

BHUTAN



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Acronyms

ACRONYM	NAME
BCRS	Bhutan Civil Registration System
DCRC	Department of Civil Registration and Census
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
JDWNRH	Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital
NSB	National Statistical Bureau
CMC	Court Marriage Certificate
CRVS	Civil Registration Vital Statistics
CRCO	Civil Registration and Census Offices
G2C	Government to Citizen
CID	Unique Citizenship Identity
NDI	National Digital ID
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
SR	Special Resident
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.

Bhutan at a Glance

Total population (2023)	770,000	Population projection of Bhutan 2017-2047
Percentage of urban population (2022)	49.0 %	Population projection of Bhutan 2017-2047
Estimated number of births (2021)	12,300	Vital Statistics Report Bhutan 2022
Estimated number of deaths (2021)	5,100	Vital Statistics Report Bhutan 2022
Birth registration completion level (2021)	88 %	Vital Statistics Report Bhutan 2022
Death registration completion level (2021)	62 %	Vital Statistics Report Bhutan 2022
Coverage of ID among population (15 + years)	85 %	Bhutan Civil Registration System 2023

Journey Towards an Integrated CRVSID System

KEY MILESTONES

YEAR	MILESTONES ACHIEVED
1980	Birth and Death registration initiated as part of civil registry records (Family Diaries)
2003-2004	Family Diaries computerized as standalone databases called the Bhutan Civil Registration System (BCRS) to provide civil registration services including birth and death registration
2004	Department of Civil Registration and Census (DCRC) created by bifurcating Department of Immigration and Census
2004	Second generation card introduced
2012	BCRS transited to a web-based national database to provide efficient service
2013	Third-generation card introduced -laser engraved technology used
2020	MOU on sharing of statistical data signed between National Statistical Bureau (NSB) and DCRC
2020	First Annual Vital Statistics Report published
2021	CRVS assessment completed, and Multi sectoral National Strategic Action Plan developed
2023	National Digital ID introduced – biometrics captured with enhanced resolution of fingerprints and additionally palm prints captured

Beginning in the late 1980s, Bhutan initiated recording birth and death registrations as part of its civil registry records. These registrations were primarily maintained in the form of Family Diaries, serving as paper-based registers. This practice persisted until 2002. Each administrative unit from a district to a Block, such as the Dzongkhag (District), Drungkhag (Sub-district), and Gewog (Block), was responsible for maintaining Family Diaries within their respective jurisdictions. The Family Diaries were updated with information on birth and death, among others, once a year through an annual census-type operation.

In 2003, the Department of Civil Registration and Census¹ (DCRC) began the process of computerizing all the records from the Family Diaries to building a national register of families and individuals (the stock of citizens) for the country. The following year, a more comprehensive database known as the Bhutan Civil Registration System (BCRS) was developed. While the primary focus of this system was the issuance of citizenship cards, it also integrated the recording of births, deaths, movements of family members, and family details.

In 2004, considering the importance of civil registration in the country, the MoHA bifurcated the then Department of Immigration and Census into the Department of Civil Registration and Census and Department of Immigration.

In 2021, Bhutan embarked on a thorough assessment of its CRVS system, employing a process-centric approach through the CRVS Systems Improvement Framework². As part of this effort, a Multisectoral National Strategic Action Plan was devised for the period of 2021-2025, with the overarching goal of attaining universal registration and certification of births and deaths, as well as generating accurate and timely vital statistics. Several modifications to the core CRVS business processes outlined in the Plan have already been implemented, guided by the Revised Guidelines developed by the Department of Civil Registration and Census (DCRC) in 2021.

In 2012, as part of the Government to Citizen (G2C) Project initiatives³, the BCRS was transformed from a standalone into a web-based system, allowing citizens to register births and deaths through this online system. This modernization effort aimed to enhance convenience and accessibility for the public. In addition, registration service centres were set up at the gewog (Block) level, bringing the registration process closer to the people. This move aimed to improve public service delivery.

