

Getting Children and Youth in the Picture 2021



A Report on the Consultations With
Children and Young People on the Civil
Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia
and the Pacific





**Everyone deserves
to be counted**



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Executive Summary

- **This report presents the views, experiences, and recommendations of 561 children and youth from 11 countries across Asia and the Pacific on civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS), gathered through a series of discussions and consultations from March to April 2021.**

The 11 participating countries were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Over 63% of the participating children and youth were under the age of 18, while the rest were between the ages of 18 and 24, with females making up the majority of those who took the survey.

Following the consultations, a regional forum was held via Zoom on May 29, 2021, during which the representative children and youth started drafting a joint video statement on CRVS, which will be shown at the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in November 2021. 61 children and youth attended the event, representing the 11 nations that held in-country discussions. Children made up 54% of the participants, and females made up 60% of the total.

The Views and Experiences of Children

Registration is the key to accessing government services for in-country and regional consultation participants. The CRVS verifies their identity, citizenship, and allows them to exercise their rights.

Participants from eight (8) countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, and Thailand) reported favorable registration experiences. Good government registration systems and parents' support for civil registration were important factors in their opinion. Most participants with positive registration experiences come from stable urban homes, are citizens of their home countries, and have been born in hospitals. Children, teens, and their families struggle to register without these variables. Others do not register at all.

Many of the in-country consultations' participants said that lack of registration was an intergenerational concern. Without a marriage certificate, many unregistered parents do not see the point in registering their children. Many people struggle to obtain death certificates without birth certificates.

The in-country consultations revealed institutional flaws as barriers to registration such as a lack of coordination between government offices, and a lack of capacity and infrastructure in CRVS-related organizations. Social hurdles also prevent them from CRVS. People, especially in impoverished, rural, and isolated locations, are unaware of the necessity to register. Poverty prevents them from reporting births and deaths as their logistical and financial costs are too high. Some bonded labor households lack access to CRVS. The forum's delegates echoed these views, stating that poverty, illiteracy, and lack of information prevent registration, and that the government is failing to assist them. Some forum participants even criticized hospitals and governments for not prioritizing or taking registration seriously.

Children and young people are denied access to entitlements and services including health, education, and finance because they are not registered.



Photo credit: UNICEF

The Impact of Lack of Registration

The challenges that children and youth have in registering stem not only from the processes, but also from the consequences of not registering, affecting their engagement in society. Without birth registration, many can't go to school, play sports, or travel freely. Registration ownership impacts their educational attainment, activities, future employment opportunities, and travel options.

No registration equals no protection. Without birth documents, children and youth are exposed to abuse and trafficking. Many marry without legal protection and have children who cannot be recognized since marriage documents are required for birth registration. Also, governments rarely recognize same-sex unions, leaving many members of the LGBTQI vulnerable. Death certificates are also required for children and youth. Many said they lost prospects and property rights simply because they couldn't establish their age, identification, residency, or relatives' deaths.

No registration means no essential services. They are denied access to entitlements and services including health, education, and finance because they are not registered. Because many of those who do not register are already poor, which reinforces the poverty cycle. Denying people the ability to register means that poverty and lack of legal identification are carried down through generations.

1 Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, "Ministerial Declaration to 'Get Every One in the Picture' in Asia and the Pacific" (2014), https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Ministerial.Declaration.Englishfinal__0_0.pdf: p. 2.



Photo credit: UNICEF

Recommendations

Participants made various recommendations on how to improve birth, marriage, and death registration. To guarantee that all births, marriages, and deaths are recorded, and to reduce the consequences of non-registration, stakeholders might consider the following recommendations.

Governments can start by educating communities, especially the impoverished, refugees, uneducated, and migrants, about registration and the repercussions of not reporting births, marriages, and deaths.

Governments can also streamline registration processes while strengthening their personnel's capabilities, reaching rural locations, and digital infrastructure. More importantly, governments must recognize that poverty limits access to registration, and can decrease or remove costs for birth, marriage, and death registration, or provide financial assistance to individuals in need.

Participants to the in-country consultations and forum stressed parents' responsibility in registration as well. They advise parents to swiftly register their marriages and children's births. NGOs can also help communities by raising awareness about the necessity of CRVS or acting as intermediates in birth registration.

Making Registration Accessible to All

Based on the children's responses and recommendations, ensuring that everyone is registered requires a collective effort, stressing the important role that governments and parents play in the process. Both units must act swiftly since non-registration negatively damages children's lives.

Birth, marriage, and death certificates aren't just documents, but rather show how much the government and parents care about the children and their future. By allowing everyone to register, we can ensure that every child is protected, can access services, and can assert their rights.



Definition of Terms

Adult Mentor	An adult who provides support, guidance, and encouragement to child participants
Birth Certificate	Paper issued by a government proving an individual's birth is registered
Birth registration	Official record of a birth with government authority
Child	Below 18 years old
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
In-country consultations	A series of consultations among children and youth in Asia and the Pacific
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex
Life events	This report focuses on three life events: birth, death, and marriage Non-Government Organizations
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
Youth	18 to 24 years old



Photo credit: UNICEF

Introduction

■ There is still much to be done in ensuring a universal and responsive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (CRVS).

The CRVS is integral to state planning and decision-making, as it is a “continuous, permanent, compulsory, and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events in people’s lives in accordance with the national law, including births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, divorces, adoptions, legitimations and recognitions.”¹ Because it influences nationality, education, health, and child marriage, among other things, children and youth’s voices and views must be heard and considered in political and policy-making.

In line with this, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), World Vision Asia Pacific, and Child Rights Coalition (CRC) Asia conducted a series of in-country consultations and a regional virtual forum to harness political pledges and advocate for the opinions and perspectives of children and youth. This document summarizes the important comments raised by children and youth delegates during the regional meeting on CRVS. It ran from February 11 to 27, 2021, with majority of the consultations taking place online. 561 children and youth shared their knowledge of birth, marriage, and death registration. They also offered suggestions to improve registration.

However, due to the pandemic and limited resources, the organizers were unable to engage with partners in Fiji, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Singapore, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. Myanmar partners were among the first to prepare but were unable to carry them out due to the country’s political situation.

The in-country meetings were organized and facilitated by 15 groups from 11 countries. The organizations include:

Afghanistan	UNICEF-Afghanistan Vital Statistics Department, Ministry of Public Health (Afghanistan)
Bangladesh	World Vision Bangladesh
Cambodia	Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC Cambodia)
Indonesia	Indonesia Joining Forces to End Violence Against Children Wahana Visi Indonesia
India	World Vision India
Nepal	Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) World Vision International Nepal
Pakistan	Group Development (GD) Pakistan
Philippines	GITIB, Inc. Mindanao Migrants Center for Empowering Actions, Inc. (MMCEAI) Mindanao Action Group for Children’s Rights and Protection (MAGCRP) Tambayan Center for Children’s Rights, Inc.
Thailand	The Life Skills Development Foundation (TLSDF) World Vision Foundation of Thailand
Sri Lanka	SoS Children’s Village Sri Lanka Generation Never Give-up Care Leavers Organization (GNG) World Vision Sri Lanka
Samoa	Samoa Victim Support Group

An online regional forum on 29 May 2021 followed the consultations. Initial plans were for three sub-regional forums: one for South Asia, one for Southeast Asia, and one for the Pacific. Due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, the organizers chose to host only one regional forum to ensure delegates' safety. At the forum were 61 children and youth delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The regional forum expanded on earlier consultation results and began the process of creating a video statement for Asia and the Pacific's children and youth. It also selected children and youth representatives to join the Statement Core Group to finalize a video statement on CRVS (Annex 6, Information for Members of the Statement Core Group). Organizers were CRC Asia, World Vision, and UNICEF.

The consultations and forum are part of the preparations for the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, November 16–19, 2021. For the region's First Ministerial Conference on CRVS in 2014, the Asia-Pacific countries adopted the Ministerial Declaration to "get everyone in the picture" and envisioned that "by 2024, all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the realization of their rights, and support good governance, health, and development."² The First Ministerial Conference also declared 2015–2024 as the "Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade" and endorsed the Regional Action Framework on CRVS for the region.³

The Regional Action Framework outlines **three goals and seven action areas** to achieve the vision for 2024.

Goals



1

Universal civil registration of births, deaths, and other vital events



2

To provide all individuals with legal documentation of civil registration, deaths, and other vital events, as necessary, to claim identity, civil status, and ensuing rights



3

To produce and disseminate accurate, complete, and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death) based on registration records

² Ibid.: p. 4.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid. Also in Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, "Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific" (2014), https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific_0_0.pdf; paras. 7–8.



Photo credit: UNICEF

The seven action areas are:

- 1 **Political commitment**
- 2 **Public engagement, participation, and generation of demand,**
- 3 **Coordination**
- 4 **Policies, legislation, and implementation of regulations**
- 5 **Infrastructure and resources**
- 6 **Operational procedures, practices, and innovations**
- 7 **Production, dissemination, and use of vital statistics.⁴**

Asia-Pacific country representatives will review the progress on the goals and action areas set in the Ministerial Declaration on CRVS in 2014 and the Regional Action Framework on CRVS for Asia-Pacific in November 2021.⁵ To prepare for this, the UN ESCAP, the Ministerial Conference's development partner, World Vision, CRC Asia, and their respective partners held regional consultations that culminated in a regional forum.

⁵ Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific, "Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific" (2014), https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific_0_0.pdf; para. 62(b). See also "Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific Brochure," accessed January 3, 2021, <https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/FINAL%202020%20MC%20Pamphlet.pdf>.



The Participants

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■ **The in-country consultations included 355 children and 206 youth from 11 Asian and Pacific countries.**

The in-country partners reached out to these kids and teens because they had opinions on CRVS, wanted to be heard, and could represent groups with CRVS issues (see Table 2). In-country partners did not randomly select participants, so their views do not represent the views of children and youth in their represented country.

Half of the child participants were younger than 15, two of whom were only six years old, while the other half was not older than 17. The youth participants ranged in age from 18 to 24. More than half (53%) of the child participants were female, and 61% of the youth participants were female.

Table 1. Children and Youth Consultation Participants by Country and Gender (Count)

Countries	Children			Youth				Overall Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Others	Total	
Afghanistan	15	21	36	10	10		20	56
Bangladesh	0	0	0	15	15		30	30
Cambodia	31		31	7			7	38
India	91		91	35			35	126
Indonesia	5	15	20	4	7		11	31
Nepal	12	15	27	7	14	2	23	50
Pakistan	21	9	30	7	12	1	20	50
Philippines	9	14	23	1	6		7	30
Samoa	17	16	33	6	10		16	49
Sri Lanka	20	14	34	4	12		16	50
Thailand	10	20	30	7	14		21	51
Total	109*	124*	355	61*	100*	3	206	561

Note: +LGBTQ/Prefer not to say; *Excluding Cambodia and India

355 and 206 youth from 11 countries

in Asia and the Pacific participated in the in-country consultations.

Over a quarter (26%) of the participants, from 9 of the 11 countries that submitted complete data, belong to organizations working with children. Almost a quarter (24.18%) were from child-led organizations. About 17% come from communities that are considered isolated or remote in their respective countries, 11% belong to ethnic minorities, and 10% are working children. Children and youth from indigenous and migrant communities, children in alternative care, young couples, and children/youth from other groups were also represented in the consultations. Table 2 provides the details.

Table 2. Groups of the Children and Youth Participants (% to total/country; sorted)

Group ⁵	AFGH	BANG	IDSA	NEP	PKST	PHL	SAM	SRL	THAI	ASIA-PACIFIC
Child agency/ organization	37.5	3.33	6.45	18	30	66.67	8.16		60.78	25.94
Child-led organization	16.07	66.67	6.45	64	26		10.2		29.48	24.18
Isolated or remote community		13.33	74.19	10	8		10.2	28	23.53	16.88
Ethnic minority		3.33			4		4.08	48	11.76	11.34
Working children			16.13	6	14	33.33	2.04			10.33
Indigenous community	30.36		16.13	20	2	26.67	10.2			7.81
Migrant community	32.14			12	4	33.33			3.92	7.81
Children in alternative care			6.45	12	2	10	10.2	32		7.81
Children/youth born out of wedlock						3.33	2.04	40		5.29
Young couple		6.67	35.48				2.04			4.28
Out of school youth/children			3.23	8	4	20	2.04			3.53
Teenage mothers/fathers				8	4	6.67	12.24		1.96	3.27
Children/youth in conflict with the law				6			8.16			1.76
Children/youth in conflict with the law				4			4.08		5.58	1.76
Persons with disability				6	6					1.51
Adopted children/youth							4.08	4		1.01
Others (Orphans, Urban Poor)		6.67	19.35	18	4	3		14	3.92	7.05

⁶ AFGH-Afghanistan, BANG-Bangladesh, IDSA-Indonesia, NEP-Nepal, PKST-Pakistan, PHL-Philippines, SAM-SAMOA, SRL-Sri Lanka, THAI-Thailand

For the regional forum, there were 61 participants from eleven countries.

