The potential of the health sector to catalyse accelerated improvement in civil registration and vital statistics

Discussion on draft papers for the Ministerial Conference
Introduction

• Interlinkages between civil registration and health systems can facilitate the registration of births and deaths
• Multiple benefits from enhanced collaboration between health entities, civil registrars, and stakeholders with a role in vital statistics
• Importance of health and civil registration collaboration has become more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic
• Alignment with guidance issued by the WHO and UNICEF describing proactive role of health sector in CRVS systems and WHO CRVS Strategic Implementation Plan
CRVS systems needed to track COVID-19

- Well-functioning CRSV systems provide **most complete source** of COVID-19 mortality data.
- Complete and timely data on total mortality enables the calculation of “**excess mortality**”.
- COVID-19 pandemic has raised awareness of the **role that the health sector can play** in CRVS systems to track all-cause mortality and specific diseases (cause of death data).

Health sector as a partner for CRVS systems

- **Contact** around the times of births (e.g. high assisted delivery and immunization coverage) and deaths and **generally close** to the communities

- Health sector staff can **act as informants** for birth and death and support the collection of cause of death data (for facility of community deaths)
Operationalizing interlinkages between health and civil registration

- Critical importance of strong governance and coordination mechanisms
- Need to consider legal framework and different operational set-ups
- **Key steps** to building interlinkage:
  - Business processes improvement
  - Information sharing mechanisms
  - Interoperability and standardization
  - Capacity development
Background Paper aligns with WHO CRVS Strategic Implementation Plan

Strategic Objectives:

1. Strengthen coordination between health sector and both national CRVS stakeholders and international CRVS partners
2. Strengthen CRVS cause of death reporting and vital event notification integration with civil registration
3. Build capacity for CRVS and to analyze and use mortality and cause of death data for policy purposes
4. Improve reporting, production and dissemination of vital statistics including cause of death
Conclusion

• Health sector has **in-depth knowledge** about fact of birth and death and cause of death

• Collaboration between health and civil registration can facilitate registration of births and deaths by **transferring the responsibility** to government agency

• **COVID-19 pandemic** has highlighted the importance of close interlinkage between health and civil registration to track all-cause mortality and COVID-19
Thank you!