PHILIPPINES
SUCCESS IN IMPROVING
BIRTH REGISTRATION

ID-M

CRVS

August 2017
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AO</td>
<td>Administrative Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCRS</td>
<td>Barangay Civil Registration System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRQS</td>
<td>Batch Request Query System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/MCR</td>
<td>City/Municipal Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDLI</td>
<td>Court Decree and Legal Instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COD</td>
<td>Certificate of Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLB</td>
<td>Certificate of Live Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRASD</td>
<td>Civil Registration and Administrative Support Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRD</td>
<td>Civil Registry Document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRG</td>
<td>Civil Registrar General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRS</td>
<td>Civil Registry System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRVS</td>
<td>Civil registration and vital statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTC</td>
<td>Certified True Copy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRS-ITP</td>
<td>Civil Registry System – Information Technology Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCC</td>
<td>Data Capture Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFA</td>
<td>Department of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOH</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSWD</td>
<td>Department of Social Welfare and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVSS</td>
<td>Decentralized Vital Statistics System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAC</td>
<td>Inter-Agency Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCs/IPs</td>
<td>Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICD</td>
<td>International Classification of Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEALS</td>
<td>Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRR</td>
<td>Implementing Rules and Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCR</td>
<td>Local Civil Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCRO</td>
<td>Local Civil Registry Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGU</td>
<td>Local government unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCIP</td>
<td>National Commission of Indigenous Peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCMF</td>
<td>National Commission on Muslim Filipinos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCSO</td>
<td>National Census and Statistics Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRF</td>
<td>No Records Found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSO</td>
<td>National Statistics Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCRG</td>
<td>Office of the Civil Registrar General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhilCRIS</td>
<td>Philippine Civil Registry Information System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>Provincial Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA</td>
<td>Philippine Statistics Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>Republic Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAF</td>
<td>Regional Action Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWG</td>
<td>Technical Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Civil registration is the continuous, permanent, and compulsory recording of vital events and the civil status of persons and of modification of the records. A vital event is an event which has to do with an individual’s entrance into or departure from life together with any change in civil status which may occur during an individual’s lifetime. The following are considered as vital events in the Philippines:

- **Live birth** – The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breaths or shows any other evidence of life.
- **Foundling** – A deserted or abandoned child found with parents, guardian, or relatives being unknown; or a child committed to an institution, with unknown facts of birth and parentage.
- **Marriage** – A special contract of permanent union between a man and a woman entered into in accordance with the law for the establishment of conjugal and family life.
- **Death** – The permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place.
- **Fetal death** – Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, where the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the fetus does not breathe nor show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles.

Although divorce is among the vital events enumerated in the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, divorce is illegal...
in the Philippines. The civil register includes the actual copies of registrable court decisions and legal instruments concerning the civil status of persons. It refers to the various registry books and related certificates and documents kept in the archives of Local Civil Registry Offices (LCROs), Philippine Consulates, the Office of the Civil Registrar General, and Shari’a District/Circuit Courts.

- **Court decree** – A judicial order that affects the civil status of person
  Examples:
  - Adoption/rescission of adoption
  - Recognition of foreign judgement
  - Annulment of marriage
  - Declaration of absolute nullity of marriage
  - Naturalization,

- **Legal Instruments** – A sworn statement in the form of an affidavit which affects the civil status of person.
  Examples:
  - Legitimation
  - Acknowledgment/Admission of paternity
  - Affidavit to use the surname of the father
  - Option to elect Philippine citizenship
  - Repatriation

**Flow of Registration**

i. **Registration of any vital event emanates from the LCRO within a 30-day period.**

   Registration emanates from the informant, the attendant at birth, or the registrant. He/she brings the document for registration to the LCRO within a 30-day period. The City/Municipal Civil Registrar is required to send to the Civil Registrar General (through his/her designated representative) for registration, during the first ten days of each month, a copy of entries made during the preceding month. The latter will send all registered documents to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Provincial Office (PSA PO) for processing.

   PSA PO is given six weeks after the reference month to submit the documents and the data files to the PSA Central Office. (See Figure 1.1)

   Vital events are to be reported directly to the LCRO except for death and fetal death documents which pass through the health officer. It is the responsibility of the physician who last attended the deceased, or the administrator of the hospital or clinic where the person died, to prepare the proper death certificate and certify the cause of death.

   The death certificate is then forwarded within forty-eight hours after death to the health officer who shall examine the Certificate of Death, sign in the appropriate box, and order its registration in the Office of the Civil Registrar.

ii. **The flow of registration for vital events that occurred abroad are as follows (see Figure 1.2):**

   All vital events occurring to Filipinos residing abroad (permanently or temporarily) shall be reported to the Philippine Foreign Service Establishment of the country of residence or where the vital event took place, or in the absence of such establishment, to the Philippine Foreign Service Establishments of the country nearest the place of residence of the party concerned or where the vital event occurred. Detailed processes are as follows:

   1. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Manila submits to PSA twice a month all types of civil registry documents submitted by the different foreign posts.
   2. The PSA coordinator checks the transmittal list to match if the documents exist, and if none, it will be labelled as “No Records Found” (NRF).

---

Figure 1.1 • Vital Event Registration Process

Figure 1.2 • Process of Registration of Vital Events Occurring Abroad
3. After screening, a Batch Cover Sheet will be placed for each file.
4. A Registry Number is assigned to each document before it is encoded.
5. The folder is transmitted to the Data Capture Center (DCC) for scanning.
6. Documents are returned to the archives for filing.

A. Reglementary Period of Registering Civil Registry Documents
Table 1.1 below shows the reglementary period for the registration of civil registry documents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vital Event</th>
<th>Number of Days</th>
<th>Requirements for Late Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>• Affidavit of delayed registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 2 Documents proving birth of child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Affidavit of 2 disinterested persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Certificate of Marriage, if already married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>• Affidavit of delayed registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Authenticated copy of Certificate of Burial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Approval for registration by the Health Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>15 days with license</td>
<td>• Affidavit of delayed registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 days if exempt license</td>
<td>• Application for marriage license bearing date of issuance except those exempt from marriage license</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• A certification issued by church or solemnizing officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Process for Birth Registration which Occurred in Health Facilities
Rule 21 (1) of Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 1993 provides the basis on who are the responsible persons in reporting an event.

“When the birth occurred in a hospital or clinic or in a similar institution, the administrator thereof shall be responsible in causing the registration of such birth. However, it shall be the attendant at birth who shall certify the facts of birth.”

C. Process of Birth Registration which Occurred in Communities
If the birth did not occur in a hospital or similar institution, the following rule shall apply:

“When the birth did not occur in a hospital or clinic or in a similar institution, the physician, nurse, midwife, “hilot” or anybody who attended to the delivery of the child shall be responsible both in certifying the facts of birth and causing the registration of such birth.”

For births that occurred outside a health facility, the attendant at birth, which can be the traditional birth attendant (hilot), has the responsibility to prepare the Certificate of Live Birth (COLB). The parents must make sure that the COLB is registered with the LCRO within the reglementary period of 30 days.

In the absence of a hospital/clinic administrator or attendant at birth, either or both parents of the child shall register the birth.

D. Process of Birth Registration which Occurred in Exceptional Cases
When the birth occurs aboard a vehicle, vessel, or airplane while in transit, registration of said birth shall be
a joint responsibility of the driver, captain, or pilot, as the case may be, and the parents.

E. Engagement of Schools and Religious Institutions

Even where there is no law compelling schools to use COLB as the basis for the identification of the child, schools require the submission of a child’s birth certificate at the time of enrollment. The COLB is also required by schools for children engaging in athletic competitions, either locally or abroad.

With respect to civil registration and religious institutions, particularly with birth registration, the COLB is a requirement of churches before a child can be baptized.

The Department of Education is a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) for the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in order to expand the public information provided on the importance of civil registry documents.

F. Processes Involving Duplicate Registrations

In cases of double or multiple registrations of vital events, procedures were stated in a memorandum that was issued on April 24, 2008, by the agency which was at that time called the National Statistics Office (NSO).

As a rule, all vital events shall be registered once. Article 412 of the Civil Code provides that, “no entry in a civil register shall be changed or corrected, without judicial order.” Therefore, the entries in the civil register are permanent and any modification, alteration, or correction is not allowed unless decreed by the court or corrected administratively under the Clerical Error Law (RA 9048). The original record remains and the correction made is annotated on the original civil registry document.

Despite the register-once-rule, double registration or multiple registration of vital events still occurs. Multiple registration happens when the same event, either birth or marriage or death of the same parties, is registered more than once.

In such cases, despite the effort to prevent double or multiplicity of registration, the presence of the first registration will invalidate the succeeding registration of the same event. However, if there is a court order invalidating the first registration, the succeeding registration becomes valid, and thus, the LCRO can legally issue certification of the requested document based on the succeeding registration. The guidelines are as follows:

- Same dates of vital event, different date of registration—issue the one with earlier date of registration
- Same dates of registration but different registry numbers—issue the one with the lower registry number
- Different dates of registration but same registry number—issue the one with the earlier date of registration
- Same entries but different dates of registration and registered in different places—issue the one with the earlier date of registration.

G. Document Archiving Systems (E-archiving)

1. Civil Registry System – Information Technology Project (CRS-ITP)

The Civil Registry System-Information Technology Project (CRS-ITP) began its operations in 2001 with the objective to automate and operate the civil registry process for Filipinos and other stakeholders because of the increasing demand for certifications from government agencies and other stakeholders (that is, for passports, requirements for claims/benefits, among others), and the increased volume of registered civil registry documents in the country.

When CRS-ITP began, it processed about three million transactions a year and had about sixty million records in the database. The Civil Registry System (CRS) now receives more than fifteen and a half million
transactions a year and maintains over one hundred and sixty million records in the database. Table 1.2 shows record totals as of December 26, 2016.

Issuance of civil registry documents and authentication were initially performed manually, but now, digitized images printed on security paper are being issued.

Service accessibility has improved, bringing CRVS services closer to the people through the establishment of CRS service outlets all over the country.

