



MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
SPECIAL INITIATIVES

# Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Technical Support Unit  
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## MESSAGE FROM MS KANWAL SHAUZAB, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The Government of Pakistan is fully committed to ensuring that every citizen of this country attains legal and political identity from a responsive civil registration system. In this context, the process of transforming Islamabad into a CRVS model district is initiated. It would be replicated on a larger scale throughout the country. Besides, substantial technical, as well as financial support from partner agencies, is being acquired. The government has kept CRVS in its priority agenda and would not leave any stone unturned in the way of responsive uniform civil registration system.



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### INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Pakistan International Summit on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics -  
November 28-29, 2018



Pakistan hosted the inaugural International Summit on CRVS from November 28-29, 2018 in Islamabad. Ms Kanwal Shauzab, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives inaugurated the event. It drew participants from multiple federal ministries and provincial departments of health, planning, local governments, law and justice, information technology, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), universities, and research organisations. International partner agencies, among them UNICEF, WB, DFID and WHO also attended the summit as did delegates from Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. The event is expected to accelerate the efforts of governments and development partners to ensure that all the citizens in the country benefit from a universal and responsive CRVS system by 2025. It is hoped that in the near future CRVS Pakistan would come at par with other nations, offering comprehensive civil registration coverage to all individuals.

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## South Asian Regional Meeting of Civil Registrars – November 30, 2018



The Technical Support Unit–CRVS, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives hosted a meeting of civil registrars of eight countries from South Asia (CR8) in collaboration with UNICEF on November 30, 2018, in Islamabad. The prime objective of the meeting was to boost the CR8 network and provide inputs to make it efficient, and understand CR systems of the eight South Asian countries to find common grounds for working together. Technical experts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh (online), Maldives, and Pakistan attended this high-level regional meeting. It also had In attendance, missions from Nepal and Sri Lanka, and senior officials of provincial departments and heads of international agencies.

## United Nations ESCAP 75th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – May 29, 2019



Pakistan and UNESCAP co-organised a panel discussion ‘Civil registration and identity for all—a pathway to SDGs’ during the 75th session of the commission. Deputy Executive Secretary (Mr Hongjoo Hahm) moderated the discussion. The panel comprised Malaysia (Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician), China (Mr Li Hong, Permanent Representative to ESCAP), Pakistan (Dr S.M. Mursalin, Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives), UNICEF (Ms Kendra J. Gregson, Regional Adviser Child Protection), and UNESCAP (Ms Gemma Van Halderen, Director Statistics Division). H.E. Mr Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to UNESCAP delivered the welcome speech. Ms Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP gave the closing remarks.

## UNESCAP Workshop on Vital Statistics Report Writing Jan – Apr 2019

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), with support from the Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative (D4H), conducted a workshop to improve the capacity of national civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in producing and disseminating vital statistics. The project supports the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, in particular Goal 3 of SDGs which stipulates that accurate, complete and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death) are produced, based on registration records, and disseminated. This multi-phased project consisted of two sequential training workshops between January and April 2019 that enabled the participating countries, i.e. Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Thailand, in creating a complete, national vital statistics report.

## CRVS Study Visit Peru – May 13-17, 2019



A delegation comprising representatives of MoPD&SI, provincial governments, and UNICEF country office visited the Republic of Peru to study and observe their civil registration and vital statistics system which has a reputation of being a digitally optimised system for efficiency of yield. Dr Muhammad Asif, Chief Health/ National CRVS Focal Person, led the delegation. The team observed processes and SOPs of different divisions of Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado Civil (RENIEC), a municipality in Lima. It had detailed interaction with representatives of the Peruvian Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion and Ombudsman Office. Dr Asif appreciated the RENIEC for its significant contribution to the effective revamping of vital events registration system which serves an excellent example of coping with multi-dimensional development challenges while increasing their collective impact. He apprised that Pakistan was perusing a well-defined roadmap for CRVS uplift with plans to finalise a national strategic framework on CRVS by the end of this year.

## NATIONAL MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

### Study and Consultation on Comprehensive & Uniform CRVS Legislation in Pakistan

A sound legal framework is the basis of a universal and responsive CRVS system. However, unfortunately existing provincial laws for the registration of vital events are not comprehensive enough to include all the relevant happenings in a person's life. Towards this end, an in-depth study was further organised by TSU-CRVS (Nov 2018-Feb 2019) to review current legislation for CRVS both at national and provincial levels and feasibility for the enactment of CRVS universal law. This study focused on the review of pre-independence and post-independence laws, including the legislation for registration of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces and strengths and weaknesses of the legislation.



