. To facilitate the selection of children and youth representatives who will be part of the Statement Core Group that will finalize the video statement

The joint public Video Statement of children and youth is targeted to the government officials who will attend the *Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific* in November 2021. The video statement contributes to ensuring the inclusion of children's and youth's voice in addressing the remaining challenges and emerging issues with regards to the implementation of the *2015-2024 Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia-Pacific* (RAF). The inclusion of children's and youth's views is in line with one of the action areas outlined in the RAF: public engagement, participation, and generating demand.<sup>23</sup>

The joint public Video Statement will be shown during the Conference and will be submitted to the officials and other relevant stakeholders, along with the documentation of the results of the country-level consultations.

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<sup>22</sup> In 13 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Samoa, and Sri Lanka

<sup>23</sup> Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, "Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific" (2014), [https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific_0_0.pdf)

## Expected Participants

Initially planned to be two separate sub-regional forums (one composed of participants from South Asia and one composed of participants from Southeast Asia), the organizers had to make adjustments due to the increased number of COVID-19 cases in South Asia. The sub-regional forum then became a Regional Forum composed of participants from 11 countries<sup>24</sup> in Asia and the Pacific.

The main participants of the Regional Forum are children (<18 years old) and youth (18-24) who were selected by the children and youth during the Country-Level Consultations. Each country is expected to send 6 children and youth representatives in the Regional Forum.

The Regional Forum will also be attended by the following adult participants: Adult mentors, facilitators, research team, team of videographers, interpreters, documenters, and technical support, experts, and child safeguarding team.

## Program Design

In designing the program, the following are taken into consideration:

- The forum should build on — and avoid duplication of — the accomplishments of the country-level consultations.
- The forum should help the children and youth in understanding and considering the regional perspective in developing the video statement, and one way to do this is by steering away from country-level groupings as much as possible.
- The approach should provide assistance to children and youth in structuring their video statement, giving them space in the decision-making process, while taking into account the limitations inherent to the virtual nature of the consultation.
- The program should be designed with the understanding that the video statement is only one of the expected outputs of the Project, and that the forum will be followed by succeeding activities to finalize the video statement.
- The program will observe CRC Asia's [Child Participation Guidelines on Online Discussions with Children](#).

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<sup>24</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia,, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Samoa, and Sri Lanka

## Before the Regional Forum

Participants should prepare for their participation in the sub-regional forum.

### A. Children and youth

- a. Children and youth will be given a pre-forum **Information Pack**, which will be a required reading material. The Information Pack will present child-friendly details/instructions/references on the following:
  - i. Objectives of the forum
  - ii. Expected participants in the forum
  - iii. Background of the project
  - iv. Target audience of the joint public video statement
  - v. Consolidated results of the country-level consultations
  - vi. Program and workshop process
  - vii. Criteria for selection of representatives to the Statement Core Group
  - viii. Sample video statements prepared by children
  - ix. Technical information on the conduct of the forum
  - x. Special notes, including recommendations for ice-breakers, noting that they should be inclusive for children with disabilities, non-English speakers, and children of all genders.
- b. Children and youth will also be asked to accomplish a Child Participation and Child Safeguarding Form, which asks them about the following:
  - i. Identification details
  - ii. Specific needs during the consultation
  - iii. Consent to participate
  - iv. Consent to have their photo/video taken
- c. Prior to the Regional Forum, children and youth will be asked to identify their preferred workshop group (1<sup>st</sup> choice and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice)

### B. Adult mentors

- a. Adult mentors are expected to assist the children and youth in preparing for the Regional Forum. They are expected to:
  - i. Identify the child safeguarding risks with children, and suggestions to manage these risks
  - ii. Secure the accomplished Child Participation and Child Safeguarding Forms, ensuring that both children/youth and their parents/guardians understand the contents
  - iii. Ensure that the children/youth understand the contents of the pre-forum Information Pack, which may entail a meeting between the adult mentor and the child/youth
  - iv. Ensure that children/youth have access to the devices and internet connection on the day of the forum
- b. Adult mentors are expected to inform the facilitators and organizers about the following:
  - i. Child safeguarding risks identified with the children, and suggestions to manage these risks
  - ii. Specific needs of the child/youth (e.g., interpretation, translation, inclusivity needs, etc.)
  - iii. Specific arrangements on the day of the Forum (e.g., children to be brought to the organization's office, etc.)
  - iv. The type of device to be used and the number of devices accessible to children during the forum (for designing ice-breakers and workshop activities)
  - v. Ice-breaker recommendations from the children/youth, if any

- c. Adult mentors are expected to attend the preparatory meeting with the facilitators and organizers. This will be done 60 minutes before the start of the official program.
- d. Adult mentors will also be asked to accomplish a Child Participation and Child Safeguarding Form, which asks them about the following:
  - i. Identification details
  - ii. Consent to be an adult mentor
  - iii. Consent to have their photo/video taken
  - iv. Agreement to the Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct
- e. Adult Mentors are recommended to read the Appendix: Consolidated Results of the country-level consultations.

### C. Facilitators

- a. The forum will have one main facilitator and several co-facilitators.
- b. The main facilitator is in charge of the sessions done at the plenary. The main facilitator will also provide support/check on each of the parallel workshop groups during the breakout sessions.
- c. The co-facilitators are in charge of the parallel workshops, with the following grouping:
  - i. Group 1: IMPORTANCE
    - 1. Referring to the consolidated results of in-country consultations on “importance”, this group will answer the question: Why is it important for us to get the registration certificates?
    - 2. The support information for this group will come from the responses to Country-Level Consultation Question/Inquiry Focus 3, and applicable responses to Question/Inquiry Focus 1 and 2
  - ii. Group 2: CHALLENGES
    - 1. Referring to the consolidated results of in-country consultations on “challenges”, this group will answer the question: What are the challenges we face in getting the registration certificates?
    - 2. The support information for this will group come from the responses to Country-Level Consultation Question/Inquiry Focus 2 and 4, and applicable responses to Question/Inquiry Focus 1 and 3
  - iii. Group 3: RECOMMENDATIONS
    - 1. Referring to the consolidated results of in-country consultations on “recommendations”, this group will answer the question: How can the government and other people help us in getting the registration certificates?
    - 2. The support information for this group will come from the responses to Country-Level Consultation Question/Inquiry Focus 5, and applicable responses to Question/Inquiry Focus 1 and 4
- d. The children and youth will be asked for their preferred workshop group (1<sup>st</sup> choice and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice), so the co-facilitators should expect that there might be an unequal number of participants per workshop group. Adjustments will be made in the number of groupings if there will be significant discrepancies in the number of participants per workshop group (e.g., the big group will be divided into two, etc.). Children and youth may also be assigned to their second choice.
- e. Facilitators should take into consideration the type of devices that the children and youth will use to connect to the Regional Forum when designing their

presentations and activities. To date, some children and youth shared that they will use their mobile phones to connect.