Currently, every child is assigned a Unique Citizenship Identity (CID) that is generated in real-time in the BCRC immediately after his/her birth is registered. This unique number is subsequently utilized to issue a CID card to the child once he/she reaches 15 years of age. The CID number of an individual is retired upon the registration of his/her death. While processing a CID card⁴, the biometrics (fingerprints) of the individuals are collected, recorded and archived in the biometric database in the BCRS.

1 The Census here is not related to population count. It refers to a process through which an annual programme when official from DCRC reach out to people to provide services including birth and death registration.

2 [CRVS Systems Improvement Framework \(vitalstrategies.org\)](https://vitalstrategies.org)

3 The G2C project is a e-governance plan taken under the 'Accelerating Bhutan's Socio-Economic Development' (ABSD) program that started in 2009. The project was meant to deliver 200 plus government services to the citizens ranging across ten ministries, twelve agencies and 20 dzongkhags in the fastest and most efficient way.

4 Special Resident (SR) Card are issued to non-citizens.

On October 13, 2022, Bhutan introduced a nationwide collection of Digital ID (NDI) programme that would provide citizens with secure and verifiable digital ID credentials. The BCRS database provides foundational data for onboarding the citizens into the NDI system. The biometric data (fingerprint) is being collected afresh to enhance its useability for a longer period of time.

The Office of the Prime Minister & Cabinet, in collaboration with the Government Tech Agency and DCRC, has successfully developed the Birth and Death Registration in Integrated Citizen Services (ICS) system. The ICS system is already operational, and DCRC plans to initiate pilot testing in two districts. ICS aims to streamline the birth and death registration process while reducing administrative burdens. This system seamlessly integrates with other relevant agencies, including the ePIS of the Ministry of Health and the Judiciary System of the Royal Court of Justice, facilitating automated verification. With the introduction of ICS, individuals can conveniently register births and deaths using their smartphones or computers, eliminating the need for in-person visits and thereby enhancing the completeness of birth and death registrations.

An Integrated CRVSID System

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

There is no separate Law governing the civil registration system in Bhutan. Birth and death registration are not mandatory and are carried out through administrative orders and standard operating procedures. The Bhutan Citizenship Act, 1985 Clause 2 states *“A person whose parents are both citizens of Bhutan shall be deemed to be a citizen of Bhutan by birth.”* Under the provision of the Citizen Act, 1985, all children of Bhutanese parentage irrespective of whether born inside or outside Bhutan must be registered into the civil registration system within one year of birth.

The Immigration Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2015, Section 57 states *“The parents of children born to Bhutanese and foreign spouse holding Immigration Card shall register their child with the department within one year of child’s birth along with birth certificate and relevant identity documents of the parents. Certificate of Registration may be issued for one year to facilitate permit and visa.”*

In accordance with the provision of immigration rules and regulations, children born to foreign nationals and non-Bhutanese spouses in Bhutan are registered in the department of immigration records for all births occurring within one year. Deaths occurring to Foreign nationals are registered in a separate database by the immigration. This means that the civil registration system registers births and deaths occurring only to citizens and special resident card holders of the country.

No separate law exists for the issuance of national identity and is purportedly covered under clause 2 of the 1985 Act, which is operationalized through the civil registration and census operations undertaken by the DCRC.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Bhutan has a centralized CRVS system, with the Department of Civil Registration and Census (DCRC) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) directing, guiding, coordinating and overseeing the operations of civil registration in the country⁵. The DCRC is responsible for coordinating with the Ministry of Health (MoHA) to obtain notification of the occurrences of vital events and the National Statistical Bureau (NSB) to publish vital statistics based on the civil registration records.

The government provides civil registration services to the general public through its service delivery points at the DCRC headquarter office in Thimphu and the Civil Registration and Census Offices (CRCOs) in 20 Dzongkhags (Districts), 4 Thromdes (Municipalities), and 200 Community Service Centers (CSCs) at the Gewog (Block) level. Additionally, during a designated annual census period in Bhutan, which begins in November every year and ends in January of the following year, the Civil Registration Officials in the Dzongkhags visit all their respective Gewogs to allow people to register birth and death along with other civil registration services, without having them to visit the Dzongkhag CRCOs. The annual census also serves as an opportunity for the citizens and SR card holders to crosscheck and reconfirm that their details have been accurately updated in the online BCRS.

