Technical Report on the Status of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in ESCWA Region *

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The term “country” as used in the text of this report also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

This report has been issued without formal editing.
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Introduction

Vital statistics system and uses of vital statistics

1. A vital statistics system is defined as the total process of (a) collecting information by civil registration or enumeration on the frequency of occurrence of specified and defined vital events, as well as relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the person or persons concerned, and (b) compiling, processing, analysing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form. The vital events of interest are: live births, adoptions, legitimations, recognitions; deaths and foetal deaths; and marriages, divorces, separations and annulments of marriage. ¹

2. Vital statistics are an essential input for the planning of human development. Knowledge of the size and characteristics of a country’s population on a timely basis is a prerequisite to socioeconomic planning. For example, information about the number of live births and deaths occurring in a population is crucial for estimating the natural increase (or decrease) and the annual change in population size and structure for that population. Information on the number of live births occurring over a time period, classified by various characteristics of the women giving birth, constitutes the basis for analysis of the dynamics of reproduction. Information on deaths, classified by various characteristics of the deceased, especially age and sex, is necessary for calculating life-tables and estimating the probably of dying at various ages. Vital statistics on the occurrence of marriages, divorces, annulments and judicial separations allow analysis of nuptiality, family formation and dissolution. ²

Sources of vital statistics

3. The main source of vital statistics is records of vital events from civil registration, which involves the continuous gathering of information on all relevant vital events occurring within the boundaries of a country. Additional sources include specific questions on fertility and mortality added to population censuses, household sample surveys, vital records from sample registration and health records.

4. The recommended source for vital statistics is the civil registration, the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events pertaining to the population as provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of each

country. For countries that do not have complete coverage from the civil registration, other data sources are also used as complement to the civil registration method.

Rational and content of the technical report

5. Strengthening national capacity for officials responsible for vital statistics and civil registration is one of the mandates of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), recognized by the United Nations Statistical Commission. In order to assist countries in strengthening their capacity in the area, one has to have solid understanding on to what extent the system of civil registration and vital statistics in a country has developed and areas that need further improvement.

6. Unfortunately up-to-date and systematic assessment of country status in the area of civil registration and vital statistics is scarce. The last systematic assessment conducted by the United Nations is available in the Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, Volume II, Review of National Practices, published in 1985. Although more recent assessment of country practices was available through a series of technical papers published by the International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics (IIVRS) between the late 1970s and 2000, these assessments were not always systematic and more importantly, the institution dissolved in early 2000.

7. The present report, on status of civil registration and vital statistics systems in ESCWA region, is one of a series of technical reports describing country practices in registering vital events and producing vital statistics from various data sources. The report covers twelve of thirteen member countries or areas of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), namely Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

8. The report consists of two parts. The first part is a cross-country overview of civil registration and vital statistics systems in several aspects. First, it reviews cross-country similarities and differences in the organizational and administrative arrangements of the national systems for the registration of vital events. Second, it discusses the organizational and administrative arrangements of national systems of vital statistics. The production of vital statistics is carried out through the statistical system, the civil registration administration or other authorities. Third, it reviews the status of civil registration and vital statistics in

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4 Kuwait is not covered in the report because of its non-participation of the United Nations Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the UNESCWA Region in December 2007
each country using a single index – the measurement of completeness with which births and deaths are registered. The fourth section of this part looks into the use of complimentary data sources across countries - censuses and sample surveys – for vital statistics. Fifth, it provides some indication of the capacity of countries in the region to report their national vital statistics to the United Nations Demographic Yearbook system. The last section of this part features concluding remarks that point out the issues that emerged from the review of country practices and that needed attention at both national and international level.

9. The second part of the report comprises individual country profiles, offering an insight on various aspects of the civil registration system, such as the legal framework, organization of the civil registration system, technical aspects of the system, completeness of the system and challenges faced in the system. Each country profile also shows the organizational structure of the vital statistics system, including the authority that collects, compiles and disseminates vital statistics, data availability at country level and the use of population censuses and sample surveys for collecting data to measure fertility and mortality. Finally, each country profile includes the availability of vital statistics, reported to the UNSD through the Demographic Yearbook questionnaires.5

10. The country profiles intend to provide as much information as possible, following the same structure for each country. However, this was not always possible, due to the fact the volume of information available for each country was different.

Sources of data for the technical report

11. The major sources of data used in the report was the proceedings of the United Nations Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the UNESCWA Region, held in Cairo, Egypt, 3-6 December 2007, including the questionnaires completed by countries participants, the country presentations and status reports as well as the exchange of information between UNSD staff and country representatives during the 4-day workshop.6

12. Other sources used include technical reports, books and websites on civil registration and vital statistics published by national civil registration authorities and national statistical offices. These sources are footnoted when appropriate.

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5 The United Nations Statistics Division collects, processes and disseminates population and vital statistics, through the Demographic Yearbook, for more than 230 countries and areas in the world.

6 The questionnaires sent to countries as well as the country reports and presentations are available online at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Civil_Registration_Dec07_Cairo/default.htm
Information on the availability of national vital statistics is obtained from the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* data collection system.

I. Overview

(1) Organisation of civil registration systems

13. A national registration system may be centralized or decentralized. A centralized administration of civil registration usually has an agency for directing, coordinating and monitoring the nationwide civil registration work. An office with such duties can promote national standards and uniform registration of all vital events occurring within the country and among various groups of the population. Under this type of central arrangement, the national registration agency plays not only an administrative role but also a technical one over the network of subnational and local civil registration offices. It establishes all local registration offices, provides written materials to local registrars to guide their daily work, coordinates the registration procedures throughout the system, and supervises and evaluates the registration work of the local offices.7

14. In a decentralized administration for civil registration, civil registration can be administered at the level of the major civil divisions, such as the state, province or department. In the capital city of each major division, an authority for civil registration is established to direct and monitor the civil registration work of the major division. Many countries with a federated political system, a large territory or a large population may adopt a decentralized administration for civil registration. Not all countries having a decentralized administration for civil registration have adopted uniform legal provisions and procedures for civil registration. Many such countries have made provisions to outline a model law and its regulations so that each major civil division may promulgate its own laws and regulations on the basis of the model. There needs to be an agency at the national level to enforce and standardize the work of civil registration and vital statistics.8

15. All of the 12 countries in the report bare a centralized registration system, i.e., the legal responsibility for civil registration in these countries is assumed by ministries such as the Ministry of Interior, Health or Justice. The civil registration system in seven countries is administered by the Ministry of Interior – Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The Ministry of Justice is in charge of the registration of vital events in Oman. For four countries – Bahrain, Iraq, Qatar and United

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Arab Emirates – Ministry of Health registers births and deaths (sometimes foetal deaths if they are to be registered according to the law) and Ministry of Justice registers marriages and divorces. (Table 1)

16. Please refer to Annex 1 for more detailed information on the agencies that are in charge of the civil registration system.

Table 1. Administration responsible for civil registration system in each country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vital events</th>
<th>Administration responsible for the registration of vital events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births and deaths</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages and divorces</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yemen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. When the Ministry of Interior is responsible for the registration of vital events, there is usually a national network of local government offices, whereas the Health Ministry has, under its jurisdiction, community health centres and hospitals where births and deaths take place. Registering births and deaths by the Ministry of Health works perfectly for events occurred in the hospital. However, how births and deaths that occur outside of the health centers and hospitals are registered seems to be unclear for most of the countries with such arrangement. Only one country – Bahrain made it clear that all the births and deaths occurred outside of the hospitals still need to be registered at the hospital.

18. The registration of births and deaths in Oman was administered by the Ministry of Health until 2004 before the Ministry of Justice took over the responsibility.

19. For countries that use local courts to register marriages and divorces, there are usually two different courts that handle the registration procedure for Muslims and non-Muslims. For example in Qatar, the Sharia court is for Muslims and the Adlia court is for non-Muslims.
(2) Organization of vital statistics systems

20. All twelve countries adopt a centralized vital statistics system. However depending on the structure of the system, there are variations among countries in terms of the agency that compiles and disseminates vital statistics collected from civil registration systems (Table 2). In two countries out 12 – Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic – the civil registration and vital statistics functions are carried out in the civil registration administration (Ministry of Justice). The advantage of having vital statistics and civil registration in the same administration is that it makes communication between the two agencies less difficult. This is most important from the standpoint of vital statistics where uniformity or comparability of data is a prime requisite. It is essential that all the areas in the country use the same basic definitions and registration procedures, identical forms in the collection of data, and the same classifications so that there will be comparability in the statistics produced from records of vital events registered in different parts of the country. Without a close working relationship between the vital statistics agency and registration authority, it will not be possible to produce comparable vital statistics from place to place within the country and from year to year.

Table 2. Flow of data for the production of vital statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vital events</th>
<th>Flow of data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Within MoI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births and deaths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Arab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages and divorces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Arab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOI: Ministry of Interior
MOH: Ministry of Health
NSO: National Statistical Office

21. However there is also a disadvantage associated with having vital statistics compiled by the civil registration administration. When the system is designed primarily to provide for the civil registration function, the statistical component of the programme may be neglected. Under such administrative arrangement, having both functions under the Ministry of Interior for Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic results to less tabulation of vital statistics.
22. In 7 countries, Bahrain, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Occupied Palestinian Territory, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, civil registration and vital statistics functions are in different administrations and for those countries, compiling and disseminating vital statistics are the responsibility of the national statistical office. Placing the vital statistics programme under the national statistical office has the advantage of focusing attention on the statistical aspects of the vital statistics system. The compilation of vital statistics data under such an arrangement may be more extensive and exhaustive than it would be under the interior or health ministry auspices. However, strong emphasis on coordination between the civil registration and vital statistics agencies is necessary to ensure a functional and reliable vital statistics system. Both Egypt and Jordan described their coordination mechanisms in the workshop which are presented in this report⁹.

23. The vital statistics systems in Oman and Saudi Arabia are somewhat different from the other countries: the civil registration system is administered by one Ministry (Ministry of Justice in Oman and Ministry of Interior in Saudi Arabia) and there is no agency covering the complete compilation and dissemination of vital statistics. Some information on births and deaths is available from the Ministry of Health, probably due to the fact that the Ministry of Health is involved in the initial registration process. The coverage of those data, however, is questionable due to the fact that some events do not necessarily take place in hospitals.

24. There is another aspect that needs to be addressed with respect to the vital statistics systems in the region. For many countries in the region, there are multiple data producers: limited vital statistics is available from the ministry responsible for the civil registration system while more extensive data dissemination is carried out by the national statistical office. For example, Ministry of Health in both Bahrain and Qatar publishes basic tabulations on vital events and similarly, the Ministry of Interior of Occupied Palestinian Territory publishes monthly totals of registered vital events. However, much more detailed data are disseminated by national statistical offices in these countries. Whenever multiple data sources or disseminators exist in the country, data comparability becomes a significant and serious issue. Several countries during the workshop indicated that data incomparability existed in their countries and stressed the importance of having the national statistical office as the only portal for the dissemination of vital statistics.

25. Please refer to Annex 1 for more detailed information on the agencies that are responsible for the civil registration and vital statistics system in each country.

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⁹ Refer to Paragraphs 91 and 121 for coordination mechanism in Egypt and Jordan, respectively.
(3) Status of civil registration and vital statistics

26. The evaluation of status or the present state of development of the civil registration and vital statistics systems involves the assessment of various aspects of the registration and statistical process, such as adequacy of the registration laws and regulations; promptness and completeness of registration; efficiency of services in providing certification of vital events; quality of data; adequacy and usefulness of data produced; timeliness in the issuance of data, etc. Of these, perhaps the most useful single index of status is the measure of completeness of registered vital events.

27. On the questionnaires sent to each country to prepare for the workshop, a question was asked to both civil registrars and statisticians on the percentage of the completeness of civil registration. When such information is not available from the questionnaire, discussions during the workshop also provided some insights. The estimate of coverage, however, is not always based on a scientific study. In some cases, the evaluations are based on the results of sample surveys and/or a dual record system, while for others, they are “guesstimates”.

28. The completeness of birth and death registration as reported by the countries as well as the methods used for assessment are shown in Table 3. Note that the discussion in this section focuses on the registration of births and deaths for two reasons: (1) coverage of marriages and divorces is not available for most of the countries and (2) the coverage indicator of marriage and divorce registration is less meaningful for the purpose of comparing data across countries because statistics related to marriages and divorces are often not truly comparable due to cultural variations.

29. Of the 12 countries, five countries have complete birth and death registration; three countries have complete birth registration only; three countries have civil registration system in the country (not necessarily well-functional) but neither birth nor death registration is complete; and one country does not have any information on the completeness of its registration system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage of registration completeness</th>
<th>Assessment methods</th>
<th>Year of latest assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Births</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Dual record system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>≥ 99%</td>
<td>≥ 99%</td>
<td>Single-round retrospective maternal history survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>Assessment done by Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, methods not known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>Based on recent studies on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Births</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Registration Method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>dual-records system fertility and mortality surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Most likely complete</td>
<td>Most likely complete</td>
<td>No assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Assessment done by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>Brass growth balance method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Most likely complete</td>
<td>Most likely complete</td>
<td>No assessment in the last 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>No assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Assessment conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>Most likely complete</td>
<td>Most likely complete</td>
<td>No assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>By comparing civil registration with census and survey data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
- : not applicable;
…: no information
*: Information gathered during the workshop, it is not clear when exactly such assessment was done

**Figure 1. Estimated completeness of birth and death registration**
30. The first issue identified in terms of the coverage is that for some countries births were registered more completely than deaths (Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3). Another issue identified is the lower coverage of certain population groups: female deaths are less likely to be registered than male deaths; deaths occurred at younger age (child and infant deaths) are covered less than deaths occurring at older ages. The undercoverage of specific population groups happen not only to countries that have difficulties with their civil registration system, but also to those that have complete coverage of deaths registration ($\geq 90\%$) for the entire population. This issue, hence, has to be taken into consideration when trying to improve the overall coverage of the civil registration system.

Figure 2. Map of ESCWA countries and birth registration coverage
31. In addition to the issue of coverage and its completeness, the method of evaluation is also an important indicator of the level of development of contemporary capacities to evaluate the functioning of a civil registration and vital statistics system in a country. Out of the 12 countries, 7 indicated that they use specific assessment methods such as a dual record system and/or comparison with census and survey data and for 5 of them, the assessment was conducted recently while there was no information on when the assessment was done for the other two countries.