### 2. Signature Specimens of Authorized Signatories of Civil Registry Documents

Authentication refers to the processing required for the PSA to certify the authenticity of a requester’s copy of the Civil Registry Document (CRD) issued by the LCRO. This is done by comparing the signature on the Certified True Copy (CTC) of the requester’s CRD and the specimen signature stored in the CRS database.

The PSA maintains a signature specimen database for all City/Municipal Registrars (C/MCR) that is utilized for verification of signature specimens of local civil registrars. The signature specimen database is lodged at a specified unit where the specimen signature is used to authenticate the document. After the signature specimen verification, all the documents, whether valid or not, are transmitted back to the concerned archives/unit.

If the verification is positive, meaning the signature of the issuing officer is consistent with what was stored in the database, the document is marked/stamped as “verified by” and signed by the signature specimen verifier.

However, if the result is not consistent, a sheet of paper will be attached indicating the observations and reasons why the document is not authenticated. Some of the reasons are: “Different Signature Specimen”, “No Signature Specimen Submitted”, “Not Signed by the Signatory”, and “Copies are not Certified.”

### 3. Electronic Endorsement

Electronic endorsement can be utilized in cases where the PSA does not have a copy of a specific civil registry document to enable positive certification. Under the Electronic Endorsement System, the document from the LCRO can be scanned at the CRS outlet nearest the LCRO and forwarded electronically for verification and approval at the PSA Central Office. Once approved, the endorsed document is then added to the CRS database and the outlets can then issue a copy of the same in security paper.

### 4. Electronic Annotation

Annotations are requested for civil registry documents when a petition to change a detail on the civil registry document has been duly authorized or approved by the appropriate authorities. This applies to court decisions, legal instruments, supplemental reports, and decisions on petitions covered by Clerical Error laws (RA 9048 and RA 101072). Annotations are placed on the image of the original document and the resulting annotated document is loaded into the CRS database for subsequent issuance of copies.

### 5. Electronic Birth Registration – PhilCRIS and Decentralized Vital Statistics System (DVSS)

The Philippine Civil Registry Information System (PhilCRIS) is window-based software available for use by the LCROs. The following are the features of the software:

- Specifically developed for the Windows platform, whereas older CRIS versions were developed for the DOS platform
- Enables encoding of relevant information from civil registry documents
- Capable of storing remarks or annotations for court decree and legal instruments (CDLI) documents
- Automatically codes statistical items at the bottom of the new forms while entering the corresponding data items
- Enables printing and issuance of certified copies of encoded civil registry documents and allows print preview and printing directly to the new civil registry forms
- Enhances storage of vital data by using a more stable and secure database management, ensuring the integrity and security of civil registry information
- Facilitates query and retrieval of encoded records
- Generates transmittal files
- Provides data management and maintenance of the local civil registry database
- Includes simplified backup and restoration procedures
- Supports data entry for attachments such as for Muslims and IPs

DVSS was introduced at the provincial offices (PO) in 1996. A computer system was developed in the DOS environment with version 9 of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) for coding of causes of death. The System was revised in 1998 to include coding for causes of death using version 10 (ICD 10). It has the following features:

- Data entry and maintenance of vital events, court decrees and legal instrument data
- Report generation down to the municipality level
- Monthly report submission log
- Transfer of LCRO and DVSS files to DVSS2K
- Upload/transfer of vital events data to the central facility
- Vital event record quality check

6. Process for Auto Numbering for Birth Certificates
The process of numbering a birth certificate starts at the LCROs upon registration. The city/municipal civil registrar accepts all birth documents for registration and examines the documents for completeness and the correctness of entries. Upon completion of the requirements and details for the registration, the C/MCR transcribes and enters immediately in the Registry Book of Live Birth all the births received for registration. The assigning of registry numbers follows the format “YYYY-nnnn”; wherein the “YYYY” consists of the year of registration followed by a dash (-) and the “nnnn” sequential number indicates the order by which the particular document is entered in the Registry Book. The registry number assigned for a particular document in a city/municipality is unique when the document is transmitted to the PSA because all cities/municipalities have their corresponding geographic identification codes.

7. Indexing and Uploading of Digitized Copies
For local government units using PhilCRIS, the data files transmitted to the PSA Provincial Offices provide the basis for the generation of indices of all registered documents within the particular city/municipality. The PSA Provincial Offices must encode the details of the birth records for documents received from local government units (LGUs) which do not use PhilCRIS. However, at the PSA Provincial Offices, the DVSS is used in the processing of civil registry documents.

The data files for all documents received from city/municipal civil registrars within the respective jurisdiction of the PSA Provincial Offices are uploaded in the DVSS and are reviewed at the provincial levels for completeness, and processed through data editing and batching. The “edited” files from the PSA Provincial Offices are then submitted by email while the consolidated documents are either transmitted through courier or liaison officers to the PSA Central Office within the reference period.

Data files uploaded in the DVSS are the source of indices for uploading of digitized copies in the PSA CRS database. The scanned images of the birth records
are matched to the data files for uploading in the CRS database.

8. Generating Registry Book from the Birth Registration Database

At present, all LCROs are maintaining physical registry books to back up their records. Some Local Government Units (LGU) have devised their own system and have electronic registry books.

PhilCRIS on the other hand also has a database that contains all the records encoded in the system. However, at present, the PhilCRIS has no printed format for a Registry Book but the data files can be printed to serve as the listing of all registrations within a particular city/municipality by month.

9. The Batch Request Query System (BReQS) is an off-line scheme whereby PSA authorizes a partner to receive requests for PSA-issued copies of civil registry documents from the public and issue the documents to its clientele.

This entry system can be used by PSA clients receiving bulk requests to avoid having to wait long periods at a CRS outlet (Serbilis Center).

Output of the system is a diskette containing the application transactions and a control list.

H. Trends on Birth and Death Registration

In setting up the national targets and baseline values for the indicators that Philippines endorsed for the Regional Action Framework (RAF) of the “Asia and the Pacific CRVS Decade, (2015–2024)”, the PSA conducted an analysis of the trends on birth and death registration based on previous studies. The study guided the IAC on CRVS in setting up more realistic national targets based on the RAF.

Questions on birth and death registration were also included in the recent mid-year Census (2015) to provide more recent data, but the results are not yet available. Birth registration will be derived from the item in the Census Questionnaire: “Was _____’s birth registered with the Civil Registry Office?” On the other hand, death registration was included for the first time in the Census Questionnaire that asked whether any household members died between July 2013 and July 2015. Additional questions related to deaths included: (1) whether a death was registered with the LCRO; and (2) whether a household member secured a copy of the deceased’s death certificate.

Figure 1.3 shows the level of birth registration in the Philippines from 1995 to 2010. Birth registration shows an upward trend from 89.3 percent in 1995 to 93.5 percent in 2010 based on the results of censuses conducted by PSA (NSO). The increasing percentage of births registered over the years is indicative of the awareness of the people on the importance of having their birth certificates registered.

Several strategies are in place for increasing birth registration in the country such as the designation of February each year as “Civil Registration Month”. During Civil Registration Month, LCROs and other stakeholders are urged to participate in the campaign by offering free registration of vital events, issuing free birth certificates at the LGUs, and conducting mass weddings, seminars, lectures and forums, and offering other related civil registration services. The PSA also conducts biennial national workshops on civil registration for civil registrars to update civil registrars and stakeholders on the laws, policies, and procedures on civil registration.

Figure 1.3

**Birth Registration: 1995–2010**
Out-of-town registration is a procedure established whereby the Office of the Civil Registrar General (OCRG) and his/her authorized representatives (Regional Directors and Provincial Statistics Officers) accept applications for out-of-town reporting. This is a process wherein a COLB is presented to the civil registrar of a city/municipality which is not the place of birth, not for registration but to be forwarded to the civil registrar where the birth occurred. This scheme facilitates registration of vital events for individuals who cannot return to their places of birth due to financial reasons and physical barriers. The PSA Civil Registration Service also facilitates out-of-town registration at the Central Office.

Another method to facilitate birth registration is mobile registration which is an outreach registration activity usually conducted by the LCROs in coordination with PSA during special events such as Civil Registration Month. This activity is very useful for mass registration, especially in areas and communities that are known to have high numbers of vital events occurring that are not registered.

Birth registration is fundamental in accessing the rights of persons, for example, securing their claims and benefits from government and private insurances such as SSS, GSIS, PVAO, PhilHealth among others. Without a birth certificate, a person cannot apply for a passport and no opportunity for working abroad. The increase in the level of birth registration over the years is mainly because a birth certificate is important to be able to transact with both the government and private sectors.

Figure 1.4 below shows the percentage of births registered by region in 2010. Region I (Ilocos) had the highest birth registration (99.2 percent) followed by Region IV-A (98.5 percent) and Region III (98.4 percent). On the contrary, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) had the lowest registration (37.9 percent) which means more interventions are needed to improve the CRVS in that region. It can be noted that Regions IX, VIII, XII, and ARMM have less than 90.0 percent levels of birth registration. Majority of these areas are populated with Muslims and Indigenous Peoples.

To assess the benchmark for the CRVS Decade on the targets of birth registration by age group, Figure 1.5 was derived from the results of the 2010 Census of Population. The percent of births of children registered under one-year-old was 88.1 percent in 2010. This is lower than the percentage of children registered at ages...
1–4 years old which was recorded at 90.7 percent. Birth registration was higher for children 5 years old and over, which is almost equal to the overall level of birth registration for all ages at 93.5 percent. Birth registration of children under 5 years old was recorded at 90.2 percent.

In contrast to birth registration, the level of completeness of death registration is not improving. The analysis of death registration from previous studies showed that the level of completeness of death registration in the country seems to have declined or was relatively maintained from 1995 to 2010, as shown in Figure 1.6. The low level of death registration is identified among the groups of Indigenous Peoples (IPs), Muslims, and people in the remote areas.

