UNHCR and Civil Registration

The importance of Civil Registration for UNHCR’s populations of concern

- Establishes the child’s legal identity by creating a permanent legal record of the child’s existence.
- Enhances child protection.
- Facilitates durable solutions, including access to property and inheritance.
- Prevents statelessness.
- Provides information for policy development and humanitarian planning.

UNHCR’s Executive Committee Conclusion on Civil Registration, October 2013
Birth Registration of UNHCR’s populations of concern in the Asia-Pacific

• Overall birth registration coverage in Asia varies from 31% to 90% or more.
  – In South Asia the rate varies from 27% to 90% or more with the regional average being 31%.
  – In East Asia and the Pacific the coverage varies from 43% to 90% or more.

• For refugee children, coverage varies from 21% to 90% or more. (Emerging findings from UNHCR Survey in 18 States the region)
Relevant International Legal Framework in the Asia-Pacific

- All ESCAP Member States are State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and/or the International Covenant on Civil Political Rights.

- Both Treaties require that the births of all children are registered regardless of the legal, social or economic status of the child.

Selected Regional Good Practices

- Legal harmonisation and implementation (e.g. India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand)

- Awareness raising amongst communities (e.g. India and Malaysia)

- Use of mobile registration teams (e.g. Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan)

- Mainstreaming of birth sector within social provision (e.g. Myanmar and Thailand)