SESSION 9. DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE LOCAL REGISTRAR

UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION

Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3 for Central American and Caribbean countries

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Introduction

- **Designation of responsibilities for local registrar**
  
a) *Principles and Recommendations*, para 325-339  

- **Local registration units**
  
a) *Principles and Recommendations*, para 340-348  
Local registrar

- An official authorized by law to
  - Register the occurrence of vital events
  - Represent the legal authority if the government
  - Responsible for maintaining relationship with the community

- Conditions
  - Employed full-time
  - Civil service status and benefits
  - Appropriate remuneration

- Special consideration
  - Enjoy recognition and standing in the communities they serve
  - Remain informed on the community's concerns and developments
  - Establish continuous relationship with personnel in hospitals, clinics, health centers, funeral institutions, religious establishments, court clerks …
Local registrar’s responsibilities

- Recording specific information regarding vital events
- Ensuring compliance with registration laws and regulations
- Ensuring the accuracy and completeness of each record
- Ensuring the confidentiality of each record
- Taking custody of the records
- Ensuring the completion of statistical report
- Issuing certificates or copies of vital records
- Providing customer service
- In the case of death registration, ensuring that the certification of the cause of death is part of the documentation
- Informing the public of the importance of civil registration and vital statistics
Local registrar’s responsibilities - continued

- Depending on the geographical features and size of the area covered, making regular rounds within the jurisdiction
- Publicity
- Knowledge of local customs and languages
- Active role
- Understanding of the process of producing vital statistics
- Ability to explain the registration process and its importance and consequence in a colloquial manner
- Maintaining easily accessible office and regular working hours
Local registrar’s responsibilities - continued

- **Within the provision of the law, the registrar is subjected to penalties if he/she**
  - Fails to register a vital event or its characteristics, as reported by the informant
  - Loses, damages or alters any registered records or permits such loss, damage or alteration to occur
  - Fails to provide registrants with adequate protection of privacy and confidentiality
  - Has been found guilty of violating the provisions of the civil registration law or its rules and regulations
  - Fails to fill out and submit statistical documentation
Local registration unit

- Primary registration unit is a well-delineated part of territory of a country that is entrusted to a local civil registrar for the recording of vital events occurring therein
  - Jurisdictional territory of one registrar
  - Adequate size
  - Managed by one registrar
  - Boundaries should coincide with those of a minor civil division
  - Adjustment might be needed
  - Easily accessible and well-marked
  - Open during regular working hours
Therefore, determination on the number and location of local registration unit needs to take into account:

- Population size
- Staff resources
- Material resources
- Accessibility, including transportation facilities, climate
- Literacy of the population
- Complexity of the registration procedure
Secondary registration unit

- At selected locations with frequent vital events within the primary registration unit
- Hospitals, health centers
- Clear delineation of boundaries
Local registration unit - continued

- **Mobile registration unit**
  - In areas where the population density is too low to establish a permanent unit
  - Or not accessible year–round
  - Mobile unit
  - Publicized and regular schedules
  - Staying long enough
Concluding remarks on local registrars and units

- Local registrar – a building block of the whole system
- Civil servant
- Well versed in registration law and procedures
- Trained and equipped
- High standards of responsibility
- Well versed in local circumstances, customs and language
- Registration unit – must be easily recognizable and efficient