



**United Nations Workshop on
Improving Statistics on Fertility and Mortality in ESCWA Region
Cairo, Egypt
3 – 6 December 2007**

**Country Report – Civil Registration & Vital
Statistics Report
Kingdom of Bahrain**

Current Status:

Vital statistics are constituted by data recorded for a person under a system for recording births , marriages , divorce, and deaths . As this information are very important there are various Ameri Decrees (legislations) to regulate the registrations of different vital events (see attached legislation on birth & death registration). The registration of vital events is the responsibility of the government agencies such as Ministry of health and Ministry of Justices and legal affair. To centralize the National Data bank (CIVIL REGISTRATON) in 1987 an Ameri Decree state to establish Civil Population Registration Office as part of Central Informatics Organization which is directly reported to the Prime Minister Cabinet.

The Vital Statistics reports are essential for administrative purposes both business and government in the kingdom. So all the above agencies were obliged to publish annual statistics and dispatched them to public in various publication media.

Below is a brief overview on the development of civil registration and statistics system in Bahrain.

I) Birth and death Registration System:

The Birth Registration Office at Public Health Directorate – Ministry of Health is responsible for recording and registering all the births in the kingdom as per the Ameri Decree No.6 , 1970 (copy Attached). The registration was officially started since 1973 manually in a big registrar books. The electronic Death Registration was developed and implemented since November 2002 by Health Information Directorate. Today, all the death registrations data form 2003 to-date were stored in a database.

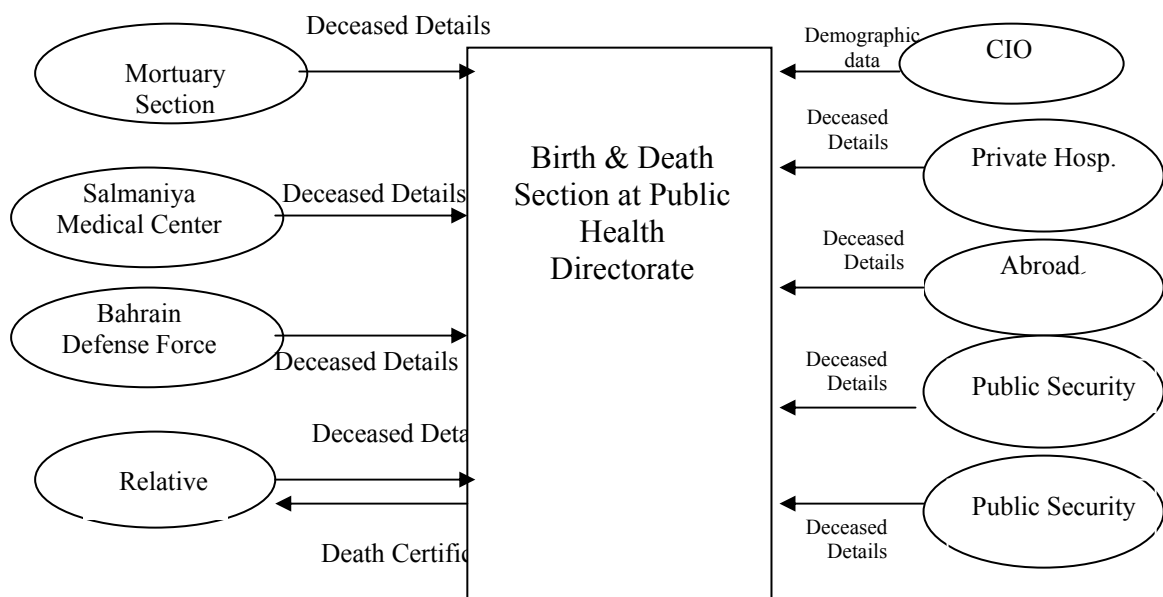
The purpose of this document is concerning the implementation of Death Registration System in Birth & Death office which is located in Public Health. The system is used for registering information related to the decease, informer and print statistical reports. The system captures the details for those who received the death certificate (registered death), and the details about the notification of death (a copy of this form is sent to Birth & Death office by the hospitals). Birth & Death office is requested to have the ICD10 (International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems –Tenth Revision,

volume 1- published by World Health Organization, Geneva) for entering the cause of Death in the system, and it is integrated with the mortuary system for retrieving the demographic data about the deceased to avoid the duplicate entry. The system main functions include the following:

- Registering all death cases in the country for all residents and abroad deaths for citizens.
- Printing death form and Certificate.
- Integrating Death Registration System with Mortuary System.
- Printing statistical reports. Up stain

The following diagram shows the related entities in the birth& Death Registration system

Context Diagram



The above diagram show all the stakeholders (Health Providers) who could involve in the death registration process. Information about the deceased could be provided from any entity where death event occurred.

Birth & Death Section at Public Health Directorate: is responsible for registering all the deaths and issuing death certificate in Bahrain. It is also responsible for coordination with all health providers to capture all the death events.

Mortuary Sections: Are located at Salmaniya Medical Complex and the Military hospital and in the Military Hospital

Salamniya Medical Complex: is the major government hospital in Bahrain which provides inpatient and outpatients services. It is furnished with approximately 981 beds (Health Statistics Report 2006)

Bahrain Defense Force: is second main government hospital in Bahrain which provides inpatient and outpatients services for both military & public. It is furnished with approximately 355 beds as reported in Health Statistics Report 2006)

Private Hospitals: Today there are 11 private hospitals in the Kingdom with total beds of 323.

Abroad: All the Bahrainis who live abroad are obliged to register the death event in the system as per the Ameri Decree No.6 , 1970.

Public Security: Provide health services for prisoners.

CIO: Central Information Organization is a government body where can get all the deceased's demographic details for all citizens in Bahrain via electronic networking. Central Population Registration office is responsible of registering all the population in Bahrain and issuing a unique identification number. This number is used as primary key in the death registration database.

Relative: The deceased's relatives are the informers; death certificate is issued subject to their request.

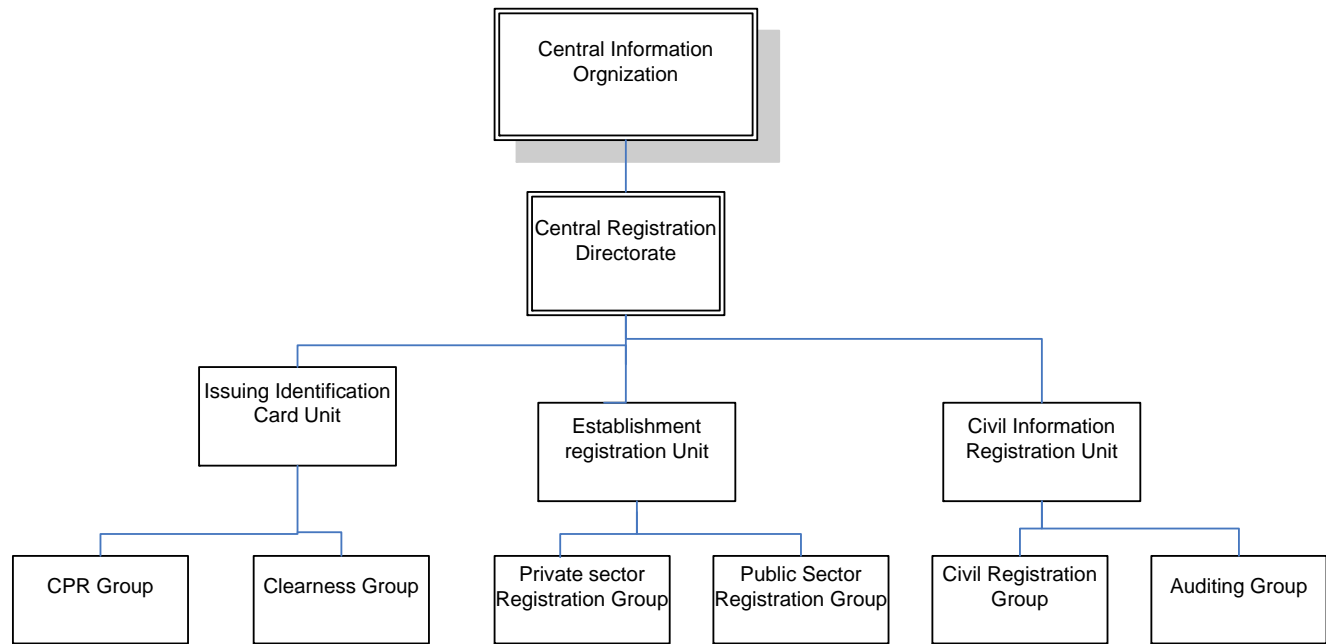
II) Central Population Registry Directorate