#### D. Research team

- a. To help the children and youth participants in preparing the Video Statement, the research team is expected to share the consolidated results of the in-country consultations to the facilitators and organizers before the forum. The results will be presented according to the workshop groupings:
  - i. Importance
  - ii. Challenges
  - iii. Recommendations
- b. The research team is expected to assist in the development of the child-friendly version for the Information Pack.
- c. The research team will prepare a summarized child-friendly presentation of the results of the country-level consultations to be delivered during the first part of the Regional Forum.
  - i. In preparing for the presentation, the research team should take into consideration the type of devices that the children and youth will use to connect to the Regional Forum. To date, some children and youth shared that they will use their mobile phones to connect

#### E. Team of videographers

- a. The team of videographers will document (video) the process of the forum and, depending on the workshop results/program flow, will record the draft video statement.
- b. The team of videographers will follow the forum's Child Safeguarding Policy, ensuring that consent is secured before any form of publication/sharing of the video recorded during the forum.
- c. The team of videographers will follow the decisions of the children in developing/structuring their video statement.
  - i. To illustrate, children and youth may decide to structure their video statement in the following ways:
    1. Introduction, IMPORTANCE (with supporting statements/experiences), All CHALLENGES (with supporting statements/experiences), All RECOMMENDATIONS (with supporting statements/experiences), Closing Statement;
    2. Introduction, IMPORTANCE (with supporting statements/experiences), CHALLENGE 1 followed by RECOMMENDATION 1 (with supporting statements/experiences), CHALLENGE 2 followed by RECOMMENDATION 2 (with supporting statements/experiences), etc., Closing Statement;
    3. Introduction, RECOMMENDATION 1 supported by CHALLENGE 1, RECOMMENDATION 2 supported by CHALLENGE 2, etc., IMPORTANCE; or
    4. Any other structure



## F. Interpreters, documenters, and technical support

### a. Interpreters

- i. English will be the main language to be used during the forum, but interpretation will be provided to children and youth who may need it. Interpretation arrangements will be based on the preference of the children/youth and the interpreters (e.g., if the video conferencing feature will be utilized, if another translation tool will be used, etc.)
- ii. Adult mentors may serve as the interpreters.
- iii. Interpreters are expected to attend the forum's dry run/tech run, which will be done 60 minutes before the start of the official program.
- iv. A few reminders for interpreters:
  1. Translate exactly what the speaker is saying (e.g., do not change the pronoun in the translation, never give your own opinion as the children's inputs, etc.)
  2. Ask for clarification and more time if needed

### b. Documenters

- i. There will be documenters in the forum to take note of the discussions in the forum.
- ii. Each workshop group will be supported by one documenter.
- iii. If digital ground rules will be set up regarding taking of screenshots for reference purposes, the documenter should follow these rules.

### c. Technical support team

- i. The forum will have a technical support team in charge of managing the video conferencing platform and providing remote troubleshooting support to any participant.
- ii. During the parallel workshops, each group will have one member of the technical support team.
- iii. The technical support team will lead the dry run/tech run.

## G. Experts

- a. CRVS and advocacy experts can be called upon by the children and youth as they compose the joint statement. The experts will share, in child-friendly manner, factual information on CRVS and on developing a joint video statement when consulted by children and youth.

## H. Child Safeguarding Team

- a. The forum will have a Child Safeguarding Team that is responsible for receiving and responding to concerns or complaints regarding the forum's Child Safeguarding Policy. The Child Safeguarding Team also has the control/access to block or kick out anyone in the video conferencing platform who is violating the Policy.
- b. The Child Safeguarding Team's contact details will be shared to the participants before the meeting. They will also be introduced at the start of the meeting.

- c. The Child Safeguarding Team will not leave/exit the video conferencing platform until all children and youth participants have left.

## During the Regional Forum

The forum will be conducted for a maximum of 3.5 hours (210 mins), including breaks but excluding the dry run/tech run and audio/video check. The answering of the Evaluation Form will be a take home activity.

Tentative Program:

Session	Duration (mins)
Dry run/Tech run with Adult Mentors and Interpreters	30
Audio/Video check	30
<b>I. Opening</b>	<b>30</b>
A. Technical instructions and Child Safeguarding (5 mins)	
B. Welcome remarks by UN ESCAP (5 mins)	
C. Getting to know each other (10 mins)	
D. Setting up of digital ground rules (10 mins)	
<b>II. Why are we here?</b>	<b>18</b>
A. Presentation (10 mins)	
B. Questions, Comments, Reactions? (10 mins)	
<b>Photo Opportunity</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BREAK</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>III. What has happened so far?</b>	<b>25</b>
A. Presentation of results of country-level consultations (15 mins)	
B. Questions, Comments, Reactions? (10 mins)	
<b>IV. Workshop Breakout Session</b>	<b>75</b>
A. Introduction to Workshop Breakout Session (Plenary, 5 mins)	
B. Breakout Session (70 mins)	
<b>V. Plenary Presentation and Discussion</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>VI. Decision on video statement and next steps</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>VII. Closing Message by WVI's Regional Leader</b>	<b>5</b>
Evaluation (Take Home)	

**Dry run / Tech run**

Adult mentors, interpreters, facilitators, tech support, and other adult participants will connect 60 minutes before the official start of the Regional Forum in order to have a dry run or a tech run

**Audio/Video check**

Children and youth can start connecting 30 minutes before the official start of the program. During the period, the Technical Support Team can conduct audio and video checks, and interpretation control arrangements with the participants.

**I. Opening**

- A. Technical instructions and child safeguarding

In this session, the Main Facilitator will have a quick run through of the video conferencing platform functions.

The Child Safeguarding Team will be introduced in this part. Child safeguarding reminders will also be shared here.

B. Welcome remarks

A representative from UNESCAP will be asked to formally open the Regional Forum.

The speaker will be reminded to keep the speech short and use child-friendly language.

C. Getting to know each other

This is the first “Getting to know each other” session, which serves as a way for the children and youth to have an overview on who are the other participants in the forum (Note: Another “Getting to know each other” session will be done during the workshop breakout session to build rapport).

The Main Facilitator will devise ways for participants to be introduced, by themselves or otherwise, in ways that would affirm their participation in the forum and excite them to actively participate. Simple ways to do this include calling the participants by name or asking a representative from the country to introduce each delegate.

D. Setting up of digital ground rules

This is the equivalent of “house rules” in face-to-face meetings.

The Main Facilitator will make this an interactive session, with the rules to be developed with the participation of children.

These digital ground rules can be about when to turn on/off the video or the microphone, how to ask questions, when it is okay to take screenshots, etc. The ground rules may also cover expectations on the behavior of the adults, facilitators, and other participants.

**II. Why are we here?**

Taking into consideration that children and youth have received and understood the Information Pack, this will be a quick presentation about the objectives and background of the forum. The presentation will also put emphasis on who are the main target audience of the joint public video statement.

During this session, time will be allocated for children to ask questions and share comments or reactions.

**Photo Opportunity**

Before going for a break, a group photo will be taken, taking into consideration the consent shared by children, youth, parents/guardians, and adult mentors.

**III. What has happened so far?**

The Research Team will present a summary of the results of the in-country consultations, which will be presented according to the workshop groupings.

During this session, time will be allocated for children to ask questions and share comments or reactions.

#### IV. Workshop Breakout Session

##### A. Introduction to Workshop Breakout Session

The Main Facilitator will introduce the workshop breakout groupings. The rationale for dividing the group this way may also be presented.

##### B. Breakout Session

The Co-Facilitators are recommended to carry out the following:

- Conduct “Getting to know each other again” session - This is an input session, so building rapport within the group is crucial.
- Develop the main points/headings, as well as the support statements/experiences/examples. In doing this, the co-facilitators shall help the children and youth in making sure that issues related to birth/marriage/death certificates are covered and that the situations of vulnerable groups are included.

The following table might help the co-facilitators in the discussion:

<b>From the Research Team</b> [Statement from the research team]	<b>How do you want to state this?</b> [Main heading/statement]	<b>How do you want to support this statement?</b> [Support statements, experiences, examples, explanations]
e.g. for IMPORTANCE group: “For children and youth, death certificates are needed to receive inheritance from a parent or relative who died”	“Death certificates” or  “Death certificates are important for us to receive our inheritance from someone in our family who passed away.”	“My uncle died some time ago, and he left some money in his bank account. My family could not get the money until we gave the bank a copy of my uncle's death certificate.” or  “The inheritance can help us in making sure that we have money for food or school.”