![Figure 1.6 Completeness of Death Registration: 1995–2010](image-url)
The civil registration system encompasses the entire system of administration, including all institutional, legal, and technical factors needed to perform the civil registration functions in a technical, sound, coordinated, and standardized manner throughout the country, taking into account cultural and social circumstances particular to the country. The registration functions include: recording of vital events; storing, safe keeping and retrieving vital records; protecting confidentiality; issuing certificates and providing other customer services; recording and reporting information on vital events for statistical purposes; providing reliable and timely information and data to other government agencies; maintaining population registers; offering pension fund systems; providing electoral services; offering and maintaining personal identification services; and operating research institutions.²

The vital statistics system is the total process of (i) utilizing registration, enumeration, or indirect estimation to collect information on the frequency of occurrence of certain vital events, as well as on the relevant characteristics of the vital events themselves and of the person(s) concerned, and (ii) compiling, analyzing, evaluating, presenting, and disseminating those data in statistical form.³ One of the basic premises of a vital statistics system is that every event should be reported for statistical purposes for all geographic areas and all population subgroups, and the data and their analysis need to be disseminated to be useful. Unless the data are available to people, the public willingness to support the system cannot be expected.

Civil Registration

A. Importance and Uses of Civil Registry Documents

Civil registration is an ideal source of statistics on important demographic processes such as fertility, mortality and nuptiality, which in turn, provide basic information needed for monitoring population growth. While there are other sources of these data, such as population censuses and sample surveys, the statistical advantages of a comprehensive civil registration system over these other sources are as follows:

- a. Civil registration generates records which are relatively free from certain types of response errors and are not subject to sampling errors;
- b. It provides statistical data for planning, administrative purposes, and research at geographic or administrative levels that are not readily available from other sources;
- c. It provides data continuously;
- d. It is relatively inexpensive because these statistics are a by-product of an administrative process already in place;
- e. It provides an inventory of vital events which can be evaluated against other records such as census data; and
- f. It enables the creation of fundamental demographic and epidemiological measures, such as population levels and trends, fertility, mortality, and related studies.

From the point of view of government and private agencies, civil registration is important in generating indicators useful in the formulation of health programs, such as those on maternal and child health care, and such as vaccination and immunization for specific subgroups of the population. Each type of registrable document serves a specific purpose both for individuals and society at large.

Birth records or birth certificates are a source of vital information and provide legal proof of the identity of an individual. They can be used for the following purposes:

- a. Prove the facts of a person’s birth with regard to parentage which allows them to trace ancestry
- b. Provide the legal identity which enables a person to have access to government and private services, such as but not limited to education, health and welfare support, and issuance of travel documents
- c. Establishes a person’s age through the date of birth shown on the birth certificate, which then allows a person to access privileges accruing by virtue of meeting the required age qualifications, such as the privilege to enter school, to vote, to enter the civil service, to marry, to qualify for professional licenses, to drive motor vehicles, to carry firearms, to claim pension benefits, and so on
- d. Allows parents to claim tax exemptions provided by law upon presentation of birth certificates of their children.
- e. Affirms a person’s place of birth, which establishes one’s citizenship for obtaining a passport, provides a basis for immigration and naturalization claims, allows one to obtain exemptions from alien restrictions or, if an alien, allows him to obtain exemptions from tax or military service in the country.

B. Civil Registration Procedure

The civil registration process is a system of registering vital events from the time the event occurs up to the registration of the event. Registration of an event involves an informant, a prescribed certificate or form to declare the facts and circumstances surrounding its occurrence, a place of registration, a registrar, and a register. The act of recording vital events is called vital registration. The document is said to be registered once it is entered in the registry book and a register number has been assigned by the Local Civil Registrar. Registration must be done promptly within the reglementary
period and in accordance with the requisites specified by existing laws. Any declaration of a vital event filed or presented for registration beyond the reglementary period shall be deemed delayed, and then will be subject to delayed registration procedures. Consequently, whenever a certified transcript or copy of a late-filed registration is issued, the remark “Late Registration” shall be written in the upper right hand corner of the certificate.

C. Flow of Submission of Civil Registry Documents

When a vital event occurs, the event shall be reported to the C/MCR by the persons responsible within 30 days from the time of the occurrence. The civil registrar registers the event, and compiles all the registered vital events on a monthly basis, and submits them to the PSA Provincial Office (PSA-PO) within 10 days following the month of registration. The PSA-PO compiles the reports of all cities/municipalities within its jurisdiction and must submit them to the Civil Registration Service, PSA-CO within sixty days after the reference month.

D. Birth Registration

Birth registration is the permanent and official recording of a child’s existence. As a legal document, a birth certificate serves to define and protect a person’s human and civil rights in society. All those born alive shall be registered as qualified by the following definition:

**Live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction of a product of conception from its mother irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which after such separation, breathes or shows any evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached—each product of such a birth is considered live born.**

Birth determines personality but the conceived child shall be considered born for all purposes that are favorable to it, provided it is born later with the conditions specified in the following article. A fetus with an intra-uterine life of seven months or more and born alive at the time it was completely delivered from the maternal womb but died later shall be considered as a live birth and shall be registered in the Register of Births. (Rule 18 paragraphs 1 and 2 of Act 3753) However, if the fetus had an intra-uterine life of less than seven months, it is not deemed born if it dies within 24 hours after its complete delivery from the maternal womb (Article 41, RA 386). For statistical purposes, the Certificate of Live Birth (COLB) and Certificate of Death (COD) shall be prepared. Below in Table 2.1 is a guide on when to accomplish COLB or COD for a fetus born alive but dies later.

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**Table 2.1**  
**COLB OR COD Requirements Regarding Fetuses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intra-uterine life</th>
<th>Fetus lived less than 24 hours</th>
<th>Fetus lived more than 24 hours</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than seven(7) months</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>Accomplish COLB and COD with remarks “For statistical”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than seven (7) months</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>Accomplish COLB and COD and register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven (7) months or more</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>Accomplish COLB and COD and register</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Birth may occur in a hospital, clinic, at home, or in a vehicle on a trip. The hospital/clinic administrator is responsible for the registration of births occurring in the hospital or clinic. However, it shall be the attendant at birth who shall certify the facts of birth. Physicians, nurses, midwives, and “hilots” or anybody who attended to the delivery of the child outside hospitals and clinics shall be responsible both in certifying the facts of birth and causing the registration of such birth. (Rule 21 (2) of Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 1993) When the birth occurs aboard a vehicle, vessel, or airplane while in transit, the registration of said birth shall be a joint responsibility of the driver, captain, or pilot, and the parents, as the case may be.

For unattended births, the parent’s or any knowledgeable person has the responsibility for the registration of the birth to the LCRO.

The following are data that is included in the certificate of live birth:

1. Place of registration (province, city/municipality):
   This refers to the name of the province and city/municipality where the birth is registered.
2. Registry number:
   The registry number found at the upper right portion of the certificate is the sequential number indicating the order by which the document for registration is entered in the appropriate registry book.
3. Information about the child:
   a. Sex:
      This item aids in the identification of the child. It is used for measuring sex differentials in health-related characteristics and for making population estimates and projections.
   b. Date of birth:
      This is the key item when proof of age is required — day, month, and year, in this order, in the appropriate spaces when the child was born.
   c. Place of birth:
      This refers to the geographic location where the birth actually occurred. The complete address, that is, the name of the hospital/clinic/institution/house number, name of street, barangay, city/municipality, and province, in this order.

   For births that occurred in places other than the above-mentioned places such as:
   - Vehicle:
      The name of the vehicle, route, plate number, and other necessary description of the vehicle, is written as the place of birth if the birth occurred aboard a vehicle.
   - Vessel:
      The name of the vessel, route, voyage number, registry number, and other necessary description of the vessel, is written as the place of birth if birth occurred aboard a vessel.
   - Airplane:
      The name of the airplane, flight number, route, and other necessary description of the airplane, is written as the place of birth if birth occurred aboard an airplane.
   d. Type of birth:
      This item shows whether the birth is single, twin, triplet, and so forth
   e. Order of birth, if multiple births occur:
      This item is important in matters relative to estate succession or matters of inheritance. Multiple births refer to twins, triplets, quadruplets, and so forth. In multiple births, the order in which the child was born is specified, that is, “First”, “Second”, “Third”, and so forth, as the case may be. Thus, one twin is classified as being born first before the other, no matter how close they come to being delivered simultaneously. For multiple birth cases, each live birth should have a separate birth certificate.
   f. Birth order:
      The birth order of the child, that is, first, second, third, and so forth, is determined by considering all previous deliveries of the mother,
including fetal deaths, and those delivered during previous marriages or unions.

A distinction in the order of births is made with multiple births. The order by which the child was born, such as “First”, “Second”, “Third”, and so forth, should be written such as the case may be.

g. Weight at birth:
This is the most important characteristic associated with infant mortality. This is also related to medically attended births, marital status of the mother, and other factors surrounding the birth. Consequently, it is used with other information to plan and evaluate effectiveness of health care. The weight of the child to be reported should be determined immediately after delivery.

4. Information about the mother:
a. Citizenship:
Citizenship is the status that entitles the mother to the rights and privileges of her country. Citizenship is acquired by birth, by naturalization, or by election. In case of dual citizenship, “Filipino-(other citizenship)” is written, for example, “Filipino-American”.

b. Religion/religious sect:
This item will help determine the relationship of faith professed and socio-demographic factors, such as age at time of delivery and legitimacy status of the child.

Religion is a set of common beliefs and practices generally held by a group of people, while Religious Sect is the respective religious group or sect into which the individual is affiliated.

c. Total number of children born alive:
Total number of children born alive to this mother refers to all children (including this one) born alive during her lifetime and expressed in such a way as to distinguish children who are still living and children who had been born alive but have since then died.

