

Session 4.6: Dr. Muhammad Asif

- ◆ Chief of Health
- ◆ Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives
- ◆ Pakistan
- ◆ BIO
- ◆ Abstract





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Study to understand the existing mechanisms and reasons for weaknesses, challenges and bottlenecks in the vital events registration system in Pakistan and how they can be effectively addressed

Dr Muhammad Asif

Chief Health

Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives

Pakistan

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**DATA FOR
HEALTH INITIATIVE**

INTRODUCTION/ MOTIVATION



- ◆ Registration of vital events is the function of local government departments in Pakistan;
- ◆ < 5 Y registrations is only 42% while it is less than 5% for death registrations.
- ◆ No information is available for marriages and divorces registrations as the same is negligible.

METHODS/WORK PERFORMED



- ◆ An operational research was employed with desk review and key informant interviews (KIIs) components.
- ◆ Desk review was done to explore organizations and their rules of business linked with vital events notifications and registrations and to look into the various processes and flows.
- ◆ KIIs were conducted with the various fonctionnaires of the mandated organizations, field staff and general public.

RESULTS/ FINDINGS

- ◆ The government's civil registration system requires a newborn to be registered within 30 days after birth and death registration within 60 days after the event;
- ◆ Low demand and awareness among the public;
- ◆ Birth registration is considerably higher in urban (60%) than in rural (34%) areas;
- ◆ huge disparities exist in terms of Birth Registration coverage among the provinces as only 2% of children in FATA and 19% of children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are registered as compared with 82% of children in ICT Islamabad.

RESULTS/ FINDINGS

- ◆ Virtually no authentic information is available regarding the registration of marriages and divorces.
- ◆ Mechanism for verification of particulars of reporter/parents/ guardians, and for authentication/verification of issued certificates is difficult because of the manual registers.
- ◆ Regular reporting system is almost non-existent to support flow of information at provincial and national level.

RESULTS/ FINDINGS

- ◆ Civil registration of vital events is fragmented and compartmentalized; different sectors, for example health, statistics and social security, are typically not able to access the same database and to generate vital statistics from the civil registration data.
- ◆ The linkage is missing across different components.



DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION



- ◆ Health sector is not mainstreamed within the vital events notifications of births and deaths.
- ◆ Parents or family members of the deceased do not collect event notification from the health facility or community nor do they report to the registering entity for getting the event registered.
- ◆ There is need to strengthen the institution of union councils under the local governments to optimize them in the registrations of such events.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION



- ◆ Policy Shift and mainstreaming of health sector in vital events notifications.
- ◆ Reforms in information processes and flows
- ◆ Use of digital technologies to institute real-time notifications of vital events from health sector (fixed health facilities and community) to the registering entities.
- ◆ Capacity of health sector in recording death and cause of death is vital to optimally utilize the phenomenon of universality of death registration to generate evidence for informed policy and planning.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

- ◆ During the interim period, the same policy shift would continue to be enforced manually whereby the health sector would communicate such notifications in paper mode to the registering entities until the IT related and other such issues are resolved.
- ◆ Potential role of other sectors like education, religious affairs etc as notifiers of the vital events would have to be accelerated and enhanced in order to ensure universality of vital events notifications and registrations.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

- ◆ Keeping in view the devolved nature of the subject in Pakistan, a bridging and suggestive legislation at national level would be required to enable the provincial governments modify and conform their legislative milieu in accordance with the policy shift in notifications of vital events and reformed processes and flows, and optimally mainstream private health sector in notification of the vital events of births and deaths.