An announcement is made well in advance to ensure widespread awareness of this event through various media channels, including audio-visual and print media. The annual census serves the purpose of accurately recording, updating and maintaining the vital events of all Bhutanese citizens and special resident (SR) cardholders. Also, it provides a platform for resolving any pending issues, such as late registrations of births, census transfers⁶, and name corrections. The civil registration officials from the DCRC make field visits to district and local government offices to provide guided supervision to ensure the delivery of high-quality registration services.

In June 2023, the governance structures of the Bhutan CRVS system consisting of 1. National CRVS Steering Committee 2. Inter-Agency CRVS Technical Committee 3. Dzongkhag CRVS Coordination Committee was formalized to ensure further coordination and collaboration among the stakeholders and help strengthen the CRVS system of Bhutan.

BIRTH REGISTRATION

There are specific procedures depending on the circumstances to register a birth in the Bhutan Civil Registration System (BCRS). If the birth occurs in a health facility, the doctor issues a Notification of Birth. For births occurring outside a health facility, the tshogpa⁷/thromde provides information on the specified Birth form, which is submitted to the hospital by the parents and designated informants to obtain the birth notification.

5 Recognizing the significance of civil registration in the country, the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA) divided the Department of Immigration and Census (previously the Department of Registration) in 2004. This resulted in the establishment of the DCRC and the Department of Immigration

6 Move-in and move-out, change in head of household etc.

7 Member of the Census Committee in the village

Birth registration services can be accessed from the current place of residence or permanent address as per civil registration and census records. For the current place of residence, a Statement of Guarantor is required to be produced as one of the documents. The parents/family members can register their newborns from any registration point, including Community Service Centres if all the requirements are fulfilled. A Court Marriage Certificate (CMC) is one of the essential documents required along with the application. If the parents do not have a Court Marriage Certificate (CMC), they need to complete the birth registration forms and obtain endorsement of marriage from the local government officials in their respective Gewogs. A newborn has to be assigned to the household, which is a mandatory requirement for applying for his/her registration. The signature of the head of the household is mandatory in the birth registration application if the newborn is to be registered in a household other than his/her parents. CID/SR numbers of both parents have to be provided in the birth application form.

All the completed documents are submitted to the operator at any registration point. The operator scans the documents and enters the child's vital information, including the parents' details, into the computer system using the online DCRC. The application is submitted online to the verifier (L1) at the Dzongkhag/Thromde level. The verifier (L1) reviews the application and submits it to the verifier level (L2) at the DCRC headquarters or returns it to the operator if further information is needed. The verifier (L2) verifies the application and submits it to the approving authority at the DCRC headquarters or returns it to the L1 verifier for additional actions. If the approving authority approves the application, the child's name is registered in the BCRC, and the system generates a unique CID number. The average time to register a complete birth registration in BCRC is 21 days after the application is filed in the local registration office.

If the child is not registered in the civil registration system within the stipulated time, the child's civil status becomes "delayed birth registration". Then, registering the child becomes more cumbersome as it entails filling up an individual registration form and getting it endorsed by the local government officials, justifying their inability to register the births within the stipulated time. However, there is no penalty or late fees for such late registration.

DCRC does not issue birth certificates through the BCRC. The issuance of birth certificates in Bhutan is solely handled by the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH) located in Thimphu. Other hospitals in the country, including the DCRC, do not have the authority to issue birth certificates. A new project under the health ministry is underway to provide online birth certificates to the public through patient portals.

Typically, individuals in Bhutan tend to apply for a birth certificate when they specifically require a travel document for international travel. A fee of Nu 25 (\$0.30) is charged as the fee for a birth certificate. Otherwise, many departments rely on a document known as 'Mother and Child Handbook' for day-to-day affairs.⁸ This handbook serves as a comprehensive record for accessing social services like healthcare and education, as well as for other official matters and is widely accepted as a substitute for a birth certificate in various situations, but certainly not a good practice.