This item helps to determine the ratio of living children to children born alive but now dead. This is also a determinant in the study of childbearing patterns of the mother. In case of multiple births, each live birth shall be counted separately. Entry of this item should be the same as the sum of entries in Item 10b and Item 10c. Likewise, the entry in this item should be less than or equal to Item 10c.

d. Number of children still living, including the birth to be registered:
The number of living children including the birth to be registered such as “1”, “2”, “3”, and so forth, as the case may be. Children who are adopted are not included.

e. Number of children born alive but who are now dead:
The number of children born alive to the mother but who are now dead at the time of the birth, to be registered such as “1”, “2”, “3”, and so forth, as the case may be. If the first live birth to the mother or if all the previous deliveries are still living, a zero (“0”) is written on the form.

f. Occupation:
Occupation is used to determine the ratio of mothers who are engaged in gainful activities to those engaged in non-gainful activities. This item will determine childbearing patterns of mothers by types of occupation.

g. Age at the time of this birth:
This refers to the age of the mother in completed number of years at the time of the birth of the present child. This item is one of the most important factors in the study of childbearing and pregnancy outcome. It is also a determinant of age-specific fertility patterns.

h. Residence:
The mother’s residence is the place where she habitually resides. This item is seen as one of the factors affecting fertility. The complete
address (House number, street, barangay, city/municipality, province and country) where the mother habitually resides at the time of birth of the child is written on the form. It is not necessarily the place where the birth occurred. If the usual residence of the mother is outside the Philippines, the complete address abroad is written on the form.

It does not always follow that the mother’s residence is the same as the place where the birth occurred. Temporary residence is not allowed to be reported.

5. Information about the father:
As with the information about the mother, instructions for information about the father are the same for items on citizenship, religion, occupation, and age at the time of the birth of the child.

6. Date of marriage:
This item determines the legitimacy status of the child. The month, day, and year of marriage of the parents of the child, if legally married at the time of the child’s birth, is written on the form. If the parents have forgotten the exact date of marriage, an approximate year is written. If the parents cannot provide an approximate date, even of the year, they can write on the form “Forgotten”, “Don’t know” or “D.K.”.

If the parents of the child are not legally married at the time of the child’s birth, “Not married” is reported. In case only one parent is provided, “Not Applicable” or “N.A.” is written on the form. The Affidavit of Acknowledgment/ Admission of Paternity at the back of the certificate is filled out if the parents are not legally married. This affidavit is found at the back of the Certificate of Live Birth.

7. Place of marriage:
If the parents are legally married at the time of birth, the city/municipality, province, and country where the marriage of the parents was solemnized is reported in the form.

8. Attendant:
This will provide information on the attendant at birth whether by physicians, nurses, midwives, traditional birth attendants, or “hilot”.

Attachment to the certificate of live birth:

1. Municipal Form 102 – Attachment for Muslim
This form is filled out if the person to be registered is Muslim. Information from the certificate of live birth is copied into this form. Additional information available are the ethnicity of the father and the mother.

2. IP Form No. 1 – Indigenous People’s/ Indigenous Cultural
This form is filled out if the person to be registered is an Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs). Information from the certificate of live birth is copied into this form. Additional information to be made available are the ethnicity of the father and the mother.

Vital Statistics

A. Uses of Vital Statistics
Vital statistics derived from civil registration are useful to local and national authorities specifically for planning of human, social, and economic development. Birth and death registers derived from civil registration records serve the following purposes:

- As input for population estimation and projection for future planning
- As a basis for making forecasts on requirements for food, housing, medical facilities, education, and other population needs
- To carry out policy making at local levels for planning services in health, education services, housing, and so forth
- To address health inequities caused by communicable disease, chronic disease, and injuries
• To compute “life tables” and life expectancies for many health-planning purposes
• To measure progress on the sustainable development goals and other international health goals
• To prepare polling lists for eligible voters for election purposes
• To calculate the number of members of parliament for each state or province
• To allocate budgets for development and human resources activities
• To calculate each year the number of citizens in administrative areas by age and sex
• To provide data for calculating health-related indicators
• To help plan and guide efficient resource allocation
• To conduct other analytical studies which are important and useful to planners and policy-makers

Vital Statistics generated from civil registration data are the only source of information that provides the basis for a variety of in-depth epidemiological studies, including the following:

• Estimation of risks of premature death by sex and age
• Estimation of relative risks of death among different subpopulations
• Analysis of data shedding light on the risk factors of various causes of death in the risk of dying because of particular causes

B. Processing of Civil Registry Documents
The Chart in Figure 2.1 below provides an overview of the systems for processing civil registry documents.

C. Data Storage and Transmission
The data storage and filing system used for civil registration data in the Philippines does not pose any major constraints to the functioning of the vital statistics system. The storage media for birth and death information at the LCROs are registry books, electronic files, and microfilms. Filing is done by date of registration, by name, by hospital, and by numerical index.

Different strategies of backing up records are implemented. Some LCROs back-up records through scanning and microfilming. In smaller LGUs, only registry books and documents in folios are filed.

At the national level, the PSA backs up records through scanning and microfilming. The implementation of the Civil Registry System – Information Technology Project in 2001 enabled the computerization of statistical processing and electronic archiving of the vital events documents.

Documents and files are consolidated by the LCROs before submission to the PSA Provincial Office. For LGUs using PhilCRIS, the documents are submitted to the Civil Registration Service at the PSA Central Office and data files are sent through electronic mail. The documents received from the LCROs are screened and batched by the provincial PSA.
There is a fixed schedule for transferring data from local registration sites to the central site. Documents are sent by LCRO to the provincial PSA within 10 days after the monthly reference period, which in turn sends electronic files to the PSA 45 days after the reference period. This is followed up with documents which are forwarded to the PSA after 60 days.

The PSA conducts consistency checks on selected data items from birth and death certificates, including the data files forwarded by the LCROs. Validation of codes is also done to ensure accuracy of the generated statistics. Once errors are observed, LCROs are contacted through email, phone, and via fax through the provincial office of PSA.

Systems developed for the processing of civil registry documents include the following:

1. **PhilCRIS**
   - The PhilCRIS or Philippine Civil Registry Information System is a windows-based software system available for use by the Offices of the Local Civil Registrars. The following are features of the software:
     - Specifically developed for the Windows platform, older CRIS versions were developed for the DOS platform
     - Enables encoding of relevant information from civil registry documents
     - Capable of storing remarks or annotations for court decree and legal instruments (CDLI) documents
     - Automatically codes statistical items at the bottom of the new forms while entering the corresponding data items
     - Enables printing and issuance of certified copies of encoded civil registry documents and allows print preview and printing directly to the new civil registry forms
     - Enhances storage of vital data by using a more stable and secure database management ensuring the integrity and security of civil registry information
     - Facilitates query and retrieval of encoded records
     - Generates transmittal files
     - Provides data management and maintenance of the local civil registry database
     - Includes simplified backup and restore procedures
     - Supports data entry for attachments such as for Muslims and IPs

   - The Decentralized Vital Statistics System was developed to improve the decentralized processing of the civil registry documents and generation of vital statistics at the PSA Regional and Provincial Offices. It aimed to generate vital statistics at the city/municipal, provincial, regional and national level, and facilitate data conversion specifically on the generation of indices. The sources of data for DVSS2011 are the civil registry documents which use the revised January 2007 forms, and the files generated from the PhilCRIS. The software has the following features and functions:
     - Records receipt of documents
     - Provides Data entry and maintenance of vital events (birth, marriage and death) data
     - Enables conversion and importation of PhilCRIS data files
     - Offers consistency and completeness check of vital events data
     - Generates preliminary tables
     - Provides utilities

**D. Current Vital Statistics Reporting Practices**

Vital Statistics are reported on a yearly basis. The coverage of the vital statistics data in a year is based on the year of occurrence and not the year of registration and thus late registration is not included in the tabulation. The following statistical tables are produced and are included in the Vital Statistics Report:
Marriage Statistics
1. Marriages by Place of Occurrence, by Month, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
2. Marriages by Age Group of Bride and Groom, and by Type of Ceremony
3. Marriages by Nationality of Bride and Groom
4. Marriages of Filipinos occurred abroad by Nationality of Bride and Groom
5. Marriages of Filipinos occurred abroad by Age of Bride and Groom

Birth Statistics
1. Live Births by Place of Occurrence, by Usual Residence of the Mother, by Sex, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
2. Live Births by Usual Residence of Mother, by Attendant at Birth, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
3. Live Births by Age of Mother and by Number of Living Children
4. Live Births by Age Group of Mother and by Live Birth Order
5. Live Births, by Birth Weight and by Live Birth Order
6. Live Births occurred abroad to Filipino Mother or Father or both by Nationality of Father and Mother
7. Live Births occurred abroad to Filipino Mother or Father or both by Age Group of Mother and Father
8. Live Births occurred abroad to Filipinos Mother and by Live Birth Order

Death Statistics
1. Deaths by Usual Residence, by Sex, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
2. Deaths by Place of Occurrence, by Attendance, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
3. Deaths by Age Group and by Sex
4. Infant Deaths by Usual Residence, by Sex, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
5. Fetal Deaths by Place of Occurrence, by Usual Residence, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
6. Fetal Deaths by Place of Occurrence, by Type of Attendance, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
7. Maternal Deaths by Place of Occurrence and Usual Residence of Mother, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
8. Maternal Deaths by Type of Attendance, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
9. Deaths of Filipinos Occurred Abroad by Place of Occurrence and by Sex
10. Deaths of Filipinos occurred Abroad by Age Group and by Sex

The PSA also generates additional tables that are not included in the report. The following list of unpublished tables is provided in the report for the researchers:

Unpublished tables on births
1. Live Births by Age of Father and Age of Mother
2. Live Births by Occupation and Age Group of Mother
3. Live Births by Place of Occurrence, by Live Birth Order, and By Region, Province, and City
4. Live Births by Usual Residence of Mother, by Sex and Legitimacy, and by Region, Province and City
5. Live Births by Age Group of Mother, and by Sex and Legitimacy
6. Live Births by Nationality of Father and Mother
7. Live Births by Occupation and by Age Group of Father
8. Foreign Live births by Place of Occurrence, by Month, by Sex, and by Country
9. Foreign Live births by Usual Residence of Mother, by Month, by Sex, and by Country
10. Foreign Live births by Occupation and by Age of Father
11. Foreign Live births by Religion of Father and Mother
12. Foreign Live births by Usual Residence of Mother, and by Sex and Legitimacy