Based on the results of the study, a consultative meeting was held on March 4, 2019, to share findings of in-depth review and to build a consensus of provinces and stakeholders for the development of umbrella CRVS law. After that, again on April 22, 2019, an exercise was organised by Technical Support Unit at University of Health Sciences, Lahore for 'Rapid Assessment of CRVS Legislative Process' based on an international tool currently used in some other countries for assessment of legal framework. The results showed various issues including poor enactment, no clarity on roles and responsibilities and certifying cause of death.

### Consultative Meeting on Draft National Policy to Revamp and Reform CRVS System in Pakistan

Recognising the existing situation of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system in the country, the Planning Commission decided to embark upon revamping the CRVS in Pakistan in the context of adjusting to new realities and challenges. For this purpose, a national consultative meeting was held on June 26, 2019, to share and discuss the draft national policy to revamp and reform the civil registration system. The participants came from the Federal Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), Capital Development Authority (CDA), UNICEF, UNHCR, World Bank and provincial local government and rural development departments.

The meeting decided on sharing a draft National CRVS Policy Framework along with proposed registration mechanisms for vital events (births, deaths, marriages, and divorces) with relevant stakeholders and focal points to seek feedback and to build consensus on proposed policy actions. At the ICT level, policy shift will be implemented through PC-1 on "Development of ICT into CRVS Model District", with plans to replicate the project in other provinces in the future

### Consultative Workshop on Data Repository for CRVS – May 2, 2019



The Technical Support Unit (TSU) organised a consultative workshop on Data Repository for CRVS at the PPMI Complex, H-8, Islamabad. The objective of the meeting was to get a clear understanding of the existing "Data Sources" in Pakistan, scope, data collection, and compilation practices. Also, to discuss the data requirements for the development of **"National Annual CRVS Report" and "Mid-Term Review of the CRVS Decade 2015-2024."** Representatives from multiple federal ministries and provincial departments of health, planning, local governments, information technology, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and international partner agencies, among them UNICEF, DFID and WHO participated in the workshop. NADRA agreed to assist in providing information they have in their database. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) would help in conveying the denominator figures for all the desired targets from Census 2017. It was decided that once TSU consolidated all the information separately for national and provincial levels, this would be shared with provinces for their comments and observations, if any, before the finalisation of a national document and presentation at a ministerial conference (planned for 2020).



## CRVS Assessment Workshop, April 11, 2019

A CRVS Assessment Workshop was conducted with the aim to orient participants on in-depth assessment of CRVS system in Punjab. It is being conducted to assess the current situation of CRVS functioning with particular reference to such information generation, transmission, consolidation, analysis, and its use by various departments. International CRVS consultants from UNICEF (Mia Elisabeth Harbitz and Sebastian Rohr) were among the main facilitators. Representatives of national ministries, provincial departments, and international partners participated in the workshop which will provide a reference for the implementation of such activity in other provinces also.



## ASSESSMENT STUDIES

### Study on Availability, Registration and Quality of Hospital Based Records of Vital Statistics (Births & Death) in Punjab.

The Technical Support Unit organised a short-term study between Jan-June 2019 to identify current arrangements or readiness available in terms of physical, human/training, IT support, capacity, and other resources in tertiary and secondary hospitals of Punjab province. The second part of the study mainly addressed the current practice of birth, death, and CoD registration with ICD coding, birth registration and mortality data analysis, and trends.

Two questionnaires were developed in consultation with the stakeholders and contents were based on the study objectives. A purposive sampling technique was used for the selection of data collection sites (health facilities). However, the focus was on 25 major tertiary care and DHQ hospitals in Punjab. The study showed that no standardised data format with ICD-coding is available. So for this limitation, data on causes of death were collected from Lahore-based hospitals, where a total of 64,296 death records were analysed by hospital, disease, and age group



### Study of GAP Analysis of current CRVS practices, mapping stakeholders and potential data sources both at Federal and Provincial levels

The study was conducted to map stakeholders, identify various data sources, and perform a gap analysis of current CRVS practices in Pakistan. Literature was reviewed and analysed to determine various sources of data on births and deaths in Pakistan. The stakeholder mapping was carried out using the stakeholders' matrix under the framework of their roles and responsibilities involved in CRVS process. The results have been presented in the five key areas of CRVS system. These include reporting, registration, certification, data analysis/storage, and demand-creation.



### Assessment of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics practices, resources and functioning in ICT, GB and AJK

Keeping the aforementioned challenges in perspective, this study aims to review the existing practices in reporting of vital events and generation of vital statistics by the national and provincial authorities. The study also examined the existing data sources including the existing health information that can be utilized to monitor the SGDs indicators. The study analyzed mechanism commonly used to generate vital statics including growth rate, fertility rate, mortality rates etc, and provided evidence for policymaking and programs development.

