BANGLADESH

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Acknowledgements

Acronyms

ACRONYM	NAME
APA	Annual Performance Agreement
BANBEIS	Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BDRIS	Birth and Death Registration Information System
BDRA	Birth and Death Registration Act
BRIS	Birth Registration Information System
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DHIS	District Health Information System
DPE	Directorate of Primary Education
EC	Election Commission
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIRA	National Identity Registration Act
NID	National Identity Number
NPR	National Population Register
ORG	Office of the Registrar General
SVRS	Sample Vital Registration System
UID	Unique Identity Number
UNLIA	UN Legal Identity Agenda

Objectives and Methodology for Individual Country Reports

OBJECTIVES

This represents one of six case studies initiated by the UN Legal Identity Agenda (UNLIA) Task Force, examining the experiences of six nations: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Kenya, Namibia, and Rwanda. The primary aim is to draw lessons from these countries, considering their diverse experiences and perspectives, regarding integrating their Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems with their population register/ ID systems. While this may be a relatively small sample size, these case studies offer valuable insights that can benefit other countries embarking on a similar journey. By doing so, they contribute to the overarching goal of UNLIA and help propel progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated targets.

The study seeks to answer three fundamental questions:

1. How was the stock built? This pertains to the establishment of the initial population register.

2. When was the civil registration data linked to the population register/identity database? This explores the timeline of integrating civil registration data into the population register.

3. How long did the system transition from a transient to a steady state? This examines the duration required for the system to achieve a stable and sustainable state.

This case study and the others also aim to assess how the enabling environment and the organizational capabilities, including their legal and institutional frameworks, supported these countries in their efforts to develop their CRVSID systems.

METHODOLOGY

The approach to developing the case studies included desk review and country-specific questionnaire-based interviews. This study and the others were done remotely, which proved to be a limiting factor in efficiently accessing information through interaction with key stakeholders.

The desk review attempted to access normative and guidance documents and literature from global and regional organizations. Documents on legal frameworks, in-country assessment reports, assessments conducted by global and regional organizations, and other relevant documents were also reviewed. Information gaps were identified, and country-specific questionnaires were developed and distributed to the relevant individuals for their responses. Focused interviews were subsequently conducted with country officials and/or local focal points from organizations actively involved in supporting the government in CRVSID activities. All interviews were recorded with the interviewees' permission.

Bangladesh at a Glance

Total population (2022)	165 million	Population Census 2022
Percentage of urban population (2022)	31.5%	Population Census 2022
Expected number of births (2022)	3.0 million	Crude Birth Rate - from World Bank online data 2021
Expected number of deaths (2022)	1.0 million	Crude Death Rate - from World Bank online data 2021
Birth registration completeness level (2022)	58%	Birth and Death Registration Information System (BDRIS) , Office of the Registrar General (2022)
Death registration completeness level (2022)	45%	BDRIS 2022
Coverage of ID among population (15 + years)	87%	World Bank ID4D dataset 2021

The Journey Towards an Integrated CRVSID System

KEY MILESTONES

YEAR	MILESTONE ACHIEVED
1873	The first-ever law on Birth and Death Registration enacted
1886	Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act enacted
2004	Birth and Death Registration (BDR) Act 2004 enacted overriding all the existing laws in this area in the country
2010	Online birth registration system (BRIS) established
2010	National Identity Registration Act 2010 enacted
2013	A ten-year Strategic Action Plan (2014-2023) for improvement of the CRVS system developed based on a comprehensive assessment
2014	CRVS Steering Committee and Coordination mechanism established under the aegis of the Cabinet Division
2016	The Office of the Registrar General established
2016	Issuance of Smart Cards to citizens aged 18 years and above begins
2018	BDR Rules framed
2020	Legal review of the civil registration, vital statistics, and national identity laws completed, and recommendations made
2020	Online sharing of birth registration with Election Commission begins – newborn assigned Unique Identity Numbers at birth
2022	Implementation of a new process for registration of births and deaths for people living in rural areas using local health workers, village police and religious leaders initiated
2022	Draft bill on National Identification Registration receives in-principle approval of the Cabinet

The origin of civil registration in Bangladesh can be traced back to 1873 during the time of undivided Bengal. This initial legislation was followed by the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act of 1886. Despite these laws being in effect for over a century, numerous legal and administrative efforts failed to bring significant improvements to the registration of births and deaths in the country. A critical turning point in the establishment of the current birth and death registration system occurred with the passage of the BDR Act in 2004. This Act repealed the two existing laws and made birth and death registration mandatory throughout

the country. In 2013, the government introduced amendments to the Act, leading to the establishment of the Office of the Registrar General (ORG), which was fully realized in 2016. Subsequently, a comprehensive set of rules was notified in 2018 to operationalize the BDR Act, outlining detailed processes and methods for the registration of births and deaths.

