Session 2.2: Mr. Neel Singh

- Registrar-General
- Ministry of Justice
- Fiji

BIO

Abstract
The Positive Impact of Financial Incentives on Birth Registration Completeness in Fiji

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Acknowledgements

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Introduction

The Fiji Government through its budget announcements had put in place two separate assistance programs to assist the poor, needy and underprivileged and these schemes were for children and individuals.

- The programs were initiated in 2018 and 2022 respectively.
- Birth Registration Number used as unique identifier.
Work Performed

- The first initiative was the Parenthood Assistance Payment Program (‘PAPP’)
- Rolled out in 2018 where $1,000 were given to the mother of the child
- $500 were issued instantly after the birth was registered and another $500 stays in the bank account till the child is enrolled in year 1 of the school
Figure 1 Births registered within one year, by year of birth (2010-2020), MOJ data

- Impact of Parental Assistance Payment Program (PAPP) from August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2020
- Start of Parental Assistance Payment Program.
Inflation Mitigation Assistance (‘IMA’)

- The second initiative – The Inflation Mitigation Assistance (‘IMA’)
- Rolled out in 2022 to assist the low-income families pay for food and other essential items
- BRN was one of the compulsory requirement while lodging this application
- Approximately 11,000 birth were registered within 6 weeks
It was noticed that there was an increase in registration of birth compared to past months

23/05/2022 – 2/07/2022 (6 weeks) – 1086 births were registered

4/07/2022 – 14/08/2022 (6 weeks) – 2021 births were registered
Conclusion

- Generally, an increase in birth registrations were observed.
- The results so far show a positive impact of these incentives.
- Continuation of economic incentives should be considered to improve the rate of birth registration completeness for all sub-sets of the population.