



# Practice and challenges of implementing vital event registration: the case of selected Woreda of Wolaita zone, Ethiopia

Tadele Tesfaye Labiso

Wolaita Sodo University, College of Social Science and Humanities, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Ethiopia

\*Corresponding author E-mail: [tadetesfa91@gmail.com](mailto:tadetesfa91@gmail.com)

---

## Article info

Received 11/11/2022; received in revised form 20/12/2022; accepted 30/12/2022

DOI: [10.6092/issn.2281-4485/15771](https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2281-4485/15771)

© 2022 The Authors.

## Abstract

A vital events registration system is comprehensive, continuous, compulsory and the main source of vital statistics. This study aimed at investigating the practices and challenges of implementing vital events registration system in the selected Woredas of Wolayta zone, Ethiopia. The study employed mixed research method and descriptive research design on the practices and challenges of VRS among communities and government of the nation. Both primary and secondary sources of data would be used. To make the sample area manageable and representative, four Woreda were included through purposive sampling method. The sample size of the respondents for each site would be determined by non-probability and proportional sampling technique and in each site. Quantitative data was processed, cleaned and analyzed using SPSS version 21.0 and Binary Logistic Regression analysis would be used to fit a model and to check independent effect of selected exposure variables by using Adjusted Odds Ratio (Forward Stepwise Procedure) at 95% Confidence Interval. Lack of awareness on presence of birth registration is contributing factor for the low rate of birth registration practices. The study also confirms high prevalence of forgery cases in their working and resident area. Knowledge and attitude of respondents were eligible variables having power to affect the practice and trends of vital event registration system. Community awareness activities at all level through effective utilization of the existing community structures for sensitization of the communities, local media, and organized forums and via strong collaboration with all stakeholders should be accelerated.

## Keywords

*vital event, vital statistics, vital registration, demography*

---

## Introduction

**Background of the study.** Ethiopia is a large country with a total surface area of almost 1.1 million square kilometers. Its topographic features

range from 110 metres below sea level in the Afar Depression to the highest peak, the Ras Dashen, at 4,550 meters above sea level (CSA, 2009). The ecological zones of Ethiopia are broadly divided into five zones based on elevation, each with its

own rainfall pattern and agricultural production system: highland zones, locally identified as Wurch, Dega and Wienna Dega; and the lowlands zones also known as Kolla and Bereha, i.e semi-arid and arid areas, respectively (CSA and IFPRI, 2011).

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa, next to Nigeria, with its population estimated at about 82 million in 2011 (MoJ and CSA, 2012). The population growth rate was 3.1 percent per annum in 1984, when the first population and housing census was conducted. Since then it had declined slightly to 2.9 percent in 1994 and 2.6 percent in 2007, according to the 2nd and 3rd censuses, respectively (CSA and ORC Macro, 2012). At the current growth rate, the population is expected to double up in about 27 years.

About 85 percent of the Ethiopian population lives in rural areas, making it one of the least urbanized countries in the world (CSA, 2010). The main occupation of most of the rural sedentary population is farming. The population in the semi-arid and arid lowlands zones is predominantly pastoralist. The historical attempt to establish vital events registration system in Ethiopia started during the reign of Minilik II. In the process of vital (or civil) registration, the leading role should be played by the citizens themselves as they are the victims of the events. Unless they report the events as soon as they occur, the concerned offices cannot record them. Thus, the communities can be regarded as the most responsible agents in the vital (civil) registration systems. In fact, VERS requires a literate and civilized society which by itself is responsible and initiated to report the events without significant pressure from the officials. Ethiopia lacks these qualities as its population is dominantly uncivilized and backward. Even the practice of reporting vital events in relatively civilized areas such as those in urban, the desire to report vital events is still very low. A vital events registration system, which is comprehensive, continuous, and compulsory, is the main source of vital statistics. As mentioned above, this system did not exist in Ethiopia because the 1960 Civil Code on vital events registration was not functional. Other administrative records in the country are not well developed to be of use for statistical purpose. In the absence of an active law which made registration mandatory, the Central Statistical Agency

(CSA) resorted to collecting data on vital events through population and housing censuses and household surveys. Although in an integrated programme of data collection, these three sources should complement each other, in Ethiopia, population and housing censuses and household surveys remained to be the primary source of data on demographic, social and economic matters, and on human settlements for more than five decades.