In 2010, Bangladesh implemented the online Birth Registration Information System (BRIS) as a replacement for the manual birth registration system. This transition established digital connectivity with local registration centres to enable online birth registration. In 2020, the BRIS system underwent an upgrade with the introduction of a new software version called the Birth and Death Registration Information System (BDRIS), which added online death registration compoenent.

In 2010, the National Identity Registration Act (NIRA) was enacted in Bangladesh, which mandated the Election Commission (EC)to issue National Identity Cards to citizens aged 18 and above. The foundation for the national ID database was built upon the voter's database maintained by the EC[1]. Since 2016, the traditional paper-based National Identity Cards (NID) have been gradually replaced by biometric and microchip-embedded Smart ID cards, enhancing the security and functionality of the identification system.

A comprehensive evaluation of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system was conducted under the leadership of the Ministry of Health in 2013. This assessment was a collaborative effort that involved multiple stakeholders. As a result of this evaluation, a detailed 10-year Strategic Action Plan covering the period from 2014 to 2023 was developed. However, it's worth noting that no specific mechanism was put in place to implement all the activities outlined in the plan, although some key activities were indeed carried out.

In 2014, the government established a Steering Committee to provide policy guidance and oversee and coordinate the activities related to developing the CRVS system in the country. Convened by the Cabinet Secretary, the Steering Committee comprises 22 members from various ministries/departments/agencies. A Secretariat has been established, which is responsible for providing administrative and technical support to the Steering Committee.

In 2020, a legal review and analysis of Bangladesh's laws regarding civil registration, vital statistics, and national identity registration was conducted. The objective of this assessment was to identify any legal provisions that might hinder or create obstacles for civil registration and propose recommendations based on international best practices to improve registration rates and delivery of efficient services. The analysis also concentrated on optimal methods for compiling vital statistics using data from civil registration. Additionally, it examined the laws pertaining to National Identity Registration to explore how a comprehensive approach to civil registration and identity registration could contribute to attaining complete and accurate information in both systems.

Starting from June 2020, birth registration data has been shared in real-time with the Election Commission ID database, enabling the provision of a Unique Identity Number (UID) to every newborn at the time of birth. This was made possible by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Election Commission and ORG. In the same year, the draft National Identification Registration Bill, 2022, received

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1   The biometrics of voter's were collected through a national campaign during 2007-2008.

in-principle approval from the Cabinet. The bill aims to transfer the NID services from the Election Commission to the Security Services Division under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It proposes the immediate issuance of a UID to newborns upon their birth registration. However, the bill does not include provisions for updating the NID database by including /using death registration, thus hindering the establishment of a comprehensive population register that could have kept the database updated.

Thus, Bangladesh is currently in the process of establishing a comprehensive CRVSID system in alignment with the UNLIA model. However, while the NID (National Identity) system has been connected to the birth registration system, the linkage with the death registration system is still lacking. Consequently, the country may face challenges in creating a population register for effective identity management. As a result, Bangladesh still has a significant journey ahead to achieve the establishment of an integrated and holistic CRVSID system that could also include marriage and divorce registration in line with the UN-LIA recommendation of a life cycle approach to CRVSID management.

Civil Registration System

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The birth and death registration in Bangladesh is governed by the Birth and Death Registration (BDR) Act 2004 (as amended) in 2013 and the Birth and Death Registration Rules 2018.