32. Four countries did not assess the completeness of the records in the past 10 years, among which 3 countries noted that their registration coverage “should” be complete (above 90%) although there was no evidence to the completeness. Registrar from one country showed no interest in assessing how complete their system was and there was no linkage between the registrar and national statistical office for the assessment to be conducted using population censuses or sample surveys.

33. Another issue that was raised by countries in the region was the validity and comparability of vital rates. For a number of countries that have a significant number of foreign workers in the country, vital rates calculated based on the de facto population in the country (nationals and non-nationals) do not reflect the
real fertility and mortality level in the country because of the specific population composition of non-nationals. Such calculation will also affect comparability between countries.

(4) Use of censuses and sample surveys for vital statistics

34. The present criterion of completeness of a civil registration system was essentially developed for the use of vital records for statistical purposes. For this, it would be ideal to have a nationwide count of 100 per cent of the vital events occurring in a country, and complete coverage for all the important variables. However, to achieve complete country-wide population coverage is not immediately possible in many countries. Because of this, many countries are resorting to sample demographic surveys and various other methods for the estimation of birth and death rates. Even with complete country-wide population coverage, population censuses and sample surveys are also used to evaluate civil registration data or to gather information on demographic or epidemiological processes in a way that enhances the information obtained through civil registration.

35. Out of the 12 countries covered in the report, one country has not conducted any census since the 1930s10 and 11 have in recent years, among which 8 countries with their latest one in the 2000 round (1995-2004) and 3 in the 2010 round (2005-2014). Among the 11 countries that have conducted population census since 1995, 8 countries included questions on fertility and mortality in their latest census and three countries did not (Egypt, Jordan and United Arab Emirates).

36. It is not clear why Egypt, Jordan and United Arab Emirates did not include any questions on fertility and mortality. Constraints in terms of the total number of questions that can be covered on one questionnaire might be one contributing factor. It was indicated by the representative from Jordan that census was an important vehicle for fertility and mortality statistics and it was unfortunate that these two topics were not covered in the population census.

37. Questions covered by the census enumeration form included duration of marriage, children ever-born and living, births in the last 12 months and deaths in the last 12 months. For a few countries, whether the death occurred in the household was pregnancy-related was also asked. (Table 4)

38. Although most of the countries asked questions on fertility and mortality in their censuses, it was not evident that fertility and mortality data obtained from census were used to evaluate their civil registration systems.

10 Lebanon does not conduct census, according to its national law.
Table 4. Fertility and mortality topics included in most recent population censuses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country, most recent census year</th>
<th>Duration of marriage</th>
<th>Children ever born and living</th>
<th>Birth in the last 12 months</th>
<th>Deaths in the last 12 months</th>
<th>Whether deaths are pregnancy-related?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain, 2001</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt, 2006</td>
<td></td>
<td>No question on fertility and mortality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq, 1997</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan, 2004</td>
<td></td>
<td>No question on fertility and mortality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Occupied Palestinian Territory, 2007</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman, 2003</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar, 2004</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia, 2004</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic, 2004</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates, 2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No question on fertility and mortality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen, 2004</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

39. All countries studied in the report have used demographic and health surveys for fertility and mortality estimates in the last 15 years. Regional and international agencies are actively involved in most of the surveys conducted in the regions. The agencies include the Council of Health Ministers of Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) States, League of Arab States, ORC Macro, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). (Table 5)

40. It appears that the demographic/health surveys in the GCC countries are not up-to-date compared to other countries in the region.

Table 5. Most recent demographic/Health surveys conducted in the country and main regional/international agencies involved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Latest demographic/health surveys conducted</th>
<th>Main regional/international agency(s) involved in the survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>1995 Family Health Survey</td>
<td>Council of Health Ministers of GCC States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2005 Demographic and Health Survey</td>
<td>ORC Macro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000 Demographic and Health Survey</td>
<td>ORC Macro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>2006/07 Family Health Survey</td>
<td>WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2004 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey III</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>2007 Population and Family Health Survey</td>
<td>ORC Macro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000 Population and Family Health Survey</td>
<td>ORC Macro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>2004 Family Health Survey</td>
<td>League of Arab States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey II</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
<td>2006 Family Health Survey</td>
<td>No information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2004 Demographic and Health Survey</td>
<td>No information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>2000 National Health Survey</td>
<td>No information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1995 Family Health Survey</td>
<td>Council of Health Ministers of GCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States</td>
<td>States</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>1998 Family Health Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>1996 Family Health Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>1995 Family Health Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>2003 Family Health Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1997 Demographic and Health Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41. Common modules on fertility and mortality in those surveys include the birth history module, sisterhood survival (for maternal mortality), survivorship of biological parents, and recent deaths in the household. Data dissemination was up-to-date for most of the surveys conducted.

(5) Availability of vital statistics

42. The current section provides an overview of the availability of vital statistics in the countries in the period of 1997-2006. The source of information is the United Nations Demographic Yearbook data collection.

43. Data on vital statistics are collected by the United Nations Statistics Division through two questionnaires - Vital Statistics Questionnaire and Population Census General Characteristics Questionnaire. The Vital Statistics Questionnaire collects data on births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages and divorces, cross-classified by various social and demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, etc. These data are mainly obtained from civil registration system that existed in countries\(^{11}\). The Population Census Questionnaire, on the other hand, collects data obtained through national population censuses. Two tables that can be used for indirect estimation of the level and trend of fertility and mortality – children ever born and children surviving – are collected in this questionnaire.

44. The Demographic Yearbook data collection includes the most basic tabulations that a country should produce for national planning as well as regional and international data comparison purposes. Therefore whether a country is able to provide up-to-date data to the Demographic Yearbook is a good indication of its capacity in producing vital statistics. Note that more detailed tabulations may be available at national level for planning and policy implementation purposes but they are not considered “essential” for regional and international comparison and therefore, are not reviewed here.

\(^{11}\) The only exception is that when a country does not have a functioning civil registration, indicators from sample surveys are also covered in the Demographic Yearbook data collection. The exception does not apply to the countries discussed in the report.
45. The data availability review is based on the data (as of 30th June 2008) that are currently available in the *Demographic Yearbook* database. Note that the database does not always reflect the real availability of data at country level - some countries may have the information but have not effectively disseminated it at the regional and global levels, therefore the information was unavailable to the UNSD.

46. However, after comparing all possible open sources at national level (e.g., national website, official publications etc) with the *Demographic Yearbook* data collection, a conclusion can be reached that the latter is rather complete and sometimes more complete than what is available from the countries official dissemination themselves. Therefore, despite of the caveat as mentioned earlier, the *Demographic Yearbook* database nonetheless provides a reasonable indication of how much vital statistics are available at the country level.

**Vital statistics from civil registration systems**

47. Table 6 below illustrates the availability of vital statistics obtained from civil registration systems for each country at the international level in the period of 1997-2006. Technically speaking, some data covered in the analysis could come from either a population census or a sample survey, especially for data on total fertility rate and life expectancy. However by reviewing the source information for those data, such exception does not exist for the 12 countries covered in the report, or at least for the period under investigation (1997-2006). Availability of data that are typically obtained from population censuses is covered in the next section.

48. The analysis of country response is conducted based on the reporting of 41 tables, covering topics on live births, total fertility rate, deaths, infant deaths, foetal deaths, life table, marriages and divorces (see Annex 2 for a complete list of tables). Responses to abortions and annulments are not included in the analysis because these two topics do not apply in the region.

49. Several observations have emerged from the analysis:

- All 12 countries have provided basic data on births and deaths obtained from a civil registration system for the 10-year period of 1997-2006;

- There are variations among countries in terms of how much data they can furnish: Bahrain, Egypt and Qatar can provide most of the tabulations required by the United Nations Statistics Division; Occupied Palestinian Territory and Jordan are able to provide around half of the required tables; and the others only have basic tabulations such as the total number of

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12 With one exception and it is footnoted as needed.
births, deaths, marriages and divorces. The availability of data for some of the countries is low might be due to the following two reasons: (1) vital statistics are compiled by an agency other than the National Statistical Office (e.g., Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Syrian Arab Republic); and (2) low coverage of the civil registration system in the country (Iraq and Yemen).

- Data on infant deaths – one important aspect in demographic analysis for the study of infant mortality – are missing from four countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen). Quality of data could be one of the contributing factors to the missing information – according to Jordan there is an issue of non-registration of a child died shortly after birth. Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen both have incomplete death registration, and the registration of infant deaths is usually worse.

- Very few countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Oman and Qatar) compile data on foetal deaths. Among those that do not compile such data, Lebanon indicated that foetal deaths were not registered according to the law. Jordan and Yemen pointed out that foetal deaths were registered although the coverage was either low (Jordan, 50%) or not assessed (Yemen, where death registration coverage was only 13%), which might be the reason that data on foetal deaths were not published. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the registration of foetal deaths lies in a different agency (Ministry of Health) compared to the other vital events where the registration is the responsibility of Ministry of Interior. The Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) seems to maintain good data flow from the Ministry of Interior, however, the information flow from the Ministry of Health to PCBS on foetal deaths either does not exist or does not work well. For the other four countries – Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates – there is no data on foetal deaths and there is no indication whether foetal death is registered either.

- Marriages and divorces data are available in most of the countries, although sometimes only limited to the basic tabulations (total numbers of marriages and divorces). Oman is the only country that does not have data on marriages and divorces in the period from 1997 to 2006. Since 2004, the registration of vital events in Oman has been the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and it appears that the flow of information from the Ministry of Justice to the national statistical office (Ministry of National Economy of Oman) does not exist at the moment. Births and deaths data are currently compiled by the Ministry of Health, the agency that is part of the registration process.
Table 6. Number of vital statistics tables available in the *Demographic Yearbook* database 1997-2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Births</th>
<th>TFR</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Infant deaths</th>
<th>Foetal deaths</th>
<th>Life expectancy</th>
<th>Marriages</th>
<th>Divorces</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of tables</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

50. More information on whether the countries have data for each of the 41 tables and if so, the latest available year for the data are available in Annex 2.

**Vital statistics from population census**

51. The United Nations Statistics Division collects two census tables on fertility and mortality from National Statistical Offices – number of children ever born and children living to female population. The analysis of data availability hence is based on whether these two tables are available from national population censuses. The population censuses considered here limit to those conducted in the 2000 census round, i.e., censuses conducted within the period from 1995 to 2004. Note that a number of countries in the region have conducted a census in the 2010 round (2005-2015), such as the 2006 census in Egypt, 2007 census in Occupied Palestinian Territory and the 2005 census in the United Arab Emirates. However data for those more recent censuses are not yet available due to the fact that it usually requires sometime to process the census data.

52. Eleven out of 12 countries conducted a census in the 2000 census round, with the exception of Lebanon where a census cannot be conducted according to the law. Among those that have conducted a census, Egypt and Jordan did not include any questions on fertility and mortality on their census questionnaire. Therefore there are 9 countries that have covered fertility and mortality topics in their 2000 round census, among which 6 countries have vital statistics tabulations. (Table 7)
Table 7. Vital statistics available from population censuses conducted in 1995-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Census conducted in 1995-2004</th>
<th>Questions on fertility and mortality</th>
<th>Data on children ever born</th>
<th>Data on children living</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>No information</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Yes&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:  
-: not applicable  
a: data are available from national publication on the 2004 census but not in the *Demographic Yearbook* database because these data are tabulated based on a sample of rather than the entire population, as required by the data collection

Concluding remarks

53. Information compiled in this report provides a basis for understanding the system of civil registration and vital statistics for countries in the ESCWA region. In summary, the assessment shows that most of the ESCWA countries have a running civil registration and vital statistics system, with certain variations. The 12 countries under study can be classified in four clusters. The first cluster consists of countries where civil registration is at high levels of coverage and the links with generating vital statistics are robust and functioning on a regular basis. The next cluster consists of countries where the civil registration is strong, but does not translate in reliable vital statistics due to inadequate coordination between the two. Cluster three comprises countries with weak civil registration, but strong vital statistics derived from special surveys and censuses. Finally, there are countries that are weak in both of these areas and require considerable support. In addition, some countries are having their civil registration in development phase and require further assistance in ensuring the quality of the system.

54. The review of national practices in producing vital statistics, presented in this report, pointed to several difficulties that countries have faced so far. These difficulties are synthesized in the following paragraphs.
55. First, the civil registration systems are not equally developed and functioning throughout the region. While the coverage and registration of births is more or less adequate, this is certainly not the case with deaths. In addition, the registration of deaths of females is less prevalent than of males, which is an area of special concern and in need of substantive improvement. The registration of foetal deaths either does not exist or suffers from inaccuracy as a consequence of non-reporting.

56. Second, bridging the civil registration system and vital statistics has been particularly challenging. Many of the countries in the region have a fully functioning civil registration system but the system does not translate into sufficient and reliable vital statistics. In general more in-depth vital statistics are available when the national statistical office is the responsible agency for the compilation and dissemination of vital statistics derived from the civil registration system and the national statistics office remains a good working relationship with the civil registration office. For some countries in the region, national statistics office does not work with the civil registration agency at all and there is only limited vital information available from the civil registration agency and the quality of it being not fully assessed.

57. Third, there is a lack of quality control and assessment mechanism in some countries in the region. Some either do not have the capacity to assess the quality of the registration system or are not interested in assessing how complete their system is. Without proper quality assessment mechanism, it is not possible for future improvements within the country, and it is also difficult for regional comparisons.

58. Fourth, the capacity of countries in building a fully integrated vital statistics system needs to increase. The three different data sources for vital statistics – civil registration, population census and sample surveys – are not always working together in the country. For some countries, population census is conducted once every 10 years but fertility and mortality topics are not covered. Demographic and health surveys are conducted in all countries but for some countries, those surveys are out-dated – they were conducted about 10 years ago. Comparability of vital statistics obtained from different sources is also a concern for many countries in the region.

II. Country profiles

Bahrain

Legal framework for the civil registration system

59. The registration of vital events in Bahrain is regulated through various decrees. The Decree No. 6 issued in 1970 specified definitions for live births, born
dead (stillbirth) and deaths. The decree also specified the items to be registered, the informant for each event, the minimum duration between the date of occurrence and registration of the events, and the responsibility of the Ministry of Health in the registration process. Provision was also made on the registration of abandoned births and penalties for non-compliance to the law. In 1998, Decree No. 17 was issued to amend the previous decree. The new law revised some procedures to follow if births and deaths occurred abroad. Penalties for faulty report also increased from Bahrain Dinar 50 to 500.