**Statement of the problem.** Ethiopia is one of the many African countries that do not have a working CRVS system which, assist various government departments in the country to formulate programs of service and that use and to develop integrated legal and statistical population database that meets national and international standards. There is no universal, compulsory and permanent CR system in Ethiopia (Birru, 2007; Araya, 2012; Ayalew, 2008; Kamu, 2011).

Until recently, the sources of vital events information had been the population census and household surveys conducted by central statistical (CSA) and municipalities registration and issuing of certificates in major cities such as Addis Ababa, Gondor, Hawasa, Diredawa, etc. It is only since very recently that the Ethiopia government took appropriate measures to establish the modern civil registration system in the country. More specifically, the country launched it throughout the country on 4 August 2016 a permanent, compulsory and universal registration and certification of vital events including birth, death, marriage and divorce. Despite this effort of the government, the system has not yet been well established and there is no strong system of VERS (Labiso, 2021). The United Nations recommends that countries should register and collect information on the following vital events for civil registration and vital statistics purposes: birth; death; foetal death; marriage; divorce; annulment; judicial separation; adoption; legitimation (acknowledgement); and recognition (judicial declarations of paternity) (UN, 2001; p. 51). The top priority vital events to be recorded are births, marriages, divorces and deaths. Not every country records all vital events recommended by the UN, although it remains to be the eventual goal. Therefore, to facilitate the establishment of the vital events registration system, priority is assigned

assigned to the list of vital events. The 2012 law assigns an order of registration priority by selecting most of the internationally recommended vital events and by dropping some which were considered less important for the time being.

The concerned bodies at federal and regional levels such as VERA have made their own efforts to enhance the awareness of the communities on the importance of reporting vital events and have been mobilizing community members through media and other means of communication. However, the system has remained so weak and the frequency of reporting the events is still low (Kamu, 2011).

While demographic information is the fundamental driver of national development, Ethiopia relies on mainly census and to some extent survey data. These are seasonal and yield less reliable information as compared to VERS. Despite this, the practice of civil and vital events registration is either almost absent in some areas or little practices in other areas (Birru, 2007).

However, we believe that there should be empirical research to confirm this rough observation, which in principle should precede training of the community. However, we still insist on arguing that there is either very low or no awareness of the community about the VERS according to both our observation and the informal communication with the officials of the regional VERA. Based on my observations of the realities regarding the communities' level of awareness on the VERS as well as with the deep consultations of the agency, the research team understood that there has remained lack of awareness on VERS among the communities of the region. Thus, it is timely to make it a research as it needs urgent solution because information is the foundation of power and development. This inspired the researchers to focus on the present title of the research.

### **Objectives, scope and significance of the study**

**General Objective.** The overall objective of this study is to investigate the practices and challenges of implementing vital events registration system in the selected Woredas of Wolayta zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia

**Specific Objectives.** The specific objectives of the study are the following:

- to identify cultural taboos, and socio economic factors that hinder the implementation of VRS in

the study area;

- to examine practice of continuous, comprehensive, quality and harmonized vital statistics and related information.

**Scope of the study.** As we stated above, it is not effective means in terms of finance and time to cover all 'woredas' and communities in one phase of research without learning from the implementation of at least the first phase. Accordingly, four 'woredas' (i.e. Damot Gale, Damot Pullassa, Damot Woyde and Boloso Sore) were covered.

**Significance of the study.** This study has an important element, to assess the practices and challenges of vital registration system. In terms of modernity, continuous, compulsory and having international standard elements and to show multidisciplinary uses from vital registration system. Besides this after successful completion of this study proposed recommendations may have contributions to the improvement of the services in the Agency. This will provide clear information about the current state of interrelationship between VRS and development program. On the other hand, clear list of the challenges to the success of the study is expected from the study. Finally, the study may serve as a reference for the prospective research area.