Marriage, divorce, and separation are governed by the following laws of Bangladesh –

a. Muslims: Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961; Dissolution of Muslim; Marriages Act, 1939; Muslim Marriages and Divorces (Registration) Act, 1974

b. Hindus and Buddhists: Hindu Married Women's Right to Separate Residence and Maintenance Act, 1946

c. Christians: Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Divorce Act, 1869

Apart from these laws, the civil laws that apply to all religious communities in the context of marriage or divorce are the Special Marriage Act of 1872, the Child Marriage Restraint Act No. XIX of 2017, the Family Courts Ordinance of 1985, and the Guardian and Wards Acts of 1890.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

At the national level, the Office of the Registrar General (ORG), established in 2016, plays a crucial role in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of birth and death registration in the country. The ORG operates in accordance with a defined set of procedures and processes outlined in the established rules. Its primary responsibility is to ensure registration of all births and deaths that occur within its territory and all Bangladeshi nationals living abroad. The ORG maintains and updates the Births and Deaths Registration Information System (BDRIS). Additionally, the office monitors work progress, imparts training, and carries out

supervisory and oversight functions as mandated by the law. Administration heads at district and sub-district levels have also been assigned to oversee and supervise the work of the registration of birth and deaths in their respective jurisdictions.

The actual registration is carried out at the local level in 5259 registration centres across the country. These are located in 4,571 Union Councils (the lowest tier of Local Government Unit in rural areas), 319 Municipalities, 15 Cantonment Boards and 124 Zonal offices of 12 city Corporations in the country. The law stipulates that the following individuals can be appointed as registrars: Chairman of Union Parishad, Mayor of a municipality, Officers designated by the City Corporation Mayor, Cantonment Executive Officer of Cantonment boards, and Officers designated by the Head of Embassies, missions, consulates (abroad). These appointed individuals have the authority and responsibility to perform registrar duties as prescribed by the law. Abroad, there are 79 overseas Bangladeshi missions and consulates administering birth and death registrations. It is worth mentioning that the local (government) registrars, being elected public representatives, have pressing commitments of their own, making it challenging for them to prioritize routine registration tasks. Additionally, since their tenure is limited to their office term, many are less likely to involve themselves in significant improvement activities. On the other, the Law and Justice Division responsible for appointing all marriage and divorce registrars in the country has yet to adopt the systematic online marriage and divorce registration system.

BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION

Birth and death registration and certification in Bangladesh have been fully digitized, with all registration centres connected online to a central civil registration database of the ORG. This ensures that registration is completed online. However, the validation and verification process of applications and accompanying documents is still done manually. Although online applications can be made through the online portal, a physical copy of the application must be printed, signed, and submitted to the local registration office for record-keeping purposes. Despite having a fully digitized system for birth registration since October 2010 and for death registration since 2020, registration levels have remained low in Bangladesh. In an effort to accelerate and improve the completeness of birth and death registration, Bangladesh has adopted a more proactive approach by capturing these events immediately after they occur through the health system, particularly in rural areas. Implementing this new business process, which involves interoperability with the health sector by way of facilitating application, has produced positive outcomes, including higher completeness and timely registration. Another innovative approach being tested is the utilization of DHIS2 in healthcare facilities to directly notify the civil registrar of birth and death events occurring in these facilities. This enables the registrar to proactively reach out to parents or families and remind them to visit the registration centre for event registration. This integration between the health sector and civil registration is expected to enhance registration rates in urban areas where health and family planning outreach services are available.

 Another contributing factor to this improvement is the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) (introduced in July 2021), which sets annual birth and death registration targets. The approach mandates that the office of the Registrar General for Birth and Death and the administrative heads at the district and sub-district levels are obligated to achieve birth and death registration targets, which are to be included in their annual official performance evaluations.

Birth registration

The law specifies a list of individuals responsible for applying for the registration of births, primarily the parents of the newborn[2]. Health facilities provide notification or discharge slips for births that occur within their premises, serving as evidence of these events. In the case of home births, written evidence from a local health worker is required along with the birth registration application. The parents are required to submit their citizen ID cards issued under the NID Act or their birth registration number/ certificate. In exceptional or doubtful instances, proof of the parent's permanent address is asked for. Births can be registered at the place of birth or at the parents' permanent residence. According to the law, it is mandatory to register all births and deaths with the local registrar within 45 days of occurrence. Birth certificates are issued free of cost if the registration is completed within the specified period. The Act imposes a fee for late and delayed registration. The fee for registration from 46 days up to 5 years of birth is TK. 25/- (0.23 USD), and beyond 5 years, TK. 50 /-(0.46 USD)). In addition to these fees, local private entrepreneurs who help with data entry into BDRIS at some of the local registration centres charge some informal fees from the informants for facilitating the data entry of the application. Despite the government actively discouraging this practice, such informal arrangement continues operating at several local registration centres.