Organisation of the civil registration system

60. The civil registration system in Bahrain is a centralized system and is carried out in two different ministries – the Ministry of Health is responsible for the registration of births, foetal deaths and deaths; and the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs is responsible for the registration of marriages and divorces. The marriages and divorces for Muslims are registered at the Shariti’a Court; while the High Civil Court registers for all others.

61. The birth registration is done in the hospital. For children born in the hospital (around 98% of all births), the hospital is responsible for their registration at the Birth and Death Registration Office (within the Ministry of Health) and for obtaining a personal identification number for them. A child would not be discharged from the hospital if he or she did not receive an ID number, i.e., did not registered in the system. Births occurred outside of the hospital are also required to be registered according to the law. In this case, the midwife will transfer the mothers and children to the hospital for registration.

62. The law in Bahrain also requires that births to Bahrain citizens living abroad to be registered. For those born abroad, Bahrain embassies abroad are responsible for the reporting of the births. Those reports will be sent to the court for evaluation and a birth certificate will be issued. The issuance of an ID card needs a birth certificate and the ID is a must for any services provided by the government.

63. The report of deaths in Bahrain comes from multiple sources – public or private hospitals, relatives, and embassies abroad. Deaths occurred in the hospital (75% of all deaths) are reported directly to the Birth and Death Registration Office within the Ministry of Health and a death certificate will be issued. For deaths occurred outside of the hospital, relatives are required to report to the Birth and Death Registration Office in order to obtain the death certificate. No burials are allowed without a death certificate. When a death occurs, the name of the person, the informant and medical description of the reason for the deaths will be provided to the Birth and Death Registration Office. The office will register the death and will also classify the cause of deaths.
according to the International Classification of Diseases, revision 10 (ICD-10). Similar to the registration of births, all Bahrain citizens died abroad are obliged to register with the Bahraini Embassies abroad.

64. Responsibilities of the local registration offices are recording vital and civil status events and safekeeping of the records; issuing certified copies of civil registration records; issuing burial permits; reporting civil registration data to higher level offices and publishing annual statistics.

65. To provide guidance in its regular work, local registration offices are provided with copies of current laws and regulations on civil registration and updated handbooks or instructions on civil registration. Staff working at the local level also receives regular in-service training and advice from higher level civil registration authorities. Technical and administrative supervision is provided by higher level civil registration authorities and from local government.

66. Once the registration of a vital event is done, the information is provided to the Central Informatics Organisation to be recorded and to be incorporated into the population register. The Directorate of Population Registry (under it the Civil Information Record Section) is the agency responsible for the recording of vital events. Once recorded, information on vital events is gathered, reviewed, coded and classified by the Social and Environmental Statistics Section under the Directorate of Statistics. Note that both Directorates - Population Registry and Statistics are under the Central Informatics Organisation.

Technical aspects of the civil registration system

Informants

67. The informant for the occurrence of a birth is the father or any other relative. For foetal deaths and deaths reporting, both the hospital (certificate) and the father (or any relative) should be present. Informants for the marriages and divorces are both husband and wife, while relatives of the involved parties in the marriage or divorce can also report the event if both the husband and the wife are abroad.

Requirements for registration

68. Documents required for registration of birth include medical certificate, witness, verbal or written declaration of informants, and identification card of parents. Medical certificate and verbal or written declaration of the main informant are needed for the reporting of foetal deaths and deaths. For deaths occur at home, public security (police) is also involved in the registration process. The documents required for the registration of marriages include certification of notice of intended marriage, religious marriage record and identification card for
bride and groom. For divorces, the required documents are notification of the court or institution granting the divorce decree and marriage certificate.

Characteristics of vital events collected

69. Information that are linked to a birth record includes date and time of the birth, place of birth, sex, birth order, type of birth, weight at birth, gestational age and family address. Information related to the father includes name, age, nationality, religion, occupation and education attainment, while name, date of birth, nationality, religion, occupation, education attainment, duration of marriage, total number of children ever born live and surviving, and birth interval are gathered for the mother. The place and the name and title of the person who delivers the baby are also linked to the birth record. Note that some of the information related to the parents are not directly collected at the time of registration but rather compiled by linking with the population register through the use of the unique identification number.

70. For death registration the following are included: name, sex, age, occupation, religion, nationality, date and place of death, the address before death, source of notification, whether legal documents were examined for registration and cause of death. Identification of informant is also included in the death registration record.

Time allowed for registration and penalties for late registration

71. All vital events are required to register within a certain period. For example, births occurred in the country have to be registered within 7 days and deaths have to be reported within 48 hours. For births and deaths to Bahrainis occurred abroad, the time allowed for registration is 15 days if there is a Bahraini embassy or consulate in the country; otherwise 30 days are allowed for informants to ship the documents to the Ministry of Health in Bahrain by express mail.

72. There are certain incentives for people to register vital events as promptly as possible. For instance, births are to be registered as soon as possible so they can be vaccinated. Death certificate is also required for survivors to claim pension benefits. Once a marriage is registered, the couple is eligible for certain amount of marriage allowance, government housing for newly married couples and for government interest-free loans for purchasing a house. There are certain incentives for early registration, for instance births registered within the first 7 days costs BD 0.5 for a certificate and the cost increases to BD 0.9 after that. If deaths registered within 48 hours, there is no cost for the issuance of a death certificate, while it costs BD 0.4 after that. (note: US$ 1 is approximately BD 0.38) Although for events registered within one year, there is not so much difference in
costs for the registration, any registration after one year would have to go through the court.

Coverage of the civil registration system

73. The civil registration system in Bahrain covers all geographic areas of the country. The system also covers all segments of the population, national or foreigners. The most recent quality assessment was in 2006 and the completeness for the registration of all five vital events was found to be close to 100%. The methods used for the assessment are dual-record systems (for all events) and a single-round retrospective maternal history survey (for live births).

Coordination

74. Independently from the civil registration system, there is a population register working in the country that was established in 1988 under the decree No. 11. The responsible agency is the Central Information Organisation (formally named Central Population Registry Directorate). The population register maintains a data bank for all residents living in Bahrain and all Bahraini citizens living abroad. The register links all personal details obtained from civil registration, establishment registry, and others. Personal identification cards are also issued by this agency.

75. The population register is not only a user of the civil registration system but also a data provider for the system. As a user, the population register obtains information on all the vital events registered in the civil registration system and takes necessary steps to adjust the population register accordingly. For example, one person will be added to the population register once a child is born and similarly, the deceased will be flagged in the population register once the civil registration system pass the information over. As a data provider, the population register provides detailed information related to the person experiences the vital events or those who are related to the person who experiences the event. For example, civil registration system obtains detailed characteristics of the deceased and of the parents of the newly born child from the population register so in-depth analysis can be done.

Source of vital statistics

76. Civil registration system is the main source of vital statistics in Bahrain. Both the Ministry of Health and the Central Informatics Organisation publish vital statistics; the most recent publications are available online and they are the Health Statistics 2006 13 (published by the Ministry of Health) and the Statistical Abstract

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13 Available online at http://www.moh.gov.bh/PDF/hs2006/hs2006_e.html
2005\textsuperscript{14} (published by the Central Informatics Organisation). The former includes basic tables on the total number of births and deaths; births by sex, place of birth, age, and father (or mother)'s nationality; stillbirths by sex, father's nationality and gestational age; deaths by sex, age, nationality and cause of deaths. The later includes an extensive list of tables that covers births, deaths, marriages and divorces. These tables are by presented by age, sex, characteristics of the person (or the parents if the event is live birth). Note that stillbirth is not covered in the Statistical Abstract 2005.

77. The 2001 Bahrain population census was used to obtain tables on fertility and mortality statistics. Questions related to fertility and mortality included duration of marriage, children ever born and children surviving to ever-married women. Tables produced included ever-married women by the number of children even born alive and children living, cross-tabulated by the following variables: nationality of women, age, duration of marriage, education attainment and employment status. \textsuperscript{15}

78. The latest demographic survey in Bahrain was conducted in 1995 (Family Health Survey). It was conducted by the Ministry of Health of Bahrain, as part of the Gulf Family Health Project (GFHP), executed by the Executive Board of the Council of Health Ministers of GCC States. The survey was national representative, including a household health status survey, a reproductive health interview for ever-married women under 50 years of age and a child health survey for children under 5 years of age. The survey took two-stage stratified, cluster sample of 4550 households, based on the 1991 census as a sample frame. Note that the survey only covered de-jure population of Bahraini nationals.

79. For fertility estimates, the survey included a number of questions addressed to women of 50 years and under. The questions included the marital status of the woman, date of first marriage, time the couple started to live together, children ever born and living and their age and sex, children born alive and died and their sex age at death, and miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion a woman ever had. For mortality estimates, a question was asked on whether there was any household member died within the 24 months prior to the survey. The results of the 1995 Family Health Survey were published in 2000.\textsuperscript{16}

80. There is no information whether any more recent sample surveys have been conducted in the country to obtain vital statistics.

Availability of vital statistics

\textsuperscript{14} Available online at http://www.cio.gov.bh/default.asp?action=category&id=238
81. Bahrain provided data to 33 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations Demographic Yearbook and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006. Most of the data provided are rather up-to-date. (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables)

82. A census was conducted in 2001 and data on children ever born and children living are available.

Difficulties and future plans

83. One area that currently needs improvement is the registration of birth. It is still a rather long process from the time that the mother is admitted into the hospital for delivery to the time that a new born child is registered. The registration form is sent from the hospital to the Birth and Death Registration Office through fax and sometimes the form gets lost. In order to improve in this respect, there is a plan to computerize the registration system in the three main government owned maternity hospitals so the information about the mother and the child is integrated into the system shared by the Birth and Death Registration Office the moment that mother gets admitted into the hospital. Such electronic system can improve the efficiency of work on both sides - the hospital and the registration office. It certainly will also reduce the risk of the paperwork being missing during the process.

84. The Government of Bahrain is also working on creating a Smart Card that can be used to store various information of a person. All residents living in Bahrain, citizens and foreigners, will be provided with this card. Finger prints, photographs, signature, medical details and the academic qualification of the person are also stored in the card. The card can be used as a driver’s license, a health card, or even a credit card. Such card will also be used as a passport, which can go through the electronic border control gates at the border crossing.

85. Since the representative from Bahrain works with the Ministry of Health, detailed information regarding the registration of marriages and divorces is not available.

Egypt

Legal framework for the civil registration system

86. A number of laws have been passed regarding the civil registration in Egypt - Law No. 260 in 1960 was the original one and Act No. 11 (1965) and Act No. 158 (1980) made subsequent amendments. Overall, the law included items on the notification of the occurrence of vital events, time allowed for reporting of the events, data entry rules, data provisions to Central Civil Registration Office through field and local offices. It was also specified in the law that the Central
Department of Statistics is responsible for the production of vital statistics. It was the rules of the executive list decision No. 120 (1965) included notification forms used for the purpose of collecting vital statistics.

Organisation of the civil registration system

87. The civil registration system in Egypt is centralized. In Egypt there are 27 governorates, among which 4 are urban and 23 are rural. These governorates are further divided into centers/towns and villages. There are 4417 local health units in the country registering births, deaths and foetal deaths. Registration of marriages and divorces is the responsibility of Family Affairs Courts (a total of 231) and Real Estate Publicity Department (2 of them, located in Cairo and Alexandria). All the information collected at the local registration office is eventually sent to Department of Civil Status (under the Ministry of Interior) through the provincial level civil registration offices and centers (27 in total).

Technical aspects of the civil registration system

Informants

88. Birth is reported by an informant (ID required) and an additional witness is also needed. Death occurred is usually reported by an informant (ID required), accompanied by a medical certificate issued by a health inspector. For foetal deaths, parents (ID required) are required to report the incidence, accompanied by a medical certificate. The marriage registration requires ID cards for both parties, witness(es) and a payment of fees. For the registration of divorce, a marriage certificate needs to be provided in addition to a payment of fees once divorce is granted by the court.

Time allowed for registration

89. Births are required to be registered within 15 days; deaths and foetal deaths are to be registered within 24 hours after the event occurs; marriages and divorces are to be registered within 15 days after the marriage contract or the divorce notification is issued.

Coverage of the civil registration system

90. While compiling vital statistics obtained from civil registration, The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) evaluates the data and provides feedback to the Civil Registration Office if revision is necessary. The completeness of births and deaths statistics for Egypt is around 98%.

Coordination
91. In Egypt, there is a uniform law on civil registration that applies to every person in the country and throughout all agencies. In addition, any improvement of the system has to be done under the collaboration of all involved agencies. There are also bi-lateral cooperation between agencies for issues both parties are concerned.

Source of vital statistics

92. The vital statistics system in Egypt is a centralized system, where the collection, compilation and dissemination of vital statistics are done at the national level by CAPMAS, under the Ministry of Planning. Births and deaths are registered at the local level by the Health offices and units (under the Ministry of Health) and those registration forms are sent to the Civil Registration Office to be reviewed. Afterwards CAPMAS receives information on the registered vital events from the Civil Registration Office (under the Ministry of Interior) and then compiles and disseminates the statistics. The statistical forms of births and deaths registration are designed and produced by CAPMAS. CAPMAS also administers population censuses and sample surveys to obtain vital rates.

93. Data on marriages and divorces registered are available on the official website of CAPMAS17 and unfortunately data on births, deaths and foetal deaths are not available. However, according to what CAPMAS has submitted to the Demographic Yearbook data collection, most of tables that UNSD requires are available for Egypt.

94. The most recent population census in Egypt was conducted in 2006. There are two questionnaires used in the census – one in Arabic and one in English. Fertility and mortality topics were not covered in the census.

95. The latest survey conducted that was used to access the fertility and mortality situation in Egypt is the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2005. During the survey, each woman was asked a series of questions on the number of her sons and daughters living with her, the number living elsewhere, and the number who may have died. Next, a complete history of all of the woman’s births was obtained, including the name, sex, month and year of birth, age, and survival status for each of the births. For living children, a question was asked about whether the child was living in the household or away. For dead children, the age at death was recorded. Finally, information was collected on whether currently married women were pregnant at the time of the survey.