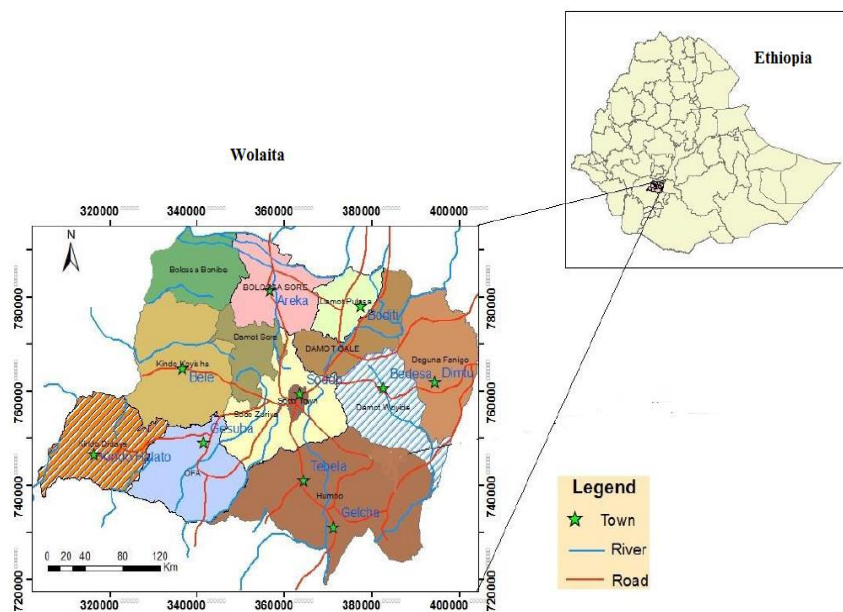
### **Materials and methods**

#### **Research Method**

In order to achieve the general and specific objectives of the study mixed research method would be employed. Quantitative data would be collected and analyzed first, followed by the collection and analysis of qualitative data, meaning that qualitative and quantitative data are not combined (mixed) in the data analysis; rather, integration takes place when the findings are interpreted (Labiso, 2020).

#### **Research design**

The research employed descriptive research design on the socio economic impacts of VRS on the communities and government of the nation. A survey would be used to validate the qualitative findings and to come up with additional numerical information on the structural basic socio-economic conditions of the communities. It would be designed in accordance with the principles of mixed



**Figure 1**  
Map of study area

methods.

**Sources of data and data gathering tools**

Both primary and secondary sources of data would be used. The primary data gathering instruments for the research comprised structured interviews, questionnaires and focus group discussion. Secondary sources of data: written documents were used or reviewed to enrich the study.

**Secondary source**

The secondary data, on the other hand, would be collected from both published and unpublished documents such as books, journals, proceedings, and relevant reports and policy documents from concerned regional and federal government offices. The reliability and validity of secondary data of the government were firmly ensured prior to using it for this study.

**Sample size and sampling technique**

To make the sample area manageable and representative, from the sixteen Woreda in the zone four woreda would be included through purposive sampling method. Based on this, Boloso Sore, Damot Gale, Damot Pullassa and Damot Woyde were selected.

The sample size of the respondents for each site was determined by non-probability and proportional sampling technique and in each site; respondents would be selected by simple random and availability sampling technique.

Thus, based on the formula suggested by Yemane

(1976), 381 sample households were determined. The formula and the calculation are given as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N \times (e)^2} \quad [1]$$

where, n is sample size; N is total population size, and e =level of precision (i.e. 0.05).

$$n = \frac{8128}{1 + 8128 \times (0.05)^2} = \frac{8128}{21.32} = 381 \quad [2]$$

**Method of data analysis and interpretation**

The collected quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, such as percentages, minimum, maximum and mean, and thus used to support the qualitative analysis. The qualitative data would be organized into different themes based on the pre-coded characteristics and attributes and then analyzed qualitatively. Qualitative data collected from the focus group discussions and the key informants’ interviews were transcribed from the tape recordings into electronic and print forms. Document review was made carefully through categorization and detail analysis. Quantitative data processing, cleaning and analysis would be completed using SPSS version 21.0. Binary Logistic Regression analysis would be used to fit a model and to check independent effect of selected exposure variables by using Adjusted Odds Ratio

(Forward Stepwise Procedure) at 95% Confidence Interval. Chi-square test of analysis would be used and p value less than 0.05 were considered as statistically significant.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Demographic and socio-economic data of participants**

The sample size for the survey was 225 so that 225 questionnaires were distributed. Thus, the survey response was collected from only 225 survey respondents. For this study, the response rate was 100 % (Percent), and it is rationally acceptable.

### **Source of information for VERS**

The respondents of the study reported that they have heard about vital event registration through variety of mechanism.