In a pilot project carried out from 2016 to 2017 in the Kaliganj sub-district of Gazipur district, an initiative aimed at enhancing the completeness and timeliness of birth registration in rural areas was successfully implemented. CRVS Secretariate under the Cabinet Division and the Office of Registrar General came together and collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to implement the pilot project, which Vital Strategies and UNICEF financially and technically supported. Frontline workers under the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services were pivotal in notifying and assisting parents with birth registration applications. This led to a remarkable surge in registrations in the pilot area. The project's success was grounded in community engagement and bolstering local registration offices to manage the increased demand.

By 2020, this model was expanded nationwide, and in 2021, an evolved and expanded Kaliganj model was introduced, involving village police to gather expected delivery dates and facilitate the registration process with local registration offices under Union Parishads, which also includes providing a congratulatory message to mothers nearing the expected date of delivery, leave a blank application form and encouraging them to register the births as and when they occur. This innovation, combined with an Annual Performance Agreement, significantly contributed to an 83% national birth registration rate by the first quarter of 2023.

The registration process in the Hill Tract (CHT) area differs from other remote regions in the country. CHT has Para Workers operating under the Chittagong Hill Tract Development Board, trained to assist parents in collecting birth information and coordinating with Union Parishad to complete childbirth registrations within 45 days of birth. Another urban-focused initiative provides birth registration forms and information during antenatal care (ANC) visits at primary healthcare centres. City Corporation Zone Health Office and UPHC collaborate to issue birth certificates to parents visiting for ANC and Post-natal care (PNC).

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2   Currently, the Act and Rules designate multiple people who are required to notify a birth or a death to the Registrar, and even more people who may provide information to the registrar about a birth or death. While this approach grants some flexibility by involving multiple people in the notification process, the extensive list of responsible individuals without a clear order of priority can lead to confusion. Consequently, there is a risk that no one takes action because those primarily accountable may assume that others have already reported the occurrence.

The government conducts annual campaigns to promote birth and death registration from the national to grassroots levels. Local Registrars receive regular training to improve their service delivery. Union Parishads organize spot registration events in remote areas, supported by the ORG. The ORG collaborates with development agencies such as UNICEF and Vital Strategies to implement innovative initiatives to boost registration and maintain their database.

Death registration

The BDR Act specifically mandates the deceased's son, daughter, guardian, or any other person designated by law to report a death for registration. The Rules specify several documents that must be submitted for the registration of death, including the medical certification of death from the relevant medical institution or physician, a certificate from the concerned health worker, a copy of the burial or funeral receipts, certificates from religious leaders performing the last rituals, and others. It is important to note that the deceased's birth certificate is a prerequisite for their death registration. If the birth certificate is not found or not registered in the BDRIS, the local registrar is required to first enrol the birth registration of the deceased before registering their death. This could also become a problem for older deceased due to the complicated delayed registration processes. Currently, the Act allows death registration to take place at the place of occurrence of the event or at the deceased person's place of permanent residence.

The Kaliganj process was initially implemented to capture deaths through the local health network for registration. However, it was observed that this approach was less effective for death registration than birth registration. Therefore, a new strategy was adopted for death registration under the Kaliganj+ model. This model involved local religious leaders who facilitated the last rites to report deaths to village police for death registration. Additionally, Annual Performance Assessment (APA) targets for death registration were communicated to registration functionaries at all levels of administration. These new approaches have significantly improved death registration in Bangladesh. According to the report generated by the BDRIS for the first quarter of 2023, the estimated death registration rate reached 65%.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE REGISTRATION

In Bangladesh, registering marriage and divorce is paper-based and simple. It requires the mutual consent of the couple and the involvement of marriage and divorce registrars appointed by the Law and Justice Division. However, the government of Bangladesh recognizes the need for modernization and plans to digitize the system. The Prime Minister's Office's Access to Information (a2i) Programme will provide technical support to the Law and Justice Division in this effort.