Table 3. Children and Youth Regional Participants by Country (Count)

Countries	Children			Youth			Overall Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Afghanistan	1	1	2	2		2	4
Bangladesh	2	2	2	2	1	3	5
Cambodia	2	2	4			0	4
India	3	3	6		2	2	8
Indonesia		5	5	2		2	7
Nepal	1	3	4	2	2	4	8
Pakistan	1	1	2	2	2	4	6
Philippines	2	1	3		3	3	6
Samoa		2	2	1	2	3	5
Sri Lanka			0	1	1	2	2
Thailand	1	2	3	2	1	3	6



Photo credit: UNICEF

The Consultations

■ The consultations followed a focus group consultation or an interview format. At least one country, Cambodia, did a survey. Almost all were conducted online. Table 4 details the different consultation modes used by the organizers in 11 participating countries.

Table 4. Consultation Modes

Countries	Mode
Afghanistan	Face-to-face consultation
Bangladesh	Online interviews
Cambodia	Online survey
India	Face-to-face consultation
Indonesia	Online consultations
Nepal	Face-to-face consultation
Pakistan	Face-to-face consultation
Philippines	Online consultation
Samoa	Face-to-face consultation
Sri Lanka	Face-to-face consultation
Thailand	Combination of online and face-to-face consultation

The consultations used qualitative methods to capture the range and significance of expressed views in response to open-ended and pointed questions.

The questions focused on five main inquiries:

- 1 General CRVS experience
- 2 Challenges in the registration process
- 3 Registration experience and perceived utility
- 4 Accuracy, validity, and quality of registration documents, and encountered challenges in correcting these
- 5 Recommendations to improve CRVS

Table 5. Consultation Questions

- **What are your experiences regarding birth/marriage/death certificate registration?**
- **Based on your experience or the experience of people you know, how does the government process the birth/marriage/death of a person?**
- **What do you think are the challenges in recording the birth/marriage/death of a person?**
- **In your opinion, is it important to have birth/marriage/death certificates?**
- **Is it difficult to get the certificates?**
- **When do you use these certificates?**
- **Do you know of anyone who experienced difficulty in getting their certificates? How did the lack of certificates affect you or the person you know?**
- **Are the details in your certificates correct? What happens if there are incorrect details?**
- **How have these incorrect details impacted you or someone you know? Have these been resolved? If yes, how? If no, what should be done about it?**
- **What are your recommendations to improve birth/marriage/death registration?**
- **What are your recommendations to address challenges in recording/registering the birth/marriage/death of a person?**
- **What are your recommendations to address the challenges in getting certificates?**
- **What are your recommendations to address the challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct?**

The questions and consultation guidelines were created with the participants' specific contexts in mind. With input from in-country partners, UN ESCAP, World Vision, and CRC Asia refined the questions and consultation guidelines to reflect the diverse contexts of the different countries in Asia and the Pacific. Birth, marriage, and death certification/registration are likely the most relevant for children and youth. They also advised in-country partners on how to include children and youth, implement child protection policies, and provide adult and professional support.

The consultation guidelines included tools for in-country partners, such as the Consultation Reporting Template, Registration/Attendance Template, and Evaluation Template. It also provided options for safe and inclusive consultations during the pandemic (offline, online, mix of platforms). It allowed for child-friendly consultations and for children to participate in the consultation process.

The guidelines were developed using the nine basic requirements⁶ for effective, ethical, and meaningful child participation. During the consultations, the safety of everyone was prioritized, especially of children and youth. The consultations and forum required a Child Safeguarding Protocol. CRC Asia prepared a set of activity-specific Child Participation and Child Safeguarding documents, even though the in-country partners' policies do not conflict with CRC Asia's. In-country partners funded by CRC Asia/UN ESCAP were required to use it, while others were encouraged.

⁶ Updated version of the nine basic requirements can be found at <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/applying-9-basic-requirements-meaningful-and-ethical-child-participation-during-covid-19>



Results of the Consultations with Children and Youth

Children and Youth's Experience and Knowledge of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Over 80% of the children and youth surveyed had direct or indirect experience of registration, and shared the impact it had on their lives or the lives of others. In the consultations, less than 20% of participants had opinions on CRVS, but did not have direct or indirect experience with it. In most cases, people shared their registration issues or heard about others' issues. Many shared that they or a family member have not yet registered their birth, marriage, or death. While some reported registering, others reported having trouble correcting errors on their certificates. Some had positive registration experiences.

■ Positive Registration Experience

Participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, and Thailand said the registration process was easy and went well. There are two (2) common factors from their experiences: a good government registration system that is easy, affordable, and accessible, and parental involvement showing support and value for the process.



I easily got my birth certificate because the government made it mandatory, and my father went to our village to process it."

a child participant from Nepal

The children and youth who had positive registration experiences had common backgrounds. Most of their families have a stable urban residence, are citizens of the countries they live in, were born in clinics and hospitals (for birth registration), and their relatives died in hospitals (for death registration). The registration process was difficult for the children, youth, and their families without these factors. Some chose not to register at all.

Reasons for Non-Registration

Unregistered participants from Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka shared personal reasons for not registering births, marriages, and deaths of relatives. Many of them were unaware of the value of registration, had no concept of it all, or did not take it seriously, while some felt they had no choice.

Two reasons stand out as alarming. One involves bonded labor families' children and youth, with participants from Pakistan citing they have no right to be registered because they belong to bonded labor families.

"I belong to a bonded family and I think we have no right to the certificate. Our parents spend their life without registration, so we will spend our life like this."

a 14-year-old boy from Pakistan

The other reason is from Sri Lankan SOS villages' children and youth who have probable birth certificates that are not officially acknowledged as a substitute for birth registration. There appears to be no easy way to convert them to actual birth certificates.

Others cited poverty as an issue with factors including inaccessibility to registration centers due to them living in rural areas, lack of awareness, unclear information, and births and deaths taking place at home.

Registration Woes

The registration issues stated by most of the children and youth from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are unfortunately intergenerational. Unregistered parents, both for marriage and birth, either do not value registering or simply cannot register their children's births, finding the registration process difficult. Death of an unregistered parent also hinders passport application for their child.

The registration issues are also linked. Couples whose births are unregistered struggle to register their marriage. Consequently, unregistered marriages make birth registration of children born from that marriage difficult.

Another contributing factor to registration problems is the rigidity of registration requirements, especially late registration and correction of details. Children, youth, and families who relocated must re-register, while migrants, refugees, and stateless persons have no recognized registration processes.

"I missed out on various opportunities, as well as basic rights guaranteed by birth certificates."

a young person from Nepal

Children's Perspectives on the Importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

The children and youth knew the value of registering births, marriages, and deaths. Over 80% based this on their own experience or on the experience of someone they know.

■ Importance of Birth Registration

Birth registration is important for the government and the people it serves, according to the children and youth, citing three (3) primary reasons:

1. It confirms one's national identity.
2. It is required to access services and support, such as school enrollment, employment, travel, healthcare, financial services, licenses, and other certifications such as driving, national ID card, marriage, and death.
3. It is required for voting.

For the government, birth registration is essential in keeping track of the population it serves, especially in planning and implementing services.

■ Importance of Marriage Registration

Marriage registration is important for the children and youth for the following reasons:

1. It proves a marriage is legal and prevents fake marriages.
2. It prevents marriages without consent and decreases violence against women and girls.
3. It is a requirement in processes and services, including spousal benefits, banking, insurance, inheritance, division of assets in case of divorce or separation, establishing guardianship in times of emergency, and birth registration of children.
4. It is required in filing for adultery, annulment, or divorce.

■ Importance of Death Registration

Death registration is important for the children and youth for the following reasons:

1. It proves the death of a person and shows the cause of death.
2. It is required in processes and services, such as accessing financial assistance from the government, inheritance, pension, settlement of assets, passport application of children, and processing burials in some cases.
3. It is used by the government to know the condition of its population, especially on health-related issues.

Children and Youth's Knowledge of the Challenges of Registration

■ Birth Registration

Challenges are:

1. Lack of awareness and education on its process and importance
2. Lack of access to and coverage of birth registration

- a. This is evident in the lack of proper home birth registration procedures and access to registration centers due to distance or lack of government facilities.
 - b. This can also be seen in some groups' inability to process birth registration. Those who cannot read or write, have disabilities, are migrants, or live in remote areas have difficulty accessing birth registration.
3. Problems in the registration process also impede birth registration:
 - a. Actual process
 - Complicated and time-consuming
 - Insufficient time to comply with the requirements
 - Long lines in the registration centers
 - b. Registration staff
 - Not accommodating and helpful

■ **Marriage Registration**

Challenges are:

1. Limited options for marriage registration
 - a. Some areas lack a marriage registration office or agency, making it difficult for] those living in the provinces and rural areas. Some may need to travel to the city to register.
 - b. Online registration is not an option.
2. Lack of awareness on the importance of a marriage certificate
3. Lengthy process
4. Ineligibility to register child marriage
 - a. Since child marriage has been outlawed, married Nepali children are unable to register their marriage, multiplying their problems. They are trapped in a marriage not legally recognized, without the protection of and benefits from the government and society.
5. Ineligibility of parents lacking marriage registration to register the birth of their children

■ **Death Registration**

Challenges are:

1. Lack of accountability from the registering agencies
 - a. Hospitals and the government do not take death certification seriously.
 - b. Private hospitals issue fake death certificates.
 - c. Inaccurate details in the death certificate.

2. Lack of education and awareness on its importance and process
3. Lack of interest to secure death certificate
4. Complicated and lengthy process
5. Non-issuance of death certificate when death occurs at home even if the family goes to the hospital
6. Deprivation of monetary assistance or inheritance and settlement for the children of the unregistered dead

Children and Youth's Recommendations to Improve Birth, Marriage, and Death Registration

■ Birth Registration

Recommendations are:

1. Ensure the registration of all children wherever they are born.
2. Ensure fast registration within 30 days after birth.
3. Ensure accurate registration.

To achieve these goals, the children and youth listed specific actions that governments and other stakeholders can take:

1. Government can ensure registration of all children by:
 - a. Increasing the number registration sites, especially in remote areas
 - b. Facilitating birth registry for home births
 - c. Establishing alternative information centers and birth registration offices in hospitals or otherwise for special populations
 - d. Implementing alternative birth registration procedures for special populations
 - e. Having a separate procedure for unregistered orphans, migrants, and refugees, such as allowing birth registration within the year of birth, and the provision of birth certificates based on date and place of birth, without the need for parents' presence, especially in the case of orphans.
 - f. Making a registration system for refugees
 - g. Setting up a system ensuring all relevant documents of the child are handed over when they are endorsed to an orphanage
 - h. Extending assistance to children and youth from special groups like indigenous communities
 - i. Integrating health programs for newborns with birth registration campaigns, such as providing birth cards during children's vaccination
 - j. Recruiting one person per village or district to register children born at home, issue birth cards, and report births to relevant organizations (This can be done by assigning teams to do house-to-house registration.)
 - k. Making birth registration mandatory; mothers giving birth at home should take their children to hospitals for birth registration
 - l. Raising awareness and conducting education campaigns on registration, its

- importance, and how and where to do it in the communities
- m. Improving collaboration between local non-government organizations (NGOs) and the government
2. Government can ensure fast registration by:
 - a. Increasing the number of registration personnel
 - b. Mobilizing health personnel or hospital staff to provide birth registration cards to mothers
 - c. Strengthening institutional cooperation and training hospital staff to coordinate with the civil register on birth registration
 3. Government can ensure accurate registration by:
 - a. Training staff involved in the registration
 - b. Improving processes and the computer system
 - c. Improving cooperation between national and local governments for the proper monitoring and follow-up on the needed system and infrastructure improvements for CRVS

■ **Marriage Registration**

Recommendations are:

1. Make marriage registration mandatory.
2. Improve services and processes.
 - a. Expand options for couples to make their marriage legal in the nearest possible place like their own village.
 - b. Make the process free.
3. Clarify and raise awareness on the process.
4. Ensure a fast marriage registration process (within 30 days).