17 http://www.msrintranet.capmas.gov.eg/pls/census/marry_all?LANG=0&lname=FREE
96. The final report of the DHS 2005 was published in 2006.\textsuperscript{18}

97. There is no information whether information from various data sources is consistent.

**Availability of vital statistics**

98. Egypt provided data to 34 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables). Most of the data provided are rather up-to-date.

99. The 2000 round of population census in Egypt was conducted in 1997 but fertility and mortality topics were not covered.

**Difficulties and future plans**

100. There are several areas in the civil registration system that needs further improvement. First of all, there is a lack of awareness of the importance of the civil registration system by the citizens as well as by the staff working at the local health offices. Second, information collected from the vital events statistical forms is sometimes incomplete. Third, the infrastructure for the civil registration system is old and cannot sustain the normal operation of the system. Fourth, there is also a lack of regular training of the local health office staff. Lastly, there is not enough monitoring and evaluation of the system.

101. Egypt plans to develop an electronic information network involving the Ministry of Health, the Data Information Network, Ministry of Interior (Civil Registration Office) and CAPMAS (statistics). The network is going to connect regional and local offices nationwide and will facilitate electronic information sharing among all relevant agencies. The civil registration office is also going to develop a simplified registration method for the registration of births and deaths. Under the new method, all information will be recorded electronically at the registration point and will be accessible at the Central Registration Office directly. Another undergoing plan is to integrate and link various existing databases so more detailed information on births and deaths can be obtained. (e.g., linking births and deaths data)

102. Training is also planned for health professionals and those who register marriages and divorces at local level on completing the statistical form of vital events registration.

\textsuperscript{18}http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pub_details.cfm?ID=586&ctry_id=10&srchTp=ctry&flag=sur
Iraq

103. The presentation on the civil registration system in Iraq was made by the participant from AITRS. The registration of vital events in Iraq started in 1921 (since the independence of the State). In 1924, a national law was passed requiring that all vital events occurred to Iraqi citizens had to be registered. Another law was passed in 1947 on assigning birth offices as the focal point for the registration of live births and was subsequently amended in 1971. Under the amendments, the registration of births and deaths was the responsibility of Ministry of Health. Since then, a number of amendments have been introduced based on the existing law. According to the law, all births and deaths have to be registered within 30 days.

104. The situation worsened since 1990, where almost all normal activities came to a stall including the civil registration. The system is unreliable – sometimes people intentionally give out inaccurate information to avoid compulsory military services or for certain financial benefits. Administratively, there is no clear delineation of responsibilities between different agencies. There is one headquarter office located in Baghdad and 11 sub-offices in the city. For the rest of the country, only 1 office exists in each province to cover the registration. The registrars are lack of qualifications and experiences and most of them are just barely literate. The registration of vital events is not complete, nor does it cover all areas in the country. From the most recent studies on fertility and other vital events, the coverage of birth registration is 68% and 34% for death registration.

105. The population census conducted in 1997 included questions on duration of marriage and children ever born and living to ever-married women. The result of the census was considered to be inaccurate.

106. A family health survey was conducted in 2006/07. The survey was conducted by the Iraqi Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Central Organisation for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The survey was national representative and interviewed 9345 households, covering all governorates in Iraq. The survey included questions on adult mortality (household deaths occurred since June 2001), pregnancy and birth history of women of 15-49 years of age, and deaths of siblings of respondents. Infant and child deaths questions were not included because they were covered in the 2004 MICS-III survey, administered by UNICEF.

Availability of vital statistics
Iraq provided data to 9 out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations Demographic Yearbook and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables). Those tables include most basic ones such as the total number of births, deaths, infant deaths, marriages and divorces. Data on births, deaths and infant deaths are further classified by sex. Overall, the supply of vital statistics is rather limited.

The most recent census was conducted in 1997 and data on children ever born and children living are available.

Jordan

Legal framework for the civil registration system

A number of laws and regulations were passed to direct the work of civil registration in Jordan. The latest amendment was made in 2001.

Historical development of the civil registration system

Jordan has a long history of civil registration although more reliable system only started more recently. In 1930, the law specified that the Ministry of Health was responsible for the registration of births and deaths and the Sharia courts and the churches were responsible for the registration of marriage and divorce. The Department of Statistics, according to the law, was responsible for the compilation and dissemination of vital statistics. In 1966, the Civil Code No. 32 created a separated service called the Department of Civil Status, which took the responsibility of registering all vital events. However this Department only fulfilled its assignment partially due to the situation back then in the country. The situation did not improve much even after the Code No. 34 (1973) passed that re-stated the work of this Department.

It was only until 1977 when the situation was stabilized in the region and the work of the Department started. Efforts had been made to register vital events happened to its population; to issue documents; and to establish offices covering all governorates of the country. Unfortunately the statistics generated from the above activities was not used for government planning purposes due to its low quality and reliability. In 1983 the system started to computerize and in 1988, the Department of Civil Status and the Department of Passport Service were combined. At the same time, a national ID system consisting of 10-digit was developed. In 1992, the system was able to generate document for each citizen and the accuracy of statistics was greatly improved.

In 1996, the civil registration system started to work electronically and in 2001, the effort was made to improve the efficiency of the system as well as the accuracy and timeliness of the statistics produced from the system. Information
collected through the system started to be used for electoral purposes – persons who have reached the age eligible for election were identified. In 2006, the electronic archiving was accomplished and the entire system included 5 million files and 20 million documents.

Organisation of the civil registration system

113. The civil registration system in Jordan is a centralized system. The Department of Civil Status and Passport (CSP) (under the Ministry of Interior) is responsible for the civil registration in the country. It registers all vital events occurred to Jordanian citizens, living in the country or abroad as well as foreigners living in the country; provides certificates for vital events; registers Jordanian families; issues family books; provides national IDs for all citizens; and issues temporary passports to people from the West Bank. There are 74 sub-offices spread around the country. The Department also works with other government agencies for information on employment, acquisition of citizenship and other personal characteristics to incorporate such information into the person identification card. The system is operated electronically and all parties have access to the database through terminals. Embassies abroad are also included in the system.

114. All offices within the Department of Civil Status and Passport are linked to a computer network, operated by the Network Management Center (under the Department of Computer). Data entries are done at computer terminals in various offices in the country as well as embassies abroad and data are fed directly into the main computer at the Network Management Center. The system is setup in the way that the issuance of certificates and documents is straightforward. The system also enables the extraction of vital statistics directly by the Department of Civil Status and Passport or other authorized users. Raw data records are sometimes used for security purposes.

Technical aspects of the civil registration system

Requirements for registration

115. For the registration of births occurred in the country, the presence of the informant, family book (or passport for foreigners) and proofs from the hospital have to be presented. Deaths occurred within the country have to be reported with the following documents: the presence of a qualified informant, family book and identification card for Jordanians died inside of Jordan (or passport for foreigners), and proofs from the hospital or other eligible agencies.

116. Registration of marriages requires a copy of marriage contract, the request from either bride or groom, and family books for both (or passports for
Marriages are to be registered within 90 days. For divorces, the reason for divorce, a copy of divorce request and family book are required.

**Time allowed for registration and penalties for late registration**

117. All births occurred in Jordan have to be registered within 30 days or a $10 Dinars fine will be imposed. Births to Jordanians abroad should report to the Jordanian embassies or consulates within 90 days. Deaths occurred within the country have to be reported within 7 days and deaths occurred to Jordanians abroad should report to the Jordanian embassies or consulates within 90 days.

118. If vital events are to be registered after 1 year, court order is needed to proceed with the registration.

**Coverage of the civil registration system**

119. The civil registration system in Jordan by law covers all geographic areas of the country. However the system only covers Jordanian citizens; foreigners are registered separately.

120. The birth registration in Jordan is complete (99%) and the coverage of death registration is incomplete (75%). Marriage and divorce registration is covered at 100%. The coverage of foetal deaths is rather low (50%). The assessment was recently conducted in 2006 using dual-records system and fertility and mortality surveys.

**Coordination**

121. In terms of coordination within the system, there is a planning committee consisting of the Department of Civil Status and Passport, as well as other relevant departments such as the Personnel Management, Department of Management, Department of Finance, Department of Legal Affairs, Department of Management Development and Training and so on. The committee oversees the development of plans and actions necessary to facilitate the work of the Department of Civil Status and Passport.

**Sources of vital statistics**

122. The vital statistics system in Jordan is a centralized system. The main source of vital statistics in Jordan is the civil registration system. Sample surveys are also used to conduct in-depth analysis on fertility and mortality as well as to evaluate the civil registration system. Data obtained from these two sources are consistent. The Department of Civil Status and Passport is responsible for the collection of vital statistics through civil registration system, while the Department of Statistics is responsible for the compilation and dissemination of
those statistics. The Department of Statistics is responsible for handling the sample surveys. The recent population census was conducted in 2004, however it was not used as a source for vital statistics.

123. Vital statistics collected from civil registration are published annually. However only basic statistics such as live births by sex, deaths by sex, marriages and divorces are disseminated\(^ {19}\).

124. The most recent two surveys were Population and Family Health Survey, conducted in 2002 and 2007. Both surveys were conducted by Jordan Department of Statistics and ORC Macro. Those surveys were single-round and used multi-stage cluster sampling technique. The following topics were covered: population characteristics, current fertility, period fertility, nuptiality, contraceptive methods, birth delivery methods, childhood mortality, nutrition of children and mothers, HIV-AIDS, and violence against women.

125. The following demographic techniques were used in the survey for vital rates: reverse survival method, own-children method, reconstructed birth history, children ever born and surviving, recent births in the household and birth histories. Fertility statistics derived from those surveys covered age-specific fertility rates (ASFR), general fertility rate, total fertility rate (TFR), crude birth rate (CBR), martial fertility rate, children ever born and singulate mean age at marriage. The following indicators were obtained for mortality: infant mortality rate, child mortality rate and under-five mortality rate.

126. Data obtained from the 2002 sample survey were published in 2003 and the results from the 2007 survey are forthcoming. Some of the results from the 2002 sample survey are available online\(^ {20}\).

Availability of vital statistics

127. Jordan provided data to 15 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations Demographic Yearbook and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables). Basic data on births, deaths, marriages and divorces are available. There is no data on infant deaths, nor on foetal deaths.

128. The 2000 round of population census in Jordan was conducted in 2004 but fertility and mortality topics were not covered.

\(^{19}\) Available on the website of the Jordan Department of Statistics at http://www.dos.gov.jo/sdb_pop/sdb_pop_e/inde_o.htm

Difficulties and future plans

129. Despite the successes that the country has made over the past 70 years, there are still some areas that need improvement. The first issue is the registration coverage and the under-reporting of vital events in the country. It was estimated that 98.8% of the births are registered. There are several reasons for the non-reporting of the 1.2% of the births – disagreement within the family, poverty and lack of awareness. For some of the geographical non-reporting, reduced penalty for late reporting in the legislation might be a reason.

130. The under-reporting of deaths is much more prevalent in Jordan – only 75% of all deaths were registered in 2000. The most important contributing factor to the non-reporting is the adoption of a burial certificate issued by municipalities rather than a death certificate issued by CSP. Other less significant reasons include the lack of awareness on the importance to registering deaths and deliberate un-reporting of deaths of non-citizens so the survived can still enjoy the welfare for the deceased. For a child died shortly after birth, if the death happens prior to the reporting of the birth, neither birth and nor death of the child is reported. The underreporting of stillbirth happens quite often as well.

131. Apart from the coverage issues, the accuracy of the reporting is also a problem. For example, it is the interest of the parents to report a child’s birth in another month other than the one the child was born for school enrolment purposes.

132. One difficulty facing the production of vital statistics is that the most recent two population censuses did not cover questions on live births in the household occurred the year before census, nor on children ever born and living.

133. The ultimate goal of the CSP is to register vital events occurred to Jordanian citizens living in the country or abroad, as well as foreigners living in the country. Efforts have been made to promote the importance of civil registration and vital statistics, through improving data dissemination and conducting workshops and seminars, in collaboration with UNFPA.

Lebanon

Legal framework for the civil registration system

134. The first law on civil registration was in 1924. It specified that four types of vital events were to be registered – births, deaths, marriages and divorces. In 1951, the law was amended so that the birth certificate was re-designed. It also specifically requested that registration information to be sent to the Central Administration for Statistics for archiving in microfilms. Original documents were to be stored according to its serial number in the registrar. A new decree
6042 was passed in 2000 and restructured the civil registrar so that the General Directorate of Civil Affairs was also to cover citizenship related issues.

Organisation of the civil registration system

135. The civil registration system in Lebanon is centralized. The General Directorate of Civil Affairs (under the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities) is responsible for the registration of vital events such as births, deaths, marriages and divorces. Foetal deaths are not registered according to the law passed in 1956. The General Directorate of Civil Affairs is also in charge of various administrative tasks such as issuing personal ID card and foreigner’s residence card, providing information for electoral purposes, providing services to Lebanese citizens living abroad and so on. In addition, the Directorate compiles basic vital statistics such as births and deaths by sex as well as marriage and divorce rates. There are 52 registry offices working under the central office through regional departments in 6 provinces.

136. The primary registration unit is the mayor’s office in the village. The appointed civil registrars records vital events and issue certificate or permit (burial permit for deaths). The local registrar also reports civil registration data to higher level offices.

Technical aspects of the civil registration system

Requirements for registration

137. For the registration of live births, the medical certificate from the hospital, witness(es), ID card for the parents and marriage certificate for the parents are required. For death registration, a medical certificate indicating the cause of death and the presence of witness(es) are required. Relevant documents that are required to register marriages and divorces are ID cards for both parties involved in the marriage (or divorce), the presence of witness(es), and religious marriage record (for marriage) or marriage certificate (for divorce).

Coverage of the civil registration system

138. The civil registration system in Lebanon covers all population in the country. However, there is no assessment on how complete the actual civil registration system is. It was pointed out by the participant from Lebanon that the registration of births and deaths is likely to be complete due to the strong association between registration and the social welfare system; as well as the imposed penalties for non-registration.

Sources of vital statistics
Two agencies in Lebanon are involved in the production of vital statistics – General Directorate of Civil Affairs and Central Administration for Statistics. The General Directorate of Civil Affairs compiles statistics based on civil registration. The Central Administration for Statistics is responsible for the collection of vital statistics through various sample surveys such as the survey initiated by the Pan Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM), Living standards of families and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). A complete count of population through population census has not been conducted since 1932 and the most recent sample census was conducted in 1995.