The survey result also indicated that 98% of the participants (respondents) reported that they have heard about vital event registration through variety mechanism. It also showed more than 77 % (175) of the respondents 14 % (31) of respondents explained that they were aware of the newly established Ethiopian VER system and heard about it through health posts and mass media respectively.

On the other hand, 9(4%) and 7(3%) of the respondent included in the study reported that they have ever heard about the newly established VER System through kebeles meeting and church respectively. Eventually, Small number of respondent 3 (1.3), did not heard about vital event registration and its content.

### **Main content of vital events know so far**

The participants of the study explained that they were aware of the birth and marriage registration and knows about it so far in significantly.

As the above table portrays more than 67.6 %( 152) of the respondents 25.3 % (57) of respondents explained that they were aware of the birth and marriage registration and knows about it so far in advance.

On the other hand, 9(4.0%) and 7(3.1%) of the respondent included in the study reported that they have known about vital events particularly death and divorce respectively knows about it so far. Thus, majority of respondent knows and heard about importance of registering birth and marriage as it happened.

As one key informant interviewee stated; each vital event is recorded on specific forms manually, and four copies of each personal record are produced and transferred to higher organs of the system. Following the registration, the recorded data are manually analyzed by the type of event for each category at Woreda level before sending the report to the region.

### **As the one of key informant interview**

Current events are those events, which were registered within the specified registration period under Article 18 of the proclamation no.760/2012 which is within 90 days (birth) and within 30 days (death, marriage & divorce) following the date of their occurrences.

Delayed events are those which were registered later than 30 days (90 for birth) since their happening or later than the defined registration period but still within the current year. Whereas, outdated events are those events, which are registered later than 365 days since their occurrences. Of the studied Woreda, none of them consistently notifies the event as it were happened.

As one the interviewee narrated, Women who gave birth in governmental and private health institutions were more likely to be registered their new birth babies than those women who delivered at home/ anywhere.

### **Official time for registration of vital events**

Regarding the know-how of the study respondents were knew when to record the vital event registration. As the above table portrays, regarding the know-how of the study participants, 165 (73.3%) of the respondents were knew when to record the birth of new born child following deliver. The remaining 60 (26.7%) of the respondent replied were not knew when to record the birth of new born child following deliver.

As the above table portrays, regarding the know-how of the study participants, 85 (37.8%) of the respondents were knew when to record the marriage following its occurrence. The remaining 140 (62.2%) of the respondent replied were not knew when to when to record the marriage following its occurrence.

As the above table portrays, regarding the know-how of the study participants, 65(28.9%) of the respondents were knew the official time to record the divorce following its breakdown. The remaining

60 (26.7%) of the respondent replied were not knew when to record the birth of new born child following deliver.

As the above table portrays, regarding the know-how of the study participants, 85 (37.8%) of the respondents were knew when to record the marriage following its occurrence. The remaining 140 (62.2%) of the respondent replied were not knew when to when to record the marriage following its occurrence.

As the above table portrays, regarding the know-how of the study participants, 65(28.9%) of the respondents were knew the official time to record the divorce following its breakdown. The remaining 160 (71.1%) of the respondent replied were not knew the official time to record the divorce following its breakdown.

**Existence of forged Certificate**

In the case of people who uses forged certificate, the majorities were indicated that responded “ low” in their working and resident areas.

In the case of people who uses forged certificate, the majorities were indicated that 160 (71.11%) responded “ low” in their working and resident areas.

**Practice of manual recording system**

The study participant who indicates in prevalence and common practice of manual recording system in the study area. As the above table portrays, majority of study participant 200 (88.88%) replied agree, which indicates in prevalence and common practice of manual recording system in the study area. The remaining 20 (8.88 %) and 5 (2.22%), of

the respondent replied slightly agree and disagree in prevalence and common practice of manual recording system in the study area respectively.

The result obtained from Focus Group Discussion (FGD) has also indicated that, in manual recording system common practice and activity for registering vital event system As the one of the FGD discussant stated, it’s difficult to sort out the necessary document easily, specially, when the year back-up by using manual recording system.