■ **Death Registration**

1. Make it easier by:
 - a. Establishing an office in every district
 - b. Allowing religious leaders (imams/priests/pastors) presiding over funeral services to check death registrations and do the registrations
 - c. Making it free
2. Improve death registration services and processing by:
 - a. Clarifying who should do the registration and where it could be done
 - b. Ensuring that details of death, such as the cause of death, are accurately recorded and verified
3. Increase awareness on the death registration process, especially on how and where to do the registration



Photo credit: Group Development Pakistan

The Regional Forum

Child-friendly Venue to Hear Children's Voices

The organizers initially planned to hold three sub-regional forums (Greater Mekong/Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Asia and the Pacific) to allow participants to share their CRVS experiences and recommendations. When the participants in the in-country consultations finalized their chosen delegates for the forum, the organizers decided to reduce the number of sub-regional virtual forums from three to two in March 2021. Lockdowns in May 2021 forced organizers to hold only one regional forum for children and youth who can safely participate from home.

The forum allowed the in-country consultations' children and youth representatives to start drafting their joint video statement and select members of a Statement Core Group who would finalize it. Before the regional forum, a child-friendly information packet was distributed to participants to prepare and guide them for the forum in drafting their joint video statement (Annex 5: Information Pack about the Regional Forum for Children and Youth, p. 91). Adult support (i.e., Adult Mentors, Interpreters, other representatives of in-country partner organizations) received a separate information pack to ensure they were well-informed to support the regional forum's children and youth delegates.

Tanja Sejersen, of the UN ESCAP, gave a welcome address, emphasizing the importance of civil registration and vital statistics, and the government's responsibility to ensure everyone's access. Following her, Kathrine Yee, Regional Advocacy Director for World Vision International, explained the forum's purpose and objectives.

The delegates discussed how to present the findings and how to support them in their joint video statement during the workshop session, which covered three major topics:

1. **Importance** – Why is it important to have birth, marriage, and death certificates?
2. **Challenges** – What are the challenges we face in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?
3. **Recommendations** – How can the government and other people help us in getting birth, marriage, and death certificates?

■ Children's Views

During the forum, the children expressed their views, echoing those expressed during the in-country consultations. For them, registration is more than a piece of paper, and that they are not legally recognized without birth registration. They see it as a gateway to services. This piece of paper, according to a Sri Lankan delegate, can destroy a child's or anyone's future.

Certificates are human rights, and without it, children do not legally exist in the system.



Certificates are human rights, and without it, children do not legally exist in the system."

child and youth delegates of the regional forum

■ The Video Statement Core Group

Participants chose their Statement Core Group representatives after the discussion. They chose 13 from 9 countries (i.e., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand). To ensure that all 11 countries are represented in the final video statement, the organizers asked the delegates from Cambodia and Samoa to nominate their representatives. To finalize the joint video statement to be presented to the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and Pacific from November 16–19, 2021, the Statement Core Group had 15 members by June 2021.

Joint Statement of Children and Youth on Birth, Marriage and Death Registration/Certification

Birth, marriage, and death certificates are human rights.

A birth certificate is important in the different stages of our lives because it reflects our identity and our relationship with the people around us, including our parents.

It is the first document that gives us recognition as citizens. We need it now, to go to school. And we will need it for future employment and in realizing our dreams. We need it to secure important papers such as our national identification card, driver's license and even our marriage certificate when we decide to have our own family.

And we need it to access healthcare.

Our birth certificates allow us to practice our right to vote, to exercise our freedom of movement. And in the future, it will allow us to access financial services such as banking and insurance.

Data on birth, marriage, and death registrations are important for governments to ensure every citizen, including us children and youth, is considered in the provision of services including education, health, and disease prevention.

Marriage certificates give our parents access to social benefits and services.

It also guarantees us with parental support, in cases of separation or divorce, and with claim to properties or inheritance due to death of a parent.

Death certificates, guarantee our right to our parents' pension, compensation, and other financial support.

Birth, marriage, and death registrations do not only secure us access to our rights. They also give us protection.

Efficient birth and marriage certification will protect us from the irreversible impacts of child or early marriage. All children and youth should be allowed to enjoy their childhood, their youth.

The marriage certificate is an important document for women who experience harassment and violence at home and want to file for divorce. Marriage

registration can also protect us, children and youth, from forced or fake marriages.

Birth, marriage, and death registration helps the government in ensuring efficient allocation of goods and services.

It promotes fair elections and good governance. A reliable death registration system is a good reference for voter registration. It prevents election fraud.

Efficient death registration will allow governments to know the causes of preventable deaths, and provide protective measures against it. In cases of violent deaths and human rights violations, the death certificate is an important supporting document in pursuing legal action.

But many people hesitate to register births, marriages, and deaths.

They find the registration process complicated. It consumes their time, energy, and money. Many people also hesitate to register births, marriages, and deaths because of the quality of service in the registration centers. Some experience discrimination. Some experience difficulties to correct errors made by data encoders themselves.

Some get discouraged when concerned government units and private institutions provide little help and add another obstacle to the registration process.

We, the children and youth of Asia and the Pacific, have the limitless potential to contribute to society.

But we can only develop our full potential when our rights are secured and protected.

And this starts with our basic, identifying documents.

As we participated in consultations and online forum on civil registration and vital statistics, we saw the need to actively raise awareness about the importance of birth, marriage, and death registration and certificates.

Children and youth need all adults to understand this – all adults.

And parents and other children caregivers need to understand how birth registration affects our access to education, healthcare, and other government services.

We do not only want to share, with other children and youth, the importance of getting registered. We want to have a dialogue with our governments. We have recommendations to make registration systems responsive to the needs of its citizen, regardless of race, class, gender, ethnicity, religion, and abilities.

We, the participants of the children and youth regional forum on issues of civil registration and vital statistics held in May 2021, strongly recommend for governments to make and enforce laws that support timely registration of all

births, marriages, and deaths.

Governments also need to ensure that the registration systems are efficient and accurate.

We recommend:

- increasing the number of personnel and registration centers, to make them accessible to people.
- providing appropriate training for all of its personnel.
- involving community and religious leaders in the registration system.
- improving coordination between different government units and other institutions such as hospitals, churches and police departments.
- providing different accessible options such as online registration, for parents and families of children and youth in different conditions
- guaranteeing all parents and families of children and youth with assistance based on their different situations.

Governments need to make the birth, marriage, and death registration simple and cost-free for our families.

And governments need to make sure information about this process is widely distributed in different languages and in forms of communication that are accessible to people who are differently-abled.

We also ask the governments to recognize probable age certificates for children and youth who are orphans, stateless, or victims of abuse.

Please, let every individual in your country be counted.

Protect them from injustices that this lack of recognition from institutions may bring.

We, the children and youth, need governments, civil society and other concerned individuals and organizations to commit to the development of our full potential.

It all starts with an efficient and accurate registration system where everyone is registered.

Register us to include us in public services and programs.

Register all of us, now!

■ Children's Experiences

Many children shared negative registration experiences during the regional forum, echoing the perspectives of some of the participants of the in-country consultations. They say the government is not doing enough to help them register.

“Poverty, illiteracy, and lack of information hinder registration.

child and youth delegates of the regional forum

Families who live in remote areas and cannot afford to travel to registration centers are hampered by poverty. When they do register, they have trouble correcting errors on the certificates. Several participants said registration officials sometimes demand money and intentionally delay registration.

Parents' lack of awareness of the importance of birth registration and the processes involved prevents registration. Delegates agreed that more information is needed to emphasize the value of registration. Assistance with birth certificates is also required, especially for minorities.

Many children said that lack of hospital and government support also hindered death registration. They said hospitals and even the government don't take death certificates seriously. There were errors in some death certificates, and a delegate from Pakistan stated that there is no system for issuing death certificates in communities.

■ Children's Recommendations

The forum's delegates emphasized one major recommendation: make birth, marriage, and death registration easily accessible, free, and without erroneous information.

“ Make registration accurate, easily accessible, and free of charge.

child and youth delegates of the regional forum

They emphasized the importance of gathering birth, marriage, and death certificates to urge policy-makers to register everyone. They said the lack of certificates not only causes problems when registering, but also impacts their daily lives. They can't enroll in school, travel freely, claim inheritance or property without these certificates. Participants can be motivated to “get everyone in the picture” if the government is made aware of their situation, suggesting specific actions that governments can take:

- Increase the number of registration center managers
- Increase infrastructure and create mechanisms so people can get important documents
- more easily
- Review registration procedures
- Improve capacity of registration staff
- Ensure accountability in the registration process to minimize errors
- Review benefits and salaries of registration staff
- Prioritize connectivity and digitalization
- Provide comprehensive information at the district office providing registration services, not just in the online platforms



Photo credit: Group Development Pakistan

Conclusions and Recommendations

To be unrecognized in society is to be deprived of one's human rights. Many participants in the in-country consultations and regional forum revealed that they are among the unrecognized and expressed how they are the faces behind the numbers. To address this, participants made recommendations, which are summarized here.

Children's Views and Experiences on Civil Registration

■ Two Key Actors in Universal Registration

Participants identified governments and parents as key players in successful registration. Governments made registration simple, affordable, and accessible. The parents valued registration, were registered, and registered their kids.

■ Registration Barriers

Participants experienced institutional and social barriers connected to the aforementioned key actors.

- Institutional barriers stem from CRVS-related agencies' policies and practices. There is a lack of coordination between government departments, human resource skills, and capacity gaps in the agencies responsible for CRVS processes. Specific ones they encountered include:
- A complicated and lengthy registration process, including late registration
- Rigid requirements such as the need for witnesses to confirm one's birth and parents, and the need for parents' birth certificates and national identity card, among others
- Lack of a registration process for people with special needs
- Technical issues in processing certificates and correcting errors
- Lack of facilities and staff for filing of registration

On the other hand, social barriers refer to demand-side challenges that may hinder timely registration. These may include lack of understanding and awareness of the importance of registration and the difference in the language and cultural practices of a person to a country's lingua franca and common practices. Poverty is also a social barrier as many poor families, especially those living in rural areas, are unable to afford the high cost of registration, lengthy processes, and travel expenses.

The Impact of Lack of Registration on the Children

Registration is important for the children and youth participants of the consultation and forum. Birth registration establishes their legal identity and is key to accessing rights, entitlements, and services. Marriage registration establishes a person's civil status and protects them from deceit, violence, or separation. A marriage certificate is also required to register children, access financial claims and benefits, and file for adultery, annulment, or divorce. A death certificate also proves a person's death and facilitates financial assistance, inheritance, pension, and asset settlement, and is also required for burial. Needless to say, the lack of these certificates negatively impacts children and youth in many ways.

Limited Participation in Society

The lack of registration prevents children and youth from enrolling in school, moving up levels, participating in sports, or traveling freely. Their registration ownership determines their educational level, activities, future job opportunities, and travel options. Their lack of registration prevents them from contributing to society. Currently, the LGBTQI are not recognized in some countries.

A story of a young person from Nepal

Aparna (not her real name) does not have a vital registration certificate because both her parents lacked knowledge about the importance of having them. She couldn't go to school because she does not have a birth certificate or a citizenship card. She works on the streets as a ragpicker. She feels that the lack of such crucial documents has hindered her dreams.

Lack of Access to Basic Services

Registration is the key to accessing government services. It establishes one's legal identity as well as their citizenship rights and gives them access to entitlements and services. Access to basic services like health care and education becomes difficult for unregistered children, especially those whose parents did not register their marriages. Some participants said they couldn't access government or financial services because their parents couldn't produce their marriage and birth certificates.

A story of a child from Sri Lanka

Sadesh (not his real name) shared that his grandmother doesn't know her actual age because she doesn't have a birth certificate and a national identity card. Because of this, she was not able to open a bank account. She faces a lot of difficulties when she goes to health clinics and government hospitals.

Lack of Protection

No registration means no protection. Without birth certificates, children are vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. In fact, many children in different parts of Asia are trapped in unrecognized marriages, without the protection or benefits of the state or society. Marriage certificates are required to register children born from these types of unions. The LGBTQI community is also unprotected because many governments do not recognize their civil unions.