Basic vital statistics are published in the Statistical Monthly Bulletin21 – births and deaths by sex, marriages and divorces.

The most recent two surveys were MICS II conducted in 2000 and PARFAM in 2004. The former was conducted by the Central Administration for Statistics and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), while the latter was a collaborative work of the Central Administration for Statistics, League of Arab States and Ministry of Social Affairs. Those two surveys were single-round and used random sampling technique. Those surveys are for multiple purposes and covered topics on employment and unemployment, education, child labor, health and immunization and maternal mortality.

Specific demographic techniques used for fertility and mortality statistics included the birth history method and the survival of children ever born method. Vital statistics derived from the 2000 MICS II survey included the cumulative fertility rate, total fertility rate, and infant and child mortality rate. From the 2004 PARFAM survey, age-specific fertility rates, total fertility rate, children ever born, mean age at first marriage, infant and child mortality and maternal mortality were obtained.

Data obtained from the 2000 survey were published in 2001 and the results from the 2004 survey are published in 2006.

**Availability of vital statistics**

Lebanon provided data to 9 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables). Basic data on births, deaths, marriages and divorces are available. There is no data on infant deaths, nor on foetal deaths.

There is no census being conducted in Lebanon, as specified by the law.

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Difficulties and future plans

146. The civil registration and vital statistics systems in Lebanon are currently facing difficulties in terms of human and technology capacities. There is not enough staff working in the system and training is lacking as well. There are, for example, only 40 staff members working at the Central Statistical Department. From the technical point of view, the current design of the registration form is not compatible with the new information system that was setup to process the registration records. In addition, part of the registration and processing is still manually done.

147. There are 3-stage plans that have been laid out to improve the civil registration and vital statistics systems in Lebanon. The short-term plan is to improve the human capacity by bringing more staff to work in the system. There is also a plan to further exploit the existing data. The medium-term plan is to revise the registration forms so that they are compatible with the newly designed information system. The long-term plan is to build a fully electronic database to facilitate data collection, compilation and dissemination, as well as coordination among different agencies.

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Legal framework for the civil registration system

148. The civil registration law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was enacted in 1966 and subsequently amended. The latest amendment was done in 2001.

Organisation of the civil registration system

149. The civil registration system in Occupied Palestinian Territories is under the administration of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Health. The system is a centralized system: Department of Civil Registration within the Ministry of Interior registers the following vital events – births, deaths, marriages and divorces; and the Ministry of Health registers foetal deaths. Other vital events such as adoption, judicial separation, annulments do not apply to the national practices and are not covered. The entire system is linked electronically from the central office to local offices.

150. The current registration system covers Palestinians with Palestine identities, regardless where they reside. Palestinians holding Israeli identity card or foreigners living in Palestine are not covered.

151. The primary registration units for births include health offices and population register. Foetal deaths are registered with health offices while deaths
can be registered at municipal offices, health offices and population register. Marriages and divorces are to be registered at either court offices, perish and temples or population register. Appointed local civil registrars usually perform the registration; sometimes priests, ministers and court clerks are also involved in the registration of marriages and divorces.

152. Responsibilities of the local registration offices are recording vital and civil status events and safekeeping of the records; promoting the completeness of the registration; and reporting civil registration data to higher level offices and publishing annual statistics.

153. To obtain guidance in its regular work, local registration offices are provided with copies of current laws and regulations on civil registration, updated handbooks or instructions on civil registration, handbooks on vital statistics reporting and circulars regarding procedures for civil registration. Staff working at the local level also receives regular in-service training and advice from higher level civil registration authorities. Technical supervision is provided by higher level civil registration authorities and judicial authorities vested with responsibility for the custody of the records. Administrative supervision is provided by higher level civil registration authorities and local government authority.

Technical aspects of the civil registration system

Informants

154. The informant for the occurrence of a birth is the health institutions and the mother or father. For foetal deaths and deaths reporting, the health institution is the main informant. Informants for marriages and divorces are both husband and wife, and Sharia courts.

Requirements for registration

155. Documents required for registration of birth include medical certificate, presence of the child at local register, and identification card of parents. Medical certificate and verbal or written declaration of the main informant are needed for the reporting of foetal deaths. For deaths registration, medical certificate, verbal and written declaration of the main informant, and verification by municipal authority are needed. The documents required for the registration of marriages include health certificates, birth certificates and identification cards for bride and groom as well as religious marriage record. For divorces, the required documents are notification of the court or institution granting the divorce decree and marriage certificate. Divorces also have to be routinely registered by religious or judicial authorities once divorce decree has been issued.
Time allowed for registration and penalties for late registration

156. All vital events are required to register within a certain period. Births occurred in the country have to registered within 10 days; foetal deaths and deaths have to be reported one week. Time allowed for the registration of marriages and divorces is one month. Penalties for late registration are not enforced.

157. There are certain incentives for people to register vital events. Once a birth is registered, parents can obtain birth allowance as well as additional bonus for the child. Death certificate is necessary for insurance and inheritance claims, as well as for the survivors to receive pension benefits. The survivor also needs to show the death certificate of his or her spouse to remarry. Marriage allowance is also offered based on marriage registration.

Coverage of the civil registration system

158. The civil registration system does not cover the Jerusalem area. The system also does not cover Palestinians living in the Palestinian territories but do not have identification numbers.

159. The completeness of the civil registration system has not been assessed by the Department of Civil Registration in the past 10 years. However according to an assessment conducted by PCBS in 2004, the coverage of birth statistics from civil registration is about 86% while the coverage of death statistics is about 75%.

Sources of vital statistics

160. The main data source of vital statistics in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is the civil registration system. Population censuses and sample surveys are used as supplements to civil registration to build an integrated vital statistics system. The Department of Civil Registration within the Ministry of Interior is in charge of the civil registration system and disseminates vital statistics obtained from the system monthly and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) is responsible for the collection of vital statistics through population censuses and sample surveys and for the dissemination of vital statistics from all three data sources.

161. The vital statistics system in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is centralized. Data on births, deaths, marriages and divorces can be obtained from all three data sources while information on foetal deaths is only available through sample survey. Data obtained from different data sources are consistent.

162. The Ministry of Interior publishes the monthly the total number of births, deaths, marriages and divorces. However the Palestinian Central Bureau of
Statistics (PCBS) is the main organization for the provision of data on vital statistics. It also evaluates and validates the records received from the Department of Civil Registration. PCBS also obtains relevant information from the Department of Civil Registration for statistical analysis purposes.

163. The following tabulations on vital events are being produced by PCBS regularly: births by sex and/or month of births; deaths by sex, age and/or month of deaths; infant deaths by sex; marriages by age and previous marital status; median age at first marriage; and divorces by sex, age and duration of marriage. All the tabulations are also presented at region and governorate level. These tabulations are made by place and time of occurrence (rather than by registration). Vital rates are calculated, while the numerators are from the civil registration system and the denominators are obtained from population register, population censuses, sample surveys or population estimates.

164. Population census 2007 asked questions that can be used to obtain fertility and mortality statistics. Questions include deaths in the household within the last 12 months, whether the death was pregnancy-related, children ever-born and living as well as births in the last 12 months.

165. The most recent two sample surveys that were used to obtain fertility and mortality statistics were (1) Demographic and Health Survey, conducted in 2004 and (2) Palestinian Family Health Survey, conducted in 2006. All Palestinians living on Palestinian territory are covered in those surveys. The first survey interviewed 6500 households while the second one interviewed around 13000 households. Both surveys were single-round and used systematic random sampling. Topics covered in the surveys included socioeconomic characteristics, family planning, child health and public health. Indicators on fertility and mortality were produced on age specific fertility rate, total fertility rate, infant mortality rate and child mortality rate.

166. All of the classic indirect estimation techniques were used in the survey and the estimates were evaluated by comparing individual records with administrative records kept by the Ministry of Health. Age accuracy was also assessed by using the Whipple Index and Mayer and Bachi Index. Survey results were published one year after the survey was conducted.

Availability of vital statistics

167. The Occupied Palestinian Territory provided data to 24 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations Demographic Yearbook and

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22 Note: the total number of households in 1997 population census is around 400,000, according to the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.
relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables). Most of the data provided are rather up-to-date.

168. The 2000 round of population census in the country was conducted in 1997 and data on children ever born and children living are available.

Difficulties and future plans

169. It is realized that the current population registration system needs to be revised and modernized so it is consistent with international standards and also is meeting the needs of users. The shortfalls related to the system are reflected in various areas. First, there are still many quality issues within the system that need to be improved. For example, the issue of duplicate IDs, inaccurate recording of date (sometimes date of birth is later than date of death), coding errors as coding is usually done manually and non-updated addresses. The second problem with the current system is the under-coverage of the birth and death registration (85% complete for birth registration and 75% for death registration). Third, additional variables and characteristics of population might need to be incorporated as the current ones can not meet the needs of users. The fourth issue lies in the fact that there is no clear delineation of responsibilities among different data providers that is required for a continuous and systematic flow of information. The last issue that needs to be solved is to establish linkage with the Israeli side to access information for Palestinians living under the Israeli administration.

170. The first priority in the further development of the population register is to setup a national commission to improve the quality of data and facilitate the modernization of the system as well as the dissemination of data. The commission will (1) oversee the technical, administrative and legal perspectives of the registry, link all administrative sources and services together and facilitate the flow of information among different agencies; (2) identify the actions necessary to overcome technical, administrative and financial problems and set up a plan for the improvement of the population registry; and (3) establish sub-working groups to identify and develop legal and regulatory aspects needed to revitalize the civil registration and vital statistics systems in the country.

Oman

History and legal framework for the civil registration system

171. The interest of registering births and deaths started since 1970. However due to historical reasons, there was a period in the past that only people working in the public sectors were given formal identification cards and therefore the rest of the public had no formal documents proving their accurate age.
Before 2004, vital events in particular births and deaths were registered at the Ministry of Health (MOH). For births and deaths happened in the public hospitals, certificates were issued directly. For those happened in private hospital or at home, the hospital or community leader (Sheikh – Wali) was responsible for reporting the events to the MOH. Certificates for births and deaths were issued by MOH upon request and there was no obligation for registering those events.

Since May 2004, the Directorate General of Civil Status (DGCS) under the leadership of Royal Oman Police, has taken over the responsibility of civil registration. Such movement was based on a royal decree 66/99 passed in 1999.

The civil status law required that the following vital events: birth, death, marriage and divorce should be registered. The law specified definitions for live births, stillbirth and deaths and noted that registration of those events should be based on certain documents provided by either the Ministry of Health (for births, stillbirths and deaths) or Ministry of Justice (for marriages and divorces). The decree also specified responsibility of DGCS including registering vital events occurred to both Omani citizens and foreigners; issuing certificates; and verifications of documents.

The law also specifies the informant for each event, the minimum duration between the date of occurrence and registration of the events, and the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice in the registration process.

Organisation of the civil registration system

DGCS in Oman registers vital events as well as other events related to civil status, such as citizenship and change of residence. The Directorate also issues certificates for the vital events and personal identification card for Omani citizens.

Information collected from all sources of births and deaths are provided to DGCS. These sources of information include the public hospitals where information is linked directly with the Ministry of Health; and others such as private hospitals, community leader (for births and deaths happened at home) and Omani embassies abroad. Whenever DGCS receives registration information, it would also pass the information on births and deaths back to the Ministry of Health so the health-related variables can be linked to the event, as the Ministry of Health maintains a database containing all health related information collected at different types of health institutions, public owned or private.
In order to facilitate the registration procedure, a committee was created which was led by DGCS and involved different Ministries such as Ministry of National Economy, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Education. The committee was created to streamline the work of DGCS and to contribute to the development of the civil registration programme.

Technical aspects of the civil registration system

Informants

179. The informants for the occurrence of a birth are father of the child if present; closest relative present at delivery; any adult stayed in the same house as the mother; the doctor or an authorized person who delivered the baby; Director of the institutions where the births took place; community leader; or the mother. The informants that can report the death are, in order, ascendants, descendants or spouse of the deceased; closest relative present at death; any adult lived at the same as the deceased; community leader; the doctor who checked the deceased; or the Director of institutions such as hospitals, prisons, where deaths occurred.

Requirements for registration

180. The documents needed to register a live birth include the notice of the health institution where the birth occurred; a copy of ID card or passport with parental origin seal; and a copy of marriage of parents. For births occurred in Oman but outside of health institutions, a letter from Sheikh is needed; while for birth occurred abroad, a letter from a competent authority approved by the embassy or consulate of Oman is necessary to register the birth.

181. To register a death, one needs the notice of the death provided by the health institution; and the ID card or passport for the deceased or a report from someone reporting the death in case the identity of the deceased can not be proved. For deaths occurred in Oman but outside of health institutions, a letter from Sheikh is needed; while for deaths occurred abroad, a letter from a competent authority approved by the embassy or consulate of Oman is necessary to register the death.

Characteristics of vital events collected

182. The birth and death notification form are developed by the Ministry of Health. The registration form for births includes the following information: date and place of birth; name and sex of the baby; name, address, civil number, tribe, citizenship, religion for both parents. There is also some medical information
related to the birth that can be filled out on the form, although not required by law. Some of them include the age of parents, method of delivery (natural or C-section), birth weight, gestational period, and education level of the mother.

183. The information collected on the death registration form includes the date and place of deaths occurred; the name, sex, age, address before death, place and date of birth; tribe, citizenship, religion and occupation of the deceased; name of the parents if known and the tribe they belong; and the name, address, relationship to the deceased for the informant. Cause of death information and the indication whether a person died due to pregnancy related reasons are suggested to be collected, but not required by law.

**Time allowed for registration**

184. All births occurred in the country should be reported to the registrar within 2 weeks and births occurred abroad should be reported to Omani Embassies within 3 months. Deaths are required to be reported to registrar within 7 days if they occurred in the country. For deaths occurred abroad, the time allowed for registration to the Omani Embassies is one month.

**Coverage of the civil registration system**

185. An assessment was done based on the 2006 data collected through the civil registration system. It was found out that births registration coverage was nearly complete (around 98% for male and 97% for female) while the completeness for death registration is similar. One possible reason for the incomplete death registration is an introduction of an earlier legislation that allowed burial without death certificate. In addition, missing information on sex and age is also a problem for registered vital events. For example, there is no information on sex for 30% of deaths; and a significant number of deaths were reported without specifying age. The report of the sex of live births is highly complete (above 99%), while the age of mother is less reported - 87% for Omani citizens and 95% for foreigners.