Vital Statistics System

Bangladesh does not produce any vital statistics report based on civil registration data. The BDR Act does not have any provision related to the sharing of data by the ORG to the BBS for the compilation of vital statistics. However, the Rules mandate the ORG to share data and sign data interoperability agreements with government, nongovernment, national and international stakeholders subject to the government's approval.

In Bangladesh, the Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS) is the official source of demographic indicators. It utilizes a dual record system and covers a population of approximately 1.3 million people in sample units known as primary-stage units. The main goal of SVRS is to provide intercensal data on demographic indicators such as Natural Growth Rate, Crude Birth Rate, Crude Death Rate, Total Fertility Rate, Infant Mortality Rate, Under Five Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Ratio, and more. However, the SVRS does not collect all the necessary data to compile the minimum set of tables, especially cross-tabulations, as recommended by the United Nations. Anyway, the High-level Steering Committee, in its meeting held In April 2023, has decided that the ORG and BBS will work collaboratively to start producing vital statistics based on the civil registration system.

ID System and Status of Interoperability with CRVS System

Following the passage of the National Identity Registration Act (2010) and the subsequent issuance of the National Identity Registration Rules in 2014, the responsibility for constructing and maintaining a National Identity (NID) database was entrusted to the EC Office. Starting in 2016, the EC Office utilized the existing voters' database (including biometric data collected during 2007-2008) to construct the NID database and assign a 10-digit Unique Identity (UID) number to each citizen above 18 years of age. In the same year, the EC Office began issuing Smart Cards with a 10-digit number to all citizens registered in the NID database. This has become a regular process for registering citizens once they reach the age of 16. Individuals between 16 and 18 years of age receive a paper laminated National ID card, while citizens aged 18 and above are issued a smart card embedded with a chip. The chip contains demographic information and the citizen's signature, photo, and fingerprints as biometric data. The NID card is valid for 15 years, after which individuals need to reapply (at least 6 months in advance) for a new card.

While the BDR Act mandates using a birth certificate as proof of age during NID registration with the EC Office, no such requirement is found in the NIRA 2010. Neither the NIRA nor the BDRA include provisions for interoperability between the databases. However, according to Section 3.(AA) of the Voter List Act 2009 (as amended in 2013), a birth certificate must be used during NID registration. However, more harmonization between ORG and the NID authority is required to consolidate this practice.

In May 2019, a policy decision was made at the highest level of the government to initiate real-time updates of the NID database using birth registration data from the ORG. To operationalize this decision, an MOU was signed between the EC Office and ORG in 2020, and the ORG started sharing relevant information on birth registration with the EC Office in the same year. When birth registration data is shared with the NID database, a 10-digit Unique Identification (UID) number is assigned to the newborn and stored in both databases. However, the UID is provided if both parents are confirmed as Bangladeshi citizens[3]. The allotted UID is then transmitted back to the BDRIS through an Application Programming Interface (API) after verifying the parents' NID number and date of birth. Since 2020, every registered birth has a Birth Registration

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3   It may be noted while the BDR Act provides that all births occurring within the territory of Bangladesh have to be compulsorily registered under the Act irrespective of the citizenship status of the parents, the NID database is limited only to citizens of the country.

Number (BRN) and UID for the child, which is not shared with the family but remains stored in the BDRIS database. It may be noted that currently, there is no mechanism in place to retire an identity in the NID database using the information on death registration from the BDRIS.

The government is implementing an innovative approach to include children in the NID database who were born before the crucial date. The government is enrolling children in the NID system through the school systems. UID numbers are provided to the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) for students in class five and above and to the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) for students through the BDRIS. Information such as the UID numbers of the students' father/mother, their date of birth, BRNs, and names (both in Bangla and English) are collected in the school and shared with BDRIS. BDRIS then transfers this information to the NID database via API. After verifying the parents' citizenship, the Election Commission (EC) Office enrols the children in the NID database, generates UID numbers, and shares them with the BRDIS system. These UID numbers are then transmitted to the students through the BANBEIS/DPE system, and students receive student profile cards containing their 10-digit UID number. It is important to note that this system is currently implemented in government and private schools nationwide under this initiative.