A story of a young person from Nepal

Rama (not her real name) is an 18-year-old, Grade 11 female student. She got pregnant at the age of 15 and had an informal marriage ceremony. When the baby was six months old, she went back to her parents to continue her studies. She wanted to register the birth of her son but couldn't do so because she cannot present a marriage certificate. She requested the child's father to help in obtaining the birth certificate, but he demanded custody before he would help. The father is getting married to another woman, and Rama cannot claim property rights or support for her or her child because they were never formally married or divorced. She fears that the child's legal identity may be hampered.

■ The Cycle of Unregistration and Poverty

Many who are not registered belong to low-income families. Because registration is required to access basic services, many unregistered people are further pushed into poverty, perpetuating and reinforcing the cycle of poverty. In many cases, like poverty, non-registration is passed down from parent to child to grandchild.

A story of a young person from Nepal

A young girl shared that when her father passed away, they couldn't get a death certificate for him because his birth was unregistered. Mariam (not her real name) lives with her three sisters and their mother. Their mother is illiterate and a domestic worker who works hard for them to give them an education.

She and her siblings are not registered. They tried to register but couldn't because they lacked their father's death certificate, and their mother is not registered too and does not have a computerized national ID card. They asked for help, but they were told that registering entails a long process and they need to hire a lawyer. They cannot afford to get a lawyer.

Making Registration Accessible to All

The CRVS issue requires a societal approach. Parents/guardians must register their children, but the process must be accessible, transparent, and affordable. A basic document recognizing rights and citizenship is vital for all citizens, especially the most vulnerable. This section suggests actions that stakeholders can take to ensure that all births, marriages, and deaths are registered, remove obstacles to registration, and reduce the impact of non-registration.

■ For Governments

To address institutional and social barriers to registration, the government can start by educating the public. Many children and their parents, especially the poor, refugees, illiterate, and migrants, do not know how to register. The government must make sure everyone understands the consequences of not registering births, marriages, and deaths.

One major institutional barrier identified by the children is unclear birth and late registration processes. Many said the process is time-consuming, costly, and requires rigid requirements like birth certificates and income information from parents. Complying with the rules costs time and money, which the poor cannot afford. Governments can streamline the registration process and improve the skills of their registration personnel.

Governments can make birth registration mandatory to ensure every birth is registered. This can also help orphans, migrants, and refugees by providing alternative birth registration policies, such as basing registration on the child's birthdate and place of birth, rather than on the presence of parents; as well as acknowledging and including the LGBTQI in official statistics and registration processes. As the government refines registration processes to include all, it can also reduce or eliminate birth registration and late fees, or provide financial assistance to those who need it.

Better registration processes and facilities for those born at home, remote areas, marginalized and vulnerable groups can help governments expand their reach. They also emphasized the need to increase hospital staff capacity and numbers to ensure all babies are registered. These changes should be accompanied by better digital infrastructure and data systems, and improved cooperation between the national and local government.

Access to birth registration services can be combined with early childhood development or universal access to education. Many children said they can't go to school because they don't have birth certificates, so when they talked about coordination between the different government agencies, they meant linking registration with education services. Government education agencies should be able to facilitate the process of securing birth registration for students if universal access to education is the government's policy and a birth certificate is going to be a requirement.

■ **For Parents**

The children who took part in both activities suggested actions for parents as well. For them, parents should take registration seriously, and must quickly register their marriages and children's births. Many of the children said they didn't have birth certificates because their parents do not have a marriage certificate. It all starts at home.

■ **For NGOs**

Several children identified the importance of NGOs in spreading registration information and strengthening institutions by providing training. NGOs can play this role by raising community awareness on the importance of CRVS.

Despite the difficulties young people had accessing registration in various Asian and Pacific countries, children cited examples that show how registration can be made accessible to all. During the in-country consultations and the regional forum, some shared a positive birth registration experience. They said the government made registration simple, affordable, and accessible. They also said their parents helped them register because they understand the value of birth certificates, were registered themselves, and handled their children's registration.

These responses emphasize the importance of the government and parents registering all children. Birth, marriage, and death certificates are tangible proof that the government and parents value and recognize their lives and protect their future. The children revealed their concerns not only about the registration process, but also about how non-registration affects their education, freedom, and quality of life. By allowing everyone to register, we can ensure that every child is protected, can access services, and can assert their rights.



Photo credit: Group Development Pakistan

Young People's Voices in the Picture: Stories on CRVS

A Child of Street Situations

Aparna (not her real name) is a child from Kathmandu. Her father was an alcoholic who mentally and physically abused his wife and two children. He died when she was five years old. Her mother remarried, this time to a man who was a rag picker like herself and who also had two children. Aparna and her sister never received the love they deserve, causing her to run back to the streets. She was rescued numerous times and brought to shelter homes, yet she always goes back to the streets. She is now married to a former street dweller. She has a five-year-old daughter and is now four months pregnant.

Aparna is one of the many people in Nepal without a vital registration certificate. Because both her parents lacked knowledge about the importance of registration, they never got registered. According to her, she has missed out on various opportunities as well as basic rights guaranteed by such certificates. She laments not being able to receive a good education due to the lack of any identifying documents such as a birth certificate. This adversely affected her chances of having the life she dreamt of. Ever since she was a kid, she always wanted to break free to escape the life she was living. She says the lack of such crucial documents has hindered her dreams.

When her father died, they were not able to get a death certificate because he did not possess any proof of identity. This hampered her chances to claim for property rights in her father's ancestral home. Furthermore, due to lack of a birth certificate, she was also not able to get her citizenship card. Because she did not have identity documents and was deprived of education, she was forced to work in the streets as a rag picker.

She married at the early age of 14 to a boy who was also living in the streets who was a year older than her. They have a five-year-old daughter and are living in a rented room. She was also not able to file a birth certificate for her child because she and her husband do not have any supporting documents for registration, such as a citizenship certificate or marriage certificate. According to her, her biggest fear in life is her daughter having the same fate as hers due to lack of vital registration certificates. With the help of an NGO, she was able to send her daughter to school, but she worries that the absence of the birth or citizenship certificate will hamper her daughter's chances of receiving all the perks and services provided by such certificates.

She also shared her experience about the numerous visits she did to concerned government offices responsible for providing these vital certificates. She said that she has visited the ward office multiple times to file her certificates. However, due to lack of other supporting documents she was unable to register and get them. When she heard that she might be able to obtain the certificates using her father's identity documents, she travelled to their ancestral place in search of a relative or anyone who can identify her deceased father in front of a concerned government officer as this might help obtain her father's certificate. However, she was unable to find anyone who knew her father in Kavre District.

She feels that government should make some special provisions and policies in favor of vulnerable children and youths so that they can also get birth, citizenship, and marriage certificates even if their parents do not possess such vital certificates. She asks, "I am a Nepali who was born and brought up in Nepal. Why am I not able to receive my certificate?"

There are many children and youth in Nepal who face the same problem she does. They ask themselves and society the same question. By coming forward and sharing her experiences, she hopes to highlight the difficulties people like her face in obtaining the certificates. She hopes that responsible authorities take the necessary actions so that other children and youth do not have to suffer like her.

Children of Early Marriages

Rama (not her real name) is an 18-year-old, Grade 11 female student. She lives with her parents and her two-year-old son in a rented flat in Kathmandu. Her story is a case prevalent in Nepalese society—marriage before the legal age of 20 and its consequences.

Many children and youth in Nepal are married before the legal age. A UNICEF report states that 40% of Nepalese girls are married before their 18th birthday and 7% are married before the age of 15. About 10% of Nepali boys get married before the age of 18. Their young age deprives them from getting a marriage certificate as well as the birth certificate of their children.

Rama fell in love when she was fifteen-year-old with a boy who was a year older than her. She was still an elementary student when she became pregnant. When her parents found about her pregnancy, they contacted the father of the unborn child and his parents. Eight months into her pregnancy and with the consent of their parents, she was sent to the boy's home. They had an informal marriage ceremony witnessed only by their parents.

When the baby was six months old, she came back to her parents. To continue her studies, her parents decided to enroll her in Grade 10 and asked her to stay back until she completes her education. This caused the rift between her and her partner. It has been more than two years since she went back to her parents. She is not in good terms with the father of the baby.

Being an educated girl, she knows about the importance of the birth certificate. She wants to register her son's birth. However, because she does not have a marriage certificate since she was married before the legal age, she is unable to file for the birth certificate of her child. To secure the future of her child, she requested the child's father to help in obtaining the birth certificate. He demanded for the custody of the child before he would help.

She heard the father of her child is getting married to another person. She cannot do anything about this if it were true because they do not have a marriage certificate. She cannot claim for property rights since they were never formally married or divorced. She cannot even ask for child support. Her biggest concern is that the identity of her child will be hampered.

She has visited ward offices to secure her child's birth certificate using her own as basis, but she has always been denied. According to the law, details of both parents are needed to obtain a birth certificate. Rama believes that the government should amend the policies to allow a child to register and receive a birth certificate based on the mother's certificate only. There might be many children facing a similar situation. Moreover, since there are many adolescent and young adults who get married before the age of 20, there should be special provisions for children who are born of such marriages so that they can also receive their birth certificates.

Pakistan

The Lack of Registration Denies People their Rights

My name is Ali and my story revolves around my birth certificate and its importance.

I belong to the small village of Takkar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province-Pakistan. I grew up there and had no clear knowledge of what birth registration means. I was not registered until I reached the age of 16, when I realized how important it is.

It surprised me to know that I have been living and growing up in Pakistan but officially, I was not their citizen. I cannot claim or prove my identity, which deprives me of my "right to identity." It can also make it difficult for me to travel locally and internationally.

When I learned all these, I decided to fill out Form B and register my birth. I went to the National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) Mega Centre with my parents who were already registered. It was a great

experience for me because I was able to do it without any hurdles, even on a Sunday. The facility was open 24/7 in my locality.

It took me less than an hour to register, but the wait for my turn was long due to the heavy workload. Verification was easier because it was carried out biometrically by my mother. The great thing was that there were no mistakes in recording the data. If there were, they can be corrected in a few minutes without any hurdles or extra fee. You just need your parents for verification/attestation. I also learned that it can also be done on your own through your Union Council officer. This is easier, but it is important to get it done on time otherwise you will need the medical board for your age determination.

Without my birth certificate, I would have been deprived of my right to identity, my right to education, my right to travel and move locally and internationally, and my right to health.

Having my birth certificate allowed me to get a passport to travel internationally in 2019. When I first went to the Immigration Office to apply for a passport, I was shocked to learn that I won't be able to get it because at the age of 16, I still did not have a birth registration. This meant that I was not a registered citizen of Pakistan and my parents were not aware of it.

Based on my experience, I would recommend the following:

- we should raise awareness. Many people like me are not aware of the importance of birth registration
- there should be a specific policy and age limit for birth registration which all parents should be bound to do for their children
- there should be interlinkage and coordination between authorities like hospitals, schools, among others, to gather data on unregistered children
- the NADRA centre or offices should be made accessible to everyone and there should be load management to make the process quicker and reduce waiting time.
- there should be yearly updates of birth records with the NADRA centre so that if any mistake is recorded, it can be corrected

The Lack of Registration Denies the Right to Citizenship

My name is Saba and I have two children. My family is engaged in the labor of brick kiln. I married 5 years ago. The Nikah (wedding) ceremony was held in the local mosque of the brick kiln where we worked in 2016. We are not aware of the importance of the marriage registration at the time of Nikah and did not bother to register it and to get a certificate from the local union council.

After the birth of our first child, we felt the need for the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) for the birth registration of our child. We learned that the CNIC is a mandatory document for birth registration or B-form. When we inquired with the National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) for our CNIC, we were asked to present our marriage certificate, but we did not know how to get it. When we inquired about our Nikah registrar, we learned he died and no one knows about our Nikah record. Our marriage was never registered because the Molvi who married us did not process the Nikah in the Union Council Office.

Now, whenever we go to that mosque for our marriage certificate, the staff say they have submitted it to the Union Council. But the Union Council is not cooperating with us; it did not provide us a relevant certificate even with repeated visits and follow-ups.

Because of our lack of awareness and the carelessness of concerned authorities, we cannot get our marriage certificate from the Union Council and are unable to process our CNICs. Our children's birth cannot be registered until we have our CNICs. Our lack of a marriage certificate, CNIC, and birth certificates deprives us and our children Pakistani citizenship. Without citizenship, we are unable to get social security, education, health, wages, and other government services.