- Facilitate the decision on how the results will be presented at the Plenary Session later (Will there be a rapporteur? Or will the task be divided?)
- Facilitate the selection of Statement Core Group representatives and Conference representatives - Since this is the time when the children and youth have substantial interaction with one another, the selection process will be done here.
- Get inputs from children and youth if they have “Recommended follow-up actions” other than the video statement -- This could help inform the CSO Forum on CRVS in September 2021
- Ensure that there will be at least one break during this session. Ice breaker ideas may come from the submissions from the children.

#### V. Plenary presentation and discussion

Each group will be given 8-10 minutes (subject to change) to present the result of their discussions.

The presentation is expected to cover the following, if possible:

- The main points/headings, as well as the support statements/experiences/examples for the Video Statement
- The selected representatives to the Statement Core Group and Conference
- The recommended follow up actions

Comments will be gathered after all the groups have presented. Adult representatives may be asked to standby for comment if no children/youth will volunteer to provide feedback.

#### **VI. Decision on video statement and next steps**

Depending on the results of each workshop group (and remaining time), children and youth will be asked if they would like to make the decision now on structuring the statement, or if they will leave the remaining steps to the Statement Core Group. The organizers may use the poll functions of zoom or other time efficient applications for processing this with the children and youth.

This will also be a time for children and youth to share any reminders or messages to the representatives to the Statement Core Group and Conference.

#### **VII. Closing message**

A representative from World Vision International will be asked to close the forum.

Children will be given the option to stay and interact with one another.

## After the Regional Forum

Before closing the forum, the link to the Evaluation Form will be shared with the participants. This will be a take home assignment, to be accomplished within one week after the forum.

Adult mentors may also need to conduct post-activity processing with the children and youth.

The organizers will work with the Support Core Group in finalizing the video statement.

**Appendix:** Consolidated Results of Country-Level Consultations (according to sub-region)



## Annex 5

### Information Pack about the Regional Forum for Children and Youth



## Children & Youth

CONSULTATIONS ON CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

### REGIONAL FORUM OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH ON CRVS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

29 May 2021 | Online | 12:00 to 15:30 (GMT+8)

#### INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please read this document before the forum 

## What is the Regional Forum of Children and Youth on CRVS about?

We are having this *Regional Forum of Children and Youth on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific* as a follow up to the Country-level Consultations where you shared your experiences and recommendations on issues related to getting the birth, marriage, or death certificates.

We collected the results of the Country-level Consultations and we will submit the report to the “Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific” that will be held in November 2021. Children and youth are invited to share a video statement that will be played during the Ministerial Conference. Children and youth will also be invited to be in the Ministerial Conference.

To prepare for this Ministerial Conference, we are having this Regional Forum to **start the development of the Joint Video Statement of children and youth from Asia and the Pacific.**

Because we are doing the Regional Forum online, we know that it will be difficult to finish the statement in less than four hours. So, in the Regional Forum, you will also be asked **to select among yourselves who can be part of the Statement Core Group that will finish the development of the joint video statement.** The Statement Core Group will also select among themselves who will be attending and speaking in the Ministerial Conference.

The Regional Forum is being organized by Child Rights Coalition Asia, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), and World Vision, in partnership with UNICEF.

In this Regional Forum, you will be joining a group of children and youth from Asia and the Pacific who participated in the Country-level Consultations in their country.

## Helpful Information

To help you prepare for the Regional Forum, here are some things you need to know:

### The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System

When we say “CRVS System”, we are talking about the process of the government in recording and keeping the data on the “vital” or important events in the life of the people in the country. These vital events are the birth, marriage, and death of a person. Because of this, CRVS is essentially about a person’s legal identity.

The CRVS system should be used by governments so that they can be “responsive” or can react quickly to the needs of the people. Also, the CRVS system should be “universal”, which means that it should include every person, no matter the background or situation.

The process of recording the vital events is called birth registration, marriage registration, and death registration.

The birth certificate, the marriage certificate, and the death certificate are the proof of record/data.

### The Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

The Ministerial Conference is being conducted to know how the countries are doing in making sure that the CRVS system in Asia and the Pacific are responsive and universal. It will also be an opportunity to discuss the good practices and identify the challenges that still need to be addressed.

The Ministerial Conference will be held on 16-19 November 2021. It will be conducted in a hybrid manner (online with a face-to-face meeting in Bangkok, Thailand) and it will be attended by the following:

- Heads of Government (Prime Ministers/Presidents)
- Ministers or Secretaries from the government ministries/departments
- Senior government officials involved in the CRVS system
- International development partners like the UN
- Civil society organizations
- Academia
- Media
- Children and youth

To make sure that the voices of children and youth are included in the discussions and decisions to be made in the Conference, we are partnering with you in:

- Preparing and submitting the report on the Country-level Consultations
- Developing the children and youth joint video statement
- Selecting children and youth representatives who will be speakers in the Ministerial Conference

### About the Joint Video Statement of Children and Youth

In developing the video statement, here are some things to keep in mind:

- The main target audience of your video statement are the participants of the Conference mentioned earlier, but your video statement will be shared publicly also in social media platforms and other events on CRVS.
- You will not be starting from zero because the results of the Country-level Consultations will be your guide in developing the video statement.
- We have a team of professional videographers who will assist you in recording and editing your video statement. They can also put photos or videos of the Country-level Consultations in the final video statement.
- Because this is your video statement, we believe that you want children and youth to be the ones appearing and speaking in the video. You can decide who among you should be the speakers in the video. You can even record parts of the statement already during the Regional Forum if time will allow it.

#### Sample Video Statements of Children and Young People

You can watch the links below to give you an idea on what your video statement could look like:

- Statement of the participants of the 2018 Street Children Congress in the Philippines  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCc2LnVGkJ8>
- Message to Queen Rania of Jordan on post-2015 from the children and young people of Lebanon  
<https://www.wvi.org/child-participation/video/children-and-young-people-lebanon-send-message-queen-rania-post-2015>
- Message to the United Nations from the participants of a Regional Children's Meeting in 2014  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgT6Ru-Tbvk>

- The delivery of statements does not have to be in English. Because this is a video statement, the speaker can say the lines in his/her own language. The videographers can add English subtitles later.
- We will seek the consent of all children appearing in the video.
- The joint video statement does not have to be long. Remember that we will also share the report of the Country-level Consultations, which gives more details about the experiences and inputs from children and youth

## What will happen during the Regional Forum?

The Regional Forum will be conducted online using the Zoom video conferencing platform. During the program, some speakers will be using slide presentations and facilitators may use Google [Jamboard](#) and/or [Mentimeter](#) during the sessions.

The official program will last for about 3.5 hours (with breaks). You will be allowed to connect to Zoom 30 minutes before the start of the official program so that we can check your audio and video connections (while your Adult Mentors will be connecting 60 minutes before the start of the official program).

Our Program will have the following sessions:

I. Opening	We will have the opening message, getting to know each other activity, setting up of digital ground rules, and photo session
II. Why are we here?	We will have a quick presentation about the Regional Forum. There will be a Question and Answer part in this session.
III. What has happened so far?	We will have a quick presentation about the Country-level Consultations. There will be a Question and Answer part in this session.
IV. Workshop Breakout Session	You will be divided into groups to discuss the statement. You will also be asked if you have any recommended follow up actions after the Regional Forum. Also, this will be the time for you to select a representative to the Statement Core Group. Then, your group will decide how you want to report what you discussed to the plenary presentation.
V. Plenary Presentation	We will go back to the main online room and each group will be asked to have a short presentation to share what you discussed in your group. After all the presentations, we will give time to provide comments.
VI. Decision on the video statement and next steps	We will decide on what to do with the video statement after hearing the presentations.
VII. Closing	We will have the closing remarks and say goodbye to each other.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY ICEBREAKER IDEAS? LET US KNOW!**

Please free to let us know if you have any online game or activity that you would like us to do during the Regional Forum.

