

What is CR8?

- **CR stands for Civil Registration .**
- **The CR8 is a professional network of those who work with civil registration (civil Registration, that is, Non-Military Registration)**
- **CR8 is Civil Registration Professionals' Group from 8 South Asian countries- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**
- **The network was formed in 2018 and has had two subsequent meetings , first 24 - 25 July,2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal and second 26 to 28 November 2019 in Maldives.**
- **The group is supported by the United Nations Children's Fund Regional Office for South Asia (UNICEF ROSA) and**
- **The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).**

Background and Origin of CR8

- All people have a right to identity, to be legally and socially recognized as the subject of rights and responsibilities.**
- The right to legal identity is recognized in international law , the 2030 Agenda as the foundation for “leaving no one behind.”**
- Civil registration is the critical foundation for any country’s identity management system, providing documents for people to exercise their rights, and to be protected from abuse.**
- Vital statistics – statistics generated from vital registration systems – are of great value for state policy and planning .**
- Legal identity is first recognized by a state at birth, through birth registration. All subsequent important life events – marriage, death, adoption, divorce, recognition and legitimation – are recorded in reference to this first recognition.**

Background and Origin of CR8

- Yet, only 60% of children under 5 have had their birth registered in South Asia.
- 77 million children under 5 lack proof of
 - I. Who their parents are
 - II. Where they were born or
 - III. Even their own names.
- Worldwide, 1 in 4 children remains unregistered, the largest concentration is in South Asia.
- Without this necessary legal documentation, these children are at risk of
 - I. Exploitation
 - II. Child marriage and
 - III. Underage recruitment into military services.

Recently, they were also at risk of being left out of national socio-economic responses to COVID-19.

Background and Origin of CR8

- Birth registration is the first step in
 - (i) acknowledging a person's existence,
 - (ii) granting legal identity, and
 - (iii) protecting a wide variety of ensuing rights over the course of a person's lifetime.
- Moreover, a birth certificate is often the very documentation a person needs both to establish their national identity and protect those rights.
- A child also benefits not only from their own birth certificate, but from the marriage registration of their parents and death registration of their ancestors.
- And a comprehensive civil registry recording all the vital events of the population within its borders protects children, adults, family and the collective.

Background and Origin of CR8

- **The seriousness and magnitude of the problem was acknowledged in Nov.26-27,2014,**
- **All countries committed to improving their civil registration systems by end 2024,**
- **Recognizing this lack of registration, dedicated civil registration professionals in South Asia decided to establish a network to improve national civil registration (CR) systems.**
- **Acting on the 2014 commitments , the civil registration officials in South Asia met in July 2018 in Katmandu and all agreed to establish the informal network of professionals "the CR8."**
- **They discussed three common areas of concern in all countries in South Asia-national coordination, cross-border collaboration, and the relationship between civil registration and civil identification.**
- **The establishment of the group followed the footsteps of the Pacific Civil Registrars Network, which is successfully supporting CR improvements across the Pacific.**

Objectives of CR8

The objectives includes:

- (i) to collectively address common challenges to realizing the vision of the CRVS Decade.**
- (ii) to review areas of common interest, build bridges for future collaboration and share ideas for approaching complex CRVS issues.**
- (iii) to achieve universal civil registration and certification of vital events for all including birth, death and marriage as well as divorce and adoption.**
- (iv) to share information and resources, lessons learned and good practices, acknowledging the similar challenges faced by civil registration professionals across South Asia.**
- (v) to leave no one behind and ensure legal identity for all.**

Vision of CR8

- The network is built on the mutual understanding that civil registration professionals are key to reaching Asia and the Pacific's shared vision that by 2024, all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development.
- Globally, the importance of birth registration is underscored by its centrality to [Sustainable Development Goal 16.9](#), legal identity for all, including birth registration for all. This goal is measured by indicator 16.9.1: the proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births are registered with a civil authority.

Recent Developments Calling for 3rd CR8 Conference

- **The CR8 last met held in Male, the Maldives in 26-28 November, 2019.**
- **Meanwhile, a number of significant developments have taken place impacting CRVS in South Asia. Such as-**
- **The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted registration services in the region;**
- **The Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade was launched in 2021 (2021-2030) named Decade of Action;**
- **The Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in the Asia Pacific took place in November 2021 resulting in a Ministerial Declaration.**

Recent Developments calling for 3rd CR8 Conference

- **The Declaration called for Building a More Resilient Future with inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics committed to strengthen action in key areas of CRVS, including**
 - (i) record management and creation of digital records;**
 - (ii) resiliency from disasters and promoting recovery;**
 - (iii) strengthening the role of health services in registration;**
 - (iv) improving systems for death registration with causes of death;**
 - (v) data protection and confidentiality;**
 - (vi) providing finance for CRVS.**

Objectives of the 3rd CR8 Conference

- **South Asia region is now on the right path to reach goals of universal and responsive CRVS systems.**
- **Therefore, it is an opportune moment for the 3rd CR8 to be convened:**
 - (i) to discuss progress, challenges, opportunities and acceleration of action in CRVS to ensure that countries are able to meet both the Sustainable Development Goal target 16.9 and fulfill the 2030 Agenda, and**
 - (ii) to review the progress towards the targets in the Regional Action Framework for the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015-2024).**

Objectives of the 3rd CR8 Conference

It is supposed that the ensuing regional meeting will try:

- (i) to review progress against the Decade of Action and take stock of efforts;**
- (ii) to date to strengthen CRVS in South Asia, highlight the successes, good practices and lessons learned;**
- (iii) to identify promising and effective initiatives and investments to scale up initiatives in the region;**
- (iv) to review the impact of COVID-19 on targets and identify areas for accelerated action;**
- (v) to review progress to date and inform future action and related priorities.**

3rd CR8 Conference in Dhaka

- **CRVS authorities have decided to convene the 3rd CR8 Conference in Bangladesh.**
- **Conference Date: 6-8th June, 2023.**
- **Venue ??? UNICEF Bangladesh to detail...**
- **Office of the Registrar General has been entrusted to act as Focal Point.**
- **Financial , Technical Support-UNICEP & ESCAP.**
- **Accommodation Arrangement in Dhaka for Foreign participants-UNICEF.**

3rd CR8 Conference in Dhaka

- **This time 23-26 participants from Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka are expected to attend the 3 days Programme.**
- **Representatives from Afghanistan has not been included.**
- **Participants from home and International organizations in Dhaka - about 30 include Cabinet Division, Local Govt. Division, Health Services Division, BSS, Law and Judiciary Division, UNDP, ICT Division, DFID, FCDO , SIDA and UNICEF Bangladesh.**
- **To decide, who they are ???**
- **The first day is set for field visit;**
- **Inauguration on 7th June – How ???**
- **Business Day-7th & 8th June- Papers to be presented and Discussed, Who ???**
- **The concluding on 8th**
- **A Committee ???**