The Lack of Birth Registration is a Barrier to the Right to Education

My name is Anum. I work as a teacher at a non-formal basic education school. Almost 60 students enrolled in my school get education under my supervision. This school is for poor, needy, and laborer-class children. The students enrolled in our school belong to the lowest-income families of remote communities. Our school helps poor parents provide education to their children.

Many parents do not have their computerized national identity cards. The lack of this card is a key hurdle to student's birth registration at the Union Council or at the NADRA. These parents belong to the laborer class. They have very low income and face great difficulty in fulfilling their basic needs. Many of them are illiterate and are not aware of the significance of birth registration and how to proceed with it. Many of them do not have the knowledge and awareness about the basic rules and regulations in dealing with the registration process. Some parents cannot afford the costs associated with registration, including travel to registration sites or late fees. Thus, many are unable to register their children.

Birth registration is a basic document required for enrollment to any public-sector run institute. Many students do not have birth certificates. Because of this, we are unable to complete their enrollment process. The concerned government officials must pay special attention to resolve this issue so that the children can enjoy their basic right to education and continue their learning journey.

Samoa

The Importance of Birth Registration

When I played in our school's rugby team, our coach asked us to bring our birth certificates to confirm that we met the age requirement. We all brought our birth certificates. Those who qualified for the team were those born in 2000. There was one other boy who was born in 1998. In his desire to play and be part of the team, he crossed out the year 1998 and wrote the year 2000 on his birth certificate.

The teacher did not notice the change until the game's officials received many complaints about this overage boy playing in our school rugby team. An investigation ensued and it was discovered that the boy tampered his birth certificate. An inquiry into the Birth, Deaths, and Marriages Offices, which produced the boy's actual birth certificate, confirmed the document was tampered. He was immediately taken off the team.

This experience taught me about the seriousness of tampering with registered documents and the importance of being registered. If this boy was not registered at birth, the rugby officials will find it difficult to confirm the boy's actual date of birth.

The story illustrated a real need for registrations to be compulsory and for their processes to be accessible to all. The certificates validate the existence of and the status of a person through birth, death, or marriage.

Lessons from a Birth Registration

I am young mother and my experience with the registration process is through the birth certificate changes I requested for my first-born child. I experienced a problem not at the time of my son's first registration, but when I went back to the Registration Office to change his last name.

When my son was born, I registered my child and specified my name and his biological father's name as his parents. At the time, his father and I were still in a relationship but we were not married. We separated and I married a different man. Since I married and my son's biological father does not contribute to raising my son, my husband and I agreed to replace my son's last name with my husband's last name.

When I went to the Registration Office, I was told that I can only do this if the biological father will give his consent. In the end, I did not get exactly what I wanted. Instead, my son's last name was changed from his



Annex

Annex 2: Matrices of Consolidated Results of In-Country Consultations

South Asia

Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS

Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS, according to the following circumstances			
	NEED/USE	CHALLENGES	OUTCOME
BIRTH CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• it is a required document and basis for a person’s age• it is the gateway to and a requirement for government services, and particularly for the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- school admission/ enrollment from primary to college- job application- marriage certificate- travel (passport and driver’s license)- financial services- medical/health services- death certificate• valid identification (used by the government as a unique identification/ recognition as a citizen/ identity, e.g., ethnicity as an Afghan born abroad as a displaced person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• involves a lengthy process to obtain/tedious (others reported that they were able to obtain their birth certificate immediately or at the time of birth – mostly are born in hospital)• the incompleteness of national records and lack of government policy makes it difficult for vulnerable children/orphans to obtain birth certificate when their primary caregiver dies or leaves them• LGBTQ face difficulties in changing the gender in their birth certificate due to excessive bureaucracy and social stigma• inconsistencies in details between those written in the birth certificate and in the Tazkira (National ID)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Difficulty in birth information correction• lack of education and awareness on the birth registration process and requirements<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No clear birth registration and late birth registration process• difficulty in school admission as school authorities do not provide primary school admission• difficult requirements like birth certificate of the parents, income information, and vaccination card; some parents do not have their own birth certificates• poverty and illiteracy also prevented people from securing a birth certificate• technical issues in processing birth certificates<ul style="list-style-type: none">• low internet/server connection for online registration• electricity problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• individuals resorting to using connections and bribery to fast track the process• several respondents reported not knowing their exact age• inconsistencies in details/ data can result to a lengthy verification process• families experience intergenerational lack of birth certificates• families are deprived of basic services

Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS, according to the following circumstances			
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requirement for social and legal recognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - marriage certificate is needed for divorce settlements - marriage certificate is needed to access benefits due to spouse, insurance, and inheritance in case of divorce/separation/death - a requirement for accessing financial services - a requirement to establish guardianship for spouse and children especially in times of emergency - legitimizes the birth of a child • marriage certificate as an important document for those wanting to go abroad/ requirement for travel and bookings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquiring marriage certificate is not made a priority/not routine for newlywed couple/those married in the traditional manner, until the time they need it as a requirement to facilitate certain transactions with government • lack of knowledge/awareness on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - importance of marriage certificate - process and systems for securing and registering a marriage certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those married in the traditional manner, which did not have formal marriage certificates, were required to present multiple witnesses as proof of their marriage, making it a more tedious and costly process • couples without birth certificates have difficulty registering their children
DEATH CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accuracy of details in the death certificate has serious implications in judicial proceedings particularly in murder/homicide cases as it can make or break the case • legal requirement for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - property distribution and settlements/ transferring assets (e.g., bank deposits, etc.) - claiming of government benefits - claiming of benefits at work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of knowledge/awareness on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - importance of death certificate - process and systems for securing a death certificate • government/insurance benefits exclusion • acquiring a death certificate has a fee that not everyone can afford • during the COVID outbreak, a respondent reported that only in-hospital deaths were recorded while out of hospital deaths were not • there were instances of mistaken identity wherein the National ID number of a respondent was registered to someone who was already deceased, forcing him to file proof that he is not the same person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a suspect was acquitted due to the inaccuracy of the details in the death certificate • relatives of some deceased persons are not fully aware if death certificates are actually being filed and issued • a respondent reported an instance wherein someone easily assumed the identity of a dead person and this was not caught since the death certificate of that person was not registered to begin with

Q2. Registration process

Q2. Registration process according to the following circumstances:			
	REGISTRATION PROCESS	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• in-hospital birth<ul style="list-style-type: none">- accomplishment of the birth registration form filled by the parents or hospital- the process is easier and usually has shorter lead time than birth registration from birth outside of the hospital• birth in non-hospital setting<ul style="list-style-type: none">- accomplishment of registration form to be filed/submitted at the civil registration office or related agencies- online filing of birth registration is an option in some countries- The process is harder as government office may require additional requirement like immunization card	<p>the challenges mostly affect birth registration from births in a non-medical facility setting and adult birth registration. The challenges are due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of awareness on the birth registration process<ul style="list-style-type: none">- different turn-around time for filing completion- different cost- lengthy process for revision of details• the lack of clear process led to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- higher cost in the birth registration- unprofessionalism/indifference of staff facilitating the registration - resort to bribery- inequality in the treatment of the poor and adults- Inadequate coordination among government units• lack of education and awareness on the importance of birth registration<ul style="list-style-type: none">- specifically with daily laborers, domestic workers, and migrant laborers (they feel it is not important and they will lose their daily wages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• education and awareness drive on the importance of birth registration
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• difficulty in securing registration due to illiteracy and sexual orientation<ul style="list-style-type: none">- illiterate families are usually unaware of the process and the need for certification- transgender, run-away individuals were refused certification due to lack of proof of identity• there is no existing registration process for persons with disabilities• requirements that are hard to accomplish for some<ul style="list-style-type: none">- marriage certificate of the parents as requirement for birth certification application; lack of it makes the parents not eligible to apply- lack of birth certificate of parents- lack of a national identity card• lack of facilities for the filing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- lack of dedicated areas for the filing, only those in the cities have access.- challenges in electricity supply affects online registration- problems in computer server affects online registration	

Q2. Registration process according to the following circumstances:			
	REGISTRATION PROCESS	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • birth registration of adults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accomplishment of registration form - the process is harder due to various challenges, e.g., indifference of staff, inequality of treatment, especially of the poor, no standard cost, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difficulty in registering birth certificates in adults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stringent requirement - lack of availability of the official person either authorizing or releasing the said requirement - difficulty of persons from other provinces to register birth in other provinces/cities 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the couple secures the marriage registration at the designated government agency (civil registration office or marriage bureaus), and temples. - in Nepal, there is an automatic marriage certification for those who got married • requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - birth certificates - proof of citizenship of parents or the couple - presentation of proofs like photos 	<p>The challenges were due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marriage is performed by religious leader who is not registered • elopement and live-in relationships are gaining acceptance • stringent documents needed for marriage • lack of available court marriage, especially in local small towns • perception on the importance of marriage certification (Some saw it as not important) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education and awareness drives on the importance of marriage registration
RELATED TO DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in-hospital death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospitals issue the death certificate • death in a non-hospital setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the body of the deceased is brought to the hospital for storage and death certification - the family register the death in civil registration office or related government agency - provision of documents such as copy of the deceased citizenship, certificate of relationship to the deceased, and documents from hospital 	<p>There are challenges in registering deaths due to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of education and awareness on the death registration process. e.g., forms, turn-around time, etc. • remote areas have no access to death registration • unaccommodating, discriminating, and unhelpful officials hinder registration • difficulty in the validation of death and requirements (if death happens outside of the hospital) due to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fear of the police verifications - a number of documents with recommendations from a concerned official (which is hard to secure) • death certification is not a priority of the government and citizens. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - death certificate is only used to settle inheritance and insurance claims and dispute 	

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death			
	CHALLENGES	IMPACT	RESOLUTION
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of programs to increase awareness on the need for birth registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of clear birth registration process<ul style="list-style-type: none">- different turn-around time for filing completion- different cost- lengthy process for revision of details• parents’ lack of knowledge on the registration process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• education and awareness drive on the importance of birth registration• awareness on the process of birth registration.• establishment of a dedicated office in every part of the city or district in the province to register deaths that occur at home• conduct of field visit by registration personnel for birth registration facilitation• capacitate local duty bearers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of accountability of stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• registration staff do not take their work seriously causing a lot of delays• bribery and nepotism were used to hasten process• discrimination against the poor in the provision of CRVS services• inaccurate information• Hospitals are not registered with the government<ul style="list-style-type: none">- delay in releasing of documents by the hospital- births are not automatically registered	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• no proper procedure for home birth		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• registration was not a priority of parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• birth registration is not given importance• poverty• lengthy process	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of government and hospital facilities and technical infrastructure for birth registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• most are born at home• limited access to hospital/health services in the provinces• limited access to birth registration• limited option for registration. e.g., online registration, no internet connection, power interruption	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stringent registration requirements. e.g., immunization card, national ID of parents, medical certificate, even need to give extra charge in some cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• birth registration is not given importance• hiring of middlemen or intermediary to facilitate registration which requires more money	

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death

	CHALLENGES	IMPACT	RESOLUTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of access of some groups due to illiteracy, disability, and birth status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• harassment – some individuals applying for registration were insulted for not knowing language used in the form or not knowing the process• not prioritized – some children such as those in SOS villages in Sri Lanka only have probable birth certificates not acknowledged by government. They cannot convert them to actual birth certificates due to high costs and lack of access.• not a priority - daily laborers or migrants do not prioritize registration because they will lose daily wage to process registration• discriminated -such as the poor families bonded into labor in Pakistan that are not allowed to register by their employers; some poor families are denied access because of poverty/lack of money for registration• they were demanded higher payment/higher fees to facilitate their registration	
	***All challenges affect school admission, government health services, financial services, application for support from the government, employment opportunities		
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack/unavailability of government office/agency in some areas for marriage registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• people living in provinces / rural areas have difficulty registering marriage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- some may need to come to the city for marriage registration- some may not register marriage at all• lengthy registration process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• faster and easier facilitation of marriage certification registration• establishment of an office for the facilitation of marriage registration accessible to people in either rural or urban areas.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of options for marriage registration application, e.g., online registration is not an option		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of awareness on the importance of marriage certificate		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• child marriage• unmarried parents are not legible to apply for a child's birth certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• child does not have birth certificate• a child without a birth certificate will be deprived of access to education, health, government services and other opportunities	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• arrange service programs to encourage unmarried couple to get married• education and awareness on the importance of securing a birth certificate for children