Lessons Learnt and Challenges

The zeal, commitment, and leadership from the highest level of the government led to the successful CRVS journey in Bangladesh. The country's CRVS system has experienced notable transformations and advancements in the past few years. One of the most crucial strategies worth emulating by other countries is the pro-active approach of using the local health and other community level workers in increasing registration completeness and timeliness. However, given the lack of local-level workers in urban areas, adopting a completely different strategy in urban areas would be necessary to enhance registration completeness and timeliness. There is a lot to learn on how the APA has been used as an effective tool to monitor the registration performance at all levels of registration closely.

Several countries have utilized either the voter's database or the existing national ID database as a starting point for creating the "stock" (population register), typically encompassing only the adult population. A handful of countries have also implemented mechanisms to update the "stock" through birth and death registration data. However, a common challenge many countries face is the enrolment of children between the ages of 0 and 17 years (or 15 years) into the ID system. Bangladesh has tackled this issue uniquely by leveraging the school system to enrol this population into the National Identification (NID) system and assigning them a UID number.

Among the limited number of countries, Bangladesh stands out for implementing a web-based online system for birth and death registration via BDRIS. However, it is important to note that the BDRIS lacks a deduplication feature, leaving room for duplicate registrations. One approach to address this issue is by utilizing the identity number of the parents for birth registrations and the identity number of the deceased for death registrations, thus enabling deduplication.

While it is clear that Bangladesh aims to establish a CRVSID system aligned with the UNLIA model, it is crucial to gain a comprehensive understanding of the system's overall architecture. This understanding should be achieved through an inclusive consultation process among various stakeholders, ultimately leading to a policy decision that solidifies the final framework. Once this milestone is reached, it will facilitate the process of designing and constructing the desired model more systematically and comprehensively.

According to the UNLIA framework, the CRVSID system should adopt a life-cycle approach, commencing with birth and concluding with death. Excluding deceased individuals from the NPR is crucial to prevent fraud and misuse while facilitating the generation of dynamic population data. This can aid in targeted resource allocation and improved planning. In Bangladesh, it can be stated with confidence that the "stock" is currently being built, and only one component of 'flow', specifically through birth registration, has been established. The essential questions to address are a) determining the precise nature of the "stock" that the country intends to develop and b) outlining the necessary steps to utilize death registration data for updating the "stock" that is robust and trustworthy.

It can easily be stated that a 'stock' is being built, and it is only in one 'flow' that is birth registration, which has thus far gained momentum. It is going to be a big step towards establishing a true CRVSID.

References

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3. Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report, 2020

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6. Progotir Pathe Bangladesh-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019

7. CRVS: Country Perspectives

8. Bangladesh: A successful journey towards CRVS System improvement

9. Status of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in South Asia Countries 2018, UNICEF, 2019.

10. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Birth and Death Registration : Expanded Kaliganj : Cabinet Division March 2023

Annex

CASE STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CRVSID SYSTEM IN BANGLADESH QUESTIONNAIRE

UNICEF as co-chair of the UN Legal Identity Task Force has commissioned case study on implementation of CRVSID system in six countries Asia, Africa, and Latin America – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, and Columbia. The overall objective of the case study is to These cases are for learning from the experience that selected countries have had, so that this learning will help many other countries in their own journeys to build integrated CRVSID systems.

Although the study will offer some insights into the current operational status of the three systems (CR, VS, and ID management) individually, its primary objective is to learn about the interoperability of these systems. The country-specific case studies will attempt to answer the following questions:

 a. How was the "stock" built?

 b. When was the civil registration data was linked to the population register and/or national ID, and how?

