Ministerial Meeting on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Asia Pacific 24 November 2014

UNHCR and Civil Registration



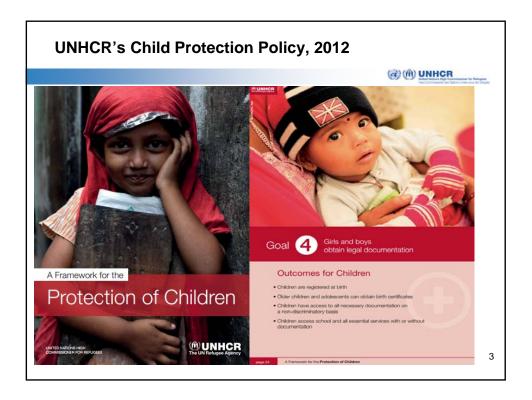
The importance of Civil Registration for UNHCR's populations of concern

(d) (m) UNHCR

- Establishes the child's legal identity by creating a permanent legal record of the child's existence.
- Enhances child protection.
- Facilitates durable solutions, including access to property and inheritance.
- Prevents statelessness.
- Provides information for policy development and humanitarian planning.

UNHCR's Executive Committee Conclusion on Civil Registration, October 2013

2



Birth Registration of UNHCR's populations of concern in the Asia-Pacific



- Overall birth registration coverage in Asia varies from 31% to 90 per cent or more.
 - In South Asia the rate varies from 27% to 90% or more with the regional average being 31%.
 - In East Asia and the Pacific the coverage varies from 43% to 90% or more.
- For refugee children, coverage varies from 21% to 90% or more. (Emerging findings from UNHCR Survey in 18 States the region)

4

Relevant International Legal Framework in the Asia-Pacific



- All ESCAP Member States are State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and/or the International Covenant on Civil Political Rights.
- Both Treaties require that the births of all children are registered regardless of the legal, social or economic status of the child.

5

Selected Regional Good Practices



- Legal harmonisation and implementation (e.g. India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand)
- Awareness raising amongst communities (e.g. India and Malaysia)
- **Use of mobile registration teams** (e.g. Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan)
- Mainstreaming of birth sector within social provision (e.g. Myanmar and Thailand)

6