

**Ministerial Meeting on Civil Registration and Vital
Statistics in the Asia Pacific
24 November 2014**

UNHCR and Civil Registration



**The importance of Civil Registration for UNHCR's
populations of concern**



- Establishes the child's legal identity by creating a permanent legal record of the child's existence.
- Enhances child protection.
- Facilitates durable solutions, including access to property and inheritance.
- Prevents statelessness.
- Provides information for policy development and humanitarian planning.

*UNHCR's Executive Committee Conclusion on Civil Registration,
October 2013*

UNHCR's Child Protection Policy, 2012



A Framework for the
Protection of Children

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Goal **4** Girls and boys obtain legal documentation

Outcomes for Children

- Children are registered at birth
- Older children and adolescents can obtain birth certificates
- Children have access to all necessary documentation on a non-discriminatory basis
- Children access school and all essential services with or without documentation

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Birth Registration of UNHCR's populations of concern in the Asia-Pacific



- Overall birth registration coverage in Asia varies from 31% to 90 per cent or more.
 - In South Asia the rate varies from 27% to 90% or more with the regional average being 31%.
 - In East Asia and the Pacific the coverage varies from 43% to 90% or more.
- For refugee children, coverage varies from 21% to 90% or more. (Emerging findings from UNHCR Survey in 18 States the region)

Relevant International Legal Framework in the Asia-Pacific



- All ESCAP Member States are State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and/or the International Covenant on Civil Political Rights.
- Both Treaties require that the births of all children are registered regardless of the legal, social or economic status of the child.

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Selected Regional Good Practices



- **Legal harmonisation and implementation** (e.g. *India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand*)
- **Awareness raising amongst communities** (e.g. *India and Malaysia*)
- **Use of mobile registration teams** (e.g. *Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan*)
- **Mainstreaming of birth sector within social provision** (e.g. *Myanmar and Thailand*)

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