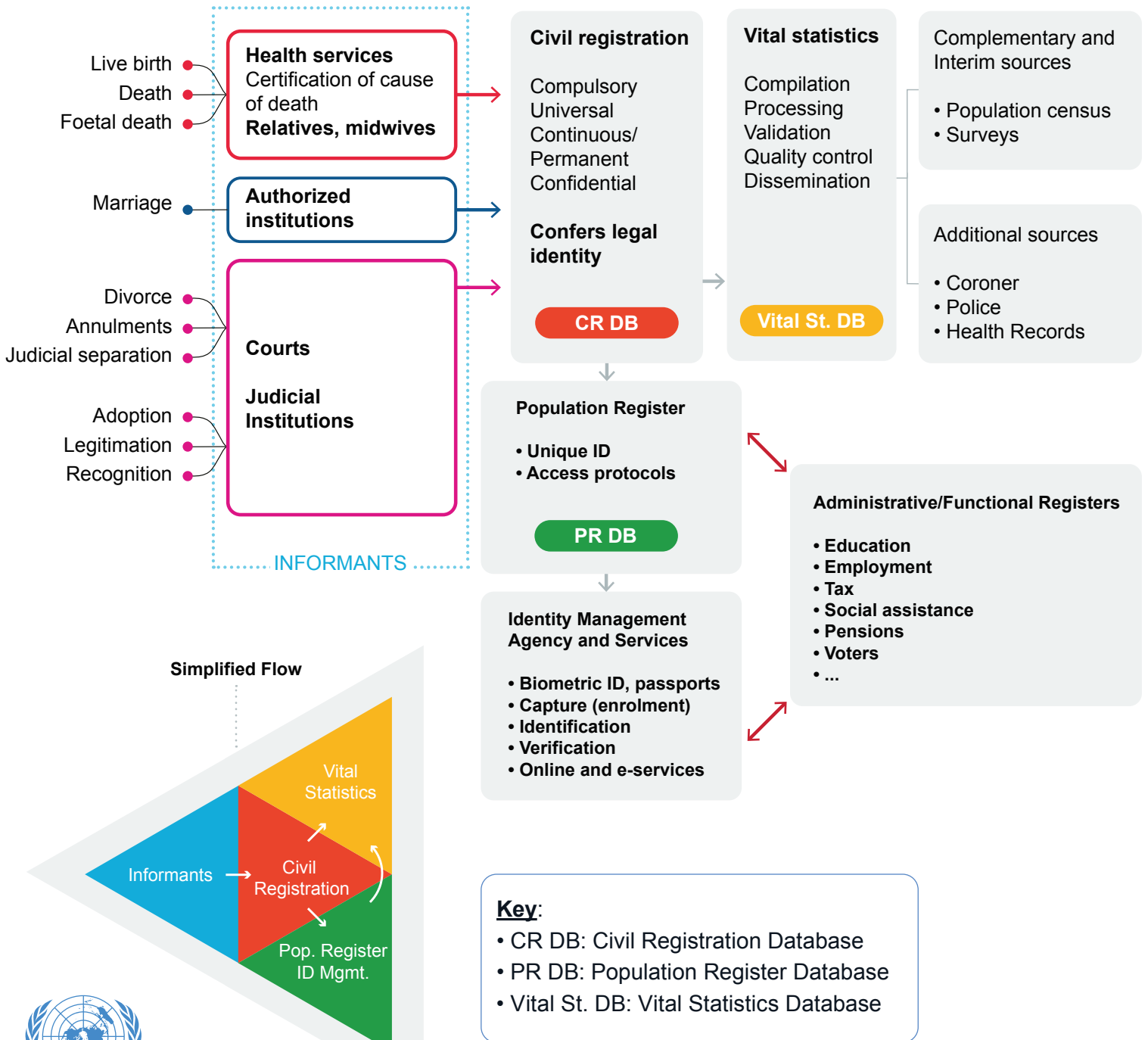 c. How much time did the system take to migrate from transient to steady state?

The studies will also include the steps taken by the countries in establishing organizational capabilities required for the efficient functioning of a CRVSID system, such as the legislative frameworks, organizational structure, human resources, ICT infrastructure, physical infrastructure, advocacy and communication and management and coordination.

We understand that Bangladesh is currently working on integrating their CR (Civil Registration) and ID (Identification) systems, and there have been discussions on generating vital statistics from civil registration records. We have gathered a significant amount of information through desk reviews and our team's individual knowledge and experience working with Bangladesh. However, there are still some gaps in our understanding on some aspects of the systems and future plans. Therefore, we would like to address these gaps by discussing the following points:

 1. What is the level of birth and death registration (according to BDRIS) for the calendar year 2022?

 2. What is the timeframe for death registration? Is it 30 days (according to the 2004 Act) or 45 days (according to the 2018 amended Rules)?