8 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook, an integrated home-based record for MCH, is used in Bhutan, for recording the results of antenatal and postnatal check-ups of mothers, immunization, vitamin A supplementation, deworming, and growth monitoring of their children

DEATH REGISTRATION

Different procedures apply to register a death in the BCRS, depending on whether the death occurred inside or outside a health facility. If the death occurred in a health facility, the doctor issues a Notification of Death. However, if the death occurred outside a health facility, the responsibility falls on the local community representative (tshogpa/thromde tshogpa) who issues a Statement of Death.

In either case, the applicant must complete the death registration forms and obtain the endorsement of local government officials if registering the death at the deceased's permanent address, according to the DCRC records. However, if the applicant prefers to register the death at their current place of residence, they can submit the Statement of Death signed by the guarantor and witness. The requestor/family member can register the death from any registration points, including Community Service Centres if the above requirements are fulfilled.

The completed registration documents are then submitted to an operator at any of the registration points. The operator scans the documents and updates the information in the BCRS. The operator then submits the application online to the verifier (L1) located at the Dzongkhag/Thromde level. The verifier reviews and verifies the submitted application before forwarding it to the approval level at the DCRC headquarters.

The approving authority at the DCRC headquarters thoroughly examines the application, and either approves it or requests resubmission if necessary. Once the application is approved, the person's name is marked as "Deceased" in the BCRS.

DCRC does not issue any death certificates. Medical officers in health facilities issue death medical certificates of cause of death for deaths that occur within these facilities. The certificate of death issued by health facilities can be used for any official/legal purposes, such as claiming inheritance, property transfers, pension benefits, etc.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE REGISTRATION

Marriage registration in Bhutan is governed by the Marriage Act of 1980, and the Royal Court of Justice issues a Court Marriage Certificate. Couples seeking to register their marriage must fill out an application form and submit it either online or by walking into the respective courts of their residential area. Required documents include identification papers, recent passport-size photographs, household information of both parties, proof of residence/employment of either couple and, if applicable, divorce or death certificates from previous marriages. Two witnesses (a female witness for the bride and a male witness for the bridegroom) are required during the registration process. Once the application and fee payment are completed, marriage details are updated in the Judiciary System, and the authorities issue a marriage certificate, serving as legal proof of the marriage. It is important to note that specific requirements and procedures may vary depending on the jurisdiction within Bhutan.

Identity system

The identity system in Bhutan has been an integral part of the civil registration system. The BCRS, as described above, offers various services, including birth registration, death registration, move-in and move-out, issuance of household information, naturalization processes, updates of individual information, changes of the head of household, and issuance of new and renewal of CID/SR. All the data from the aforementioned civil registration services are simultaneously recorded and archived within the BCRS. As a result, the BCRS serves as an integrated system for the registration of vital events and identity management. The scope of the BCRS extends beyond identity management. It encompasses recording changes in residence and the dynamic management of household-level information.

The inception of BCRS involved two significant stages in its development, first between 2002 and 2003 as standalone databases and then followed by its transition to a national web-based system in 2012. This can essentially be seen as the establishment of the foundational database for population and households, which continued to be updated online through birth and death registrations, as well as other information collected via the civil registration system and census operations.

As stated above, upon birth registration in the BCRS, a CID number is auto-generated, and the SMS confirming the successful birth registration, along with the child's CID, is sent to the parents of the newborn. After the registration of death in the BCRS, the person's status is updated as "Deceased" from "Active". However, the information of the deceased is not erased from the system and remains archived in the BCRS.