**Sources of vital statistics**

186. Vital statistics for Oman were generated mostly from other data sources rather civil registration before 2004. For example, fertility data were obtained from United Nations estimates for the period between 1950 and 1970. In the 1970s, fertility statistics were obtained from the Ministry of Health and between 1980 and 1993, fertility and mortality statistics were gathered through sample surveys conducted by the Ministry of National Economy and Ministry of Health. Mortality statistics was not available before 1980 as the registration of deaths was rather limited and insufficient for statistical purposes.
187. In more recent years, three major sources – civil registration, population census and sample surveys – are used to obtain a more complete picture of vital statistics. Basic vital statistics on births, deaths and foetal deaths, mainly by sex and age, are available from the Ministry of Health website\(^{23}\) and also on the Statistical Yearbook\(^{24}\), compiled by the Ministry of National Economy. Unfortunately, no information on marriages and divorces is available.

188. Indirect methods are used to obtain fertility and mortality statistics. A number of fertility and mortality related questions were asked in the 2003 population census: children ever born and surviving, number of live births occurred the year before the census, deaths occurred in the household and the time, reason for the death and whether the death was related to pregnancy. Fertility and mortality statistics obtained from the 2003 population census was not only useful in assessing the situation in Oman but also important to compare with and evaluate the newly developed civil registration system.

189. A number of sample surveys were also used to measure the level of fertility and mortality statistics. These surveys were mainly conducted by the Ministry of National Economy and Ministry of Health. The two most recent ones are the Oman Family Health Survey in 1995 and the National Health Survey, conducted in 2000. Both surveys have national representative samples.

190. The 1995 Oman Family Health Survey was conducted by the Ministry of Health, as part of the Gulf Family Health Project (GFHP), executed by the Executive Board of the Council of Health Ministers of GCC States. The survey was national representative, including a household health status survey, a reproductive health interview for ever-married women under 50 years of age and a child health survey for children under 5 years of age. The survey consisted of 6103 households. The survey only covered de-jure population of Omani nationals.

191. For fertility estimates, the 1995 survey included a number of questions addressed to women of 50 years and under. The questions included the marital status of the woman, date of first marriage, time the couple started to live together, children ever born and living and their age and sex, children born alive and died and their sex age at death, and miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion a woman ever had. For mortality estimates, a question was asked on whether there was any household member died within the 24 months prior to the survey. The results of the 1995 Oman Family Health Survey were published in 2000.\(^{25}\)

\(^{23}\) http://www.moh.gov.om/nv_menu.php?fNm=stat/HStatMOH.php
192. There is no detailed information on what the 2000 survey covered, however it was estimated that the total fertility rate for Oman was 4.8.  

193. Due to the incompleteness in the registration of deaths, data from civil registration and from other data sources are not always comparable.

**Availability of vital statistics**

194. Oman provided data to 9 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables). Basic tables on live births, infant deaths, foetal deaths and general deaths are available. There is no data on marriages and divorces.

195. The 2000 round of population census in Oman was conducted in 2003 and fertility and mortality topics were covered. However, no data on children ever born and children living was provided to the United Nations.

**Difficulties and future plans**

196. The civil registration system in Oman is rather new. As a result, it is influenced by the long-standing lack of awareness of the public regarding the importance of the registration. In addition, the registration system is heavily burdened by the fact that there is no exact age recording for most of the population and has to rely on age estimation. Another important limitation of the system is the incomplete health-related variables such as the cause of death. It was noted that trainings for medical doctors and coders for the cause of death variable were not sufficient. The missing information on cause of death was particular severe for deaths occurred outside of the health institutions.

197. There is a plan to raise the awareness through public campaigns on the importance of civil registration and vital statistics. It was realized that the shorter the period between the event occurs and the registration, the more accurate and reliable information is obtained. Therefore there is a need to improve the current system so that the time allowed between occurrence and registration is more appropriate. There is also a need to bring more access to the registrars, especially in the less developed area. Standardizing the terms and definition used in the registration is also needed to improve the quality of data.

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26 Table A-2: List of studies performed by MOH (Ministry of Health, Oman) for planning purpose and for action taking during the last years, available from Oman Ministry of Health website at http://www.moh.gov.om/reports/publications/ListofstudiesperformedbyMOHforplanningpurpose.pdf
Qatar

Organisation of the civil registration system

198. Civil registration system in Qatar is centralized and according to the law No. 5 and the following amendments, the Qatar National Health Authority, is the responsible agency for the registration of births and deaths. The law requires that all Qatar citizens and foreign residents should report births and deaths occurred within 1 year. The full registration started in 1982. In 2000, electronic system started to be in use, which made data sharing and the issuance of certificates much easier.

199. The National Health Authority performs the following duties: registering births and deaths; issuing birth and death certificate and burial permit; storing and archiving births and deaths records; producing and disseminating statistical report on issues such as neonatal mortality, health related indicators; and responding to internal and international data requests. The section also plays a role in the coordination activities with other relevant agencies on various issues. Those agencies include the Department of Planning and statistics (for issues related to vital statistics) and the agency on age estimation. In addition, the section is involved in many national committees that are in charge of issues such as age estimation, population census, births and deaths, annual statistical report and name changing.

200. Registration of marriages and divorces is completed under the Ministry of Justice– Sharia court for Muslims and Adlia court for non-Muslims.

201. Registered vital records are sent to the Ministry of Interior for population registration purposes. Those records are also sent to the Qatar Statistics Authority (Under the General Secretariat for Development Planning) on a monthly basis for editing, coding and further computer processing.

Technical aspects of the civil registration system

Informants

202. The informants for the occurrence of a birth and a foetal death are parents or close relatives. For deaths reporting, any family member can be the informant. Informants for marriages are grooms while for divorces are both husband and wife.

Requirements for registration

203. Documents required for registration of birth include medical certificate, presence of the child at local register, and identification card of parents. Medical
certificate and verbal or written declaration of the main informant are needed for the reporting of foetal deaths. For deaths registration, medical certificate, verbal and written declaration of the main informant, and verification by municipal authority are needed. The documents required for the registration of marriages include certification of notice of intended marriage, identification cards for bride and groom, witnesses, as well as verbal declaration of both parties. For divorces, the required documents are notification of the court or institution granting the divorce decree and marriage certificate.

Time allowed for registration and penalties for late registration

204. Time allowed for registration of births, deaths and foetal deaths is one year. There is penalty (50 Qatar Rials) for late registration and the penalty is strictly enforced. There is no legal provision regarding the time allowed for the registration of marriages and divorces.

205. There are certain incentives for people to register vital events. Once a birth is registered, the mother is entitled to have maternity leave with pay. Death certificate is necessary for insurance and inheritance claims. Provision and allocation of government housing for newly married couples and marriage allowance are offered based on marriage registration.

Coverage of the civil registration system

206. There is no assessment in the past 10 years on the coverage of the civil registration in Qatar. The coverage of births and deaths in Qatar is above 90%. Death registration coverage has improved dramatically since 1990 – only 36% of the deaths were covered and the coverage became 97% since the year 1990. The coverage of marriages and divorces registration is much lower.

Sources of vital statistics

207. Civil registration, population census and sample surveys are used to collect vital statistics. Civil registration is under the auspices of the Health Authority (for births, foetal deaths and deaths) and Ministry of Justice (for marriages and divorces). Both Health Authority and Statistics Authority publish vital statistics on a regular basis. However the tabulation is much more complete from the Statistics Authority. The Statistics Authority is responsible for population censuses and sample surveys.

208. Health Authority publishes vital statistics on the Qatar Health Report 2005. The following tabulations were published: registered live births, by month, sex and nationality; deaths by month, sex and nationality; peri-natal,
infant, child and maternal mortality rates, neonatal and post neonatal mortality rates; age-specific death rates by sex; cause-specific death rate by sex; and deaths by leading cause of death.

209. The Qatar Statistics Authority publishes vital statistics more extensively through two issues of *Vital Statistics Annual Bulletin* – one on births and deaths and the other one on marriages and divorces. In these two publications, a large number of tables are available on five vital events – live births, foetal deaths, deaths, marriages and divorces. These tables are on vital events by various characteristics of the person related to the event (either him or herself or parents). Note that births, foetal deaths and deaths in the tabulations refer only to the registered ones while marriages and divorces only cover those for Muslims. Because the coverage of the system is not well assessed, how complete these data cover is not clear.

210. The 2004 population census in Qatar asked all ever-married women to fill out their duration of marriage, number of children born alive and living during the marriage span, the sex of the children, and children born alive and living to these ever-married women in 2003 (one year before the census). A number of tabulations were made based on these questions and disseminated. Besides regular tables on ever-married women by children ever born alive and living, additional cross-classifications were also made by education level of those women and whether they are employed.

211. The latest demographic survey in Qatar was conducted in 1998 (Family Health Survey). It was conducted as part of the Gulf Family Health Project (GFHP), executed by the Executive Board of the Council of Health Ministers of GCC States. The survey was national representative, including a household health status survey, a reproductive health interview for ever-married women under 50 years of age and a child health survey for children under 5 years of age. The survey took two-stage stratified, cluster sample of 4550 households, based on the 1997 census as a sample frame. Note that the survey only covered de-jure population of Qatari nationals.

212. For fertility estimates, the survey included a number of questions addressed to women of 50 years and under. The questions included the marital status of the woman, date of first marriage, time the couple started to live together, children ever born and living and their age and sex, children born alive and died and their sex age at death, and miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion a woman ever had. For mortality estimates, a question was asked on whether there was any household member died within the 24 months prior to the survey. The results of the 1998 Family Health Survey were published in 2000.

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28 Available online at http://www.planning.gov.qa/others.htm
213. Whether these sources produce comparable results still remains to be not known.

Availability of vital statistics

214. Qatar provided data to 37 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations Demographic Yearbook and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables). Most of the data provided are rather up-to-date.

215. The latest population census in Qatar was conducted in 2004 and data on children ever born and children living are available.

Difficulties and future plans

216. The coverage of marriages and divorces registration still need to be improved. In addition, more efforts are necessary to evaluate the civil registration system against other data sources.

Saudi Arabia

History of the civil registration system

217. The civil registration in Saudi Arabia started in the 1930s. In the beginning birth certificate was issued and also contained main specific information of the person and the family of this person. In 1983, the country started to operate the civil registration system using the national 10-digit personal IDs. Vital events registered were used to update the population registry. All Saudi nationals were registered in the system and foreign nationals were only registered on an individual basis. This system is currently being amended.

Organisation of the civil registration system

218. Civil registration system in Saudi Arabia is administered by the Department of Civil Status (under the Ministry of Interior). However actual registration of births and deaths is conducted by the Ministry of Health and the registration of marriages and divorces is done by the Ministry of Justice. The registered information is sent to the Department of Civil Status (under the Ministry of Interior) to update the information in the population registry. The Department of Civil Status has 2000 employees in 84 offices within the country.

219. Government hospitals are assigned to be the official site for reporting of deaths in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whether these deaths reported from inside or outside of these hospitals. 218 Ministry of Health hospitals are distributed in different regions. Mortality data is sent in a form which is compatible with the format of recording of deaths recommended by WHO. In
most cases, these forms are accompanied by the admission and discharge forms of the patients from the hospitals to be used if there is any missing information on the mortality form. The Statistics Department within Ministry of Health is responsible for validating data on the death form by comparing with the admission and discharge forms issued by the hospital. The form is then coded after validation process. The cause of death is coded according to the ICD10 classifications. 29

Sources of vital statistics

220. Civil registration, population census and sample surveys are the sources of vital statistics. Civil registration system is the responsibility of Department of Civil Status while population censuses and sample surveys are conducted by Central Department of Statistics and Information.

221. There are two publications that are available online: Health Statistical Yearbook and the Mortality Yearbook. The former publishes one indicator on fertility – TFR, while both publications have tabulations on mortality. Basic mortality tables such as deaths by sex, age, nationality, major civil divisions, cause of deaths and place of deaths are published. Tables on peri-natal mortality, infant mortality, child mortality and maternal mortality are also available. Note that these two publications are compiled by the Ministry of Health. There is no information whether the Ministry of Interior compiles any statistics from civil registration.

222. The most recent population census was conducted in 2004 and questions on fertility and mortality included children ever born and births and deaths occurred 12 months before the census. The population census is de-facto based although all detailed tables are provided only for Saudi citizens.

223. Demographic survey is also a source for vital statistics in Saudi Arabia. The most recent demographic survey was conducted in 2007 and topics covered in the survey included fertility, mortality, basic characteristics of population and housing conditions30.

224. A Family Health Survey was conducted in 1996, as part of the Gulf Family Health Project (GFHP), executed by the Executive Board of the Council of Health Ministers of GCC States. The survey was national representative, including a household health status survey, a reproductive health interview for ever-married women under 50 years of age and a child health survey for children under 5 years of age. The survey took two-stage stratified, cluster sample of 10510

29 Mortality Yearbook 2005, published by the Ministry of Health
30 More details are available online at http://www.mep.gov.sa/
households, based on the 1992 census as a sample frame. Note that the survey only covered de-jure population of Saudi nationals.

225. For fertility estimates, the survey included a number of questions addressed to women of 50 years and under. The questions included the marital status of the woman, date of first marriage, time the couple started to live together, children ever born and living and their age and sex, children born alive and died and their sex age at death, and miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion a woman ever had. For mortality estimates, a question was asked on whether there was any household member died within the 24 months prior to the survey. The results of the 1996 Family Health Survey were published in 2000.31

Availability of vital statistics

226. Saudi Arabia provided data to 11 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations Demographic Yearbook and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables). Most of the data provided are rather up-to-date. There is no data provided on foetal deaths.

227. The latest population census in Saudi Arabia was conducted in 2004 and fertility and mortality topics were covered. The Demographic Yearbook data collection has data on children ever born for the country but not the data on children living.

Difficulties and future plans

228. The challenges that the civil registration system currently faces are (1) there is a need to re-engineer the procedures of system so it is more efficient; (2) there is a need to take quality control measures and to improve qualities of the information collected; (3) small offices are needed to handle the work load brought by moving everything online; and (4) more effort is needed to speed up the process of e-government, telecommunication so better services can be provided to the population.

229. Most recently the Department started to outsource the part related to technology and computer networks to private companies. It was hoped that the population registry would be more complete as more and more people start to use the system and feel the urge to update their information in the register.