Just remember that – because the participants come from different backgrounds – all genders, abilities, languages, and culture should be able to do/play your suggested game or activity.

## About Session IV. Workshop Breakout Session

The main session is the Workshop. Here, you will be divided into three main groups.

### Workshop Group 1: IMPORTANCE

This group will answer the question, “Why is it important for us to have birth, marriage, and death certificates?”

### Workshop Group 2: CHALLENGES

This group will answer the question, “What are the challenges we face in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?”

### Workshop Group 3: RECOMMENDATIONS

This group will answer the question, “How can the government and other people help us in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?”

### CHOOSE YOUR WORKSHOP GROUP!

Let us know which of these workshop group is your 1<sup>st</sup> choice and your 2<sup>nd</sup> choice. We will refer to this in assigning your workshop group.

Please note that we are asking for your 2<sup>nd</sup> choice to balance the number of participants in each workshop group. But, of course, we will try our best to put you in your 1<sup>st</sup> choice.

In answering the question assigned to your workshop group, you will have to look at what the other children and youth said during the Country-level Consultations. Then, you will recommend how these results can be stated or shared in the video statement.

In the workshop, you will be asked to complete a table like this:

Result from the Country Consultation	How do you want to say this result in the video?	How do you want to support this statement?
<p>[This part will be prepared by the facilitator. You can read the results of the Country-level Consultations below]</p> <p>Example: A birth certificate is important for a person because it is a proof of one’s national identity.</p>	[Your suggestion here]	[Your suggestion here – Details, Examples, Experiences, or Explanations]

You will also be asked if you have any recommended follow up actions after the Regional Forum.

## About Session VI. Decision on the Video Statement and Next Steps

After hearing the presentations of all the Workshop Groups, you will be asked to decide on the flow or structure/design of the video statement. If we will not be able to make the decision during the Regional Forum, this task can be assigned to the Support Core Group.

Using another topic as an example, you can structure/design your video statement like this:

OPTION 1 flow: -Importance (ALL) -Challenges (ALL) -Recommendations (ALL)	OPTION 2 flow: -Recommendation 1 + Challenge 1 -Recommendation 2 + Challenge 2 - Importance (ALL)	OTHER OPTIONS you can think of 😊
<p>Trees are important because they give us clean air. Trees also serve as homes to animals.</p> <p>But now, some people do not fully understand the negative effects of cutting down trees. Also, a lot of trees are being illegally cut down before anyone finds out about it.</p> <p>So, we recommend the government to make sure that everyone learns about environmental protection. We also want the government to be more active in arresting illegal loggers.</p>	<p>We recommend the government to make sure that everyone learns about environmental protection. Right now, there are some people who do not fully understand the negative effects of cutting down trees.</p> <p>We also want the government to be more active in arresting illegal loggers. In some areas, a lot of trees were already cut down before anyone found out about it.</p> <p>We are recommending these because trees give us clean air. Trees also serve as homes to animals.</p>	

## Selecting the representatives to the Support Core Group

As part of the Workshop Session, each group will be asked to select 2 representatives who will be part of the Support Core Group.

### What is the Support Core Group?

The Support Core Group will be in charge of finishing the development of the joint video statement. This means that they will work with us, the organizers, and with the team of videographers.

The responsibilities of the Support Core Group may include the following:

- Work on the flow or structure/design of the video statement based on the decision in the Regional Forum
- Work on finalizing the lines in the video statement

- Attend online meetings or communicate through email with the organizers and the team of videographers
- Be the speakers in the video or identify speakers
- Provide comments to the draft video statement
- Participate in the selection of representatives to the Conference

When selecting representatives to the Support Core Group, here are some things to keep in mind:

- The selected representative must be willing to work on the video statement.
- We must provide equal opportunities for all gender, ages, background, and place of origin.
- Good English-speaking skills is NOT a requirement.

## How do you connect to the Regional Forum?

We will be providing a Zoom link (Meeting ID and Password) to you/your adult mentor.

We are working with your adult mentor regarding any technical assistance that you might need, like interpretation, access to laptop/mobile, internet connection, etc. If you have not talked to your adult mentor about this yet, please let him/her know immediately.

Please be informed that the Regional Forum will be recorded for documentation purposes. Please also expect that there will be a big group of participants. To help us identify one another, you will be asked to have a “label” in your Zoom ID.

Zoom ID Format:

Participation Type	Zoom ID	Example
Child Delegate	CD-[Nickname] [Country]	CD-Liz Malaysia
Youth Delegate	YD-[Nickname] [Country]	YD-Dee Sri Lanka
Adult Mentor	AM-[Nickname] [Country]	AM-Tessa Samoa
Facilitator	FACI-[Nickname]	FACI-Kat
Speaker	SP-[Nickname]	SP-Dan
Child Safeguarding Team	Child Safeguardian-[Nickname]	Child Safeguardian-Indah
Documenter	DOCU-[Nickname]	DOCU-Joy
Tech Support	TECH-[Nickname]	TECH-Francis

### Child Participation and Child Safeguarding

Before joining the Regional Forum, you will be asked to answer a set of forms regarding your participation and safeguarding in the Regional Forum. You will be assisted by the adult mentors and the organizations supporting you in understanding the contents on the forms.



During the Regional Forum, we will set up the Digital Ground Rules or the rules that everyone should follow. We will develop the Digital Ground Rules together but to make sure that everyone is safe and comfortable in our discussion, we will include the following:

- Do not share your full name, email address, or contact information.
- Do not take screenshots without asking for permission first because not everyone is okay with having their picture taken.
- Be on time. Remember that the participants will be coming from different countries so we have different time zones and it can be too late for some of the participants if we do not end on time.

## Results of the Country-level Consultations

Here are the summarized results of the Country-level Consultations.

### IMPORTANCE – Why is it important for us to have birth, marriage, and death certificates?

1. Birth Certificates / Birth Registration
  - 1.1. It is important for a person because it is a proof of one's national identity.
  - 1.2. It is important for a person because it is needed to be able to:
    - i. Vote
    - ii. Enroll in school
    - iii. Be employed
    - iv. Travel
    - v. Get medical/health services
    - vi. Use financial services like banking
    - vii. Get licenses and other certificates (such as driver's license, national identification card, marriage certificates, death certificates, etc.)
  - 1.3. It is important for the government because it helps in keeping a record of the population/citizens it should be serving. It is helpful in the government planning and implementation of services
2. Marriage Certificates / Marriage Registration
  - 2.1. It is important because it shows that the marriage is legal. It prevents fake marriages.
  - 2.2. It is important because it prevents marriage without consent. It decreases violence against women.

- 2.3. It is important because it is needed to be able to:
- i. Get benefits/government support for the family, including children
  - ii. Get insurance
  - iii. Get inheritance
  - iv. Decide on the how the properties will be divided during divorce or separation
  - v. Get financial services like banking or applying for insurance
  - vi. Identify the guardian of the husband or wife, especially during emergencies
  - vii. Get the birth certificate of a child
- 2.4. It is also important because it is needed for filing for divorce, separation, or any case about the marriage.