Between 1984 and 2004, the initial National ID card was issued as a paper-based handwritten booklet with limited or no security features. In 2004, the second-generation National ID card was introduced in line with the development of BCRS, as the ID issuance system was one of the major components of the BCRS. While all the processes for the issuance of ID were captured in the BCRS, the printing of cards was managed by a separate printing management system. In 2013, DCRC implemented the third-generation card, which used laser-engraved technology for printing. Starting in 2023, Bhutan is moving towards digital ID, built using a self-sovereign identity model based on decentralized ID technology. It gives users greater control over their ID and allows them to choose who they can share personal data. The DCRC plans to move into the 4th Generation card and enable citizens to process their CID through Digital App.

In the 1st Generation CID card, the number was manually allotted to individuals when they processed their first CID on attainment of 15 years of age. However, when the implementation of BCRS was initiated in 2003-2004, all the people who were registered in BCRS were assigned a unique CID number through the system. The same CID number continued when BCRS transitioned into the web-based system. The structure of CID is 11-digit numeric with a combination of District, Block and running serial numbers.

CID/SR cards are processed and issued by the DCRC. There are two levels involved in this service. At the first level, the operator verifies and ensures that the required documents are completed in all respects, after which the official at the next level approves following the due process. During CID/SR card processing, the individual's biometric data is collected, recorded, and stored in the biometric database within the BCRS.

Biometric records of the individual collected while processing the CID card are stored in the different tables inside the BCRS database. Enrolling the population (8 years and above) into the NDI system involves utilizing the existing ID identity database for verification and authentication while collecting fingerprints at a higher resolution. Additionally, palm prints are electronically captured as an additional biometric data point.

It is noteworthy that applicants must present their Health card/MCH book while processing a CID Card. This is done to verify and confirm the information provided in the health card/MCH Handbook against the document that was submitted initially during their birth registration. Individuals can apply for a CID/SR card once they reach 15 years of age. People are encouraged to obtain their ID cards before turning 18 years old. In cases where they fail to do so, additional documents may be requested during the ID processing. About 75 % of the population possess a CID/SR. The remaining are mostly less than 15 years of age and, therefore, have not reached to apply for an ID.

Vital statistics system

Bhutan published its first annual vital statistics report in 2020, which presented comprehensive statistical tabulations, demographic indicators, and in-depth analysis based on data collected in 2019. In October 2020, an MOU was signed between the National Statistical Bureau (NSB) and the Department of Civil Registration and Census (DCRC), establishing an agreement for the annual sharing of civil registration data. A non-disclosure agreement is also signed annually during the time of data sharing to protect the privacy of the individuals and their personal data. The vital statistics report for 2022 is the most recent publication in this series. It is worth noting that certain data variables related to births, such as birth weight, are collected as part of notifications obtained from health facilities and submitted as supporting documentation with applications for registration of births.

Lessons Learnt and Challenges

In Bhutan, the CRVSID system emerged as a fully integrated solution, benefiting from the availability of legacy data in the form of a paper-based family register. This register was updated manually from 1980 to 2004 for births and deaths and later transitioned to digital methods. This smooth transition played a crucial role in the seamless development of the integrated model. The digitization of the family register facilitated the creation of a web-BCRS effectively establishing a comprehensive population register. The BCRS serves as a centralized database containing all citizens' biographic and biometric information, supporting identity management. Moreover, the BCRS serves as a platform to update various types of information, including birth and death registrations, effectively managing the data flow. Although this model may not be directly applicable to other countries due to the absence of comprehensive legacy systems, the essential lesson to learn from Bhutan is their visionary, persistent, and incremental approach to transforming a fully manual system into a sophisticated CRVSID system over a span of 20 years. The G2C project initiated by the Government of Bhutan, which focused on providing e-services to its citizens, served as a significant impetus for the development of a contemporary CRVSID system.

A notable feature of the CRVSID system is the convenient accessibility of registration for obtaining civil registration and ID services. An innovative approach within the system is the ability to avail birth and death registration services from any registration centre, a concept worth exploring for countries with a fully digitized system supported by a centralized database. Another interesting feature of the system is its annual census-type operation, which, among other functions, helps address backlogs in registration effectively.