Central Population Registry Directorate was established in 1988 according to the Cabinet Decree No. (11) Of 1988, "the establishment of departments in what is currently known as Central Information Organization (CIO) (old named before Central Statistics Organization CSO. The directorate main responsibility was registering and documenting all citizens, residents and organizations various details on public and private sectors in the Kingdom.

The main tasks of the Central Population Registry Directorate are:

- Establish a central registry renewed population of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Establish a central Data bank of Population information.
- Coordination with governmental bodies on means to obtain, exchange and usage of information electronically.
- Issuing personal identification numbers and cards for all Bahrainis and residents in the country.
- Linking all personal details using the information in population, addressing, and establishments registry systems as sources of information.
- Issuing codes of governmental, social, economic and political units.
- Registration and of vital events such as marriage, divorce, birth, death, change of nationality and residence permits.

The Diagram below show the sections of the Central Population Registry Directorate



Population Census

Other means of data collection is Population census which done every ten years. The Central Informatics Organization is responsible of conducting, analyzing, projection and publishing data of census. First census started on 1941 and the last was in 2001.

III) Factors that hamper the production of Vital Statistics

With the initiative of government most of the governments are link to gather via GDN (networking) to facilitate information flow among the various agencies. As mentioned above each government agency must publish an annual showing it activities and achievements. No genuine issue encountered so far regarding reporting.

VI) Plans To improve the civil Registration and Vital Statistics:

A) At Ministry of Health Level:

Presently the processing of registering new born baby goes in a long process, from the admission room until it is registered in Birth and Death Registration office in Public Health Directorate. These results in very slack control and most of the time papers lost. There is no electronic link between the maternity hospital and the registration office. Registration is Via informant and notification of birth sent from maternity hospitals to the registration office via fax.

Improvement Opportunity

By providing a computer system to register the birth online in the three main government Maternity Hospitals, the following benefits are derived.

- More efficient services to candidates due to quicker processing.
- Improve the productivity and reduce the work load on Birth and Death Registration Office.
- Reduce the work load on the admission room and the labor room to fill up some form and do registry.
- Less paper work and filing to enable staff do their job more efficiently.
- Less chances of missing forms as it is entered electronically.
- Take advantage to use the existing manpower in other services.
- Improve reports and statistics.

B) Central Informatics Organization- SMART CARD

Smart Card is an electronic card with the capability of securely storing a variety of information about the holder. It is issued to every citizen and resident in the Kingdom of Bahrain and, if applied for, it is generated for newborns also. With built-in biometrics such as fingerprints as well as the photograph and signature of the holder, the Smart Card allows fast and secure verification of the holder's identity. The Smart Card contains data and information from the holder's passport, ID card, CPR card and driving license. Additionally, the Smart Card can include the holder's basic medical details and the latest academic qualifications.

The smartcard, which has been named the ID card, combines three current cards into one. They are the immigration ID card issue by the General Directorate for Passports, Nationality and Residence (GDNPR), the driving license issued by the General Directorate for Traffic (GDT) and the Central Population Registry (CPR) card issued by the CIO. The new ID card will also be considered a health card, an election card, a labour card, an electronic payment card (e-Purse) and a travel document to allow cardholder to pass through the electronic border control gates at the border crossing points such as the airport. This will be in addition to other implementations which depend on the verifications of the users identity through the use of the cardholders stored fingerprint data.