### 3. Death Certificates / Death Registration

- 3.1. It is important for a person because it is a proof of the death of a person and it shows the cause of death.
- 3.2. It is important because it is needed to be able to:
- i. Get financial assistance from the government
  - ii. Get the inheritance, pension, and properties
  - iii. Get passports for children
  - iv. Have the dead person buried
- 3.3. It is important for the government because it helps in keeping a record of the population/citizens it should be serving. It is helpful in the government planning and implementation of services

## CHALLENGES - What are the challenges we face in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?

### 4. Birth Certificates / Birth Registration

- 4.1. There is limited education, information, and awareness/knowledge on:
- i. The importance of having the birth certificates

ii. How to get the birth certificates

- 4.2. Some people have problems getting birth certificates/being registered. These people include:
    - i. Those who gave birth at home and not at the hospitals
    - ii. Those who cannot read or write
    - iii. Those with disability
    - iv. Children of migrants
    - v. Those who live in far or remote areas
  - 4.3. Registration centers or the place where to get the birth certificates are far.
  - 4.4. There are not enough government facilities to get birth certificates/be registered.
  - 4.5. The process of getting birth certificates/getting registered is complicated and takes a long time. The lines in the registration centers are also long.
  - 4.6. There are people/staff in the registration centers who are not friendly and not helpful. Some of them bully and do not treat people nicely.
  - 4.7. There are some requirements, like IDs issued by the government, that are not always available.
  - 4.8. Getting birth certificates/getting registered is not always affordable. Sometimes, people are forced to pay a bribe.
  - 4.9. Some information in the birth certificates are wrong and it takes time and money to correct the wrong information.
  - 4.10. Some data are not kept private or confidential.
5. Marriage Certificates / Marriage Registration
- 8.1. Some areas do not have offices or registration centers for marriage.
    - i. People living in provinces or remote places need to travel and go to the city to get a marriage certificate/be registered.
  - 8.2. Not everyone knows the importance of having a marriage certificate. Some couples do not register their marriage at all.
  - 8.3. The process of getting marriage certificates/being registered takes a long time.
  - 8.4. Child marriages are not registered.

8.5. When parents do not have a marriage certificate, it is difficult for their children to be registered/have birth certificates.

6. Death Certificates / Death Registration

- 9.1. Some hospitals and governments do not take death registration seriously.
- 9.2. Some private hospitals issue fake death certificates.
- 9.3. There are incorrect details/information in the death certificates.
- 9.4. Some people do not register the deaths of people because they do not think that it is important. There is limited education, information, and awareness/knowledge on:
  - ii. The importance of having the death certificates
  - iii. How to get the death certificates
- 9.5. The process of getting death certificates/registering deaths is complicated and takes a long time.
- 9.6. In some cases, a death certificate is not given if the person died at home.
- 9.7. If the parents died but they do not have death certificate, their children could not get inheritance or settlement/payment

## RECOMMENDATIONS - How can the government and other people help us in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates

### 7. Birth Certificates / Birth Registration

#### 7.1. Main recommendations:

- i. Children, no matter where they are born, should have birth certificates.
- ii. Children should have birth certificates/be registered immediately after they are born. The process of doing this should be fast.
- iii. Details in the birth certificates should be correct.

#### 7.2. The government should:

- i. Increase the number of registration centers, especially in remote areas
- ii. Provide other options on how to get birth certificates/be registered, especially for the people who have problems getting birth certificates/being registered
- iii. Increase the number of people who can do the birth registration
- iv. Train the people/staff working in the registration centers or in charge of giving the birth certificates/processing the registration
- v. Improve the digital/online/computer system for birth registration
- vi. Raise awareness and conduct education campaigns on the importance of having birth certificates, how to get birth certificates, and where to get birth certificates
- vii. Improve the cooperation between the national government and the local governments
- viii. Improve the cooperation between governments and groups like non-government organizations

### 8. Marriage Certificates / Marriage Registration

#### 8.1. Main recommendations:

- i. Require all marriages to be registered
- ii. Give more options for couples to make the marriage legal in the nearest possible place, like their own village
- iii. Make the processing of registration free of charge
- iv. Explain and raise awareness on the process of getting marriage certificates/being registered
- v. The process of getting marriage certificates/being registered should be fast.

### 9. Death Certificates / Death Registration

- 9.1. Getting death certificates/registering death should be easier, especially if the person died at home. This can be done by:

- i. Having offices in every district where family members can immediately inform authorities about the death of a person
  - ii. Allowing religious leaders (like imams, priests, pastors) who conduct funeral services to check the registration of deaths and do the registration
  - iii. The process of getting death certificates/registering deaths should be free of charge
- 9.2. The government should explain who should register the death of a person and where to go to register the death of a person/get a death certificate.
- 9.3. The details in the death certificate, such as cause of death, should be recorded correctly and checked.
- 9.4. Raise awareness on how and where to get death certificates/register a death

Annex 6  
Information for Members of the Statement Core Group



# Children & Youth

CONSULTATIONS ON CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE STATEMENT CORE GROUP

12 July 2021

Dear ***Members of the Statement Core Group***,

Congratulations everyone and thank you for accepting your nominations to represent your peers to the Statement Core Group.

To help you in finalizing the Joint Video Statement, we have prepared this information pack to guide you in the process. It includes the following information:

1. A Review: About the Joint Video Statement of Children and Youth
2. What are my roles as member of the Statement Core Group?
3. Who are my co-members in the Statement Core Group?
4. What resources are available for our use as Statement Core Group?
5. Information about Child Participation and Child Safeguarding in the activities of the Statement Core Group
6. Notes from the Regional Forum

We hope that putting together the items above in this information pack will help you in finalizing the joint video statement. In this document, you will notice some of the information that you already knew, have heard, or have read before or during the Regional Forum of Children and Youth on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics held on 29 May 2021.

Rest assured that we, together with the organizations that facilitated the in-country consultations with you and your peers, are very much willing and ready to provide support until your Joint Video Statement is finalized.

We hope that you will have fun in the activities.

Your Partners,

***Child Rights Coalition Asia,  
UN Economic and Social  
Commission for Asia and the  
Pacific, and World Vision  
International***



## I. A Review: About the Joint Video Statement of Children and Youth

In developing the video statement, here are some things to keep in mind:

- The main target audience of your video statement are the participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific to be held on 16 – 19 November 2021. It will be conducted in a hybrid manner (online with a face-to-face meeting in Bangkok, Thailand) and will be attended by the following:
  - Heads of Government (Prime Ministers/Presidents)
  - Ministers or Secretaries from the government ministries/departments
  - Senior government officials involved in the CRVS system
  - International development partners like the UN
  - Civil society organizations
  - Academia
  - Media
  - Children and youth
- Your video statement will be shared publicly in social media platforms and other events on CRVS.
- Your video statement is one of the best ways to make your voices be heard by governments, other people and organizations working on issues of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. Your Joint Video Statement will be submitted to concerned stakeholders together with a detailed report on the Country-level Consultations.
- We have a team of professional videographers who will assist you in recording and editing your video statement. They can also put photos or videos of the Country-level Consultations in the final video statement. We will inform them when you are ready to record your video statement.
- Because this is your video statement, we believe that you want children and youth to be the ones appearing and speaking in the video. You can decide who among you should be the speakers in the video.
- The delivery of statements does not have to be in English. Because this is a video statement, the speaker can say the lines in his/her own language. The videographers can add English subtitles later.
- We will seek the consent of all children appearing in the video.
- **The joint video statement does not have to be long. Remember that we will also share the report of the Country-level Consultations, which gives more details about the experiences and inputs from children and youth.**
- Remember that we recognize your creativity and ideas in finalizing your joint video statement. You may review the sample video statements of children and young people provided in the box above for inspiration or you may also structure/design your video statement like this:

