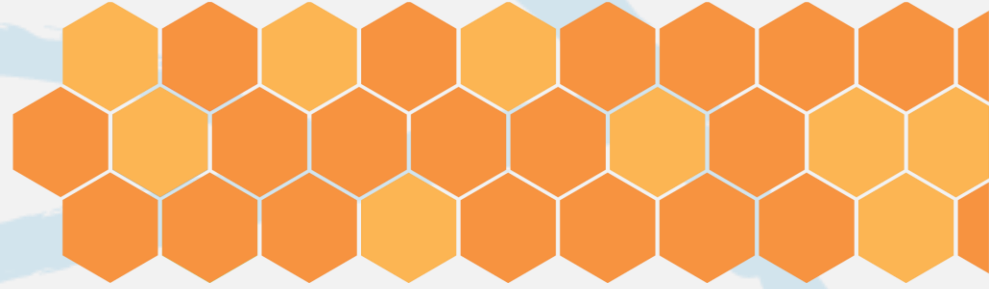




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Establishing the death notification system in Bhutan

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Third meeting of the Regional Steering Group on
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
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Bhutan at a glance

■ **Population age structure:**

Median Age years: 24

Under 5 years: 30.1%

15-49: 62.9%,

65+: 7%,

■ **Population by areas:**

Urban-30.9%,

Rural-69.1 %

■ **Population Density:**

16 persons/sq km

■ **Literacy rate (59.5 %)**



- **Administrative :** 20 districts,
205 gewogs (blocks)

Background

- ◆ Health Management Information system (HMIS): Maintains records of deaths occurring in the health facility along with cause of deaths;
- ◆ Civil registration system: maintains records of all deaths occurring both in health facility and outside;
- ◆ Department of immigration maintains record of deaths of foreigners;

Background: Civil Registration System

- ◆ Until 2002: Manual registration /Family Diary. Annual registration;
- ◆ 2003: Computerization of all records from the Family Diaries.
- ◆ 2004: Comprehensive database called Bhutan Civil Registration System (BCRS) was developed.
- ◆ 2010: SoPs to register birth and death within 30 days;
- ◆ 2011: web based online registration of births and deaths and establishment of registration points at block level;

Health management Information System (HMIS)

- ◆ Collects mortality reports with cause of death from all health facilities;
- ◆ 1984: Manual data collection and compilation;
- ◆ 2003: Microsoft access (electronic);
- ◆ 2014: DHIS 2: web based information system;

Death certification

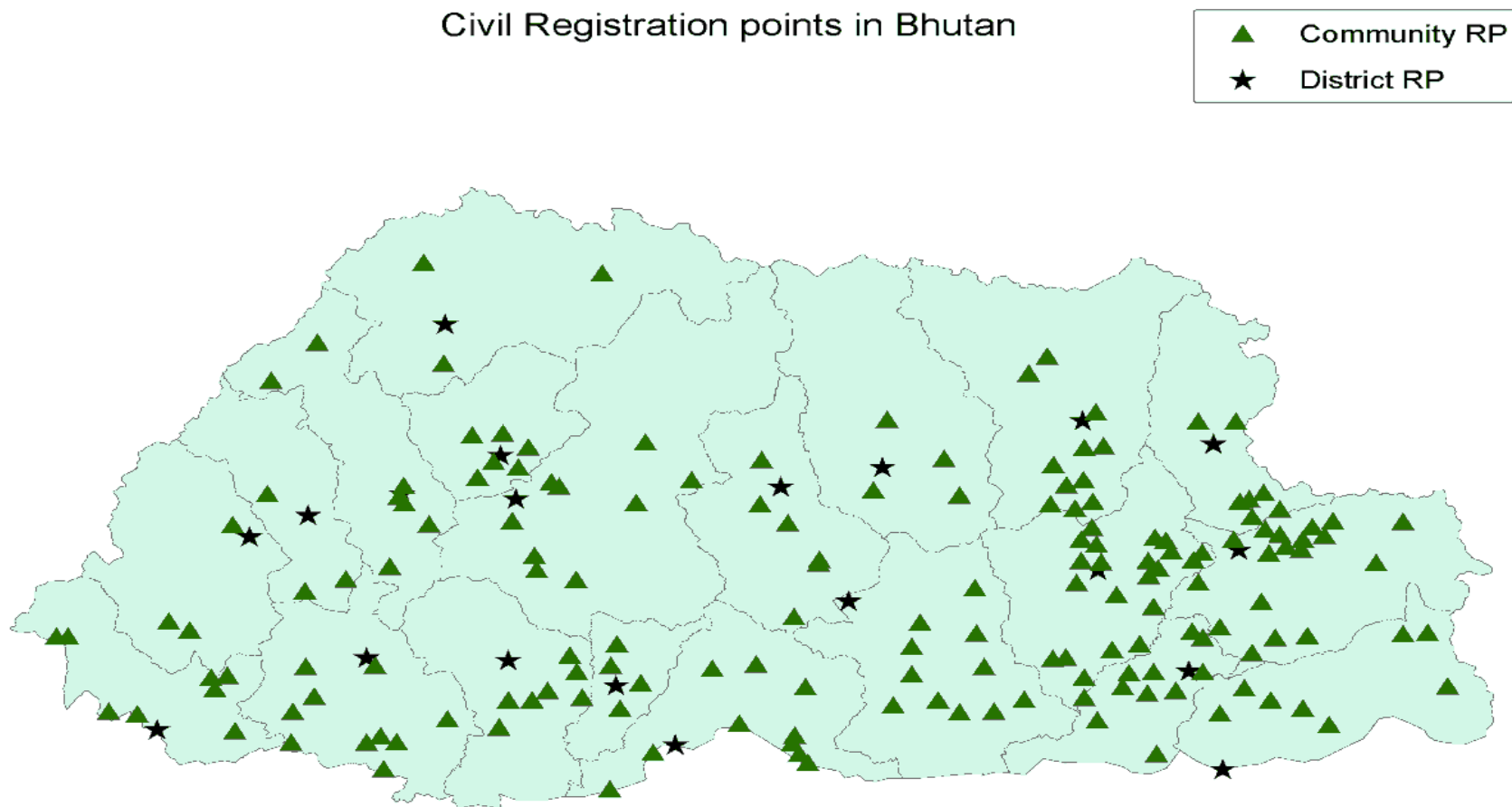
- ◆ Designated Health professionals issues death certificates or statement of death for deaths in the health facilities; (for both Nationals and foreigners)
- ◆ Tshokpa(Village representative) issues statement of deaths for deaths occurring outside the health facility; (for both Nationals and foreigners)