 3. Please confirm that the cost of delayed registration of birth is BDT 25 for registration between 45 days and 5 years and BDT 50 after 5 years. Is this the same for delayed registration of death?

 4. What are the fees for obtaining birth and death certificates?

 5. We are aware that there have been significant improvements in the levels of birth and death registration in the last two quarters. Please provide the latest data for total, rural, and urban areas. What led to the recent increase? Can this be attributed to the implementation of the Kaliganj+ model?

6. One of the decisions of the recently held Cabinet meeting is to ensure that the birth registration number should be entered in the EPI database. What is the purpose of this, and how is this sought to be achieved?

7. Please confirm that birth and death registration can be done only at the place of permanent residence or usual residence.

8. When was the crucial date when the birth registration data started to be shared in real time with the ID database located in the National ID system?

9. Please confirm that the BDRIS is aligned with the Citizen Core Data Structure (CCDS).

10. Was this decision based on a policy direction at the highest level of the government? Neither the ID law of 2010 nor the BDRIS provides for this integration. When was this policy decision taken? Was there an MOU signed for this integration of birth registration data with the ID data?

11. It seems that the birth registration data, when shared with the ID database, generates a UID (Unique Identification Number) in the ID database, but the UID does not flow back to the BDRIS. Please confirm. If so, is there a plan to do so?

12. If the UID is provided to a child immediately after birth, how is it conveyed to the family? Is there an SMS that goes to the family?

13. Registration of births and deaths is universal in Bangladesh. Births and deaths occurring to foreigners residing in Bangladesh are also registered - please confirm.

14. Is the National ID only provided to citizens? If so, is the UID also given to children of foreigners who are registered when their information is shared with the ID system?

15. At what age is biometric data collected?

16. At what age is the national ID card issued?

17. Is it a smart card? If so, what data resides on the chip, and how is this information used?

18. Can you describe the process of providing UID to children through the school system? How is the UID communicated back to the parents of these children?

19. What percentage of the population aged 18 and above possess an ID card? It seems that the ID is retired after death, but this updating is linked to the process of annual updating of the electoral list.

20. It seems that BDRIS does not have any system of deduplication. Is there a way that the Election Commission, when it receives the data from BDRIS after birth registration, can help with deduplication, as it is already using deduplication modules for ID database purposes?

21. What is the status of the new National ID Bill approved by the Cabinet in October 2022? It is noticed that the law provides for updating of the ID database through birth registration, and there is no mention of death registration for updating the ID database. Please confirm.

22. Are there any legal frameworks for data protection and privacy regarding the national ID system?

23. What is the extent of donor support/dependency on donors/development partners for (a) CR, (b) VS, and (c) ID? Please mention the various segments of support?

Given on the following page is the framework on CRVSID proposed under the UNLIA.

INFORMANTS

Live birth
Death
Foetal death

Health services
Certification of cause of death
Relatives, midwives

Marriage

Authorized institutions

Divorce
Annulments
Judicial separation

Adoption
Legitimation
Recognition

Courts

Judicial Institutions

Civil registration

Compulsory
Universal
Continuous/
Permanent
Confidential

Confers legal identity

CR DB

Vital statistics

Compilation
Processing
Validation
Quality control
Dissemination

Vital St. DB

Complementary and Interim sources

• Population census
• Surveys

Additional sources

• Coroner
• Police
• Health Records

Population Register

• **Unique ID**
• **Access protocols**

PR DB

Identity Management Agency and Services

• **Biometric ID, passports**
• **Capture (enrolment)**
• **Identification**
• **Verification**
• **Online and e-services**

Administrative/Functional Registers

• **Education**
• **Employment**
• **Tax**
• **Social assistance**
• **Pensions**
• **Voters**
• **...**

Simplified Flow

Vital Statistics

Informants → Civil Registration

Pop. Register ID Mgmt.

Key:
• CR DB: Civil Registration Database
• PR DB: Population Register Database
• Vital St. DB: Vital Statistics Database

This model represents a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management recommended by the United Nations, adapted from the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3*. It can be adjusted to national circumstances and governing structures as necessary.

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