### Sample Video Statements of Children and Young People

You can watch the links below to give you an idea on what your video statement could look like:

- Statement of the participants of the 2018 Street Children Congress in the Philippines  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCc2LnVGkJ8>
- Message to Queen Rania of Jordan on post-2015 from the children and young people of Lebanon  
<https://www.wvi.org/child-participation/video/children-and-young-people-lebanon-send-message-queen-rania-post-2015>

OPTION 1 flow: -Importance (ALL) -Challenges (ALL) -Recommendations (ALL)	OPTION 2 flow: -Recommendation 1 + Challenge 1 -Recommendation 2 + Challenge 2 - Importance (ALL)	OTHER OPTIONS you can think of 😊
<p>Trees are important because they give us clean air. Trees also serve as homes to animals.</p> <p>But now, some people do not fully understand the negative effects of cutting down trees. Also, a lot of trees are being illegally cut down before anyone finds out about it.</p> <p>So, we recommend the government to make sure that everyone learns about environmental protection. We also want the government to be more active in arresting illegal loggers.</p>	<p>We recommend the government to make sure that everyone learns about environmental protection. Right now, there are some people who do not fully understand the negative effects of cutting down trees.</p> <p>We also want the government to be more active in arresting illegal loggers. In some areas, a lot of trees were already cut down before anyone found out about it.</p> <p>We are recommending these because trees give us clean air. Trees also serve as homes to animals.</p>	

## II. What are my roles as member of the Statement Core Group?

As mentioned during the Regional Forum, you, the members of the Statement Core Group will be leading in finalizing the development of the joint video statement. This means that we, the organizers of the Regional Forum and the team of videographers, will work with you and provide you support.

At your first meeting, you will have time to agree on the following:

- How you would like to work together on the flow or structure/design of the video statement based on your discussion with your co-delegates at the Regional Forum
- How you would like to work together in finalizing the lines in the video statement
- How you would like to communicate with each other
- How many online meetings you would like to have to complete the video statement
- How you will decide on who will be the speakers in the video statement
- Who do you want to involve in finalizing the draft video statement
- How you will select your representative to the Ministerial Conference
- Other decisions you think you will need to make to be able to work together in finalizing the video statement

The team of videographers are also referring to the results of Country-consultations and the stories shared by your peers. Guided by your signed consent forms, they are including photos and video materials (e.g. recording) of the country consultations.

## III. Who are my co-members in the Statement Core Group?

We think that you will need to know more about each other as you will be working as a team. At your first meeting, you are expected to:

1. have fun while getting to know each other; and
2. agree on how you would like to work together in finalizing the video statement.

We heard from your discussions at the Regional Forum that you see the importance of CRVS systems to involve and have all people and for them to be represented in the discussion of issues on CRVS. Because of this, we have consulted your co-delegates from Cambodia and Samoa if they would like to nominate a representative to the Statement Core Group. And we are happy to inform you that all 11 countries represented in the Regional Forum are also represented in your group, the Statement Core Group.

Country	MEMBERS OF THE STATEMENT CORE GROUP
<b>AFGHANISTAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CD Sabira</b> (Afghanistan)</li> </ul>
<b>BANGLADESH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>YD Kabir</b> – Alamgir Kabir (Bangladesh)</li> </ul>
<b>CAMBODIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CD Uy</b> – Oeurn Uy (Cambodia)</li> </ul>
<b>INDIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>YD Juhi</b> – Juhi Kumari (India)</li> </ul>
<b>INDONESIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CD Annisa</b> – Nur Annisa (Indonesia)</li> <li>• <b>YD - Dhimas</b> – Dhimas Adi Putra (Indonesia)</li> </ul>
<b>NEPAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>YD Rubina</b> – Rubina Gurung (Nepal)</li> <li>• <b>CD Janaki</b> – Janak Khadka (Nepal)</li> </ul>
<b>PAKISTAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CD - Sohana</b> (Pakistan)</li> </ul>
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>YD Mum</b> – Mumtahana Bakil (Philippines)</li> <li>• <b>CD Abdul – Rahim</b> Anudin (Philippines)</li> </ul>
<b>SAMOA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>YD Amalea</b> – Amalea Sissy Faafataivaeu (Samoa)</li> </ul>
<b>SRI LANKA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>YD Dhanushka</b> – Dhanushka Jayarathna (Sri Lanka)</li> <li>• <b>YD Nimmu</b> – Nimali Sriyakanthi Kumari Kondadeniye Gedara (Sri Lanka)</li> </ul>
<b>THAILAND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CD Tik</b> – Boontrika (Thailand)</li> </ul>

#### IV. What resources are available for our use as Statement Core Group?

As your partners, we will try our best to provide you with the resources you will need in finalizing the video statement. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we will need to prioritize your safety and can only facilitate online meetings. But we look forward to hearing from you, especially during the first meeting, the resources that you think you will need as Statement Core Group.

We will help you in facilitating your activities, including the setting-up of the online platform for your meetings. We are working with your adult mentor and/or supporting organization regarding any technical assistance that you might need, like access to laptop/mobile, internet connection, etc. If you have not talked to your adult mentor about this yet, please let him/her know immediately to ensure that you will be able to participate in the activities of the Statement Core Group.

#### V. About Child Participation and Child Safeguarding

Before joining your first meeting, you will be asked to answer a set of forms regarding your participation and safeguarding in the activities of the Statement Core Group. You will be assisted by the adult mentors and the organizations supporting you in understanding the contents on the forms.

At your first meeting, you may include the setting of your ground rules that everyone, including us your adult partners, should follow.

#### VI. Notes from the Regional Forum

At the Regional Forum, we have presented to you the summarized results of the country-level consultations. For your reference, these are also attached as annex to this information pack. We also asked you and your co-delegates to share your thoughts about the summarized results,

how you would like to say these results in your joint video statement, and how you want to support these in your joint video statement.

Here are the notes on your discussion during the Regional Forum.

### **1. About the Structure of the Joint Video Statement**

- 1.1. should be short
  - a. not more than 3 minutes
- 1.2. should be clear and interesting for the target audience
  - a. can be easily understood by the target audience
  - b. We need to “*move the emotions*” of the government and other stakeholders to make them understand our, children/youth and our families, experienced challenges in registering birth, marriage, and death.
- 1.3. should be interesting to our target audience
  - a. attractive to target audience
  - b. should have animations and can be shared through social media
- 1.4. should be informative and meaningful
  - a. should show our experienced challenges when we do not have the birth, marriage, death certificates
  - b. with 2 or 3 young people sharing their experienced challenges and the opportunities the certificates will provide us, children and youth, if we actually have them
  - c. Should include the marginalized groups by having them participate in the Joint Video Statement and express their views using their local language

### **2. How are we going to finalize our Joint Video Statement?**

- 2.1 We can record our reading of the statement through the zoom platform.
- 2.2 We can present what our experienced challenges and opportunities the certificates can provide us if we actually have them by presenting the results of the Country Consultations in the video.
- 2.3 We can consult with the representatives of marginalized communities and show the problems of all the children and youth, including children in alternative care settings, street children, refugees, LGBTQIs and others in our Joint Video Statement.
  - a. Since the ultimate goal of the joint video statement is for policymakers to ensure that everyone has a birth certificate, we need to put together the perspectives of children who experienced problems regarding their birth certificates. Like taking it from his or her personal experience.
  - b. It would be good if a child / youth who have experienced the challenges in registering birth, marriage, and death certificates will present the Joint Video Statement at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Conference.