The civil registration-based vital statistics system was set up successfully, and within a year of receiving technical assistance from ESCAP in 2019, the first annual vital statistics report was published. It is interesting to observe how data variables from the health sector, obtained through birth notifications submitted with the application form, have been utilized to generate statistical tables in the report. The statistical tables and indicators included in the report closely adhere to the guidelines outlined in the UN Principles and Recommendations on a Vital Statistics System (revision 3).

A systematic approach was adopted in redesigning the CRVS system through a consultative assessment and analysis process of the as-is system. This methodical approach resulted in important recommendations and the subsequent development of a multi-sectoral National Strategic Action Plan. The Plan set specific targets, and a corresponding results framework was developed. Implementation of some recommendations has already commenced.

The CRVSID system can be confidently described as operating in a stable state as a fully integrated system, perfectly aligned with the proposed UNLIA model. Nevertheless, some specific challenges persist, which are outlined below:

- a. Incomplete birth registration and low levels of death registration remain ongoing challenges. In Bhutan, one reason stated for the low death registration levels is the non-registration of children who pass away before the age of 8, primarily due to the unavailability of life insurance for children below that age.
- b. Despite having a fully digitized system, the turn-around time for birth and death registrations is unusually high. This can be attributed to the multiple levels of approval that have been implemented, leading to delays at different stages.
- c. Parents are burdened with significant paperwork and collecting various documents before they can apply for birth registration.
- d. The issuance of birth certificates and death certificates is not conducted directly from the BCRS by the DCRC. Even in the redesigned system, it is proposed that health facilities will continue to issue these certificates, albeit through a digital platform.

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Annex

CASE STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CRVSID SYSTEM IN BHUTAN QUESTIONNAIRE

UNICEF as co-chair of the UN Legal Identity (UNLIA) Task Force has commissioned a 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 document the learnings from the experience that selected countries have had, so that many other countries benefit 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:

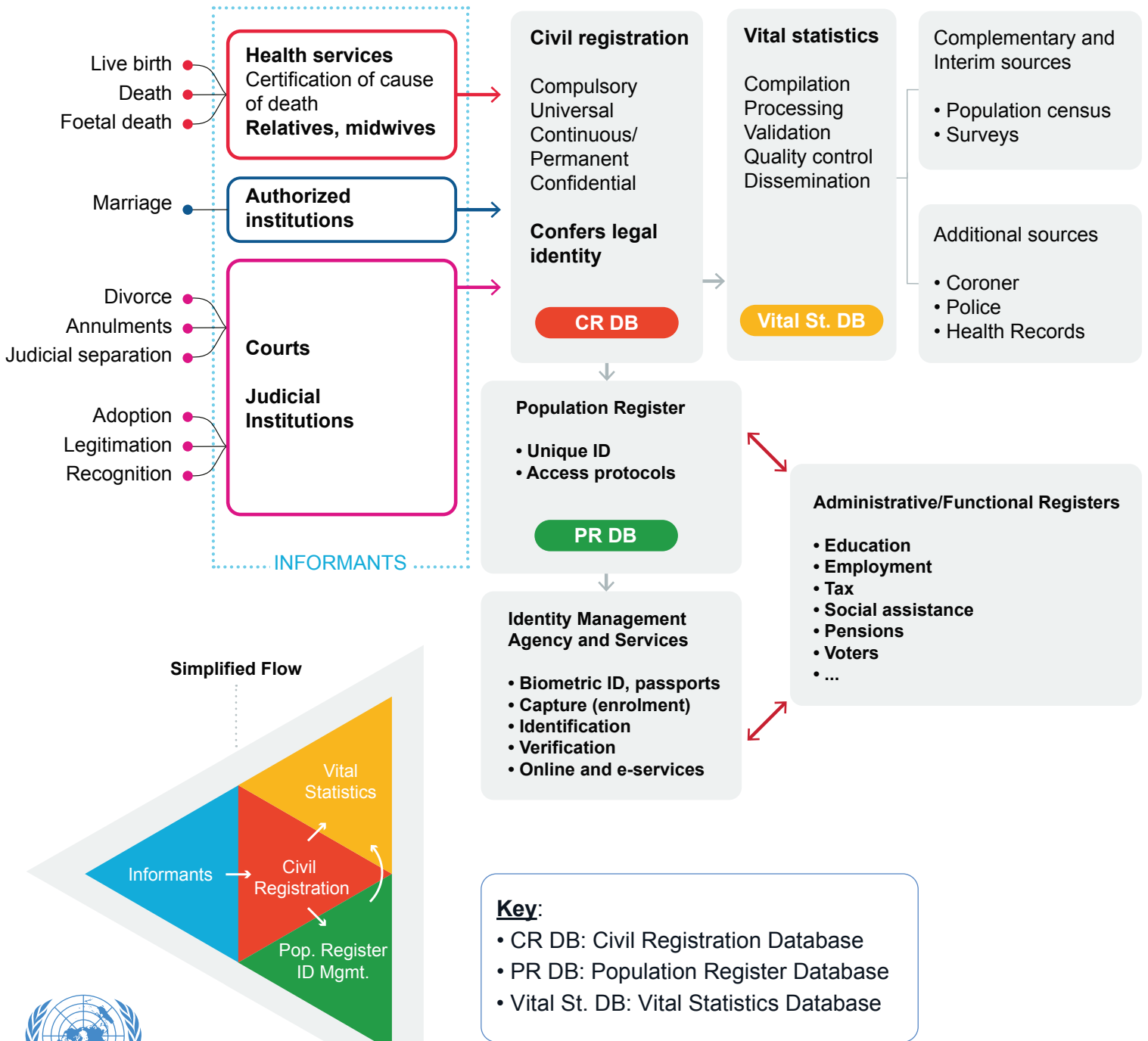
- a. How was the “stock” built?
- b. When was the civil registration data linked to the population register and/or national ID, and how?
- c. How much time did the system take to migrate from transient to steady state?