Unpublished tables on marriages
1. Marriage by Place of Occurrence by Age Group of Bride and Groom, and by Region, Province and City
2. Marriages by Age and by Previous Marital Status of the Bride
3. Marriages by Age and by Previous Marital Status of the Bride and Groom

Unpublished tables on deaths
1. Deaths by Cause of Death and by Attendance at Death
2. Deaths of 10 Years Old and Over by Usual Residence, by Civil Status, by Sex, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
3. Deaths of 15 Years Old and Over, by Occupation, by Age Group, and by Sex
4. Infant Deaths by Cause of Death, by Age Group, and Sex
5. Fetal Deaths by Type of Attendance, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
6. Fetal Deaths by Cause of death and by Type of Attendance
7. Fetal Deaths by Birth Weight, by Period of Gestation, and by Sex
8. Fetal Deaths by Age of Mother and by Birth Order
9. Fetal Deaths by Age of Mother, by Legitimacy, and by Sex
10. Fetal Deaths by Age Mother, by Period of Gestation, and by Sex
11. Fetal Deaths by Usual Residence of Mother and by Age Group of Mother by Region, Province and City
12. Fetal Deaths by Usual Residence of Mother and by Age Group of Mother, by Legitimacy, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
13. Fetal Deaths by Usual Residence of Mother, by Live Birth Order, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
14. Fetal Deaths by Usual Residence of Mother, by Number of Live Births and by Legitimacy by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
15. Fetal Deaths by Usual Residence and Age of Father, by Legitimacy, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
16. Fetal Deaths by Usual Residence of Mother, by Period of Gestation, by Legitimacy, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
17. Fetal Deaths by Usual Residence of Mother, by Type of Attendance, and by Legitimacy by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
18. Fetal Deaths by Usual Residence of Mother, by Number of Children Still living by Legitimacy, and by Region, Province, and City/Municipality
19. Fetal Deaths by Cause of Death and by Birth weight
20. Late Fetal Deaths by Age of Mother and by Birth order of Legitimacy
21. Maternal Deaths by Cause of Death and by Age Group
22. Maternal Deaths by Occupation and by Age Group
23. Maternal Deaths by Usual Residence and by Month of Occurrence
24. Foreign Deaths by Place of Occurrence, by Sex, and by Country
25. Foreign Deaths by Usual Residence, by Age Group, by Sex, and by Country
26. Foreign Deaths of 15 years old and over by Occupation, by Age Group, and by Sex
27. Foreign Infant Deaths by Cause of Death, by Age Group and by Sex
E. Recent Estimates of Level of Completeness of Birth Registration and Data Quality Evaluations

Birth Registration Completeness is estimated based from the question, “Was _____’s birth registered with the Civil Registrar of the City/Municipality?”, which is asked of all members of the household in the censuses of population conducted every 10 years, and in some instances in mid-decade censuses. The estimated levels of completeness of birth registration are as follows:

- 1995 – 89.3%
- 2000 – 88.1%
- 2007 – 91.5%
- 2010 – 93.5%

Before releasing or disseminating data gathered from censuses and surveys, and from administrative records, an assessment of the quality of data is employed, using a variety of methods, such as age ratio analysis, sex ratios, United Nations Age-sex Accuracy Index, and so forth. Birth and death rates generated from administrative records are validated with sociodemographic surveys. At present, the Philippines has not adopted any method of record linkage to estimate completeness of registration of vital events.

F. Measures on Birth statistics

The Birth Rate (also called the crude birth rate) indicates the number of live births per 1000 midyear population in a given year. It is denoted as:

\[
\text{Birthrate} = \frac{\text{Number of births}}{\text{Total midyear population}} \times 1000
\]

The General Fertility Rate (also called the fertility rate) is the number of live births per 1,000 women ages 15–49 in a given year. The general fertility rate is a somewhat more refined measure than the birth rate because it relates births to the age-sex group capable of giving birth (usually defined as women ages 15–49).

Strategic Initiatives

There are a number of initiatives that can strengthen birth registration.

A. Registration Offices and Infrastructure

Republic Act (RA) 7160 or The Local Government Code of 1991 requires all LGUs to create a LCRO in their respective cities/municipalities to be headed by the City/Municipal Civil Registrar (C/MCRs). The LCRO is the unit in-charge of the registration of all vital events that occurred in the city/municipality within their respective jurisdiction. The C/MCRs are technically under the Office of the Civil Registry General (OCRG), but administratively, they are under the Office of the Mayor.

As of November 23, 2016, there were more than 1600 LCROs established nationwide. There were ___ appointed permanent civil registrars and ___ designated as acting civil registrars or OICs.

B. Adequacy of Legal Framework

Act No. 3753, or The Civil Registry Law, required the establishment of a civil register in the Philippines for the recording of all acts, vital events, legal instruments, and court decrees concerning the civil status of persons. This law took effect on February 27, 1931. Significant reforms were the requirement of acts and vital events concerning the civil status of persons to be recorded in the civil register; designation of the director of National Library as the ex-officio Civil Registrar General (CRG), except in the City of Manila where the civil registration function continued to be performed by the City Health Officer; and the requirement that the civil registration function in other cities and all municipalities be performed by city/municipal treasurers.

Commonwealth Act No. 591 dated August 9, 1940, created the Bureau of the Census and Statistics (BCS). The civil registration function was transferred
to BCS from the National Library. Thus, the Director of the Bureau became the ex-officio CRG. Section 2 (f) of Commonwealth Act No. 591 provided that one of the powers, functions, and duties of the BCS was to carry out and administer the provisions of Act No. 3753.

In March 1974, Presidential Decree No. 418 reconstituted the BCS under the Department of Trade as a new agency to be known as the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) under the administrative supervision of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). The NCSO basically maintained the same functions as the BCS, including civil registration. In 1987, Executive Order No. 121 renamed NCSO as the National Statistics Office (NSO) and placed it under the Office of the President. Subsequently, Executive Order No. 149 dated December 28, 1993, placed the NSO under the administrative supervision of NEDA for effective policy and program coordination and integration.

The civil registration was strengthened at the local levels with the approval of Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, which mandated that all Local Government Units (LGUs) create an LCRO to be headed by a civil registrar.

On September 12, 2013, Republic Act No. 10625, or the Philippine Statistical Act of 2013, was enacted. Under RA 10625, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) was created which merged the four statistical agencies of the government: NSO, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the Bureau of Agriculture Statistics (BAS), and the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES). The PSA was mandated to carry out the provisions of Act No. 3753.

For more than 60 years, the Philippine CRVS has undergone many significant reforms. The latest Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this law is the CRG Administrative Order No.1, Series of 1993. Many bills were passed into law, many concepts were defined, and many procedures were laid out for the effective implementation of civil registration in the country.

To uphold the customs and traditions of Muslim Filipinos, Presidential Decree No. 1083 was promulgated in 1977 to codify Muslim personal laws. The decree provided for a system of registration of vital events among Muslim Filipinos. In support of civil registration for Muslim Filipinos, the PSA (NSO) issued Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2005, (Rules and Regulations Governing Registration of Acts and Events Concerning Civil Status of Muslim Filipinos). A similar IRR was also issued for the registration of vital events pertaining to Indigenous Peoples (IPs), Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2004.

Other laws related to civil registration include the following:

- Republic Act (RA) No. 9048 (Clerical Error Law) was passed in 2001. It allowed administrative corrections of clerical or typographical entries and/or changes of first name or nickname in the civil register. Under RA 9048 no correction involving change in the nationality, age, status, or sex of the petitioner was allowed.
- RA 10172 was passed into law in 2012. It allowed administrative correction on the day and month in the date of birth, and the correction of sex instead of requiring such correction to be filed in court.
- RA 9255 (An Act Allowing Illegitimate Children to Use the Surname of the Father) was passed in 2XXX to neutralize the stigma of having a different surname in the birth certificate if a child is born out of wedlock. For the past decade, Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2004 has been used as a guide by the civil registrars, consuls general, consuls, and vice-consuls in registering the births of illegitimate children as required by law. However, the Supreme Court decision in the case of Grande vs. Antonio, G.R. No. 206248, dated February 18, 2014, declared Rules 7 and 8 of the IRR to be null and void. A revised IRR was then prepared by the Office of the Civil Registrar General to
respond to these changes, which took effect on August 1, 2016.

- RA 9858 (An Act Providing for Legitimation of Children Born to Parents Below Marrying Age, Amending for the purpose the Family Code of the Philippines) was also enacted. It elevated more children to legitimate status.
- Memorandum Circular 2004–01 was issued by CRG on January 15, 2004 provided guidelines for the registration of children in need of special protection, including children who were victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, cruelty, discrimination, violence (both armed conflict and domestic violence), and other analogous conditions.

C. Institutional Framework, Organization and Management

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 10625, the head of the PSA is the National Statistician (NS) who is also the concurrent Civil Registrar General (CRG) of the Philippines. Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales is the first NS and CRG of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The National Statistician and Civil Registrar General is assisted by the Deputy National Statistician of the Civil Registration and Central Support Office (CRCSD), Ms. Estela T. De Guzman.

The implementing arm of the Office of the Civil Registrar General is the Civil Registry System (CRS) headed by Assistant National Statistician, Editha R. Orcilla. The CRS consists of three divisions: the Civil Register Management Division, the Civil Registration Services Division, and the Vital Statistics Division. The CRG is assisted by the Regional Directors (RDs), Provincial Statistics Officers (PSOs), and the Civil Registration and Administrative Support Division (CRASD) in conducting field offices operations. They oversee and monitor civil registration activities within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

The Civil Registrar General is vested with authority to issue rules and regulations in carrying out the provisions of Act 3753. The PSA through the Civil Registrar General (CRG) is the authority exercising technical control and supervision of civil registration in the Philippines.

The PSA provides civil registration services to the general public by issuing certified copies of civil registry documents, such as birth, marriage, death, and a Certificate of No Marriage (CENOMAR) or an Advisory of Marriages. In addition to the issuance of certified copies and authentication of civil registry documents, requests for annotated civil registry documents affected by court decrees, legal instruments, Republic Act 9048, Republic Act 10172, and supplemental reports are also processed by the office.

