

Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in South Asia



First findings

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Objective of the work

- Document policies, systems, procedure and reform plans in place for CRVS in South Asia:
 - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
- Two steps:
 - First step: develop a set of country profiles based on a template summarizing information, including sample of registration forms
 - Second step: narrative country profile including reform direction

Political Commitment

- All countries of the region are engaged in a process to reach full coverage of civil registration and derive vital statistics from the civil registration system:
 - Proclamation of 2015-2024 as the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade
 - Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific region



Legal Frameworks

- **Legal frameworks** are sometimes insufficient:
 - They usually do not include definitions of the vital events, or the definitions are not in compliance with international standards (live births, stillbirth...).
 - Legal provisions such as information collected and procedures are sometimes absent from the law or implementation regulations.
 - Requirements for birth registration are sometimes excessive: identification of the father, marriage certificate...

Institutional framework

- **Centralised:**
 - Central agency with national responsibility for directing, coordinating and monitoring civil registration work of registration offices in the country
 - Can promote national standards and uniform registration of all vital events occurring within the country and among all groups of the population
 - **Afghanistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka**
- **Decentralised:**
 - Civil registration can be administered at the level of the major civil divisions, such as the state, province or municipalities
 - There is usually an agency at the national level to enforce minimum standards and to ensure uniform practices of civil registration throughout the country: exception Pakistan
 - **Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan**

Time for registration

Country	Birth	Death
Afghanistan	3 months	30 days
Bangladesh	45 days	45 days
Bhutan	1 year	1 year
India	21 days	21 days
Maldives	7 days	?
Nepal	35 days	35 days
Pakistan	1 month*	60 days*
Sri Lanka	3 months	3 months

*Varies according to the provinces

Registration costs

- **Free registration** is not universal
- Especially marriage registration, delivery of copies of acts, or late registration
- Decentralised systems: provinces can charge (India, Pakistan)
- **Free:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh (exc. marriage), Nepal, Sri Lanka (exc. marriage)
- **Not free:** Bhutan, India (dep. on states), Maldives, Pakistan

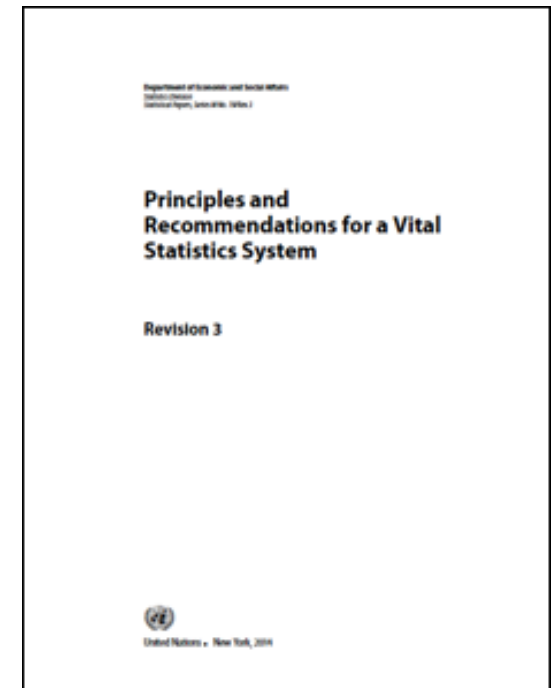
Late registration

- Processes for **late registration** seem less complex than in other regions, with usually only penalties



Information collected

- **Information collected** is not in full compliance with the recommended topics of the UN Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System



Information collected

Live births - Core topics



Next steps

- Feedback from participants:
 - To check the description of the CRVS systems
 - To know better about the current situation in your country:
 - Strategy
 - Implementation
- Final draft



Thank you!