### **3. How we want to say our experiences and recommendations in the registration of birth, marriage, and death certificates?**

- 3.1 About the birth, marriage and death certificates.
  - a. Certificates are human rights.
    - i. Birth, marriage, and death certificates are important for everyone as a proof of identity obtained from the government. A person who does not have a birth, marriage, or death certificate is not able to access the different services of the government.
- 3.2 Why is it important for us to have a birth certificate?
  - a. Birth certificate is very important in the different stages of our lives:
    - i. to be recognized as citizens
    - ii. to survive in a country

- iii. as a symbol of our identity
  - Children who are not registered means they do not exist legally in the system. Without it, we will not be recognized by society.
  - A birth certificate is our property that nobody can trample. And having known of our identity will allow us to achieve our dreams.
- iv. because it is required for us to be able to access and experience our basic rights to education (to be able to experience our right to learn, experience or be enrolled school, have the opportunity to learn), good health, freely move from one place to another, and others
  - Some governments (e.g. Nepal) require the birth certificate of three generations – grandfather, father and the child – when people are availing of certain public services. These documents are not possible for street children, refugees and children in alternative care homes.
- v. because it serves as a legal document useful in filing cases of child abuse
- vi. because it is required for us to experience opportunities (e.g. scholarships for education) to be able to have a job, including our dream job
- vii. because it is required for us to claim our right to the properties of our parents and other relatives who have died
  - In Nepal, so many people died due to the 2015 earthquake. And this also displaced many children. And because the children do not have documents to prove their ownership over their parents' properties, they were unable to claim for their rights to their properties.

- b. Birth certificates are important for governments:
  - i. to ensure that no one is left out
  - ii. to ensure that the right amount of services are provided to each and every member of the public that they serve

### 3.3 Why is it important for us and our families to have access to marriage certificates?

- a. It is important for us and our families to have access to a marriage certificate:
  - i. because it is as an important legal document to process one's birth certificate, especially in proving the legitimacy of a child's birth details
  - ii. because it serves as a requirement for a married couple's children to access different services of the government
  - iii. because it proves that two persons are married and are recipients of different services of the government
  - iv. because the children of married couples without a marriage certificate, are negatively labelled as illegitimate and are unable to seek
  - v. because the children of separated couples that have no access to their parents' marriage certificate are not and will not be able to seek the support of their parents

### 3.4 Why is it important for us and our families to have access to death certificates?

- a. Access to death certificates is important for us and our families:
  - i. because it is a requirement (e.g., Pakistan) in applying for scholarship opportunities

### 3.5 What are the challenges we face in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?

- a. The challenges we, and our families and other caregivers, face in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates include:
  - i. unaffordable processing fees which also make poor people not register births, marriages, and deaths
  - ii. corruption in the system of registration
    - In some cases, the responsible person sometimes asks for additional money and intentionally delays the issuance of the birth certificate.

- iii. complicated registration processes
- iv. lack of access to information for us, our parents and other caregivers (e.g., grandmother, grandfather, older siblings, other relatives) about the importance of birth, marriage, and death certificates and about the registration process
- v. lack of access to the internet services and facilities , especially when processes of birth, marriage, and death registration require internet connection
- vi. inaccessible registration centers
- vii. personnel in registration centers lack the skills and right attitude in providing accurate information about the registration process to the public
- viii. lack of accessible help lines to ask and complain about our experience in registering birth, marriage and death
- ix. Victims of bonded labor (e.g., in Pakistan) are not allowed birth and death registrations.

*“My parents are brick kiln workers in Pakistan. Brick kiln workers are like bonded labor so the owners of the brick-making businesses do not allow my parents to visit facilities that process birth and death registrations. Because of this, I cannot continue my education. It will be better if it (death certificates/CRVS) will be free because for parents like my parents, the fees for registering birth is not affordable.”<sup>25</sup>*

### 3.6 What are the challenges we, and our families and other caregivers, face in getting a birth certificate?

- a. The challenges we, and our families and other caregivers, face in getting a birth certificate include:
  - i. lack of access for us, our parents and other caregivers (e.g., grandmother, grandfather, older siblings, other relatives) to accurate information (e.g., who to contact, where to go, the time limit to register, where to collect the certificate, fees or whether it is provided for free, other basic requirements) about the importance of birth certificate and about the registration process
    - In some cases of child marriage (e.g., Nepal), girls aged 14 to 16 give birth. And as children, these young mothers often do not have their citizenship cards because their mothers were also children when they were born. In remote areas, some registration centers facilitate the birth certificates.
    - Parents are unable to attend school due to poverty and this also causes them to not know information about birth registration and its importance. And when they are able to know about these, their wages are not enough to afford the requirements.
  - ii. complicated processes, difficult and costly requirements
    - especially if there is a need to correct information in our birth certificates
    - not easy for single mothers because of the requirements
    - time allowed for registration is difficult to follow for people in areas where there are no registration centers
    - In some cases, registration costs more made 35 days after birth.
  - iii. lack of access to documents that are required in accessing our birth certificate
  - iv. lack of support from local authorities
    - The root cause why some parents lack information on processing the birth certificate is that the local authorities seem to be less aware of it and, if ever they share information, they don't publicly share the information to the members of their community.
  - v. Without the support of any adult, children (e.g., orphaned, children who are separated from their families) find it even more difficult to register and access their birth certificate.

<sup>25</sup>This was also among the shared stories from Pakistan - [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1R8LDTvhy0iWgmb8vZvTaLpPjVk\\_C24Yc](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1R8LDTvhy0iWgmb8vZvTaLpPjVk_C24Yc).

- There are a lot of difficulties especially for transgender persons who cannot get their legal or civil documents like birth certificate and Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) just because of their gender and the social problems they are facing in Pakistan. Transgender persons are not recognized by their family so they leave their homes and live with their teachers. This is a very important issue to highlight with the government officials, stakeholders, and also their families to bring transgender persons to the mainstream so they are able to get their legal documents like birth certificate which is needed to apply for any other civil document.
- Children whose parents and other caregivers have died due to disasters (e.g., earthquakes) experience more difficulties especially when there are no parents/adults who are able to assist them.

### 3.7 What are the challenges we and our families face in getting a marriage certificate?

- a. The challenges we, and our families and other caregivers, face in getting a marriage certificate include:
  - i. The process is discriminatory.
    - Marriage certificates are not issued to married same-sex couples even in countries where same sex marriage is legal (e.g., Nepal).
    - In some countries (e.g., Nepal), the government requires more documents (e.g. a doctor's authorization/consent papers) from members of the LGBTQIs.

### 3.8 What are the challenges we and our families face in getting a death certificate?

- a. The challenges we, and our families face in getting a death certificate include:
  - i. In some countries (e.g., Pakistan) there is no system of issuing death certificate in communities far from cities.
  - ii. Children whose parents and other caregivers have died due to disasters (e.g., earthquake) are unable access death certificates.

### 3.9 How can the government and other people help us in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?

- a. Government should provide more online sites for the registration of births, marriages and deaths.
- b. The government should raise the awareness of all people about the importance and processes of registering births, marriages, and deaths.
- c. The government should include in the information, made available online, about birth, marriage and death registration that the access to these certificates is a human right.

