**Government of Pakistan**

**Planning Commission**

**Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform**

**(Health Section)**

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Subject: **REPORT OF 2nd NATIONAL STEERING AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING FOR CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (CRVS) HELD APRIL 03, 2015; AT P BLOCK PLANNING COMMISSION, PAK SECRETARIAT ISLAMABAD.**

**OBJECTIVES:**

*Following were the meeting objectives:*

* To review the implementation status of decisions made during the 1ST National Steering AND Coordination Committee Meeting held 18th Nov. 2014
* To formulate and finalize technical working groups and terms of reference for CRVS thematic areas :
	+ Legal Framework and Resources for Civil Registration
	+ Registration Practices, Coverage, and Completeness
	+ Death Certification and Cause of Death
	+ ICD Mortality Coding Practices
	+ Data Access, Use and Quality Checks
* To discuss the details of proposal drafted for ‘CRVS Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening’
* To foster provincial government commitments for CRVS strengthening.

(Agenda Annexed at A)

**CHAIRED BY :**

* Dr. Naeem Ul Zafar, Member Social Sector & Devolution, Planning Commission.

**MODERATION :**

* Dr. Fazli Hakim Khattak, Chief Health Section, M/o Planning, Development and Reforms, Islamabad.

**PARTICIPATION** (List of Participants Annexed at B)

* Federal and Provincial P& D Ministry/Departments
* Provincial Departments of Health(s),
* National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA),
* Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination.
* Ministry of Law and Justice,
* Pakistan Bureau of Statistics,
* Ministry of Interior,
* Provincial Local Government and Rural Development
* Development Partners (WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and Plan International)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION.**

An efficient Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System (CRVS) is now recognized as a critical factor the development of a number of public services. This includes, but not limited to, provision of healthcare, health policy and planning, population, education, planning and research, social welfare, security areas, personal identification, electoral rolls, passport and banking and many more. Unfortunately Pakistan like several other countries of the region do not have credible registration of births and deaths, and lack in reporting complete and accurate cause of death data. The information disaggregated by age, gender, location and/or socioeconomic status is also not available like for many developing nations.

To meet this challenge Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms being the cross cutting ministry in coordination with all the stakeholders is engaged in CRVS promotion and strengthening since 2013. Some of the Federal Departments (eg NADRA), Provincial Government Departments of Health and Local Government and International Development partners (mainly WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Plan International) have been playing an important role to achieve this objective. Some of the main activities include;

* Organization of Advocacy Seminars for promotion of CRVS.
* Organizational of CRVS Rapid and Comprehensive Assessment Studies.
* Initiation of CRVS National Strategic Planning.
* Development of National and Provincial CRVS Steering Committees.
* Piloting of CRVS innovative initiatives.

The first meeting of the CRVS National Steering and Coordination Committee was held on 18th November, 2014, at Marriot Hotel, Islamabad and was chaired by Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms. A number of important decisions were then taken for CRVS strengthening. It was also decided that technical subgroups would be formulated to deliberate on specific technical areas and put their suggestions for adoption by National Steering and Coordination Committee. Similarly, a concrete proposal for institutional development would be prepared and placed before the next steering committee meeting for its inputs and advice. The 2nd National CRVS Steering Committee Meeting (held 3rd April 2015) thus focused on these two areas.

**PROCEEDINGS**

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, also the chairperson of the National Steering and Coordination Committee was not able to chair the meeting because of some pressing commitments. The meeting was thus chaired by Dr. Naeem Uz Zafar, Member Social Sector & Devolution Planning Commission.

After the recitation from the Holy Quran, Dr Naeem Zafar, in his opening remarks welcomed the participants and explained the background and the purpose of the meeting. He specially welcomed the participants from provinces and special area who were able to make it, as their input and support was well desired. He said that since CRVS is an ‘interdisciplinary subject’ so Planning Commission could offer the most appropriate platform for its development.