Registration of vital events is the responsibility of the LGUs through the Local Civil Registrars (LCRs) but falls under the technical supervision of the Civil Registrar General of the PSA by virtue of the provisions of Commonwealth Act 591.

Figure 2.2 below shows the flow of reporting of vital events:

Responsibility for causing registration lies with hospitals, clinics, rural health units and similar institutions, including barangay secretaries, practicing physicians, midwives, nurses, traditional birth attendants who attended births and deaths, and solemnizing officers from various religious sects and denominations who officiated at marriage ceremonies, and all these entities are required to certify to the facts of these events at the LCR Offices. The concerned parents, next of kin, contracting parties, a witness, or a person who has full knowledge of the occurrence of a vital event shall report the event if the official entities listed do not.
Under the provisions of Administrative Order No.1, Series of 1993, it is the duty of the civil registrars to send to the Civil Registrar General for filing, during the first ten days of each month, a copy of entries made during the preceding month.

The reglementary period for reporting the birth of a child shall be within thirty (30) days from the time of birth in the Office of the City/Municipal Civil Registrar of the city/municipality where the birth occurred, as a rule (See Figure 2.3 above).

Registration or reporting of any vital event beyond the reglementary period is considered to be a late registration.

As a general rule, the place of registration is the city or municipality where the event occurs.

All vital events occurring to Filipinos residing abroad (permanently or temporarily) shall be reported to the Philippine Foreign Service Establishment of the country of residence or where the vital event took place, or if such establishment is not located there, then to the Philippine Foreign Service Establishments of the country nearest the place of residence of the party concerned or where the vital event occurred.

In recognition of the customs and traditions of Muslim Filipinos pursuant to PD 1083, the Civil Registrar General issued Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2005, entitled “Rules and Regulation Governing Registration of Acts & Events Concerning Civil Status of Muslim Filipinos”. Likewise, Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2004, entitled Rules and Regulation Governing Registration of Acts & Events Concerning Civil Status of Indigenous Peoples was issued by CRG.

D. Human Resources and Trainings

1. Human resources – Manpower per LCRO, for CRG, and so forth

In the list of positions in the PSA issued by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), there are 135 regular positions for the CRS. To date, there are 504 service contractors hired to support these regular personnel in delivering the functions for civil registration and vital statistics.

Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, the National Statistician and Civil Registrar General is assisted by the Deputy National Statistician of the Civil Registration and Central Support Office (CRCSO), Ms. Estela T. De Guzman.

There are 80 provincial offices and 17 regional offices nationwide. To improve delivery of civil registration and vital statistics, a CRASD was created in each region pursuant to Republic Act No. 10625. A position of a division chief was created to supervise the CRASD. The CRASD is responsible for the CRVS services and coordinating activities in the region, and for the operation of the CRS outlets in the region, including customer and other civil registration concerns (Article 24 b of RA 10625).

At local levels, the LCRO is in charge of civil registration, supervised by the local chief executive of the LGU. The number of personnel at the LCRO depends on the class of the city/municipality.

2. Capability Building for Civil Registration Stakeholders

The Civil Registrar General (CRG) works to enhance registration capabilities and coordination with the Local Civil Registrars through conventions, local seminars, and training sessions. In addition, the PSA conducts a National Workshop on Civil Registration (NWCR) for local civil registrars, and the National Convention for Solemnizing Officers for solemnizing officers with the
aim of providing updates on civil registration policies and procedures. Table 2.2 below lists four such events from 2011 to 2014.

**Conduct of ICD 10 trainings for PSA Personnel, City/Municipal Health Officers, Medical Records Officers, and Local Civil Registrars and Staff**

The PSA in collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH) conducts regular training sessions on International Classification of Diseases (ICD) Version 10. DOH provides the funding for this activity. It aims to train coders involved in the coding of hospital records, medical records, or local civil registry records on the systematic and accurate coding of morbidity and mortality data. The project, which began in November 2009, has completed nationwide six sets of ICD10 training and two Advanced Training Courses on ICD10.

**Table 2.2 PSA Workshops and Conventions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Venue</th>
<th>No. of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th National Convention of Solemnizing Officers</td>
<td>August 2–4, 2011, at Plaza del Norte (Ilocos Norte Hotel and Convention Center) in Laoag City</td>
<td>1,378 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th National Workshop on Civil Registration</td>
<td>August 7–9, 2012, at SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City</td>
<td>3,057 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th National Convention of Solemnizing Officers</td>
<td>August 6–8, 2013, at SMX Convention Center in Davao City</td>
<td>1,626 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th National Workshop on Civil Registration</td>
<td>August 4–7, 2014, at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City</td>
<td>1,379 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th National Convention of Solemnizing Officers</td>
<td>25–27 August 2015, at SMX Convention Center at Pasay City</td>
<td>1,432 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th National Workshop on Civil Registration</td>
<td>August 23–25, 2016, at Iloilo Convention Center, Iloilo City</td>
<td>1,250 participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On December 1 and 2, the PSA conducted training on the registration of authority to solemnize marriage pursuant to Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2007. This training was attended by Regional Directors, CRASD chiefs, and focal persons on the processing of the Certification of Authority to Solemnize Marriages.

**E. Financial Resources**

The PSA’s budget for its civil registration operations depends on the approved budget from the national government.

The budget allocation for LCROs is based on the allotment of the concerned LGUs. Budget allocation depends also on the class of the city/municipality.

**F. Improvement in ICT Infrastructure**

In January 2007, in response to the new laws, policies, and rules and regulations passed related to civil registration, the OCRG together with the LCROs revised the civil registry forms. Likewise, OCRG issued the Manual of Instructions on Civil Registry Forms: Accomplishment & Coding for use by civil registrars and their staff, Shari’a Circuit Registrars, and all other persons involved in civil registration. The goal was to ensure a standard process of recording and registration of vital events, including coding of statistical information from
the registrations. Although the civil registry forms were revised in 2007, the full implementation was executed in 2010 when all the civil registrars and other key players on civil registration had attended formal training conducted by PSA.

The PSA, (then called the NSO) also developed the PhilCRIS for use by LCROs, hospitals, and other stakeholders. The PhilCRIS software is the Windows version of the Civil Registry Information System (CRIS DOS version), which is available for use by the Offices of the Civil Registrars and other end-users. The system was completely redesigned to deliver civil registry information management in a new, more user-friendly and efficient way. As of September 30, 2016, 1,090 cities/municipalities, or 66.0 percent of the total, had entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with PSA for the implementation of PhilCRIS.

Along with these changes, the system used by the PSA (NSO) Provincial Offices were also developed from the old “Decentralized Vital Statistics System 2000 or DVSS2K” to the updated DVSS2011 system.

**Civil Registry System- Information Technology Project (CRS-ITP)**

The CRS-ITP is a 12-year Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) project of the NSO awarded to Unisys Philippines, which was selected through the BOT bidding process. The project, which follows the Build-Operate-Transfer variant of the BOT Law, was awarded in 1999 and commenced in 2000. The concession period ended on March 31, 2012. However, to avoid any disruption of public service, a provisional extension of three years and five months was granted to Unisys starting on April 1, 2012, for the continued operation of the project while waiting for the public bidding on CRS-ITP2 to take place.

The CRS-ITP is an information technology (IT) project which aims to improve the issuance of copies and certifications of civil registry documents through the imaging of the civil registry documents and the computerization of the issuance process. The CRS aims to make the civil registry services available nationwide through the CRS outlets. The project established 40 CRS outlets (Serbilis Centers) nationwide - six in Metro Manila, 14 in regional centers, and 20 in provincial areas. As of November 1, 2016, a total of 161,398,805 civil registry records were uploaded in the CRS database, broken down as follows: Birth, 115.3 million; Marriage, 24.8 million; and Death, 21.3 million.

The project also set-up an e-Census website (http://www.e-census.com.ph), another channel for filing requests for civil registration certifications. E-census is an on-line application facility of the CRS. Batch Requests System or BREQS is another scheme where the PSA authorizes a partner to receive requests for PSA-issued copies of civil registry documents from the public and issues the documents to its clientele.

**G. Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Collaboration**

Linkage with other stakeholders is an important strategy in attaining the goal to improve the Philippine CRVS. The PSA entered into agreements with government agencies and embassies for utilizing civil registration and vital statistics data for research, including validation and verification of civil registry documents issued by PSA. These included partnerships with the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), the National Kidney Transplant Institute, the Lung Center, and others. The judiciary also relies on the verification of issued civil registry documents as evidence in court proceedings.

PSA is also an active member of technical working groups in other government agencies that promote civil registration. For instance, it participated in the formulation of guidelines for the registration of foundlings under Act No. 9523 (An Act Requiring the Certification of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to Declare a “Child Legally Available for Adoption Proceedings, amending for this purpose certain provisions of Republic Act No. 8552, otherwise known as the Inter-Country Adoption Act of 1995, PD.
Integration of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

No. 603, otherwise known as the Child and Youth Welfare Code and other purposes. It also actively participated in lobbying for the amendment of the Passport Act and of the Civil Registry Law, Act No. 3753.

To improve registration of Filipinos abroad, PSA representatives attended forums on civil registration conducted at Philippine Foreign Service Posts abroad for Filipino communities. These activities provided a venue to Filipinos abroad for updates on civil registration and to discuss emerging issues and concerns regarding registration of vital events. Table 2.3 below lists some of these forums.

H. Member on Regional Steering Committee on CRVS

The Philippines showed international leadership by pushing for CRVS to be high on the regional agenda in Asia and the Pacific. It sponsored the first-ever resolution on CRVS to be brought before the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which resulted in the group convening a high-level meeting on CRVS in December 2012. The Philippines followed up on this activity by requesting that ESCAP conduct in November 2014 the first-ever ministerial conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

The Philippines joined the global campaign, “Get Every One in the Picture”. National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales and Dr. Enrique A. Tayag, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health were signatories to the Ministerial Declaration to “Get Every One in the Picture” in Asia and the Pacific. They play a vital role in the Ministerial Conference by chairing the Technical Working Group (TWG) to the UNESCAP CRVS. Dr. Bersales is one of the members of the Regional Steering Group (RSG), which oversees implementation of the Regional Action Framework including monitoring and periodic review. The RSG acts as the custodian of the Asian and Pacific “Decade” and provides strategic guidance for governments and development partners to foster cooperation and coordination at the national and regional levels.