We have gathered a significant amount of information through desk reviews. However, there are still some gaps in our understanding on some of the aspects of the systems and future plans. Therefore, we would like to address these gaps by discussing the following points:

1. Previously, birth certificates were issued by the national referral hospital based on the nationality certificate issued by the Department of Civil Registration and Census (DCRC). However, it appears that this procedure has changed, and no nationality certificate will be required for the issuance of a birth certificate by the hospital. Could you confirm this change?
2. One of the key recommendations of the recent assessment was to issue birth certificates from health facilities across the country. Has this recommendation been implemented?
3. Currently, no death certificate is issued upon registration of a death, and the medical certificate of cause of death is used for various purposes, including rural life insurance claims. Is there a plan to issue a death certificate in the future, considering the possibility that the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) may need to be made confidential as per international recommendations?
4. Is the Unique ID (UID) of a child generated from the Bhutan Civil Registration System (BCRS) and stored in its birth registration database? Alternatively, is there a separate population registration database for all citizens of the country that is interoperable with the BCRS? If such a separate database exists, is the UID generated from this population registration database?

5. Is the UID retired after a person's death? If so, is the death registration information used to retire the ID in the population register, if it exists?
6. At what level of administration are CID and SR applications processed, and which agency is responsible for them? Is it the DCRC?
7. Could you confirm that the CID/SR registration does not include a biometric database of individuals?
8. Is there a separate database for CID? If so, is it the population register (if it exists) referred to in point number 4?
9. What is the significance of issuing a CID to citizens aged 15-17, followed by another ID card issuance at 18 years of age?
10. For the application process for 15-17-year-old citizens, the applicant must produce the original health card/MCH book used during the initial registration in the BCRS. Why is the MCH card required? Is it a way of validating the ID number given during birth registration?
11. What percentage of citizens possess a CID card?
12. How and when was the population (or citizen) database, if any, initiated? When was the BCRS linked to this database for updating?
13. How was the linkage established between the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system and the population register, eventually leading to the issuance of the ID card? Could you provide a chronological explanation of the various events that led to the linkage between CRVS and ID?
14. Is there any legal framework for VS? Data protection & privacy?
15. 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 below the framework on CRVSID proposed under the UNLIA.



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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