



# Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Sri Lanka

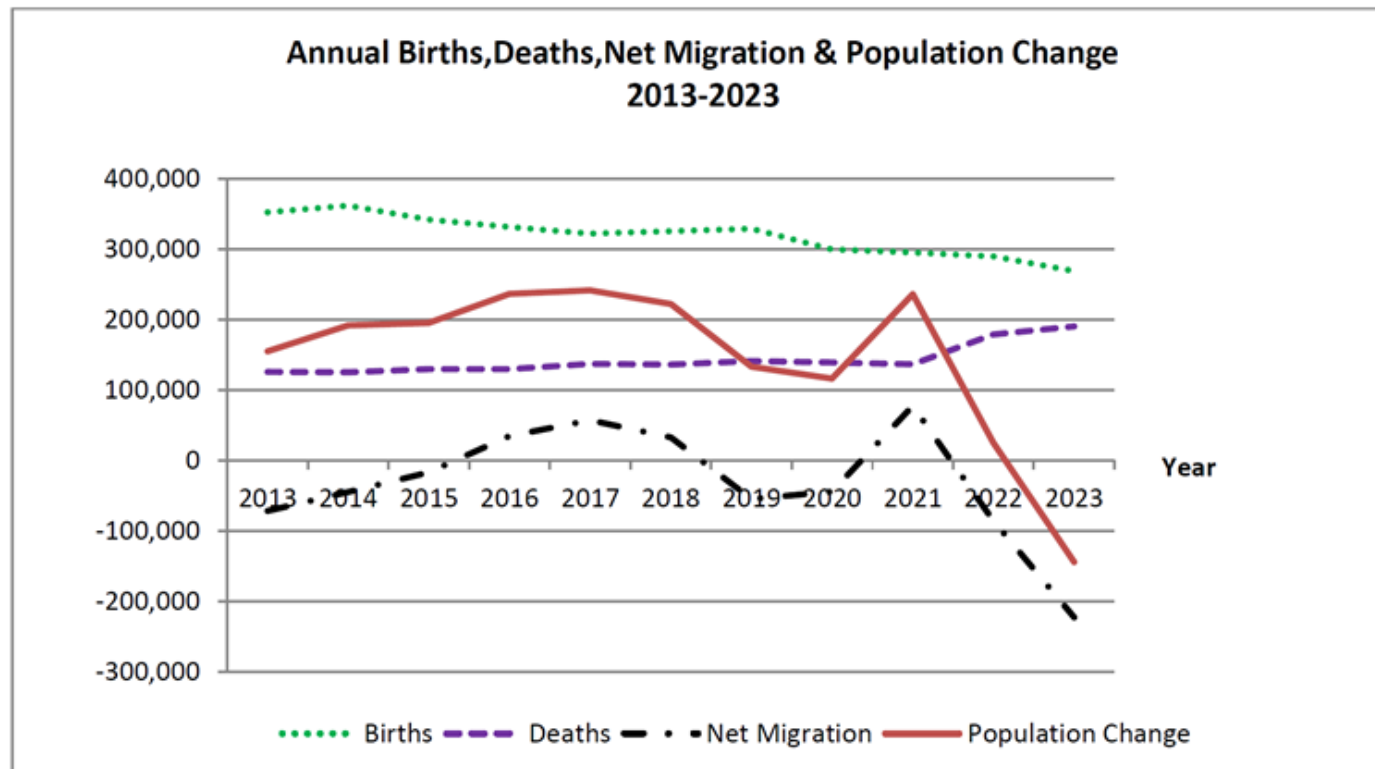
# Background of the country on Vital Statistics

In Sri Lanka;