31 Saudi Arabia family health survey, Tawfik A. Khoja, Samir M. Farid et al, 2000
Syrian Arab Republic

History and legal framework for the civil registration system

230. Civil registration started in 1914 in Syria during the rule of the Ottoman Empire. In August 1914, the first law to regulate civil registration in the Ottoman State was issued, which provided for the continuation of the registration of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, changes of residence, corrections to records and so forth to the existing records of a census undertaken in 1904. This law also included regulations and organizational procedures for civil registration, how to organize the civil register and the data it contains, measures for preparing certificates of birth and death and notification of marriages and divorces and for recording vital events taking place abroad, recording a transfer of residence, and recording of official reports on the discovery of foundlings. It also provided for deterrent penalties for violations related to civil status, especially for crimes of forgery, failing to register, failing to report a change of address, penalties to employees who fail to register an event on time, etc.

231. After the detachment from the Ottoman rule, a comprehensive population census was carried out in 1921. Data were collected on a house to house basis and verified. After all the information was put down in the records, three copies were made of each kind of record. Private individuals were permitted to verify the data in the copy given to the elder in the family. After the work of the census-taking was finished and the records were closed, a population law was issued in 1923. It was the first civil registration law in the country that laid down the procedures to be followed in registering the vital events of birth, death, marriage and divorce; in correcting records, in recording a place of residence, in obtaining identity cards, and in punitive measures arising from civil status violations and crimes against the records and files.

232. Subsequent decrees passed in April 1926 and 1931 provided more specifications to handle the population records in each municipality, gave alternate informants for registration of births, provided guidance for handling special cases of births and deaths occurring in hospitals and other institutions, etc. However, the Civil Status Code No. 376 of 1957 was passed and cancelled all prior decrees. This code is still extant, although it has been amended numerous times in the past years, it has firmly established some bases and procedures which serve as a foundation for the legal and administrative framework of the present civil registration system.

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233. The registration of birth, death, marriage and divorce and provision of all related documents are the responsibility of the Civil Registration Office of the Ministry of the Interior. Registration Offices were distributed throughout the country and were provided with registration files for the recording of births, deaths, marriages and divorces in the town and the villages of the jurisdiction. From then on, towns have sent to the Ministry of Interior the information on the four types of vital events.

**Organisation of the civil registration system**

234. Currently, the Civil Registration Authority (Under the Ministry of Interior) in Syria has the responsibility for registration of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, naturalizations, corrections to the records, issuing of ID cards building and maintaining a database for civil registration, and producing vital statistics and population statistics. Syrian Embassies and consulates gather this information for Syrian citizens who are temporarily abroad. A copy of each record is sent to the Civil Registration Authority in Damascus, from where it is sent to the registrar in the place where the individual’s record is kept.

235. For non-citizens, the civil registration office also needs to send a copy of the registration record to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For vital events happened abroad, the law requires that notifications have to be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In reality, however, this is rarely done.

236. Currently there are 14 offices in Governorate capitals, 48 muntaqa offices, 166 nahiya offices and 34 new nahiya offices. All the registration offices follow the same procedures and use the same forms for the records, certificates, documents and the data that are related to their work in receiving and recording vital events.

**Technical aspects of the civil registration system**

*Informants*

237. Registration is organized on the basis of the family unit, the cell of the society. Citizens must register themselves in the civil register and must obtain an identity card which is to be carried at all times. They also had to obtain a passport to be used in their personal dealings with governmental departments. The father is responsible for registering a birth, the elder (*mukhtaar*) of the family for registering a death, the husband is responsible for registering a marriage or divorce.

238. Various documents are needed for registration, in addition to a witness who is above 18 years of age.

*Characteristics of vital events collected*
The information that is collected in the registrar is the date of birth (of the child), religion, and parents’ information. Note that religion is collected and stored in the system but not reflected on the ID card.

**Time allowed for registration and penalties for late registration**

240. For citizens, the family is responsible for the declaration and reporting of the vital events occurred in the family within 30 days if the event happened in the country, 60 days if abroad. For non-citizens, the civil registration office also needs to send a copy of the registration record to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For vital events happened abroad, the law requires that the events have to be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In reality, however, this is rarely done.

241. There are penalties imposed for late registration – if birth is registered after 30 days of it occurred but before 1 year, the penalty is 500 Syria Pound (SYP); the penalty grows to 2000 SYP if register after one year, 4000 SYP if register after 4 years of age.

**Data confidentiality**

242. The importance of data confidentiality is fully understood and respected. There is mutual agreement between the civil registration office and statistical office for data sharing. Other agencies do not have access to data without special approval from the civil registration office.

**Coverage of the civil registration system**

243. The coverage of births registration is at 98% while the coverage for the death registration is only at 75%.

**Source of vital statistics**

244. The Central Authority for Civil Registration produces vital statistics and the population structure by sex and age from this system, for the country and its administrative divisions. Vital statistics collected from civil registration are made available to UNSD including the births and deaths by sex; births and deaths by month of occurrence; total marriages and divorces and marriages by month of occurrence. Other detailed tabulations on vital events are not available and there is no information on infant deaths.

245. The most recent population census was conducted in 2004, questions on duration of first marriage, children ever born and living to ever married women, births occurred in the last 12 months and household deaths in the last 12 months were included in the questionnaire.
246. The most recent two surveys were MICS III conducted in 2006 and PARFAM (Family Health survey) in 2001. Those two surveys were single-round and used random sampling technique. Those surveys are for multiple purposes and covered topics on employment and unemployment, education, child labor, health and immunization and maternal mortality.

Availability of vital statistics

247. Syria provided data to 9 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations Demographic Yearbook and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables). Most of the data provided are rather up-to-date. Data on infant deaths and foetal deaths are not available.

248. The latest population census in Syria was conducted in 2004 and fertility and mortality topics were covered. However, no data on children ever born and children living were provided to the Demographic Yearbook.

Difficulties and future plans

249. Currently the registration is done manually and computerizing the entire system is an ongoing project, in collaboration with UNFPA. The project is going to be completed by the end of 2007.

250. One important aspect that Syria needs help is on the techniques that can be used to evaluate data more frequently. After the 1994 census, a decline of population growth was observed and after careful checking and cross-checking it was found out that the registration records had major flaws and needed to be corrected.

United Arab Emirates

Organisation of the civil registration system

251. The Department of Preventive Medicine under the Ministry of Health is responsible for the registration of births and deaths. The registration of marriages and divorces is covered by the state courts under the Ministry of Justice.

252. Both births and deaths are to be reported to the nearest health center and the information will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health for registration and for entering into a database. The information extracted from this database is then passed on to the Central Statistics Department (Ministry of Economy) for statistical purposes.
253. The registration of marriage and divorce goes through state courts formally and the courts provide the completed registration forms to the Central Statistics Department for compilation and analysis.

Technical aspects of the civil registration system

Characteristics of vital events collected

254. The information collected on the birth reporting form includes sex of the child, the citizenship and the month of birth. The characteristics such as age, citizenship and occupation of the parents are also included on the form. For death reporting, the age, sex and occupation of the deceased, the month death occurred, and the cause of death are included. Both births and deaths should be reported to the nearest health center and the information will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health for registration. Central Statistical office then compiles, analyses and disseminates the statistics.

255. For marriages, the information collected on the statistical reporting form includes the citizenship, place of residence, education attainment, religion, occupation, number of spouses or ex-wives and previous marital status. Citizenship, place of residence, agreement from the spouse, number of children involved, education attainment, occupation, duration of marriage and reason(s) for the divorce are collected when registering divorces.

Coverage of the civil registration system

256. There is no formal assessment on the coverage of civil registration system. However, it was believed by the country representative that the coverage is complete (above 90%).

Sources of vital statistics

257. The sources for vital statistics in the country are civil registration, population census and sample surveys. Civil registration is the responsibility of Ministry of Health (for births and deaths) and Ministry of Justice (for marriages and divorces) while the compilation and dissemination of data is done by the Central Statistical Department. Population censuses and sample surveys are conducted by the Central Statistical Department under the Ministry of Economy.

258. Vital statistics collected through the civil registration system in UAE are published on the Statistical Abstract33. The most recent 2005 issue published

tables on births by sex and Emirate (major civil division), registered deaths by
sex and Emirate, registered deaths by age and sex, registered deaths by major
groups of cause of death and sex and marriages and divorces by Emirate. All
tabulations also broke down by nationality.

259. The Central Statistics Office conducts censuses and sample surveys. The
latest population census was conducted in 2005 and the topic on fertility and
mortality was not covered.

260. The latest demographic survey in the United Arab Emirates was
conducted in 1995 (Family Health Survey). It was conducted as part of the Gulf
Family Health Project (GFHP), executed by the Executive Board of the Council of
Health Ministers of GCC States. The survey was national representative,
including a household health status survey, a reproductive health interview for
ever-married women under 50 years of age and a child health survey for children
under 5 years of age. The survey consisted of 5822 households. Note that the
survey only covered de-jure population of nationals of the country.

261. For fertility estimates, the survey included a number of questions
addressed to women of 50 years and under. The questions included the marital
status of the woman, date of first marriage, time the couple started to live
together, children ever born and living and their age and sex, children born alive
and died and their sex age at death, and miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion a
woman ever had. For mortality estimates, a question was asked on whether there
was any household member died within the 24 months prior to the survey. The
results of the 1995 Family Health Survey were published in 2000.34

262. There is no information whether any more recent sample surveys have
been conducted in the country to obtain vital statistics.

Availability of vital statistics

263. The United Arab Emirates provided data to 10 tables out of 41 vital
statistics tables requested by the United Nations Demographic Yearbook and
relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for
the complete list of the tables). No data on foetal deaths are available.

264. The 2000 round of population census in the country was conducted in
1995 but the census questionnaire is not available hence there is no information
whether fertility and mortality topics were covered in the census.

Difficulties and future plans

The presentation did not outline the difficulties encountered and future plans for the civil registration system. However, a population register is being implemented until 2008. The population register will assign a unique identification card to all citizens in the country and for each person the basic characteristics are stored in the system. An ID card will also be issued and the same card could be used as a driver’s license, healthcare card and passport.

Yemen

Historical background of the civil registration system

In the 1980s and 1990s, UNFPA and UNDP formulated a number of projects to assist the Government of Yemen to improve its registration. Although the amounts allocated were not sufficient to assist the government to establish a full fledged system, they were planned to help the government to carry out registration on a pilot scheme in demonstration areas that can be expanded to cover the whole country on a gradual basis. The last project YEM/92/P02-Strengthening and Computerization of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System in Pilot Areas - was implemented during the period 1992-1999. The project aimed at establishing registration in six pilot areas, three of which were planned to be in rural areas. The project was formulated to achieve full registration in the pilot areas, to computerize its activities and to produce statistics from the six demonstration areas. Generally speaking, the United Nations projects managed to achieve the following activities:

- Establishment of legal basis for the system after unification (1991 Law)
- Design of the vital events forms and content
- Establishment of procedures for registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorces
- Initial steps for computerization of the system of civil registration system

Although the project partially achieved its immediate objectives, it was not successful to produce reliable statistics from these areas.

Organisation of the civil registration system

The civil registration system in Yemen is centralized and all vital events are registered by the Department of Civil Status (Ministry of Interior). The Ministry has supervisory functions over registration affairs, provides guidance and budget to all registration centers, major and minor, dealing with the registration of births, deaths, marriages, divorces; population registration;

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change of name and change of residence. Local offices are also affiliated to the Ministry of Interior.

268. The actual registration of births and deaths is completed at the Ministry of Health when events occur, while the registration of marriages and divorces is done by the Ministry of Justice. Registered information is then delivered to the Department of Civil Status for processing.

269. There are 23 regional registration offices in Yemen and those 23 offices have direct linkage with central office and the data are processed at the central office.

Technical aspects of the civil registration system

Coverage of the civil registration system

270. Apparently there is no sufficient awareness of the importance of civil registration in the public. People come to register a vital event only when it is absolutely necessary (for school or for other documents). As a result the registration coverage is incomplete. Especially for the remote areas in the country.

271. An assessment on the completeness of the civil registration system was done in 2003 by comparing statistics obtained from civil registration with those obtained from census and surveys. The results of the study showed that the coverage was 39.2% for birth and 13.2% for deaths. Among all the reasons, lack of coordination among different government agencies, inadequate awareness in the public and officials handling civil registration, and lack of human resources contribute most to the low coverage of the civil registration system. High illiteracy rate in the population as well as high percentage of birth delivery outside of the hospital (70%) also contribute to the low coverage of the births and deaths registration.

Sources of vital statistics

272. Sources for vital statistics in Yemen are population censuses and sample surveys (10% household survey) and civil registration system. Central Statistical Office (under the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation) conducts censuses and surveys in the country while the Department of Civil Status under the Ministry of Interior is responsible for the civil registration system. Data collected from the Ministry of Interior are provided to the Central Statistical Office for dissemination through the Statistics Yearbook.
273. The following tabulations are disseminated in the *Yemen Statistics Yearbook*\(^{36}\): registered births and deaths by sex and governorate, registered deaths by month, sex and governorate and marriages and divorces by governorate. A number of indicators such as infant mortality rate, crude deaths rate, life expectancy at birth, TFR, GFR, CBR and MCEB are also produced and disseminated in the Statistics Yearbook. However it is not clear whether those indicators were adjusted for the under-coverage of the civil registration.

274. The 2004 Yemen census also collected data on fertility and mortality. The questions included age at first marriage, duration of marriage, number of children ever born and living to ever-married women, and the number of children born and living within the year before the census. Indicators such as CBR, TFR, GFR, life expectancy and infant mortality rate were obtained. Census results were published in 2006.

275. The two most recent sample surveys that have used to collect fertility and mortality statistics are the Demographic Health Survey (1997) and Family Health Survey (2003). The former was administered by the Central Statistical Office, in collaboration with the ORC Macro. The 2003 survey was conducted jointly by the Statistical Office and Ministry of Public Health, as part of the Pan Arab Project for Family Health.

276. The following demographic methods were used in the survey: reconstructed birth history, children ever born and surviving, recent household deaths, survival of parents, survival of siblings and birth history. Fertility and mortality statistics obtained from these surveys included CBR, TFR, GFR, life expectancy, infant mortality rate and mean number of children ever born. Survey results were published within 1 year after the survey was conducted\(^{37}\). Unfortunately the estimates obtained were not evaluated.