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death			
	CHALLENGES	IMPACT	RESOLUTION
RELATED TO DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of accountability of stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> private hospitals issue fake death certificates inaccurate details in death certificate hospitals and government do not take death certification seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishment of dedicated office in every part of the city or district in the province to register all deaths, even those that occur at home. duty bearer (village civil servant) guides family, or children, in the case of orphans or neglected children, in the processing of death certificate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of knowledge on the death registration process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children of the deceased will be deprived of receiving monetary help; or resolve inheritance and settlement 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> complicated and lengthy process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of interest to secure death certificate 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of education and awareness on its importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of interest to secure death certificate 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> death certificate is not issued if death occurred at home even if the family goes to the hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> people don't register deaths difficulty in following through necessary police verifications for unrecognized reasons of death etc. and medical verification processes 	

Q3. Why having birth/marriage/death certificate is or is not important

Q3. Why having birth/marriage/death certificate is or is not important	
	TOP REASONS
RELATED TO BIRTH	1. Education 2. National identification 3. Access to government services/programs 4. Employment requirements 5. Financial services
	1. Health benefits 2. National census 3. Travel (passport, visa) 4. Marriage registration requirement 5. Buy properties Others 1. Voting requirement
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	1. Requirement for birth certification of a child 2. To prevent fake marriages (proof of marriage legality) 3. To avail of government services 4. Travel with spouse 6. Financial services (open bank account) 7. To prevent marriage without consent 8. To decrease violence against women 9. File a divorce
RELATED TO DEATH	1. For inheritance, pension, and settlement of assets 2. Proof and reason of death 3. National census 4. For passport application of children

Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate

Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate* (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
	NOT DIFFICULT	DIFFICULT
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• easy to get birth certificate• availability of other documents to help avail government programs/services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of knowledge/awareness on the birth registration process• lack of requirements, e.g., unmarried parents• lengthy process (Long turn-around time)• difficult for some people<ul style="list-style-type: none">- people who live in remote areas- home born birthing• lack of accountability from assigned government staff (Unavailability of assigned staff)• not enough hospitals and limited number of doctors• technical issues (Server problem, power outage) Office hour operation• proximity of civil registration office
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• easy to get marriage certificate in courts• fast turn-around time (up to 3 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lengthy/complicated process• lack of birth certificate of parents
RELATED TO DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• process is easy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• difficult to obtain due to intensive investigation• process is lengthy/complicated• cost is not affordable for the poor

Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates

Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates (or whatever form it takes– signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)	
Type	Purpose/Use
Related to birth	Education (school enrollment/admission requirement)
	Employment/Job application
	Access government programs/services (Legal support)
	Access to financial services (Open a bank account, insurance)
	National identification / citizenship
	Travelling to foreign countries
	Access medical services (vaccine, hospitalization)
	Marriage registration requirement
	Right to vote
	Access to purchase of property and assets
	SIM card registration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note that the top five recurring themes are highlighted above. Although the importance of birth registration as a requirement to marriage registration and vice versa were established in the previous questions, birth registration as a marriage registration requirement was not identified by most countries.	
Related to marriage	Claim government benefits
	For travel with spouse (travel requirement, e.g., hotel booking)
	Access financial services (open a bank account)
	Legal purposes (filing for divorce, alimony, financial support, and others)

Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates (or whatever form it takes– signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)	
Type	Purpose/Use
Related to death	Receive heritage and claim assets of the deceased
	Access government programs/services (legal support)
	To get a passport for underage whose father died

Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates

Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
Related to	Difficulty experienced/ circumstances	Impact/Implication
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a family was required to go back to the place of birth for the registration. The process entailed cost and time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no identification card/not recognized as a citizen access to education was hindered; a child could not be admitted in school; missed scholarship opportunities lack of birth registration hindered access to government programs/services, e.g., cannot get passport or visa the complicated and lengthy process discourages a person to go through the process of securing a birth registration. lack of access to medical services lack of access to job/employment opportunities hindered right to vote hindered access to government services for persons with disabilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> difficulty in registering for a home born birth. Resorted to nepotism to make the process faster. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> complicated and lengthy birth registration process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> long turn-around time to complete process process was not clear to address difficulties, some resort to nepotism to make the process faster led to harassment and extortion costly process of birth certificate correction lack of accountability of duty bearers (not cooperative) distance of the registration office could cost money on travel 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> birth registration as a requirement for a national identification card 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hindered school admission 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hindered accessing educational opportunities due to the long process of birth certificate correction 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> birth registration process for adults is even harder 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> difficulty for some sector to register birth (transgender, persons with disabilities) It led to frustration because they think they are not citizen of the country 	

Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)

Related to	Difficulty experienced/ circumstances	Impact/Implication
	<p>Examples:</p> <p>“My cousin has faced difficulty in getting his certificates. Several times he tried to get it. Finally, he got it paying extra money to Union Porishad (the oldest and lowest local government system in Bangladesh) personnel.”</p> <p>“My sister-in-law has suffered so much just to collect her birth certificate. She does not have a birth certificate. She has fallen on harassment. She could not collect it on time. They have given her several dates and times. They asked for money from her. Frequently she went to the Union Porishad. But she did not receive it in a timely manner.”</p> <p>“My neighbor has two daughters, and their age difference was about two years but when they got the birth registration, they found that the children had the same birth date. They went to the (registration) office several times, but they could not correct the error. Because they are poor and money is a problem for them, the officer does not bother to help them to even just to affix his signature on the corrected document. “</p> <p>“As a whole, the process is complicated, and I faced a lot of problems, therefore, until it is not required no one attempts to get it. Most people who face challenges during getting the card they quit the process. Those who require it, get it by any means.”</p>	
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the process is complicated (especially for people living in provinces) lack of knowledge on the marriage registration process lack of documentary evidence to get married <p>“Register marriages with other caste and other religions couples (sic) is very difficult with so many documentation processes for approval.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot go abroad cannot travel together because they don’t have the proof to show they are spouse it is not a priority for some. “People don’t come to get register their marriages.” hindered access to financial services (could not open a bank account) hindered access to purchase property and asset (Without marriage certificate the couple cannot buy estate)
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> claiming of inheritance and settlements complex and lengthy process due to death from unnatural or even natural causes <p>“To get the pension of the husband, she was asked to present her husband’s death certificate. It took 3 months to get the death certificate.”</p> <p>“In my neighbor 2 brothers fight on land division after the death of their father, because death was not registered, and they cannot legally divide the land. “</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hindered facilitation of inheritance, insurance/pension and other settlements hindered access to government benefits challenges in getting the Tazkira for the children of a deceased death rate cannot be identified difficult procedures for the unidentified or unrecognized death of reasons that needs follow with extensive police verification procedures

Q4. Correctness/completeness of certificate/document details

Q4. Correctness/completeness of *certificate/document details			
Certificate/ Document	Details	Impact	Resolution
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">incorrect/incomplete details, e.g., age or date of birth, mistake in permanent address, spelling of name, and no date of birth record in some cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">incorrect date of birth caused late admission in schoolincorrect address leads respondent to repeat the process of birth registration; thus, becoming a burden<ul style="list-style-type: none">- entails additional cost- lengthy process- affected mental health (stress and frustration)deprivation of government services and other providers, e.g., benefits from government and othersit affected school admission or getting into school, job/work applicationaffect financial services (could not open bank account)challenge/difficulty of claiming inheritance due to different names of a parent and child	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the birth card should be filled by qualified doctor and nurseto listen and cooperate to the poor and marginalized families
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">challenge in producing supporting documents for detail correction, e.g. marriage registration of parents is needed for birth registration correction of a child, which may not be available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">lengthy and rigid process to complete supporting documents; frustration over the process was aggravated by non-cooperation and rough behavior of the staff facilitating the correction.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- harassment- extortion	
	<p>Examples:</p> <p>“In my certificate there are some incorrect details. The first is my name, I have only my nickname in my birth certificate. Due to lack of awareness of my parents they didn’t take any step to correct the certificate. The second is the serial number of the birth certificate. I received my birth certificate when I was 7. At that time, they only have 17 digits for the serial number. But at present they require the 18 digits in digital format. I have applied for the correction of my full name and an update on the 18-digit serial numbers for applying to the National Identification Card at Union Porishad. After a long series of work, I have received my updated birth certificate.”</p> <p>-----</p> <p>“My sister-in-law has suffered so much just to collect her birth certificate. She does not have a birth certificate. She has fallen on harassment. She could not collect it on time. They have given her several dates and times. They asked for money from her. Frequently she went to the Union Porishad, but she did not receive it in a timely manner.”</p> <p>-----</p> <p>“My certificate is not correct. My birth date is not same at birth certificate and school certificate. School teacher did not follow my birth certificate information for school certificate registration. And that time I was not also aware about the matter.”</p> <p>-----</p> <p>“Mostly the illiterate and poor parents do not keep records of date of birth of their child that confuses records to remember the exact time after a long time/months.”</p>		

Q4. Correctness/completeness of *certificate/document details

Certificate/ Document	Details	Impact	Resolution
	<p>1. Reasons that were cited that affected correctness/completeness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- lack of education and awareness of parents on the proper birth registration process affected the correctness/completeness of the certificates, e.g., illiteracy and ignorance- lack of attention of staff handling the registration <p>2. Children born from home birthing often have no proper birth records due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- illiteracy of parents- poor- lack of knowledge and awareness on the registration process <p>*** Other important points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is to note that some respondents, specifically in Pakistan, do not have birth registration/certificate.2. There is no lane for persons with disabilities to process registration/correction3. Changing address (different address in birth certificate to the current address as reflected in birth certificate) affect school admission		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• incorrect details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• incorrect address led respondent to repeat the process of marriage registration; thus, becoming a burden<ul style="list-style-type: none">- entails additional cost- Lengthy process	
	<p>1. Reasons that were cited that affected correctness/completeness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- hide caste and religion- lack of education and awareness of the couple on the proper marriage registration process affected the correctness/completeness of the certificates, e.g., illiteracy and ignorance- lack of attention of staff handling the registration		
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• incorrect death registration details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• it can it possibly affect the court’s decision, if the death registration is used in a legal case, e.g., criminal case• the family will not get the death certificate.• incorrect address led respondent to repeat the process of death registration; thus, becoming a burden<ul style="list-style-type: none">- entails additional cost- Lengthy process• it affects inheritance, insurance, and settlements, e.g., “If the person has a bank account and dies due to incorrect details in the death certificate, the family cannot withdraw money from the bank.”	
	<p>1. Reasons that were cited that affected correctness/completeness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- lack of education and awareness of the couple on the proper marriage registration process affected the correctness/completeness of the certificates, e.g., illiteracy and ignorance- lack of attention of staff handling the registration		

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general)

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
Note: The responses were arranged based on the reasons (WHY).			
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">fast facilitation of birth registry for home born birthmothers give birth at home should take their children to hospital for birth registration“In every village or district one responsible person should be recruited to register children born at home and issue birth card or report births to relevant organization. The birth registration should be mandatory.”Provision of birth card during vaccination of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">to improve birth registration coverage and accessto avoid errorto create fast and friendly process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">health facilitiesgovernmentpeople
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">government ensuring registry of all children, especially those living in remote areas, e.g.,<ul style="list-style-type: none">assign teams to do house to house registration.the municipality representative (wakil gozar) should report and register those babies born at home.strengthen IT support to birth certificate/death certificate/ marriage certificatesufficient manpowerensure transparency and accountabilityfree birth registrationease requirements for easier compliance; valid residential proof would be enoughsimultaneous birth registration with citizenship;obtain citizenship without the use of birth certificate		<ul style="list-style-type: none">government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">conduct awareness on the importance of birth registration through media<ul style="list-style-type: none">form a review committee and raise community awareness initiativesparents to understand the consequences of not securing birth certificate for children		<ul style="list-style-type: none">governmenthealth facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">increase numbers of hospitals and doctors to ensure provision of birth registration cards to everyone		<ul style="list-style-type: none">governmenthealth facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">capacity building / training should be conducted<ul style="list-style-type: none">for hospital staff on the provision of birth registration cardStrengthening of Institutions / Trainings		<ul style="list-style-type: none">governmenthealth facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">cooperation between the government and stakeholders<ul style="list-style-type: none">local NGOs including the government need to work together to get the child registered at the right time.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">governmentstakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">cooperation between national and local government<ul style="list-style-type: none">proper monitoring and follow up		<ul style="list-style-type: none">national and local governments