Dr S.M Mursalin, CRVS Resource Person, gave an overview of CRVS Development and implementation process in Pakistan. He also apprised the participants about its significance to various sectors and how CRVS promotion would boost planning, development of multiple sectors. He gave the current global and regional perspective and initiatives.

Dr Fazli Hakim Khattak, Chief Health Planning Commission then presented the draft TORs for the review and inputs of the participants. He said that his office is open to any suggestion or idea to make this exercise a real success. Any modification or alteration in draft would be considered with the intent to have regular follow-up of the decisions made during the steering and coordination committee meetings. After discussion, it was decided that the thematic area “Legal Framework and Resources for Civil Registration” would be split in 02 groups: (i) Legal Framework (ii) Resources for Civil Registration. Accordingly, 06 Technical Sub-Groups would be formulated for the 06 thematic areas.

Dr Muhammad Asif, Deputy Chief, Health Section, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform shared the salient features of the draft proposal prepared for CRVS capacity building and institutional strengthening support. He said to push the CRVS agenda some changeable institutional support would be desired, atleast, during the initial developmental stage. The implementation of the mechanisms evolved would entirely be the role of provincial governments. It was also suggested to include representations from national Health Information Resource Centre (NHIRC) and Provincial Bureau of Statistics in the National Steering and Coordination Committee.

These presentations were followed by long question/answer session.

**IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS**

*[Following are the clarities and responses given by Member (SS&D) and Chief of Planning Commission to the questions posed by the participants]*

* In view of its interdisciplinary nature of the task, M/ O PDR would extend a common platform for CRVS acceleration and enhancement.
* Accordingly Provincial Governments should pursue the CRVS promotion agenda through their respective Planning & Development Departments or other appropriate Departments.
* The Provincial CRVS Steering Committees would draw technical guidance and support from the National Steering and Coordination Committee.
* The proposal being developed for CRVS institutional support would not only focus national level activities, but would also, support to important provincial level capacity building activities and events.
* International partners would continue supporting actions suggested by the National/ Provincial Steering Committees.

**DECISIONS**

* The thematic area “Legal Framework and Resources for Civil Registration” would be split in 02 groups: (i) Legal Framework (ii) Resources for Civil Registration. Accordingly, 06 Technical Sub-Groups would be formulated for the 06 thematic areas.
* The provincial and Area Governments would convey their nominations for the 06 thematic areas within 03 weeks (i.e. upto 30-April-2015).
* The membership of National Steering Committee would be enhanced by drawing members from National Health Information Resource Centre (NHIRC) and Provincial Bureau of Statistics.
* Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform would improve the capacity building and institutional strengthening proposal by providing more details and clarities on institutional mechanism and term of reference of the requisite human resources. Inputs from international partners would also be obtained on institutional mechanism. An exclusive meeting would be convened with the international development partners for this purpose.
* Particularly for the specific capacity building / studies the international partners would be asked to extend support according to their core competencies (eg. WHO for cause of Death and ICD Coding, UNICEF For Birth Registration and PLAN for Innovative Pilots).
* The timeline and the plan envisaged in the proposal would immediately be pursued/ implemented once the proposal is finalized and corresponding assistance is agreed with the partners.
* Provinces/ Special Areas would form and notify their Steering and Implementation Committees and hold their meetings in line with the National Steering and Coordination Committee Meetings.
* To maintain momentum, Member Ministries/Departments would be requested to maintain a consistency of focal persons/unit representing their respective ministries/departments.