### 3.10 How can the government and other people help us in getting a birth certificate?

- a. The government can help us in getting a birth certificate through the following:
  - i. inform all people, including us children and youth, about the importance and the processes in birth registration
  - ii. make birth registration accessible to everyone
  - iii. have the processes in registering births reviewed, improved, and made easier
  - iv. provide assistance to all people, especially those who are part of minority groups, in birth registration
  - v. provide adequate and accessible infrastructures such as the online registration of births
    - The digital system is important because the physical distance between one's home to the registration centers require resources in terms of time and

- money. The digital system should be able to store and allow easy access to registration details, especially if there is a need to replace lost certificates.
- ensure the accessibility of online facilities and services to communities who are either without or with poor internet connection
- vi. ensure the provision of good services by the personnel working in registration centers by:
  - reviewing the salaries and benefits of the personnel for them to be able to provide better service
  - providing them with trainings on accurate encoding and issuance of birth certificates
  - providing them trainings on how to use the right words in communicating with people about services related to CRVS
  - conducting, and involving the people, including children and youth, in their regular performance evaluation
  - increasing the number of people who are working in the registration centers
  - making personnel in registration centers accountable for the errors they make in birth certificates; Fixing the errors in birth certificates takes so much time and other resources on the part of the owners of the birth certificates. These birth certificate owners should be properly assisted.
- b. The United Nations can help us in getting a birth certificate by:
  - i. doing something about the costly fees in registering births
  - ii. doing something about the lack of registration facilities, especially in rural areas
- c. The government and other stakeholders should do something to ensure that the Rohingya children who have entered Bangladesh have access to their birth certificates to ensure a better future for them.

### 3.11 How can the government and other people help us in getting a death certificate?

- a. The government can help us in getting a death certificate by:
  - i. Making access to death certificates free.

## ANNEX:

### Results of the Country-level Consultations

Here are the summarized results of the Country-level Consultations.

#### IMPORTANCE - Why is it important for us to have birth, marriage, and death certificates?

##### 10. Birth Certificates / Birth Registration

- 1.1. It is important for a person because it is a proof of one's national identity.
- 1.2. It is important for a person because it is needed to be able to:
  - i. Vote
  - ii. Enroll in school
  - iii. Be employed
  - iv. Travel
  - v. Get medical/health services
  - vi. Use financial services like banking



vii. Get licenses and other certificates (such as driver's license, national identification card, marriage certificates, death certificates, etc.)

1.3. It is important for the government because it helps in keeping a record of the population/citizens it should be serving. It is helpful in the government planning and implementation of services

#### 11. Marriage Certificates / Marriage Registration

2.5. It is important because it shows that the marriage is legal. It prevents fake marriages.

2.6. It is important because it prevents marriage without consent. It decreases violence against women.

2.7. It is important because it is needed to be able to:

- i. Get benefits/government support for the family, including children
- ii. Get insurance
- iii. Get inheritance
- iv. Decide on the how the properties will be divided during divorce or separation
- v. Get financial services like banking or applying for insurance
- vi. Identify the guardian of the husband or wife, especially during emergencies
- vii. Get the birth certificate of a child

2.8. It is also important because it is needed for filing for divorce, separation, or any case about the marriage.

#### 12. Death Certificates / Death Registration

3.4. It is important for a person because it is a proof of the death of a person and it shows the cause of death.

3.5. It is important because it is needed to be able to:

- i. Get financial assistance from the government
- ii. Get the inheritance, pension, and properties
- iii. Get passports for children
- iv. Have the dead person buried

3.6. It is important for the government because it helps in keeping a record of the population/citizens it should be serving. It is helpful in the government planning and implementation of services

### CHALLENGES - What are the challenges we face in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?

#### 13. Birth Certificates / Birth Registration

4.11. There is limited education, information, and awareness/knowledge on:

- i. The importance of having the birth certificates
- ii. How to get the birth certificates

4.12. Some people have problems getting birth certificates/being registered. These people include:

- i. Those who gave birth at home and not at the hospitals
- ii. Those who cannot read or write

- iii. Those with disability
- iv. Children of migrants
- v. Those who live in far or remote areas

- 4.13. Registration centers or the place where to get the birth certificates are far.
- 4.14. There are not enough government facilities to get birth certificates/be registered.
- 4.15. The process of getting birth certificates/getting registered is complicated and takes a long time. The lines in the registration centers are also long.
- 4.16. There are people/staff in the registration centers who are not friendly and not helpful. Some of them bully and do not treat people nicely.
- 4.17. There are some requirements, like IDs issued by the government, that are not always available.
- 4.18. Getting birth certificates/getting registered is not always affordable. Sometimes, people are forced to pay a bribe.
- 4.19. Some information in the birth certificates are wrong and it takes time and money to correct the wrong information.
- 4.20. Some data are not kept private or confidential.

#### 14. Marriage Certificates / Marriage Registration

- 8.6. Some areas do not have offices or registration centers for marriage.
  - i. People living in provinces or remote places need to travel and go to the city to get a marriage certificate/be registered.
- 8.7. Not everyone knows the importance of having a marriage certificate. Some couples do not register their marriage at all.
- 8.8. The process of getting marriage certificates/being registered takes a long time.
- 8.9. Child marriages are not registered.
- 8.10. When parents do not have a marriage certificate, it is difficult for their children to be registered/have birth certificates.

#### 15. Death Certificates / Death Registration

- 9.8. Some hospitals and governments do not take death registration seriously.
- 9.9. Some private hospitals issue fake death certificates.
- 9.10. There are incorrect details/information in the death certificates.
- 9.11. Some people do not register the deaths of people because they do not think that it is important. There is limited education, information, and awareness/knowledge on:
  - ii. The importance of having the death certificates
  - iii. How to get the death certificates

- 9.12. The process of getting death certificates/registering deaths is complicated and takes a long time.
- 9.13. In some cases, a death certificate is not given if the person died at home.
- 9.14. If the parents died but they do not have death certificate, their children could not get inheritance or settlement/payment

**RECOMMENDATIONS - How can the government and other people help us in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates**

**16. Birth Certificates / Birth Registration**

**7.3. Main recommendations:**

- i. Children, no matter where they are born, should have birth certificates.
- ii. Children should have birth certificates/be registered immediately after they are born. The process of doing this should be fast.
- iii. Details in the birth certificates should be correct.

**7.4. The government should:**

- i. Increase the number of registration centers, especially in remote areas
- ii. Provide other options on how to get birth certificates/be registered, especially for the people who have problems getting birth certificates/being registered
- iii. Increase the number of people who can do the birth registration
- iv. Train the people/staff working in the registration centers or in charge of giving the birth certificates/processing the registration
- v. Improve the digital/online/computer system for birth registration
- vi. Raise awareness and conduct education campaigns on the importance of having birth certificates, how to get birth certificates, and where to get birth certificates
- vii. Improve the cooperation between the national government and the local governments
- viii. Improve the cooperation between governments and groups like non-government organizations

**17. Marriage Certificates / Marriage Registration**

**8.2. Main recommendations:**

- vi. Require all marriages to be registered
- vii. Give more options for couples to make the marriage legal in the nearest possible place, like their own village
- viii. Make the processing of registration free of charge
- ix. Explain and raise awareness on the process of getting marriage certificates/being registered
- x. The process of getting marriage certificates/being registered should be fast.

**18. Death Certificates / Death Registration**

**9.5. Getting death certificates/registering death should be easier, especially if the person died at home. This can be done by:**

- i. Having offices in every district where family members can immediately inform authorities about the death of a person
- ii. Allowing religious leaders (like imams, priests, pastors) who conduct funeral services to check the registration of deaths and do the registration

- iii. The process of getting death certificates/registering deaths should be free of charge
- 9.6. The government should explain who should register the death of a person and where to go to register the death of a person/get a death certificate.
- 9.7. The details in the death certificate, such as cause of death, should be recorded correctly and checked.
- 9.8. Raise awareness on how and where to get death certificates/register a death