Death registration system

- ◆ Death reported to any of the Civil Registration Points within 30 days with all relevant documents;
- ◆ Registration point submits the scanned document to DCRC HQ;
- ◆ The approver verifies the submitted application and either approves or requests for re-submission;
- ◆ Once approved the name of the person is marked as “Deceased” in the Bhutan Civil Registration System.

Registration points

Civil Registration points in Bhutan



235 registration points (205 Gewogs, 4 Dungkhags, 4 *Thromde* offices, 20 Dzongkhags and department head office)

Death registration process for foreign nationals

- Application forms are submitted to the immigration office;
- Immigration office submits completed application online on IIMS(Immigration Information Monitoring System) to the head quarter.
- After verification approves or requests for re-submission;



Death Registration Completeness Rate, 2015



	Deaths
Registered	3,169
Estimates*	5,332
Completeness Rate (%)	59.43

Matrix of Deaths by Year of Occurrence and Year of Registration, Bhutan 2013-2016

Occurrence (Death)	Registration (Death)					Total
	Years	2013	2014	2015	2016	
2013		1,323	1,013	145	94	2,575
2014		0	2,182	787	168	3,137
2015		0	0	2,328	841	3,169
2016		0	0	0	2,450	2,450
Total		1,323	3,195	3,260	3,553	11,331

Enabling factors for deaths registration



- Insurance claims by the family members of the deceased (8 years and above);
- Increased accessibility to registration points;
- No cost incurred during registration;

Challenges



- Cause of death is available for deaths occurring in health facilities only;
- Only 29.88 % of deaths occur in the health facility;(2015)
- Cause of deaths occurring in the health facility has only 4 digit ICD code;
- Civil registration system collects only the number of deaths;
- Deaths registration for those under the age of 8, neonates and infant are inadequate ;
- Estimating annual number of deaths;

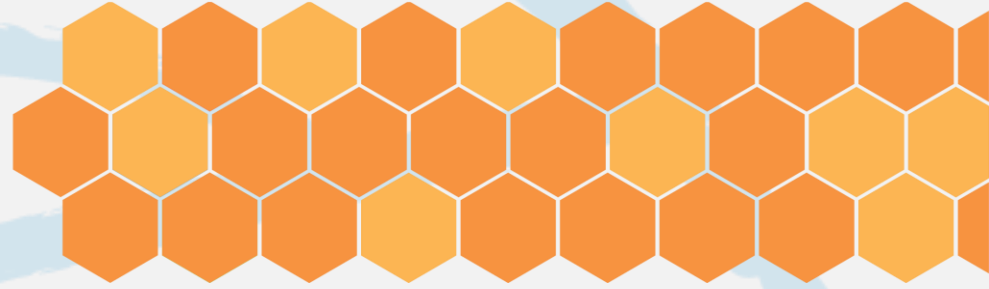
Way forward

- Immediate reporting of Maternal, Perinatal and Neonatal deaths instituted since July 2017;
- Electronic Patient information system (EPis) being piloted;
- Health workers and civil registration officers to be trained on verbal autopsies to improve the cause of deaths;
- Advocacy/ awareness to the public





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