In 2015, PSA also initiated setting up a national coordination mechanism to oversee the implementation of the Regional Action Framework by establishing an IAC on CRVS. This IAC serves as a venue for discussion and resolution of CRVS issues, review of current CRVS techniques, methodologies, and strategies, and recommends policies and workable procedures for improving CRVS in the country (PSA Memorandum No. 01, Series of 2015).

Table 2.3 • Forums on Civil Registration at Philippine Foreign Service Posts 2013–2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE</td>
<td>April 23–26, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doha, Qatar</td>
<td>Nov 28–Dec 2, 2013, Feb 20–24, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>April 24–26, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Agency Committee on Citizenship</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) Training on Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovations Fair and Asia Pacific Civil Registrars Meeting</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Workshop on Promotion and Protection of Every Child’s Right</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in the Conference to Strengthen Birth Registration System in KL, Malaysia</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Seminar on Philippine Civil Registration Laws and Procedures in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Civil Registration Matters for the Filipino Public in Qatar, Doha Qatar</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. Assessment of CRVS at the Subnational Level

Launched on March 27, 2009, the Vital Registration Assessment Project (VRAP) seeks to provide policy makers, program planners, academia, and administrators with information they can use in making vital registration programs and plans. This information includes comprehensive results of the civil registration status of the country with respect to legal aspects, registration practices, completeness of coverage in reporting vital events, development of civil registry forms, production of quality data, archiving, tabulation, and dissemination.

The general objective of the project is to assess the current civil registration system at the subnational level. The specific objectives of the project are:

- To identify gaps, problems and issues in the current civil registration system at the subnational level, especially in problematic and low performing areas;
- To undertake a completeness study to determine the underregistration of deaths at the subnational level;
- To recommend measures to improve the Philippine civil registration system; and
- To develop a strategic plan for the civil registration system

The Technical Working Group (TWG), composed of representatives from the NSO, Department of Health, National Statistical Coordination Board, and the University of the Philippines-Population Institute, selected seven sample provinces:

1. Rizal
2. Cebu
3. Palawan
4. Ilocos Norte
5. Leyte
6. Davao del Sur
7. South Cotabato

The major findings dealt with hindrances of birth and death registration, and concerns on data quality and data storage. The results were presented during the high-level meeting on the Improvement of CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and the Third Session of the Committee on Statistics in Bangkok, Thailand.

J. Completeness Study of Death Registration in the Country

The study conducted by PSA, (at the time named NSO), aimed to determine the current underregistration of deaths by estimating the extent of completeness using the 2007 census data. The results of the study showed that about 70 percent of all deaths that had occurred in the country during the year 2007 had been registered. The proportion of males whose death was registered in 2007 (72 percent) was higher than the corresponding proportion of females (67 percent).

K. Development of the Vital Registration Framework for Health Workers (Handbook)

A project was funded by the Department of Health to develop a policy framework for the registration of vital events, that is, births and deaths. The project began in March 2013. The objectives of the project were to: (1) prescribe uniform standard procedures in the registration of births and deaths; (2) identify and prescribe roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the vital event registration process; (3) train municipal and city health officers and other health workers on the prescribed procedures for filling out birth and death certificates; and (4) develop a manual of operations for the registration of vital events.

The first draft of the Handbook on Civil Registration for Health Workers was presented in two writeshop batches. The first batch was attended by selected medical records officers in the national capital region, and the second batch was attended by selected city/municipal health officers in Pampanga. To date,
there have been six batches of trainings conducted for health workers (local health officers).

L. The Philippine MoVE-IT Project
The Monitoring of Vital Events through Information Technology (MoVE-IT) was a collaborative project between the PSA (NSO) and the Department of Health (DOH) that aimed to improve and evaluate the quality and timeliness of vital statistics and their use for appropriate public health action. This project, which took place from February to July 2012, was funded by the World Health Organization-Health Metrics Network.

The PSA conducted BCRS-MoVE-IT in six selected municipalities (Bansud, Bongabong, Bulalacao, Mansalay, Naujan and Pola) of Oriental Mindoro. Oriental Mindoro was selected because it belongs to one of the five regions in the country with the highest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR).

M. The ARTA Way: Driving Excellence in Frontline Quality Service
The Civil Service Commission (CSC) conducted the Report Card Survey to frontline services in compliance with Republic Act No. 9485, otherwise known as “An Act to Improve Efficiency in the Delivery of Government Service to the Public by Reducing Bureaucratic Red Tape, Preventing Graft and Corruption, and Providing Penalties Therefore”, or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007 (ARTA). The ARTA required all government offices to draw up their respective Citizens Charters and post these as information billboards at the main entrance of the agency or in the most conspicuous place.

The objectives of the CSC-Report Card Survey were to obtain feedback on how agencies followed the provisions in their Citizens Charters to obtain information and estimates of hidden costs incurred by clients in accessing agency frontline services, and to rate agency performance and client satisfaction in relation to the frontline service.

The Report Card Survey gathered information on the frontline office’s compliance with ARTA provisions in the following categories: Citizens Charter, anti-fixer campaign, ID/nameplates, hidden costs, public assistance complaint desk, and no lunch break rules. The survey also measured overall client satisfaction with the frontline service providers, service quality, physical setup or layout, basic facilities, and respondent client satisfaction.

Based on the points garnered in the survey, frontline service offices which earned an adjectival rating of “Excellent” means that they were given a final numerical rating of 90-100 without a failed or delinquent rating in any of the sub-areas. Offices which were rated as “Outstanding” were those given a final numerical rating of 90-100 but with a delinquent rating in one or more of the sub-areas. Offices which earned a “Good” rating were those which garnered a final numerical rating of 80-89. Those offices which were rated “Good” also needed improvement in some of the areas of their service delivery system.

N. Other Projects with Development Partners for Improving Civil Registration
1. Unregistered Children Project (UCP1)
The Unregistered Children Project (UCP1) was a three-year project launched by NSO-OCRG in May 2000 in partnership with PLAN Philippines International to address the growing number of unregistered children in the country. The project consisted of 32 pilot municipalities and two cities which broke down as follows: Mindanao (20 municipalities), Indigenous Peoples (IP) in CAR (12 municipalities) and two cities (Quezon City and Pasay City). These areas are known to have sectors with low birth-registration from the IP and Muslim populations. The objectives of the project are:

- To raise awareness on birth registration as a child right
- To address the existing barriers of the legal framework and operational guidelines for a more responsive and relevant birth registration system
• To strengthen the ability of registration agents to promote and sustain birth registration service at all levels
• To increase the birth registration rate of children below 18 years old with a focus on hard-to-reach minority groups
• To strengthen the local capacities and initiatives of the local civil registrars and other community registration agents in addressing birth registration and other related problems
• To undertake external and national initiatives and activities to support the strengthening of local capacities and initiatives
• To initiate a learning process on children’s rights strategies within the Philippines, PLAN International, and the Asia region.

The project accomplished the improvement and packaging of the Barangay Civil Registration System (BCRS) and conducted mobile and mass registrations in pilot municipalities.

2. Birth Registration Project (UCP2)
The Birth Registration Project (BRP) is the second phase of the Unregistered Children Project (UCP) in partnership with PLAN Philippines International. The project duration was July 2004–June 2007. The project accomplishments were:

• Proclamation of February 23 as National Birth Registration Day
• Conduct of the First National Children’s Congress
• Implementation of BCRS in 120 pilot municipalities
• Issuance of CRG Memorandum Circular 2004-1 (Rules and Regulations in the Registration of Births of Children in Need of Special Protection)
• Issuance of operational guidelines for the registration of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Muslim Filipinos AO No. 3, Series of 2004, and AO No. 2, Series of 2005).
• Issuance of IRR of Republic Act No. 9255 (Authority to Use the Surname of the Father)
• Lobbying for laws on civil registration
• Enactment of House Bill (Act 3753), Civil Registry Law
• Enactment of House Bill 2114, “An Act Establishing and Strengthening the Shari’a District Court system in ARMM and other areas outside ARMM”
• Enactment of House Bills 90, 561, 1026, 1216—“An Act for the Legitimation of Children Born of Minor Parents Amending for the Purpose of Art. 177 of the Family Code”

3. Conduct of Special Operation for Civil Registration of Undocumented Filipinos in Malaysia
The PSA in coordination with the Philippine Embassy in Malaysia, organized a coordination meeting with Sabah authorities in Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu from April 25–28, 2012 to discuss the problems of undocumented Filipinos in Sabah. As a result of the coordination meeting, the PSA sent a Special Civil Registration Operations Team to Sabah to conduct mobile registration activities for the illegal Filipino migrants, targeting those who work in palm plantations, including their children.

The objective of the project was to establish a special operation in Malaysia to process and issue authenticated birth certificates of many Filipino migrants in Malaysia, including their families. Specifically, the objectives were to: (1) issue copies of civil registry documents of illegal Filipino migrants in Sabah, Malaysia, for those whose records were available at the NSO CRS database; and (2) facilitate the delayed registration of vital events for illegal Filipino migrants who had no available copies.

4. CRVS Case Study and Investment Plan
The PSA and DOH, including development partners the Canada Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), conducted a series of focus group discussions in 2014 to prepare the CRVS Case Study and Investment Plan of the Philippines. The final report, entitled “Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, A Case Study of the Philippines,” was published in 2014.

O. Public engagement, participation and generating demand

1. Political commitment

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) spearheaded the declaration of the CRVS Decade 2015–2024 through endorsement of the PSA Board Resolution No. 03, Series of 2015. On August 20, 2015, President Benigno Simeon Aquino III signed Presidential Proclamation No. 1106 declaring the years 2015–2024 as the CRVS Decade. President Aquino encouraged “all agencies and instrumentalities of the national government and local government units, including government-owned or controlled corporations, in consultation with the private sector, development partners and the citizenry” to actively support all activities and programs relevant to the “Get every Pinoy and Pinay in the picture!” initiative.

2. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns

Recognizing that Information, Education and Communication (IEC) is a vital strategy in improving civil registration in the country, the PSA used different modes of media to disseminate information at the grassroots level.

A number of primers and brochures were produced for advocacy purposes, including the following:

1. Civil Registration Procedures
2. Primers for RA 9048
3. Primers for PhilCRIS
4. Primers for RA 10172
5. Primers for CRVS Decade
6. RA 9255
7. Legitimation
8. RA 10172

(Attached are copies of said primers)

Creation of Social Media (Facebook Fan Page), “PSA-Civil Registration and Vital Statistics”

The PSA launched a social media awareness campaign through Facebook Fan Page @PSA Civil Registration and Vital Statistics at https://www.facebook.com/geteverypinoyinthepicture on February 10, 2015. The Facebook account was created for posting of important announcements, events, and photos related to the CRVS Decade programs and activities.

Radyong Bayan (Census Serbilis Program)

PSA Serbilis sa Radyo is aired every Saturday at 6:16 am to 7:00 am through DZRB Radyo ng Bayan 738KHZ Manila. This is a regular radio program that PSA participates in. (Include info by region and province)

Celebration of Civil Registration Month

On January 28, 1991, President Corazon C. Aquino issued Proclamation No. 682 declaring February every year to be Civil Registration Month. Since then, the PSA (NSO) together with the LCROs nationwide celebrated in February each year to promote universal civil registration. Various activities were conducted by the PSA during the month-long celebration such as mass weddings, mobile registration, a Civil Registration Quiz, and lectures, orientation sessions, and seminars on civil registration procedures and updates.

All agencies of the national government and LGUs are encouraged each February to strongly support the activities and programs on civil registration.

CRVS Jingle

As part of advocacy for the CRVS Decade, the PSA conducted a nationwide contest for the CRVS Jingle Writing Contest. The CRVS Jingle Contest Finals were held on February 23, 2016. Selected partners on civil registration were invited as the board of judges. The
winning entry entitled “Masasagot” was composed by Jay-are Luntayao was adopted the PSA official CRVS Jingle https://vimeo.com/183267245.

3. Registration of Indigenous groups and hard-to-Reach Areas
Pursuant to Republic Act 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act, the CRG promulgated Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2004, (Rules and Regulations Governing Registration of Acts and Events Concerning Civil Status of the Indigenous Peoples). This AO was created primarily for the effective implementation of RA 8371 (Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act).

In the registration of vital events among ICCs/IPs, the City/Municipal Civil Registrar has to ascertain the ethnic affiliation of a child’s parents. If ethnicity is listed on a National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)-approved list of ICCs/IPs affiliations, the C/MCR requires the informant to fill out or give data for filling out of the Municipal Civil Registry Forms and appropriate IP form attachments.

The NCIP field personnel are deputized as Birth Registration Agents in their areas of influence and are charged with facilitating the registration of acts and vital events concerning the civil status of ICCs/IPs at the LCR Offices having territorial jurisdiction over the ICC/IP communities. These agents are responsible for ensuring that all marriages performed under Customary Laws before the enactment of IPRA are retroactively registered, and thereafter registering marriages performed under Customary Laws within 15 days following the solemnization. The tribal leaders, community elders, authorities, and traditional socio-political structures certified by NCIP are authorized to solemnize marriage in accordance with OCRG Guidelines (Administrative Order No, 1, Series of 2007).

For more than a decade since the implementation of Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2004, registration of vital events among ICCs/IPs is still very low. The low level of registration of vital events among ICCs/IPs is still very low possibly due to stigma.

Mobile Registration
Mobile registration is an outreach registration activity that is usually conducted by the LCROs in coordination with PSA during special events, such as the February Civil Registration Month. This activity is very useful for mass registration, especially in areas/communities that are known to have high numbers of unregistered vital events.

The PSA Field Offices in coordination with the LCROs nationwide conducted numerous mobile registrations. As shown in Table 2.4 below, PSA Regional and Provincial Offices from 2011 to 2014 participated in 962 mobile registrations.

Waiver of Late Registration Fees
The PSA continues to lobby for the free registration of vital events because there are some LGUs who charges registrants, especially in late registration cases. Standardized and minimal registration fees should be imposed in order to avoid excessive charges for civil registration.

Initiatives for Free Birth registration
In the recent typhoon “Haiyan” (Yolanda), PSA responded immediately by working with the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of mobile registration participated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.4 PSA Mobile Registrations

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS) to provide and promote registration by conducting mobile registration to areas mostly affected by the storm. Having a birth certification is important documentation for people to have access to their rights and benefits from the government. Reconstruction of civil registry documents was extended to LCROs who lost their files.

Free issuance of civil registry documents to approximately 37,500 individuals will be a priority assistance provided under an agreement between government partners and stakeholders (Omnibus certification).
GAPS AND CHALLENGES ON CRVS

The results of the comprehensive assessment of vital registration identified common gaps and challenges that must be considered to improve civil registration in the country. These are:

1. The challenge to provide complete civil registration on time because of the very large population in the country and low registration in remote areas, with delayed registration of vital events being common in far-flung barangays
2. A highly-devolved government structure wherein there is varying appreciation and support from the partner agencies and LGUs responsible for administrative supervision over civil registration offices
3. Very low registration for births and deaths among IPs, Muslims and the poorest sectors of the society
4. Lack of knowledge and skills on ascertaining the correct causes of deaths. At the local level, 15.0 percent of registered deaths have ill-defined causes and garbage codes
5. Delay on the release of vital statistics data resulting in the use of outdated data in planning and policy formulation
6. Problems with over-reporting of deaths in cities and under-reporting of deaths in rural areas, resulting in unreliable data and consequently inefficient government programs
7. Lack of an adequate civil registration budget for some LCROs, including government agencies such as the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) and the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
8. Non-registration of other vital events for IPs such as marriages, dissolution of marriages and revocation of dissolution of marriages of IPs
9. Registration of civil/church marriages instead of marriages under customary laws for Muslims
10. An increasing number of marriages among non-Muslims and divorces subsequently acquired through Shari’a Courts
11. The failure of some LCROs to register marriages under PD 1083, and the absence of a form attachment under PD 1083 for registration of marriages.
12. Late/non-submission of documents to PSA by the LCRO in predominantly Muslim areas
13. Fast turn-over of civil registrars in Muslim towns, where most MCRs are only designated or have temporary appointments
14. Different systems being used in the processing of civil registry documents such as the Philippine Civil Registry Information System (PhilCRIS) for some LGUs, and DVSS for PSA, and the need for the IT System to be made flexible for both the PSA and LGUs’ needs
15. Delayed registration of vital events occurring in far-flung barangays
The success of the “Get Every Pinoy and Pinay in the Picture” initiative of the government depends on the involvement of multiple sectors both from the government and private sectors. A strong coordination and collaboration among national government agencies was established through the IAC on CRVS in 2015. The PSA and its partner agencies are making collaborative efforts to improve the level of registration and the quality of generated data from the CRVS.

At local levels, several activities are seen to be effective strategies in improving civil registration. These include the following:

1. Mobile registration
2. Mass weddings
3. Premarriage counselling
4. Training for Barangay secretaries on civil registration
5. Information dissemination during barangay assembly
6. BCRS training and workshops
7. Conduct of forums on CRVS during Civil Registration Month, with events in tertiary and secondary schools on various topics.
8. Conducting the civil registry quiz.
9. Community assembly meetings
10. Training of barangay officials along with their barangay secretaries
11. During civil registration month, conducting activities to promote civil registration
12. Conducting a forum among traditional hilot & midwives
13. Dissemination of information about proper filling-out of forms of COLB, COD, and COM
14. Promoting free issuance of birth, marriage, and death certificates
15. Free issuance of certified true copies of live birth, marriage, and death events during or in celebration of Civil Registration Month
16. BARANGAYAN- Representatives from every agency headed by the city mayor should go down to the barangay level to extend services to the people once a week (one brgy per week)
17. Conduct of training for barangay captains, barangay secretaries, and BHWs in coordination with the association of C/MCRs/other partner agencies

18. Advocacy activities during Civil Registration Month (CRM) celebration, such as streamers, parades, and quizzes

19. Conduct of mobile civil registration activities (mobile consultation/mobile CRS services)

20. Lectures and symposiums at schools

21. Use of media, including regular radio programs and television appearances

22. Participation during mass weddings

23. Lectures during premarriage counseling sessions

24. Establishment of PSA-NSO Juan Click Information Center on Civil Registration
The Office of the Civil Registrar General (OCRG) faces many challenges in improving CRVS. Cascading the action plans for the CRVS Decade from the national down to the local levels is needed so that the key implementers are aware of and will commit to the common goals to “Get Every Pinoy and Pinay in the Picture”.

One challenge is to revise the Certificate of Death forms to follow the revised international standards on the medical certificate on the causes of death. Other civil registry forms under review are the Certificate of Live Birth, and Certificate of Fetal Death. The PSA in partnership with the DOH has conducted two consultative meetings to gather inputs from the selected civil registrars, physicians, and other stakeholders.

Other Activities for the CRVS Decade include:

1. Evaluation of the impact of the trainings conducted for the International Classification of Deaths 10 (ICD10)
2. Full implementation of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9255
3. Preparation of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, such as posters, flyers for CRVS Decade, and updating of primers for civil registration laws and policies
4. Preparation of a Communication Plan for the CRVS Decade. Initial planning already took place during the IAC CRVS workshop in March 2016
5. Preparation of regional target indicators for the CRVS Decade based on the results of the 2015 Mid-Decade Census
6. Approved Civil Registry System-Information Technology Project Phase I (CRS-ITP1)
7. CRS-ITP Phase II (CRS-ITP2) implementation
8. Retooling seminar on CRVS for Philippine Embassies/Consulates Offices and staff in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs
9. Issuance of policies for standard business processes
10. Amendment of the Civil Registry Law (Act No. 3753)
11. Timely vital statistics report
12. Capability Building for CRS personnel and local civil registrars