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alternate birth registration policies for special populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special policy for orphans to be provided certificates; ensure that all relevant documents of the child are handed over when the child is being given to the orphanage - migrants and refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure every child can enjoy their fundamental rights and for identity of everyone. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existence of a birth registration system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to guide staff to do their tasks according to it, and they should be monitored. - ensure accountability of staff, e.g., provide penalty, and prosecution of staff taking bribes - to ensure timely birth registration - standard time of delivery - user friendly, easy and accessible registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to stop illegal ways of issuing death certificate • to avoid workload and mistakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • government • health facilities
	specific recommendations related to infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve server/internet system/data registry system • need to set up digital centers to register births at ward level • access of proper internet system • need to improve system so that when server is down, anybody can get easily certificates. need easy excess and easy delivery certificates. • to avoid certificate errors, need to improve data entry system. Data operator check the spelling and all information, Union Secretary carefully listen, collect all information, and properly upload in system. No pending work and timely response all requirements. 		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct awareness on marriage registration process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve marriage registration and coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making marriage registration mandatory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrange a one-day service of issuing legal marriage certificate and national identity card 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extend options to make marriage legal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lawyer should have the authority to officially stamp the certificate - local level marriage cell registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to make marriage registration legal and smooth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to have a clear marriage registration process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - time-bound registration - mandatory registration 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong government mechanism in village level to collect information about pregnant mothers 		
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure responsibility and accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hospital should issue death certificates - families should register death and get the death certificate. - the government should take the process seriously and all people should do the death registration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve death registration coverage / access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hospitals and civil registration office • government • people

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase awareness on the death registration process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote the culture of the process of death registration. Imams also be advised when attending the funeral to ask for the registration of death. If not registered the imams should register on the spot. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish a separate office in every district for easier registration of deaths at home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local level death cell registration 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> records and verification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keeping track of mortality, cause of death 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to make death certificate free 		

Q5.1 Recommendations to address challenges in recording/registering birth/marriage/death

Q5.1 Recommendations to address challenges (process) in recording/registering birth/marriage/death			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who should act on them
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> open options to ensure access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> online/digital registration system visits and being active in birth registration in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to stop opportunities for bribe and improve recording of birth registration to ease the process and improve birth registration coverage easy to access, available at local and affordable for all sections of the society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> registration organizations local government authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accountability and responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> set up monitoring to ensure accountability and responsibility; prevent bribery and eradicate nepotism ensure correctness and completeness of records (correct information submission of parents about birth date, name and required information, record the information very carefully) responsible, polite and sincere staff, friendly environment equal treatment of all persons 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure assignment of professional staff (enough information and experience, supportive and cooperative). 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> simplified registration process in a single window at a local level 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education and awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> good network and communication plan formation of a team to help increase awareness/ information dissemination on importance of certificates 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creation of new laws for special cases 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> setup special registration for special populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> refugees persons with disabilities 		

Q5.1 Recommendations to address challenges (process) in recording/registering birth/marriage/death

	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who should act on them
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve process and access to marriage registration<ul style="list-style-type: none">- online registration/computerized- registration authority/center in every district- marriage to be conducted by registered authority, e.g., Mullahs should not be allowed to conduct marriages as they don't register legally.- the marriage should be conducted in the court and get the marriage certificate.- marriage registration and marriage certificate should be issued by single organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to make the marriage registration smooth and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• education and awareness<ul style="list-style-type: none">- to address perception of people - they don't want to get the marriage certificate		
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• education and awareness<ul style="list-style-type: none">- awareness to families and the process should be mandatory- people should be given awareness to get the death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to improve death registration access and coverage• to improve awareness of people about death registration• to improve death registration process• to create easiness for people to get the death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• responsibility and accountability<ul style="list-style-type: none">- responsibility should be given to relevant staff to register all deaths- the staff should be present during working hours in their office (Death)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• increased accessibility<ul style="list-style-type: none">- health facilities in the provinces should be established- establish a separate/dedicated office		

Q5.2. Recommendations to address challenges in getting birth/marriage/death certificates

Q 5.2. Recommendations to address challenges in getting birth/marriage/death certificates

	Recommendation(s)	Why	How
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• enhanced accessibility and coverage, specifically in rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the process of registration taken more the week and similarly same as during the time of citizenship too• this will help in increasing the rate of obtaining these certificates by all the people especially those who are facing challenges.• current process has lead time to securing/releasing birth certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• mandatory birth registration• easier requirements• process should be done through scientific methods.• quick action from the government• proactive and responsible agencies; hospitals to give special attention to birth registration• incorporating new laws to allow better accessibility• discuss feedback and solutions with responsible agencies• online birth registration• visit door to door for birth registration.• accessibility option of allowing people from other state to register in their present location to• establish facilities in different points for birth registration

Q 5.2. Recommendations to address challenges in getting birth/marriage/death certificates			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	How
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a system to register home born children
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> awareness/publicity campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to understand the values of these certificates for the promotion and protection of human rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> coordination and cooperation between raw people and the government setting up her desk or information center door to door campaign to deepen people's understanding conducting campaign to spread awareness on the importance of securing birth certificate.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prioritize special populations, e.g., street children, orphans, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> this will help in securing the rights of street children in obtaining their legal identity such as birth certificate and marriage certificate many people are also suffering from the same situation. This will help them to be financially independent by providing a job opportunity people with disability are lagging behind all the facilities provided by government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> door-to-door campaign about the importance of certificate as well as facilitate the process of obtaining the certificate. This will motivate people to register and obtain the certificate. even if the parents do not have legal documents, there should be a provision of collecting recognizance from community people to get birth certificate amend the policies to incorporate my recommendation by the parliament. ease of requirements and process for special population, e.g., orphans provide access to education even without birth registration and identity cards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorporating new laws to allow better accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eligible candidates can find a job and may live a dignified life it will help people like mothers to obtain their birth certificate on the basis of their residence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> making new or amend laws and policies to make it inclusive for all
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> capacity and training of staff 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> training and orientation timely action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> networking and cooperation 		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creation of policies to secure marriage certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for solving all these problem in community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> awareness through media and proper information about registration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education and awareness on the importance of marriage registration 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased access and coverage 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> marriage registration made mandatory online marriage registration application
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responsibility and accountability 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> transparent process of registration to avoid illegal ways
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> coverage and access 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hospital staff to pay attention to death certificate recording establish a dedicated office for death registration

Q 5.2. Recommendations to address challenges in getting birth/marriage/death certificates			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	How
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responsibility and accountability 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevent bribery and ensure professionalism

Q5.3. Recommendations to address challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct

Question No. 5.3. Recommendations to address challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who should act on them
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> staff capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> different training sessions on birth registry training on record keeping and registry training on recording complete and correct data training on monitoring and validation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> they have capacity issue and do not have proper guidance training to ensure completeness and correctness of capturing birth data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> government parents education and health department registration authorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> access, coverage and verification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> documents be available in local language online verification using mobile application systems update and renewal of documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to cater to those who could not read English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NADRA (National Database & Registration Authority) /UC (Union Council) <i>[Pakistan]</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> special registration for certain populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> revised policy/procedure to ensure inclusiveness for persons with disability, and other needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the special services in childhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> government /NADRA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase awareness and education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage NGOs on the local level awareness raise awareness of parents on the process of birth registration and on the use of form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the timely correction of mistakes by correcting errors and rectification of errors in certificate by submitting correct documents with correct information the concerned personnel should provide all the information regarding the complete process in case of incorrect details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> government /NGO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved system of operation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> proper time allocation for birth registration recruitment of qualified/experienced staff recruit additional staff to prevent ‘over’ workload extensive checking of details during processing and reevaluate/ confirm that details are correct prior to release// proper verification system provision of suggestion box a dedicated team for the correction of details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> problem related to incorrect details can be solved easily as most of the parents are uneducated and cannot read the document 	

Question No. 5.3. Recommendations to address challenges in ensuring that the details in the certificates are correct			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who should act on them
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - verify the correctness of information with concerned parties first before the registration 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • linking and networking - coordination between concerned authorities and case files - create an information center 		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved system of operation - recruitment of qualified/experienced staff 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access, coverage and verification - online registration 		
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access and coverage - online death registration and access to easily correct information - retrievable death certificates information - updated system 	- information will be the same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NADRA (National Database & Registration Authority) /UC (Union Council) [Pakistan]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved system of operation - assignment of supervisory team to monitor hospitals on death certificate registration - hiring of competent staff to ensure accurate and correct recording of data 		

East Asia and the Pacific

Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS

Q1. Experience on/need for/challenges with CRVS, according to the following circumstances:			
	EXPERIENCE	NEED/USE	CHALLENGES
BIRTH CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• registration process<ul style="list-style-type: none">- organized process- free processing- accommodating staff- online registration- COVID-19 related health protocols in place (experience of in-hospital birthing)• access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- government initiative (district and local office) to bring registration closer to people- in-hospital birth provides assistance in birth registration, yet the process is still difficult- access to social services and education- house registration as a requirement for birth certificate- birth consent from the father as requirement for registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• needs based on Samoa responses that were arranged based on the ranking of the responses<ul style="list-style-type: none">- importance of birth certificate for future needs/requirements- birth certificate as an important document in verifying one's identity- birth certificate as a requirement for school enrolment and taking of examinations/employment- birth certificate as a requirement to benefit from government programs/ applying to national agencies/VISA application- birth certificate for statistics purposes (national records etc.)- proof of being a citizen/citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• registration process<ul style="list-style-type: none">- lengthy processing time (resorted to the illegal services of a middleman to make the processing time faster)- registration steps include interview- lack of marriage certificate affects processing of birth cert- cost of the processing fee- difficulty in producing a witness as requirement for late birth registration- difficulty in birth cert replacement (lost certificate due to disaster or events - flooding, fire, etc.)- required to bring photo of deceased father as proof, which could be difficult to produce- was required to have a DNA test with the parent based on the perception of the registration officer that the child 'looks strange'- getting witnesses entail additional cost• access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- difficulty in enrolling in school; getting scholarship- lack of birth cert led to inequality- difficulty in accessing financial services (open bank account)
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- marriage without certificate is not valid by law- need witnesses to submit marriage registration- needed for property and asset settlement/division	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- marriage certificate for statistics purposes (national records, etc.)- marriage certificate as requirement for VISA application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- not valid marriage could not legally protect partner from spouse to re-marrying or collect living allowance for children- born from immigrant parents with no marriage certificate creates difficulty for a child in getting birth certificate
DEATH CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- process of reporting death is in place- requirement includes national identification cards, house registrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- death certificate for statistics purposes (i.e., elections)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- many document requirements for death registration

Q2. Registration process

Q2. Registration process according to the following circumstances:		
	REGISTRATION PROCESS	CHALLENGES
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- organized and structured registration process- comfortable registration site with accommodating staff- no fee involved- health protocols were put in place during the pandemic• venue for securing birth certificate<ul style="list-style-type: none">- church- registration office- alternative registration access<ul style="list-style-type: none">- online registration- initiative of local government official and district office to bring the registration closer to the people (cheaper alternative)- in-hospital birth assistance- Home birth - with assistance from village chief for the registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• education and awareness<ul style="list-style-type: none">- lack of education and awareness on the process• access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- registration entails cost- lengthy processing time- due to lengthy process, illegal middleman was used- use of middleman entails cost- lack of knowledge and awareness on the registration process- lost document to claim birth registration- marriage certificate was required as supporting document; in case marriage cert is not available, interview and an oat were required- parents don't have birth certificate- required to secure birth cert in the place of birth, which could be different from the current place of residence - it entails cost
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• uses of birth certificate<ul style="list-style-type: none">- identity verification- for citizen application- for marriage- death registration	
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• require supporting documents for registration• marriage registration done in the registration office• marriage registration is a requirement for divorce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• many were married but no marriage certificate
RELATED TO DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration process<ul style="list-style-type: none">- require supporting documents for registration- death registration done in the registration office- registration is done by family/relatives of the deceased- autopsy was performed as supporting document for death cert- assistance by the village head, police, or rescue team for the deceased with no identification card• uses of death certificate<ul style="list-style-type: none">- inheritance and settlement (closing of bank account, claiming of insurance, etc.)	