The entire area of the country is **65,610** Sqkm<sup>2</sup>

There is **22.04** Mn population in 2023

Population growth rate is **1.08%** in 2023



Number of total births in 2023 – 275,321

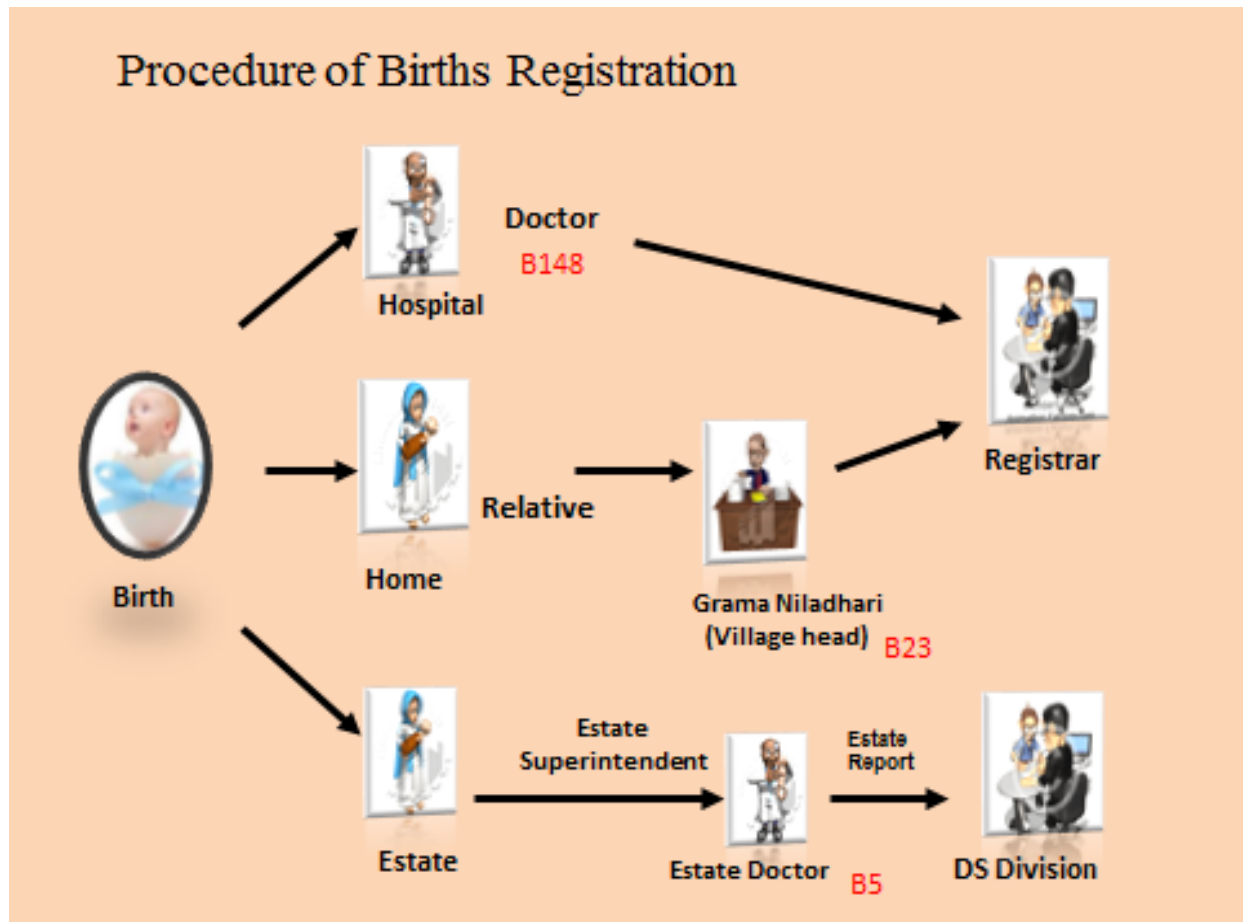
Number of total deaths in 2023 – 189,792

Birth rate(in 2023) is **12.4** per 1,000 population

Death rate(in 2023) is **8.1** per 1,000 Population

- In Sri Lanka, the Register General's Department (RGO) is responsible for the registration of births, deaths, marriages. And it codes the cause of death also.
- RGO has a well established data collection system and it is functioning successfully.

## How is the registration procedure



There are 25 districts in the country and under each district there are birth, marriage and death registration divisions and assigned Registrars are in each division.

In addition, there are more hospitals that allow to register birth and deaths from the hospital Registrar.

The data collection system has a few steps for capture all incidents to be no one behind in the picture.

# Collaboration between government agencies

- In addition to the RGO, Ministry of Health(MoH) and Family Health Bureau(FHB) are engaging to this process in another way.
- Family Health Bureau(FHB) collects all birth( as live births, neonatal births) and collects Infant Mortality and Child Mortality covering whole country in grass root level.
- For this process Ministry of Health(MoH) has appointed number of 6,000 Family Health Servants(FHS) for each FHS division it is monitoring by FHB.





## Collaboration between government agencies (con....)

- Ministry of Health has a good data collection system for collecting on morbidity and mortality covering all hospitals in government sector and a few of private hospitals. It is an online system, here, medical record officers enter hospital patient data (diseases, births and deaths and cause of deaths data) to the system and analyze those by the medical statisticians.
- Finally those three institutions prepare the health indicators and compare among them. It is an one of most important step of the vital statistics system in the country.
- These institutions share their data among each other and cross check with the output. If there is a big gap, before publish they have to clarify it.
- Moreover main data sources which are census, surveys and administrative data are used for the verification.

Therefore completeness of birth registration is 99.09 percent

# Legislation Changes

There are Acts for Civil Registration

For births and deaths - The present law for the registration of births and deaths was passed under Act **No.17 of 1951** which incorporated most of the amendments up to that year and provided for additional information to be included in the birth records.

Acts to be changed according to the law in special incidents such as Tsunami.

# Data Dissemination strategies

- Registered births, marriages and death data are analyzed by the Vital Statistics unit in the Register General's Department.
- Publish data by the Register General's Department;
  - As Publications and
  - On their website
- Publish data as indicators to be able compared with other countries indicators.

## Use of data

- For planning and policy making for all sectors (ex: health, Education and ....)
- For providing facilities to the public.
- For making indicators
- For doing researches

# Operational challenges

## 1. Lack of staff

The vital registration system in Sri Lanka is a manual system. So, for the maintaining this system, so many officers should be assigned. In case of, their may be lack of staff.

## 2. No integrated system

Although there is a complete data collection system, as it is a manual system, it is difficult to link with the other data collection systems. (ex. There is an online data collection system for hospital deaths, but for the clarification it has been difficult to connect with the RGO system)

## **Currently,**

Getting UN guidance Sri Lanka has initiated CRVS it is on pilot stage

## **SO,**

We should accelerate implementing this CRVS system as soon as possible.



*Thank You*