



# Report on CSO Consultation in Bangladesh

Key findings and recommendations





# CSO Consultation Meeting

## Date:

- 30 January 2025

## Location:

- YWCA Training Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Participants:

- 22 participants from 22 CSOs





# Panel Discussion on The Role of CSOs in Strengthening CRVS Policies and Management

## Panellists:

Muhammad Ruhul Quddus, Bangladesh Country Lead (Data for Health), GHAI

Md Moyeen Uddin, Country Coordinator, Vital Strategies

A.B.M. Zubair, Executive Director, PROGGA

Samia Afrin, Project Director, Naripokkho

Tapon Kumar Das, Deputy Director, Campaign for Popular Education

**Moderator:** Khaled Bin Yousuf, Director of Programs, Nari Maitree

**Discussion Points:** policy gaps, public awareness, and potential strategies to improve the CRVS system.

Panellists emphasized the role of CSOs in *advocacy, capacity building, and ensuring accountability in CRVS implementation.*



# Key Highlights of the Panel Discussion

## Importance of CRVS in Bangladesh

- Provides legal identity and access to essential services (education, healthcare, social benefits).
- Supports social protection, public health planning, and gender equality.
- Aids migration management and labour rights protection.
- Contributes to evidence-based policymaking and SDG monitoring.

## Current Status of CRVS in Bangladesh

- Increased birth registration due to government digital initiatives, but gaps remain in marginalized communities.
- Low death and marriage registration rates due to lack of awareness and enforcement.
- Digital integration is improving, but further strengthening is needed with national ID and social protection databases.



# Key Highlights of the Panel Discussion

## Increasing Women's Participation in CRVS

- Legal reforms ensuring women can register births/deaths without male approval.
- Removing discriminatory laws that hinder widows, refugees, and marginalized women from registration.
- Simplifying procedures to make registration more accessible.
- Community-driven awareness campaigns targeting rural and disadvantaged women.
- Engaging religious leaders, midwives, and women-led networks to promote registration.

## Role of CSOs in CRVS Policy & Implementation

- Promoting policy reforms, removing registration barriers, and engaging marginalized groups.
- Assisting individuals in obtaining documentation and bridging government-community gaps.
- Supporting CRVS digitization and forming public-private partnerships.
- Conducting independent research on CRVS gaps and challenges.
- Engaging in multi-stakeholder discussions with governments, UN agencies, and donors.
- Providing legal support for registration challenges, especially for women and stateless populations.



# Key Highlights of the Panel Discussion

## CSO-Government Coordination for CRVS Development

- Formation of a National CRVS Coordination Committee with CSOs, government, and development partners.
- Regular multi-stakeholder meetings to track progress and propose solutions.
- CSOs ensuring inclusive policies representing women, migrants, and vulnerable groups.

## Increasing Women's Participation in CRVS

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# Interactive World Café Session

**Facilitator:** Hasan Shahriar, Head of Programs at PROGGA

**Objective:** Encourage active participation from attendees.

**Discussion Points:**

- Child Rights and Birth Registration
- Gender and CRVS: Ensuring Equal Access
- Health and CRVS: Integrating Vital Statistics with Health Systems
- Statelessness and CRVS: Addressing Legal Identity Gaps
- Human Rights and CRVS: Ensuring Inclusivity and Accessibility

Participants rotated among different discussion tables every 15 minutes, leading to a broad exchange of ideas and recommendations.



# Key Highlights of the Interactive World Café Session

## 1. Child Rights and Birth Registration

### Challenges:

- Lack of awareness, financial barriers, bureaucratic hurdles, and discrimination.
- Birth registration delays impact school enrolment, access to healthcare, and legal protection.

### Solutions:

- Expand community outreach and mobile registration units.
- Simplify processes and reduce indirect costs.
- Strengthen legal frameworks to ensure universal birth registration.





# Key Highlights of the Interactive World Café Session

## 2. Gender and CRVS: Ensuring Equal Access

### Challenges:

- Legal barriers (requiring male guardians), economic constraints, and cultural discrimination.
- Lack of documentation leads to property inheritance issues, limited healthcare access, and exclusion from education/employment.

### Solutions:

- Allow women to register births and deaths independently.
- Remove financial barriers and increase awareness.
- Provide legal support for women facing registration challenges.



# Key Highlights of the Interactive World Café Session

## 3. Health and CRVS: Integrating Vital Statistics with Health Systems

### Challenges:

- Lack of awareness about linking health information with birth registration.
- Weak coordination between health and registration systems.
- Barriers to digital registration in remote areas.
- Difficulty in tracking and updating health-related birth records.

### Solutions:

- Train healthcare workers and registrars on data collection and integration.
- Use mobile and digital registration platforms to improve accessibility.
- Establish follow-up mechanisms to update health records in registration systems.
- Collaborate with health clinics, hospitals, and vaccination programs.



# Key Highlights of the Interactive World Café Session

## 4. Statelessness and CRVS: Addressing Legal Identity Gaps

### Challenges:

- Stateless individuals face barriers in birth registration and nationality recognition.
- Fear of deportation discourages many from seeking registration.

### Solutions:

- Accept alternative identity documents and community verification methods.
- Ensure birth registration for children of stateless parents.
- Implement mobile and community-based registration services.



# Key Highlights of the Interactive World Café Session

## 5. Human Rights and CRVS: Ensuring Inclusivity and Accessibility

### Challenges:

- Registration services often lack accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- Digital barriers prevent easy online registration.

### Solutions:

- Improve website accessibility and provide multiple registration formats (audio, Braille, simplified text).
- Ensure registration centers are physically accessible.
- Train registration staff in disability-inclusive services.



## Scopes of Improvement for the Government:

Establish joint initiatives with local NGOs, faith-based organizations, and grassroots movements

Establish a Task Force dedicated to identifying challenges and proposing strategic interventions

Foster a CSO-Government Coalition to improve policy frameworks and streamline registration processes

Develop a Safety Net Program to support vulnerable populations in accessing birth registration services

Implement digital and decentralized registration mechanisms to improve efficiency and coverage



## Opportunities for Improvement for the Government:

Ensure that national laws explicitly mandate the registration of all children, regardless of disability, gender identity, or cultural background

Recognize indigenous naming conventions

Training local health workers & registrars on data collection and integration of health details in the birth registration process

Leverage mobile apps, biometric solutions, and cloud-based systems to enhance access to registration services, especially in remote areas

Foster a CSO-Government Coalition to Conduct outreach and awareness campaigns to educate families on the importance of registration

