Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in South Asia

First findings

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Objective of the work

• Document policies, systems, procedure and reform plans in place for CRVS in South Asia:
  – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

• Two steps:
  – First step: develop a set of country profiles based on a template summarizing information, including sample of registration forms
  – Second step: narrative country profile including reform direction
Political Commitment

• All countries of the region are engaged in a process to reach full coverage of civil registration and derive vital statistics from the civil registration system:
  – Proclamation of 2015-2024 as the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade
  – Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific region
Legal Frameworks

• **Legal frameworks** are sometimes insufficient:
  – They usually do not include definitions of the vital events, or the definitions are not in compliance with international standards (live births, stillbirth...).
  – Legal provisions such as information collected and procedures are sometimes absent from the law or implementation regulations.
  – Requirements for birth registration are sometimes excessive: identification of the father, marriage certificate...
Institutional framework

• **Centralised:**
  – Central agency with national responsibility for directing, coordinating and monitoring civil registration work of registration offices in the country
  – Can promote national standards and uniform registration of all vital events occurring within the country and among all groups of the population
    ➢ Afghanistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka

• **Decentralised:**
  – Civil registration can be administered at the level of the major civil divisions, such as the state, province or municipalities
  – There is usually an agency at the national level to enforce minimum standards and to ensure uniform practices of civil registration throughout the country: exception Pakistan
    ➢ Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan
## Time for registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>45 days</td>
<td>45 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>21 days</td>
<td>21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>7 days</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>35 days</td>
<td>35 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1 month*</td>
<td>60 days*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Varies according to the provinces*
Registration costs

- **Free registration** is not universal
- Especially marriage registration, delivery of copies of acts, or late registration
- Decentralised systems: provinces can charge (India, Pakistan)

- **Free**: Afghanistan, Bangladesh (exc. marriage), Nepal, Sri Lanka (exc. marriage)
- **Not free**: Bhutan, India (dep. on states), Maldives, Pakistan
Late registration

- Processes for late registration seem less complex than in other regions, with usually only penalties.
Information collected

- Information collected is not in full compliance with the recommended topics of the UN Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System
Information collected

Live births - Core topics

Sex of the newborn
Place of usual residence of the mother
Place of usual residence of the father
Date of birth or age of the mother
Date of birth or age of the father
Type of occurrence
Type of birth (e.g., single, twin, triplet, ...)
Children born alive to the mother during her entire lifetime
Weight at birth
Attendant at birth
Date of marriage
Place/country of birth of the mother
Educational attainment of the mother
Educational attainment of the father
Marital status of the mother
Marital status of the father
P HALF DEATHS TO THE MOTHER DURING HER...
Next steps

• Feedback from participants:
  – To check the description of the CRVS systems
  – To know better about the current situation in your country:
    • Strategy
    • Implementation

• Final draft
Thank you!