**Budgetallocations for implementation of VERS**

Budget allocation for Vital Registration System activities, in central, regional states,and registration offices. With regard to budget allocation from the whole respondents above half of respondents or 160 (71.11%) indicated that the “lower” level allocation of budget for vital event registration purpose. Among the respondents 5 (2.2%) study participants responded high level allocation of budget for vital event registration in their working and resident area. The remaining 30 (13.33%) and 30 (13.33%), of the respondent replied medium and no certain about budget allocation in their working and resident area respectively.

Regarding the participants gender, from 225 respondents nearly (33%) of male and (67%) of female mentioned “lower” level of using budget allocated for vital event registration purpose.

**Attitude of respondents towards Vital Events registration**

As the respondent stated the level of knowledge of respondents regarding the use of vital events registration very insignificant.

**Table 1.** Attitude of respondents towards Vital Events Registration (VER)

Items		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Does VER is political issue?	F	35	70	50	50	20
	%	15.5	31.1	22.22	22.22	8.88
VER is one means of money for government	F	25	80	100	20	----
	%	11.11	35.55	44.44	8.88	
It is taboo to register died person	F	45	85	60	20	15
	%	20	37.77	26.66	8.88	6.66
It is not good to register new baby	F	30	80	60	40	15
	%	13.33	35.55	26.66	17.6	6.66

(Source: Survey result 2021)

As the above table portrays, regarding the attitude of the study participants, 105(46.7%) of the respondents were replied strongly agree and agree with vital event registration is a political issue. The remaining 100 (44.44%) of the respondent replied neither and disagree with vital event registration is a political issue.

As the above table shows half (105 (46.6%) of respondent replied vital event registration is came into being due to political consumption and to earn income from ordinary citizen. The remaining 100 (44.44%) of the respondent replied neither and disagree with vital event registration is a held for collecting income form citizen.

As it is indicated in the above table most of participants 130 (57.7%) of respondent registration vital event is taboo and not accepted by local communities. The remaining 95 (42.3%) of the respondent replied neither and disagree with registration of the died person is a taboo. Therefore, most of the participant stated that registering died person is a taboo.

As the above table portrays, regarding the attitude of the study participants, 110(48.88%) of the respondents were replied strongly agree and agree with vital event registration is not good to register new baby. The remaining 55 (24.44%) of the respondent replied strongly disagree and disagree with vital event registration is not good to register new baby.

As the respondent stated the level of knowledge of respondents regarding the use of vital events registration very scant. Most of the respondent's explained reason for staying without registering their vital events. In this case majority of the respondents mentioned the reasons for not being registering their vital events. They were narrated five possible reasons for which they may stay without registering their family's vital events. Among these reasons, the time taken to take service at kebeles offices is the major one because of which majority of the respondents stay without registration.

On the other hand, long distance to registration office is the reason for (among those who never been registered) of respondents to remain without registration.

Moreover among the respondents who participated in the study, communities remain without registration because of high registration cost, lack of awareness on vital events registration

cost, lack of awareness on vital events registration and lack of information on vital events registration . In general, among the total respondents included in the study (n=225), a total of 180 (80%) remain without registering vital events of their family while 45(20%) of respondents practiced registering vital events of their family.

#### **As the one of the key informant stated**

Deaths that occurred at health facilities may situate in different service units that give care may not be addressed by VER advocates. Women who gave birth in governmental and private health institutions were more likely to be registered their new birth babies than those women who delivered at home/ anywhere. Those respondents who had previous exposure to requesting about any one of the vital events registration certificates by anybody were more likely to make vital events registration than their counterparts. This is a good government current initiative of asking children of birth certificate at school, for deaths at the court, emigration office, etc. Similarly, respondents who had good knowledge about vital events were around more likely to be registered than those who had poor knowledge.

#### **Challenges for implementing vital event registration**

The respondents reported that lack of or limited political commitment was one of the challenges which affect effective and efficient implementation of vital event registration system (Table 2).

The survey result also indicated that 180(80%) of the participants (respondents) reported that lack of or limited political commitment was one of the challenges which affect effective and efficient implementation of vital event registration system.

As the one of interviewee stated, in the past years, the issue of CRVS has not been brought to the attention of political leaders and policymakers. They were dealt with at technical and institutional levels in an uncoordinated manner, with limited efforts in presenting these issues in a comprehensive and through a multi-sectoral approach. Hence, policymakers were largely unaware of the value and importance of civil registration records and the statistics generated from the systems in delivering efficient public services, good governance and developmental

planning.

