



# Pakistan International Summit on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

## CONCEPT NOTE

Serena Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan  
28-30 November, 2018

### Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)

Civil registration is the important act of recording and documenting of vital events in a person's life (including birth, marriage, divorce, adoption and death) and is therefore a fundamental function of governments. Within governments, civil registration systems are the responsibility of a number of ministries or departments, including ministries of health, ministries of interior, ministries of justice and national statistical offices. Communication of multiple agencies is key to the system's performance. Civil registration contributes to public administration and governance by providing individuals with legal identity and civil status and by generating information that can be used as the source of civil registries and population databases.

Reliable information on births, fertility and deaths enable the calculation and production of timely and accurate population estimates, which contributes to policy-making and long-term national planning. A well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems, including the timely and accurate reporting by civil registration systems to the national statistics system enhance the credibility of national and local administrators and their capacity to deliver services by helping them to identify what services are needed and by whom.

Civil registration provides individuals with the documentary evidence often required to secure recognition of their legal identity, their family relationships, their nationality and their ensuing rights, such as to inheritance. Legal identity in turn enables access to essential services, such as health, education and social welfare. Some activities that civil registration can contribute to include seeking employment, exercising electoral rights, transferring property, opening bank accounts, accessing credit and obtaining other forms of identification such as ID cards, passports and driving licenses.

Vital statistics generated from civil registration significantly contribute to the formulation of effective and efficient evidence-based policy across multiple sectors. Reliable information on births, fertility and deaths enable the calculation and production of timely and accurate population estimates and other demographic and health statistics, which are basic requirements for effective policymaking for inclusive and sustainable development, efficient resource allocation and accurate evaluation and monitoring.

Unlike other sources of vital statistics, such as censuses or household surveys, the administrative data provided from civil registration systems permit the production of statistics on population dynamics and health indicators on a continuous basis for the country as a whole and at a local level for its administrative subdivisions.

### Need for Pakistan's CRVS Summit

Despite their clear benefits of civil registration and vital statistics, both to individuals, government and several organizations Pakistan like several other countries of the region do not have credible registration of births and deaths, and lack in reporting complete and accurate cause of death data. With around 30% births registered, almost 20 million children, under the age of 5 years, are not registered in Pakistan. The death and the cause of death registration is negligible. Unfortunately, information disaggregated by age, gender, location and/or socioeconomic status is also not available like for many developing nations.

Pakistan is in process of formulation of a national CRVS strategic framework that has set three distinct goals to be achieved during decade ending 2025 with the goal to achieve universal civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events, all individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events, as necessary, to claim identity, civil status and ensuing rights, and accurate, complete and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death) are produced based on registration records and are disseminated.

The Summit will provide opportunities to learn from similar processes in vogue in other countries of the region, information sharing and dissemination of knowledge and experiences.

### **Summit Overview**

Pakistan's International Summit on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Strengthening would be held from 28 to 30 November 2018 at Serena Hotel Pakistan. It is to be co organized by a partnership between Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform (TSU-CRVS), and UNICEF Pakistan with participation of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA)), the provincial governments, and other international partners mainly UNFPA, WHO, DFID and the World Bank. Government delegations will comprise ministries/provincial departments of interior, law, health, local governments, planning, statistics, information technology and senior officials from the civil registration authorities. Participants will also include representatives of development partners, non-governmental, academic, research, civil society organizations and district managers. Given the scope of the event and to benefit from international experience CRVS experts/Civil Registrars from regional countries specially from SAARC would also be invited.

A comprehensive preparatory process to the Pakistan's CRVS Summit has been planned in order to ensure that the views of all relevant stakeholders are taken into account for the outcome documents.

This forum is expected to accelerate the efforts of governments and development partners to ensure that, by 2025, all people in in the country benefit from universal and responsive CRVS systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development, at par with other nations through universal civil registration coverage, all individuals have legal documentation to claim identity and ensuing rights, and accurate, complete and timely vital statistics.

Civil society and non-governmental organizations play a critical role in raising awareness of the importance of civil registration amongst populations, advocating for efficient CRVS systems to decision makers, increasing the responsiveness and accountability of responsible stakeholders, and in ensuring universal and timely civil registration.

The expected outcome of the Pakistan's International CRVS Summit is a consolidated statement and commitment from Federal/Provincial Governments, international partners, multiple stakeholders and civil society for meeting the targets set under the National CRVS Strategic Framework.

### **Summit Objectives/ Outputs**

- (a) To bring multiple CRVS stakeholders and partners on the same page or board on the usefulness, status, issues and possible options for a optimally functioning, universal and robust CRVS leading to lessons learnt for development of a broad based Multistakeholders national level strategic framework.
- (b) To learn from experiences of regional SAARC countries for acceleration and enhancement of vital events registration and ensuing vital statistics of national and international importance.
- (c) To deliberate on prospects for institutionalization of a civil registrar's network of SAARC countries (CR8), scope of its functioning, information sharing and mutual cooperation.
- (d) To deliberate on modalities to conduct mutually inclusive assessment of vital events registration of vulnerable groups like illegal migrants, stateless persons etc making use of Assessment Toolkit developed by RSO Bali Process adopting a rights' based approach.

### **Participation**

As per list attached.

### **Funding and Logistics**

The event will be financially supported by UNICEF Pakistan.