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**2nd NATIONAL STEERING AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FOR CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (CRVS).**

**AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

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| **Timings** | **Topic** | **Moderation**  |
| 10.00 am | Recitation of the Holy Quran |  |
| 10.10 am | Introduction to the participants  |  |
| 10.15 am | Opening Remarks by the Chair | Dr Naeem Zafar Member M/O PD&R |
| 10.25am  | Update on CRVS Development and International CRVS Perspective.  | Dr Mursalin, CRVS Resource Person  |
| 11.00am | Recapitulation of the Decisions of ist National Steering Committee Meeting. | Dr Fazale Hakim Khattak. Chief Health- M/O PD&R  |
|  | Discussions  |  |
| 11.30 am | Composition of Thematic Areas of National Strategic Plan  | Dr Naeem Zafar Member M/O PD&R |
| 11.45am | Presentation of the Concept Note/Draft proposal | Dr Asif Dy.Chief Health M/O PD&R |
|  | Discussion  |  |
| 12.30pm  | International study on CRVS in Pakistan  | Dr Safdar Raza, PLAN Int.  |
| 12.45 pm | Concluding Remarks by the Chair  | Dr Naeem Zafar Member M/O PD&R |
| 13.00 pm | Vote of Thanks  | Dr Fazale Hakim Khattak. Chief Health- M/O PD&R  |

Annex. B

**2nd NATIONAL STEERING AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FOR CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (CRVS)**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

1. Dr. Naeem-u-Zafar, Member (SS),Planning Commission, Islamabad. (Chaired By)
2. Dr. Fazali Hamim Khattak, Chief, Health Section, M/o Planning, Development and Reforms,, Islamabad.
3. Kh. Saifur Rehman, Joint Secretary, (Admn/S), Ministry of Interior, Islamabad.
4. Mr. Mathar Rana, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law, Islamabad.
5. Mr. Muhammad Iqbal, Director General, Local Government Balochistan, Quetta.
6. Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Chief, Plan Coordination Section, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms, Islamabad.
7. Mr. Faheem Junejo, Director General (MEE), Local Government Department Sindh, Karachi
8. Dr. Muhammad Asif, Deputy Chief, Health Section, M/o Planning, Development and Reforms, Islamabad.
9. Dr. Nasser Mohiuddin, Director, NIPS, Islamabad
10. Mr. Fahim Akhtar, Director (CRMS), \NADRA, Islamabad.
11. Mr. Asifullah Khan, Secretary, LGS, RD, Gilgit Baltistan.
12. Mr. Sami Ullah, Joint Chief Econ.,Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms, Islamabad.
13. Dr. Rasheed Ahmad, DDHSP, Gilgit Baltistan Health Department, Gilgit.
14. Dr. **B**ahrawar Jan, Deputy Director General, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad.
15. Mr. Taj Wali Khan, Deputy Director, M/o National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination,
16. Mr. Habib Ullah Khan, JCC, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad.
17. Mr. Muqaddar Shah, Program Analyst, UNFPA, Islamabad.
18. Dr. Syed Mursalin, CRVS Resource Person , Islamabad
19. Mr. Allah Ditta Najmi, Director Local Government, Local Government Rawalpindi.
20. Dr. Fazale Rabbi, Deputy Director, DGHS , Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar
21. Mr. M. Ehtisham Siddiqui, A.D. DHIS, Health, DGHS. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.
22. Dr. Masood Ahmad Bukhari, Add. DHS, Department of Health, AJ&K, Muzaffarabad.
23. Khawaja Muhammad Masood, Assistant Chief (Planning), Secretariat Local Govt. & Rural Development, AJK, Muzaffarabad.
24. Mr. Salim Akhtar, Chief Economist, Planning and Dev. Department, Government of AJK,
25. Dr. Zulfiqar Khan, Cluster Coordinator , World Health Organization, Islamabad
26. Mr. Safdar Raza, Advocacy Manager, Plan International, Islamabad.
27. Ms. Shandana Aurangzeb, PME, UNICEF, Islamabad
28. Mr. Edgar Scaast IMO, UNHCR, Islamabad
29. Mr. Sajjad Hussain, Advocacy Coordinator, Plan International, Islamabad.
30. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser Khan, Assistant Chief, Health Section, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Islamabad.
31. Dr. Mirza Asad Ali Baig, Assistant Chief, Health Section, M/o Planning, Development and Reforms, Islamabad.
32. Mr. Hamza Toheed, Young Development Fellow, M/o Planning, Development and Reforms, Islamabad.