As the above table indicated that 100(50%) of the participants (respondents) reported that outdated laws and registration procedures was one of the challenges which affect effective and efficient implementation of vital event registration system. The remaining 66 (30 %) of the respondent disagree and strongly disagree with this concept.

As of the interviewee, in study area the existing laws are outdated and not aligned to the recommended international standards. In study area, the civil registration law does not distinguish late and delayed registration. Registration of marriage and divorce are not compulsory. As the one of the interviewee explained, most African countries have not taken innovative, proactive measures to improve civil registration laws inherited from colonial times. The rationales and objectives of civil registration laws in many cases do not reflect current social and cultural realities of the countries. Registration procedures currently prevailing in the majority of the area are derivatives of these old laws and regulations.

As the above table indicated that 146(65%) of the participants (respondents) reported that organizational and infrastructural problems was one of the challenges which affect effective and efficient implementation of vital event registration system. The remaining 34 (15 %) of the respondent disagree and strongly disagree with this concept and 20% of the respondents were neutral.

**Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of community toward Vital Registration**

Almost all intervention and control FGD participants were aware of birth registration, but only approximately half of respondents knew about the functions of the civil status office, which is the government office for registration of births and deaths. Reasons that most of the participants from the FGD registered their children or encouraged others to register births

Included: the children would have access to health care; the children would have access to immunization; it would help prevent girls from being forced into marriage before they are legally eligible; It would ensure that children who break

**Table 2.** Shows main challenges for implementing vital event registration

No	Items	Woreda	Percentage responses received for the various options					Strongly disagree	%
			Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree		
1.	Lack of or limited political commitment	4	35	45	10	10	---	%	
			79	101	22.	23	---	F	
2.	Outdated laws and registration procedures	4	25	25	20	25	5	%	
			56	56	46	56	11	F	
3.	Organizational and Infrastructural problems	4	30	35	20	10	5	%	
			67	79	45	23	11	F	
4.	Inadequate skilled manpower	4	25	35	15	15	10	%	
			56	79	34	34	22.	F	
5.	Lack of support from VERA	4	25	35	25	5	15	%	
			56	79	56	11	34	F	
6.	No or inadequate budget	4	40	30	5	10	15	%	
			90	67	11	23	34	F	
7.	Overburden with other coinciding duties	4	35	35	5	15	10	%	
			79	79	11	34	23	F	
8.	Lack of ownership by the administrative office	4	45	35	10	5	5	%	
			101	79	23	11	11	F	
9.	No or poor service integration with local stakeholders	4	35	40	10	5	10	%	
			79	90	22.5	11	22.5	F	
10.	Low vital event registration awareness in the community	4	40	45	5	5	5	%	
			91	101	11	11	11	F	
11.	Low vital event registration demand from the community	4	35	45	5	10	5	%	
			79	101	11	23	11	F	
12.	Total	4	225	225	225	225	225		

(Source; Survey result 2021)



the law are given special protection and not treated (legally and practically) as adults.

**As the one of the interviewee stated.** The main reasons people in the Woreda gave for registering births were to obtain a birth certificate, to be able to enroll their children in school, to register their children for a ration card, and to obtain a passport in the future.

**As the one of key informant.** Understanding of birth registration as a birth right with a corresponding duty on the side of the state (and other duty bearers) was limited in the study area, although unlike educated participants, other participants were confused as to the official meaning of birth registration, with most parents proudly revealing that they had registered the birth of their children in a notebook or in the back of the Bible or at the wall.

**As one of the interviewee stated.** At times, it takes months for a family to decide on a child's name. Sometimes, when parents don't agree on a name for their child, we send them home to decide. We cannot register the child until they choose a permanent name that will not be changed. Once they decide, we encourage them to come back and register the child.

**As one of the interviewee stated.** Most people do not easily understand why their children should be registered. They have many questions, but we tell them that children are entitled to basic rights, and to access them, they need to be registered and possess a birth certificate. They would accept this because they trust us and accept what we say. Implication of birth registration for the realization of the right of the child and impact of non-registration on child rights

**As the one of the key informant stated.** The right to birth registration is closely linked to the realization of many other rights, and has profound consequences for children's enjoyment of their rights. Birth registration is a right which supposed to be the basis for realization of most of the right of the child. This is to mean the rights of child are better protected and realized if the right of the child to birth registration is effectively implemented. The implementation of birth registration reveals the existence of low birth registration rate. When birth of the child is not registered the rights of the child

particularly which presuppose birth registration could not be realized pertinently the rights of founding is at risk (Labiso,2021)

### Conclusions

Educational status, place and time of birth, previous vital events registration certificate asked anywhere, knowledge and attitude were significantly associated factors with vital event registration.

