CRVS system linkages for service delivery

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on behalf of ESCAP
Background: What do we want this paper to explore?

• Provide an overview of CRVS system linkage efforts in South Asia
  • What is the status of CRVS system linkages in the region?
  • What are the main areas of CRVS system linkages conducted by countries in the last 10 years?
  • Have linkage efforts been associated with the establishment of a unique identifier?
  • What has been the role of development partners in supporting linkage efforts?
  • What (if any) have been the documented benefits for service delivery from linkage?
Why system linkages?

Benefits to individuals

Benefits to government agencies and service providers

Get everyone in the picture

This model represents a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management recommended by the United Nations, adapted from the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3. It can be adjusted to national circumstances and governing structures as necessary.
What do we mean by ‘linkage’?

• **Unit-record data linkage**
  - Extensive, complex, and challenging
  - Generally requires a unique identifier to link the records

• **Other linkage and integration methods**
  - Cross-checking of aggregated data
  - Data validation
  - Data pooling
  - Data combination
What do we need from you?

Unique identifiers

The region has a long history with the issuance of unique identification numbers and cards, and several countries are implementing new systems of unique identifiers linked with national ID systems (Table 7).

Summary text to come – once country details are confirmed.

Table 7 Status of unique identifiers in South Asia, as of June 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Assigned</th>
<th>Unique identifier practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Birth Registration Number (BRN)</td>
<td>On application for an e-tracking card</td>
<td>Year &amp; month of birth + Unique serial + Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Personal Identification Number (PIN)</td>
<td>At birth registration</td>
<td>17-digits: Random + Check sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Citizenship Identity Card (available from age 15 years)</td>
<td>Area code (District + Sub-district) + Random</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Aadhaar</td>
<td>At birth registration</td>
<td>Random + Check sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>NIDMC</td>
<td>At birth registration</td>
<td>Random + Check sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>National ID Number (NID)</td>
<td>At birth during online registration OR at birth registration</td>
<td>13-digits: Random + Check sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>National ID Card (available from age 18 years)</td>
<td>Area code + unique serial + Check sum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>At birth registration (since 2019)</td>
<td>Year of birth + Unique serial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Bhutan, unique Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) are assigned to each completed birth registration. These PINs are then printed on the Citizenship Identification Cards (CIDs), which are made available to citizens upon reaching the age of 15 years.

For registration offices in Nepal that are linked to the VERSP-MIS web platform, unique identification numbers (known as National ID Numbers, or NIDs) are assigned to each newborn during the online birth registration process. Otherwise, the NID is assigned when a person applies for a national ID card, available from age 16 at the earliest. So far, VERSP-MIS has generated a unique identifier for 1.8 million persons whose identity has been registered upon registration of a vital event into the central database.24
Questions for one-on-one discussion

- What is the status of CRVS system linkages in the region?
- What are the main areas of CRVS system linkages conducted by countries?
- Have linkage efforts been associated with the establishment of a unique identifier?
- What has been the role of development partners in supporting linkage efforts?
- What (if any) have been the documented benefits for service delivery from linkage?
- What considerations should be given when implementing projects or processes to improve linkage between government systems?
- What have been the key challenges and barriers?
- How are systems addressing issues around:
  - inclusivity to account for those being left behind and reducing inequalities?
  - sustainability and resilience?
  - data protection and privacy?
Discussion

- Benefits of digitising CRVS systems for policymaking
- Business process mapping for digitisation
- Links between CRVS digitalisation and the health sector
- Links between CRVS digitalisation and national ID
- Links between CRVS digitalisation and the education sector
Next steps

• Leave comments in the background paper and send back to me by Friday 23 June
• Please send me through any documents or resources that contain information about linkages in your country
• Reach out! If you have more information to share, I would love to have an informal talk with you over the next couple of weeks

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