

# Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system of Bhutan

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# Overview

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Civil registration is not a new phenomenon in Bhutan. The systematic registration of annual births and deaths started in the late 1980s.

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Bhutan has a decentralized CRVS system with offices located in different parts of the country.

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There are many agencies carrying the mantle of CRVS system. (DCRC, MoH and NSB)

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Spearheaded by the MoHA serving as a central regulating and coordinating agency, the MoH shoulders the responsibility of notifying the occurrences of births and deaths and determining the cause-of-death, and the NSB for analyzing and publication of VSR.

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Bhutan focuses on two vital events: Birth and Death registration along with Cause of Death (Due to the absence of comprehensive data)

# Progress

## PAST

- ✓ Paper-based register known as Family Diary (1980-2002)
- ✓ Birth and Death registration was an annual event carried out from November to January in 20 District Civil Registration offices
- ✓ No Vital Statistics Report generated

## PRESENT

- ✓ 2003, a stand-alone system known as Bhutan Civil Registration System was developed
- ✓ 2012: Upgradation of Bhutan Civil Registration System into web-based online system
- ✓ Birth and Death Registration was made available at any time of the year. Community Service Centers were established at block level to bring the registration points nearer to the people.
- ✓ 100% geographic coverage for both birth and death registration.

# Progress

- ✓ Rapid and Comprehensive assessment of National Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems conducted.
- ✓ Multi-Sectoral National Strategic Action Plan developed to address gaps identified through the assessments.
- ✓ Coordination and collaboration among the stakeholders strengthened:
  - MoU is signed between the MoHA and NSB regarding utilization of vital registration data from the registration database for timely publication of VSR.
- ✓ SOP and guidelines developed to register all births and deaths, specifying timeline, mode of record compilation and transmission of records.
- ✓ VSR published annually.

# Challenges and opportunities

- ✓ Low completeness rate for death registration. Under-reporting of child mortality (stillbirth, neonatal and infant deaths).
- ✓ Quality of cause of death data is questionable especially for deaths occurring outside health facilities.
- ✓ Being a rugged terrain, network connectivity is often poor and timely registration is being affected.
- ✓ Limited expertise and Poor implementation of ICD coding.
- ✓ Lack of information on the importance of Birth Registration and Death Registration.

# Challenges and opportunities

- ✓ Need for in-person visits to the Registration Points to register Birth and Death.
- ✓ Administrative burden to the service users.
- ✓ The inter-agency dependency often affects the turnaround time of delivering the services.
- ✓ Data inconsistency/duplicates/missing values caused by human error during data input.

## Way forward

- ✓ Governance Structure to strengthen coordination and collaboration among the stakeholders for Bhutan CRVS.
- ✓ Advocacy on the significance of timely Birth and Death Registration.
- ✓ Implementation of MNSAP activities.
- ✓ BCRS data cleaning to improve the quality and reliability of CRVS data.
- ✓ Roll out ICD-11.

## Way forward

✓ Leverage on ICT for system integration and interoperability:

Implementation of Integrated Citizen Services system:

- Citizens can register birth and death conveniently using their smartphones or computers.
- Simplified process of birth registration and less administrative burden.
- Automated registration through system integration with relevant agencies.
- Strengthen the CRVS system of Bhutan.



**THANK YOU**