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death

Q2.1 Challenges in recording birth/marriage/death			
	CHALLENGES	IMPACT	RESOLUTION
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• registration process<ul style="list-style-type: none">- lengthy process- short timeline for the processing- long queue in registration centers- not affordable registration fees- staff are not accommodating and helpful- expensive cost of registration- lack of confidentiality in data handling- government-issued ID as requirement- lead to extortion- complicated process- wrong entry of information- bullying and discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• registration process<ul style="list-style-type: none">- waste of time - affected work and living- lack of birth registration data affects development of country planning- affects people with no birth cert - affect school admission and job/employment- makes people reluctant to file registration- discourages people from arranging their civil registration- people feel discouraged and intimidated to arrange the civil registration- our personal information will go viral or will be seen by other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• village government should manage the birth registration• the child forum called the registration office to come to the village to handle the birth registration• assignment of dedicated office to handle registration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• education and awareness<ul style="list-style-type: none">- not enough information on the registration process or the need for it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• people didn’t know the importance of civil registration• people don’t understand how the registration process is done	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">- challenge for people living in remote location or far areas- Registration centers far for people to access- Lack of birth certificate affect application for citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the distance discourages people to file their certificates• many people use middleman• the travel going to the registration center is difficult and expensive• delay in parents getting their newborn children to be registered	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• special groups could not register<ul style="list-style-type: none">- illiteracy (led to not knowing the process and requirements needed for the processing)- children of migrant were deprived of social services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• does not have confidence in applying or requesting for their birth certificates• There are important personal details in the request forms that she could not answer. She would go home instead of submitting and finishing her request	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• children of nationality without a surname could not access government services such as the right to study at the university• those who wished to study did not receive a qualification certificate upon completion	
	Examples “Only 20% of the villagers had ID card because the village headman asked for money, 3,000 baht, for signing in the document”		

Q3. Why having birth/marriage/death certificate is or is not important

Q3. Why having birth/marriage/death certificate is or is not important (collate repeated or similar reasons together)		
	REASONS	IMPACT
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">on its use for the population<ul style="list-style-type: none">used to confirm national identityused as a requirement for school enrollmentused as supporting document for employmentused for traveling/visa applicationused as a requirement for civil related certificates (marriage, death and national identification)used as supporting document to access financial services (open bank accounts, apply for insurance, etc.)used to claim government support and services (e.g., social ameliorations)used to access medical servicesused as a requirement for licenses (driver's license)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">provides assurance of civil rightscan't continue school without certificate of completion or school records.lack of birth certificate may result to legal consequences (not elaborated; info from Thailand)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">on its use for government's planning/country management<ul style="list-style-type: none">used for easier management of population (government records, census, statistics)used as basis for the preparation of the government's development plansused as supporting document for job application	
RELATED TO MARRIAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">used for government record (census, statistics)used as basis for annulment or pursue adultery casesused to authenticate one's marriage, proof of legal marriageused by spouse to act as legal guardian, especially in times of emergency (hospitalization)used as requirement/basis to also access benefits accorded to the spouseused for inheritance and settlements (division of assets upon divorce)to prevent subrogation	
RELATED TO DEATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">used for government record (census, statistics)used to authenticate one's deathused to receive government support and services (financial assistance)'sometimes' used as requirement for burial	

Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate

Q3.1 Difficulty in obtaining certificate* (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
	DIFFICULTY	NOT DIFFICULT
RELATED TO BIRTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">difficulty in the process<ul style="list-style-type: none">long period of completioncomplications on the process (if requirements are not complete)registration entails costrequirement to produce/present marriage registration of parentsproximity of registration officelack of knowledge on the details of parents that hindered processinglack of marriage certificate of parentsincomplete centralized/online databaseincorrect/incomplete information of parent’s information did not match that of the child/applicantit entails cost to get witness to sign documentsproducing required documents is difficult (lots of evidence are required)difficulty in accessing services<ul style="list-style-type: none">difficulty in accessing school completion due to lack of birth certificateknowledge and awareness<ul style="list-style-type: none">not knowing where the registration office islack of knowledge on the registration processdifficulty experienced<ul style="list-style-type: none">non-availability of the staffignored by staff; staff not accommodatingquestions of the staff intimidate the applicantdifficulty due to attitude or perception of the user<ul style="list-style-type: none">not a priority of the user until it is needed/requireddiscrimination received by indigenous peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the process is easy if the requirements are completesub-district office for registration - which entails less expensesactive assistance of village governmentit is easy if one is knowledgeable about the processregistration center is accessible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">use of birth certificate<ul style="list-style-type: none">used to verify documents such as inheritance, account closure	

Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates

Q3.2 Use/purpose for getting certificates (or whatever form it takes– signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)	
Type	Purpose/Use
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• used for school registration/scholarship application• job application• receive social/government services• to access financial services like opening bank accounts• to access medical services e.g., immunization• support document for other identifications/licenses like:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- national ID- passport/visa- police clearance- driver’s license- other government-issued ID• support document for child adoption
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• legal basis to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- identify status of marriage- use husband’s last name- file for a divorce- for registration in real estate- to hold the spouse from traveling outside of the country without the consent of the partner• support document for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- job application
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• legal uses:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- to determine cause of death- inheritance and asset settlement including insurance claim- to authenticate the identity of the deceased• supporting document:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- to file for a work leave (expedite travel process to attend the funeral of the deceased)- to access government services and assistance

Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates

Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
Related to	Difficulty experienced/ circumstances	Impact/Implication
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">lack of knowledge/experience in processing birth certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">difficult access to decent or formal jobscannot access passport for traveling to other countries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">incomplete/incorrect information<ul style="list-style-type: none">No identified name of father to complete registrationIncorrect informationlack of birth certificate affects access to services and opportunities<ul style="list-style-type: none">national IDaccess to schoolaccess to employment <p>**In Thailand, birth certificate is a requirement for a national ID, which allows one to enjoy and exercise his/her rights. Lack of it deprived one from getting medical services, education, and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">can hinder opportunity to get an educationcan hinder opportunity for employment, e.g., respondent was terminated from work after finding out that employee has no birth certificatelack of a national ID for citizen that would allow access to government servicesmakes registration process complicated, e.g., takes time to reprocess certificate for name/info correctioncostly processing and reprocessing fee; some resort to illegal middlemen that entails additional cost. The high cost could discourage people from applying for one
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">birth certificate as a supporting document to other government-issued IDs and professional licenses. The lack of it will affect access to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">national identification cardpassportother government-issued identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">it will hinder exercise of right to voteno legal identify
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">access and coverage<ul style="list-style-type: none">proximity of registration office is farnot familiar with technology/online registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">people are discouraged/reluctant to go because of the distanceit made some people use a middleman to arrange the registration which caused mistype problemsdiscouraged people from registering because of lack of knowledge in technology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">lack of education and awareness of the process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">not understanding the importance of securing a birth certificate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">not inclusive for some groups<ul style="list-style-type: none">children born abroad have a hard time obtaining citizen from motherlandNo documentation for children born at homeAffects legal adoption process	

Q3.3-3.4 Difficulty experienced by others in getting their/lack of certificates (or whatever form it takes – signifying recognition of birth, marriage, death)		
Related to	Difficulty experienced/ circumstances	Impact/Implication
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> marriage certificate is a requirement for a national ID. Lack of it will deprive one of government programs and services some marriage tradition was done in unofficial ceremony that does not require marriage registration 	
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of death certificate hinders a common-law spouse from accessing inheritance and hold a burial 	

Q4. Correctness/completeness of *certificate/document details

Q4. Correctness/completeness of *certificate/document details			
Certificate/ Document	Details	Impact	Resolution
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorrect spelling of name and incomplete date of birth and place of birth information no systematic way of registering information, e.g., “Sometimes, a child’s last name on the confirmation document will be the father’s high chief title, but when he or she is registered, the last name will be the father’s first name.” father’s middle name was not included in the birth certificate wrong spelling of last name due to typo error 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> affected school registration affected application for a national ID and other legal documents additional cost; costly reprocessing can’t prove identity can’t access social services and medical services lack of money to reprocess correction of name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> was required to reprocess application it can be resolved by providing a letter requesting repairs to the Department of Population and Civil Registry reconfirm or validate information first before registration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> different birthdate in birth certificate and national ID card 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it was not resolved; officer unable to do correction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of knowledge on information correction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> saw the incorrect info but does not know how to correct it 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wrong information on blood type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> might cause problem later when blood transfusion would be needed 	

Q4. Correctness/completeness of *certificate/document details			
Certificate/ Document	Details	Impact	Resolution
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorrect death registration details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it can it possibly affect the court's decision, if the death registration is used in a legal case, e.g., criminal case the family will not get the death certificate incorrect address led respondent to repeat the process of death registration; thus, becoming a burden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> entails additional cost Lengthy process It affects inheritance, insurance and settlements, e.g. "If the person has a bank account and dies due to incorrect details in the death certificate, the family cannot withdraw money from the bank." 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reasons that were cited that affected correctness/completeness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of education and awareness of the couple on the proper marriage registration process affected the correctness/completeness of the certificates, e.g., illiteracy and ignorance lack of attention of staff handling the registration 		

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general)

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
Note: The responses were arranged based on the reasons (WHY).			
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prompt registration of birth within 30 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> different practices and culture which do not necessarily register or celebrate/commemorate certain events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> parents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve services or processing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local authorities should pay more attention to details to avoid issues after processing and there should be more accommodating staff discourage bribing make process easier and provide shorter lead/waiting time; offer alternative registration platforms (online registration), but ensure access to electricity/infrastructure Free processing: make it more affordable or reduce fees Increase access and coverage by establishing registration centers in villages; adding more officers to handle registration; creating a mobile team to reach special population (senior citizens, etc.); establishing a disability support center; and having a one-stop service at district office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is useful for their life in the future it is important for population data management and country planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> local authorities

Q5. Recommendations for improvement of birth/marriage/death registration (general) *collate/count repeating/similar responses			
	Recommendation(s)	Why	Who is responsible?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education and awareness on the registration process and its importance - information drive on the process for registration in hospitals and in communities too to reach the marginalized sectors on birth/marriage/death registration. - Encourage hospital birthing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - people will know about its importance - so that people in the village will know the process to save them money from travelling to town without the proper documents for registration 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> verification and validation - ensure accuracy of data recording by the registration office to avoid inconsistencies in details/data 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide access to services despite the lack of birth certificate <p>“The university should provide an opportunity for children without a family name and birth certificate to study and get a graduation certificate.”</p>		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prompt application of marriage certificate within one month improve services or processing free processing to avoid bribery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> process of reprocessing/correction of information takes time and costly - it is useful for their life in the future - it is important for population data management and country planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> couple local authorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> information drive regarding the process and inquiries of the marginalized sectors on birth/marriage/death registration. 		
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> immediately inform authorities on death of a family improve services or processing free processing online registry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is useful for their life in the future - it is important for population data management and country planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> family member local authorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> take their sick or dying loved ones in the hospital or report the incident for easier registration of death certificate. 		

Q5.1. Recommendations to address challenges in recording/registering birth/marriage/death

Q5.1* Recommendations to address challenges (process?) in recording/registering birth/marriage/death				
	Recommendation(s)	Why	How	Who should act on them
Related to birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> birth should be promptly registered within 30 days of nativity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to avoid complications and to improve the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mainstreaming the importance of registration and its administrative process so parents can understand the importance of securing birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> parents government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuous awareness and education campaign - to highlight importance of birth, marriage and death certificates 			

Q5.1* Recommendations to address challenges (process?) in recording/registering birth/marriage/death

	Recommendation(s)	Why	How	Who should act on them
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improvement in the process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> specific staff dedicated to assist in the registration online system and database that can be synced for easy operation and access reduce application steps provide online queue reservation to avoid long wait open alternative registration venues in hospitals or have an information centre to report birth engage NGOs to help as intermediaries in the registrations extend assistance to special groups like indigenous peoples (tribes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the birth registration will be done immediately and do not need to go to the district office which is more difficult. 	certificate (can be through various information, education, and communication materials – posters, announcements, community meetings, home visit, social media and also, commune focal person especially during important community events.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide training for local officials on various registrations 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to amend law on national ID registration (specific to Thailand) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to amend the law to allow all children born in Thailand, even if they are Burmese or others to be able to have a Thai ID card. Or amend the law to allow people who are staying in Thailand for more than 20 years to apply for Thai citizenship. 	to have equality and equal rights		
Related to marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuous awareness and education campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to highlight importance of marriage certificates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote understanding of citizen about the importance of the birth certificate 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> government
Related to death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuous awareness and education campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to highlight importance of death certificates 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> government

**Note: Data only from Cambodia and Philippines*

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