277. It was noted that there were inconsistencies among data generated from different sources and the main reason for the discrepancy is the under-coverage of the civil registration system.

**Availability of vital statistics**

278. Yemen provided data to 11 tables out of 41 vital statistics tables requested by the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* and relevant to the region, for the 10-year period of 1997-2006 (Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of the tables).

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\(^{37}\) The results of the 1997 Yemen Demographic Health Survey are available at [http://www.measuredhs.com/countries/metadata.cfm?surv_id=103&ctry_id=46&SrvyTp=ctry](http://www.measuredhs.com/countries/metadata.cfm?surv_id=103&ctry_id=46&SrvyTp=ctry); Indicators derived from the 2003 Family Health Survey is available at [http://www.papfam.org/papfam/summery.htm](http://www.papfam.org/papfam/summery.htm)
Basic tables on live births, deaths, marriages and divorces are available. Data on infant and foetal deaths are not compiled.

279. The 2000 round of population census in Yemen was conducted in 2004 and data on children ever born and children living are provided to the Demographic Yearbook.

**Difficulties and future plans**

280. The major obstacles that Yemen faces in its effort to improve the civil registration system are (1) inadequate legal provisions on civil registration; (2) lack of awareness of the public on the importance of the civil registration; (3) inefficient administrative work; (4) lack of or absence of coordination within each agency and among different agencies; (5) lack of expertise in qualitative and quantitative analysis; (6) lack of a clear delineation of the responsibilities for different agencies; and (7) a large number of inhabitant island which make the registration very difficult (185 islands).

281. The current plan for Yemen to improve the civil registration system is to amend the current legislation; improve the coordination among different agencies; build technical capacities through training and international assistance; make services easily available to the public so people are more familiar with the system; and conduct national campaigns on the importance of civil registration. Yemen is also building a population registrar which will assign each person a unique identification number and the civil registration system will be used to update the population registrar. The new population registrar will issue certificate and ID cards to the public. The Central Statistical Office is currently working on a new strategy to register international migrants living in Yemen and Yemen citizens living abroad.
### Annex 1. Organization of civil registration and vital statistics systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Civil registration administration</th>
<th>Vital statistics dissemination agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Birth and Death registration Office - for births, foetal deaths and deaths Ministry of Health</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shariti’a Court (for Muslims) or High Civil Court (for non-Muslims) - for marriages and divorces</td>
<td>AND Central Informatics Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Department of Civil Status Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Ministry of Health – for births and deaths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Department of Civil Status and Passport Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>Department of Statistics Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>General Directorate of Civil Affairs Ministry of Interior and Municipalities</td>
<td>General Directorate of Civil Affairs Ministry of Interior and Municipalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
<td>Department of Civil Registration Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>Department of Civil Registration Ministry of Interior AND Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>Directorate General of Civil Status Royal Oman Police</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>National Health Authority - for births and deaths Sharia court (for Muslims) or Adlia court (for non-Muslims) - marriages and divorces Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>National Health Authority AND Qatar Statistics Authority General Secretariat for Development Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Department of Civil Status Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>Civil Registration Authority Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>Civil Registration Authority Ministry of Interior</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>Department of Preventive Medicine – for births and deaths Ministry of Health State courts – for marriages and divorces Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>Central Statistics Department Ministry of Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>Department of Civil Status Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>Central Statistical Office Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Annex 2. Data reported to Demographic Yearbook vital statistics tables for the period of 1997-2006; among those that reported, latest available year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of tables</th>
<th>Bahrain</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
<th>Iraq</th>
<th>Jordan</th>
<th>Lebanon</th>
<th>Occupied Palestinian Territory</th>
<th>Oman</th>
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<th>Saudi Arabia</th>
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<td>Live births</td>
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<td>Live births by age of father</td>
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<td>Live births by birth order</td>
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<td>Live births by birth order and age of mother</td>
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<td>Live births by duration of marriage</td>
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<td>Live births by birth weight</td>
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<td>Live births by gestational age</td>
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<td>Late foetal deaths by age of mother</td>
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<td>Foetal deaths by gestational age</td>
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<td>Divorces by age of husband and wife</td>
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<td>Divorces by duration of marriage and age of husband and wife</td>
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Annex 3. Vital events registration forms used in various countries

Bahrain

Computer screen of birth registration:
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<thead>
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<th>Screen 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFORMATION RELATED TO THE MOTHER</td>
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<tr>
<td>36. C.P.R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. E.Name3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] A.Name2 4A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] A.Name4 4A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] A.Religion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screen 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFORMATION RELATED TO THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF DELIVERY</td>
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<tr>
<td>67. E.Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69. Title</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screen 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70. E.Remark1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71. E.Remark2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72. E.Remark3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Information Related to the Place of Delivery (Abroad & Home Delivery) |
| Screen 5 |
| 76. Country (Abroad Delivery) |
| 77. Remark |

Confirmed by (1) CPR (2) Passport (3) Other 79 Father [ ] 80. Mother [ ] 81. Court Flag (Y/N) [ ]
# Computer screen of death registration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Deceased CPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Registration No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Registration Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>A.Name1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>A.Name2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>A.Name3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>A.Name4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>A.Name5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>E.Name1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>E.Name2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>E.Name3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nationality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>H. C. Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Date of Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Death Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Place of Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Remarks (Abroad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Tel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Enter Field No. or cmd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enter Field No. or cmd.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Deceased CPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Registration No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Registration Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Source of Notification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Confirmed by (1) CPR (2) Passport (3) Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Immediate Cause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>(b) Condition leading to above Cause, if any</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>(c) Underlying Cause(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Other significant conditions contributing to the death, but not related to 1 (b) or 1 (c)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enter Field No. or cmd.:
DEATH NOTIFICATION FORM

01 Deceased CPR [ ]
02 Registration No. [ ]
03 Registration Date [ ]

PARTICULARS OF THE INFORMANT

41 CPR [ ] (If the CPR is Zero, specify passport # in remarks)
42 A.Name [ ]
43 B.Name [ ]
44 Sex [ ]
45 Relationship to deceased [ ]

46 A.Remarks[1] [ ]
47 A.Remarks[2] [ ]
48 B.Remarks[3] [ ]
49 B.Remarks[4] [ ]
50 E.Remarks[5] [ ]
51 E.Remarks[6] [ ]
52 E.Remarks[7] [ ]
53 E.Remarks[8] [ ]
54 D.D.Birth [ ]
55 Verification done (Y/N) [ ]
56 Record Type [ ]

Enter Field No. or cmd. :

END
Egypt

Birth declaration form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the newborn</th>
<th>Date of birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of mother</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of father</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Place of birth:

Province:

Name of hospital:

Date of birth:

Sex:

National ID:

Mother's ID:

Father's ID:

Note: This form is to be completed by the parents of the newborn in Egypt and submitted to the health department for registration. It includes personal information of the newborn, mother, and father, as well as details about the birth, such as the place and date of birth, and the sex of the newborn.
# Death declaration form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Фамилия, имя, отчество</th>
<th>Личность, место рождения</th>
<th>Дата смерти</th>
<th>(\text{Номер документа} )</th>
<th>Фамилия, имя, отчество</th>
<th>Личность, место рождения</th>
<th>Дата смерти</th>
<th>(\text{Номер документа} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Абдул-Гафар Абдул-Рахман</td>
<td>Уругвай, Монтевидео</td>
<td>12.03.2023</td>
<td>000123456789</td>
<td>Абдул-Рахман Насер</td>
<td>Ирак, Багдад</td>
<td>03.03.2023</td>
<td>123456789012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Заполните следующие поля:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Поля</th>
<th>Наполнение</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Фамилия, имя, отчество</td>
<td>Фамилия, имя, отчество</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Личность, место рождения</td>
<td>Личность, место рождения</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Дата смерти</td>
<td>Дата смерти</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\text{Номер документа} )</td>
<td>(\text{Номер документа} )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**После заполнения формы:**

1. Подпишите документ.
2. Под-clearance章.
3. Отправьте документ в соответствующий орган.

---

**Важно:** Всегда проверяйте правильность введенной информации перед отправкой документа.
Stillbirth (more than 6-month pregnant) declaration form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the deceased</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date of Birth: ____________________________

Place of Birth: ____________________________

Father's Name: ____________________________

Mother's Name: ____________________________

Birth Certificate No.: ____________________

Place of Death: ____________________________

Date of Death: ____________________________

Cause of Death: ____________________________

Witness: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________
الزوجة/ (بنفسها/ يوسف عنها): 

الجنسية: inflammation.
تاريخ الولادة: / / محل الميلاد: 
عنوان العمل: 
رقم البطاقة: 
وتابع ملحوظة: 
رقم مدنى: 
الجنسية: 
الرقم القومي: 
العوان الذي ترغب الزوجة في توجيه إعلاناتها إليه في: مدينة/ قرية: 
حلي/ شبيهات: 

على القيام الزوجية: 
من تاريخ: / / موجب: 
وعلى صدارته/ قدره: 
الحال منه: 
الزواج منه: باذن بيعة الزوج لم يكن حليه شرعًا .

وقد صار هذا التحصين بحضور المصادقين بعد التفاهم من خروقا من جميع المراحل الشرعية والقانونية وتحريضهما 
التعريف القانوني: وإن الزوجين يبلغان السن القانونية وقت العقد من واقع 
الشروط الخاصة: 

والإجراءات الخاصة: 

ورغم ذلك كله بشاعة كل من: 

الجنسية: 
تاريخ الولادة: 
محل الميلاد: 
тел. العمل: 
الرقم القومي: 
صادر من: 
تاريخ: / / الجنسية: 
محل الميلاد: 
الطابق الشخصي: 
بوجب: 

ورغم ذلك كله بشاعة كل من: 

الجنسية: 
تاريخ الولادة: 
محل الميلاد: 
الرقم القومي: 
صادر من: 
تاريخ: / / الجنسية: 
محل الميلاد: 
الطابق الشخصي: 
بوجب: 

ورغم ذلك كله بشاعة كل من: 

الزوجة/ وكيلها: 
المواد: 
1. - 
2. - 

(1) يكتظ الصفحات جميع الحالات منه وذكر بالألقاب والتعريفة.
(2) يجوز للزوجين دفع أية أموال وشرط أن يكون الاتفاق على أمر يصبح خاطئًا أو يصبح سلالة.
List of divorces with information on divorcees
Jordan

Birth registration form
Death registration form
Marriage registration form
Divorce registration form
Oman

Birth certificate
Death certificate
Qatar

# Notification of foetal death (2003)

## State of Qatar
Ministry of Public Health
Central Statistical Organization

### Baby's Details
- **Registration No.**
- **Date of Birth**
- **Gestational Age**
- **Delivery:** Twin [ ]  Single [ ]

### Father's Details
- **Age**
- **Name**
- **Occupation**
- **Nationality**
- **Educational Qualifications**

### Mother's Details
- **Age**
- **Name**
- **Occupation**
- **Nationality**
- **Educational Qualifications**

### Cause of Death
1. Main disease or condition in Foetus
2. Main maternal disease or condition

### Medical Officer

### Date

---

88
Notification of Death (2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Office / Guter Consulate in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DECEASED PARTICULARS:**

- Family Name:  
- Father's Name:  
- Mother's Name:  
- Name of the deceased:  
- Sex:  
- Nationality:  
- Occupation:  
- Religion:  
- Marital Status:  
- Date of Birth:  
- Age:  
- Place of Death:  
- Date of Death:  
- Time of Death:  
- Cause of Death:  
- Death Certificate No.:  

**INFORMANT'S PARTICULARS:**

- Family Name:  
- Father's Name:  
- Mother's Name:  
- Name of the informant:  
- Address:  
- Relationship:  
- Passport Number:  
- Occupation:  
- Nationality:  
- Religion:  
- Place of Residence:  
- Telephone No.:  

I certify that the particulars given above by me are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of informant:  

---

**Cause of Death**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease or condition directly leading to death**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antecedent causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause, stating the underlying condition last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other significant conditions contributing to the death, but not related to the disease of condition causing it</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Medical Officer**  
Signature  
(Date)

---

The notification has been received with full details and registered in the Deaths and Foetal Deaths Register at Health Office Guter Consulate in

Date  
No.  
Medical Officer Consul  
Signature of Registrar

---

*This does not mean the mode of dying, e.g., heart failure, asthma, etc. it means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.*

---

9815363/84  
Copy 1: Medical Record, Copy 2: Preventive Health, Copy 3: Central Statistical Org., Copy 4: Family of Patient
Marriage form (2005)
Divorce form (2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Petitioner</th>
<th>Name of Respondent</th>
<th>Residence of Petitioner</th>
<th>Residence of Respondent</th>
<th>Date of Marriage</th>
<th>Reason for Divorce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instructions for filling the form:

1. Fill in all fields accurately.
2. Sign and date the form.
3. Submit the completed form to the court.
United Arab Emirates

Birth notification:
Notification of death:
Questionnaire on marriage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>مسند الرخصة</th>
<th>اسم الرخصة</th>
<th>المصروف</th>
<th>الأجل الزمني</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The questionnaire includes questions about the marriage status, occupation, place of residence, and other details.

The questionnaire is printed in both Arabic and English, with the English version at the top and the Arabic version below it.
# Questionnaire on divorce:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Divorce</th>
<th>Reason for Divorce</th>
<th>Gender of the divorced person</th>
<th>Division of Custody</th>
<th>Division of Property</th>
<th>Name of the judge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This is a sample of the questionnaire used by the Department of Islamic Affairs to record divorce cases.
Yemen
Birth registration form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
<th>Column 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Father's Name</td>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This form is used for registering a child's birth in Yemen. It includes personal information such as name, date of birth, gender, and address. The form is filled out in Arabic and English and is used by the Ministry of Population and Family Development.
Death registration form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of Death</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause of Death</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration Number: 03001

Date: 03/01/14 (in Hijri)

Ministry of Health / Ministry of Interior / General Administration of Population and Civil Registration

Name of the Health Officer: [Signature]
Divorce registration form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the application</th>
<th>Name of the applicant</th>
<th>Name of the applicant</th>
<th>Name of the applicant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of birth</td>
<td>Father's name</td>
<td>Mother's name</td>
<td>Date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of birth</td>
<td>Father's place of birth</td>
<td>Mother's place of birth</td>
<td>Place of birth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement: "I solemnly declare that the above information is true and accurate.

Name: ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________
Date: ____________________________