The experience of forged certificate, which was happening in different institution, was high. This implies that, there are people who use forged instead of using the actual documents.

There are also woredas and kebeles using manual system, which doesn't change into digital once. Thus, an influence to the effectiveness of the exchange information as well as to retain the document.

When we see the affordability of fees by poor households to obtain certificate the majorities of the respondent's feedback were "low". Cultural taboos and traditional practices are higher.

Most respondents stated that, the coordination work with stakeholders was very low. However study also indicated that the coordination work was "lower" level. The study also illustrated that, there was no a coordination work with stakeholders, lack of current data exchange, and adding another things had influenced the out coming of the result.

Concerning the regular budget allocation, the majority of the respondents indicate that, above half "lower" level. The study result showed that, the government not allocate enough budgets or not allocate regular budget.

CRVS systems plays a vital role in providing information to track identity of individuals of one country and being source of valuable information about the population for the government and other concerned bodies to make policies related to health, economic and social welfares.

It is mainly intended to meet legal necessities of individuals, such as documentary confirmation of identity; legal status and consequential rights; proof of age and letting access to rights based on age; supporting the legal transmission of property, inheritance, social protection or insurance and other paybacks.

Therefore, the country is being suffered from lack of reliable and valuable population statistics and its consequences. Many individuals in Ethiopia are

DOI: [10.6092/issn.2281-4485/15771](https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2281-4485/15771)

.born and die without any legal official statistics. It is difficult to get well organized reliable data about birth, death, cause of death, marriage and divorce.

### **Recommendation**

Based on the findings of the study and the conclusions drawn above, the following recommendations were forwarded. Authors recommended that create awareness by using different methods to bring behavior change, strengthen events notification system using voluntary advocators be continued and strengthen stakeholder organization, coordination as well as their linkages. Community awareness activities at all level through effective utilization of the existing community structures for sensitization of the communities, local media, organized forums and via strong collaboration with all stakeholders should be accelerated. The quality of the current registration services should be improved, that is, there is a need to make registration service available at least five days per week, make legislation review to ensure all children birth registration access and fulfill the basic equipment necessary for registration, transforming manual registration system into electronic: the national government has to computerize the national VER system. There is a need to ensure all government and private health facilities and courts to notify the VERS offices on events that occur in the facilities. These sectors have to be mandated by the government to notify VERS offices on occurrences of birth, death, marriages and divorces. Therefore, to protect these challenges the Agency should discuss with the residents and make a solution or reduce fees, or make free the registration. The Agency collaboration with others wasn't better, according to the respondents. As they said that, and I observe from the institution they use only the data for their own purposes rather than giving the information to others, no connection to evaluate the work and eventually it should be improved.

### **References**

ACPF – African Child Policy Forum (2005) Perception and practice: a review of birth registration in Addis Ababa and the regional state of Oromia, Amhara and SNNPR, Ethiopia, Pp.80, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

AYALEW T. (2008) Electronic Vital Event Registration System (EVERS). Addis Ababa University.

BIRRU T. G. (2007) Gender Statistics and the Status of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Ethiopia. Global Forum on Gender Statistics (Pp. 1-13). Rome, Italy: Esa/Stat/Ac.140/8.2.

BOTHA J.L., BRADSHAW D. (1985) African vital statistics – A black hole? South African Medical Journal, 67(24):977-981

CSA-Central Statistical Agency (2011) Summary and statistical report of the 2007 Population and housing census, population size by age and sex. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

CSA-Central Statistical Agency (2014) Ethiopia Mini Demographic and Health Survey: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

CRESWELL J.W. (2009) Research design. Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approach. California: Sage Publications, Inc. ISBN 978-1-4129-6556-9

ECA - Economic Commission For Africa (2012) Reforming and improving civil registration and Vital Statistics System in Africa. Durban.

FVRA - Federal Vital Registration Agency (2008) Operational guideline. A.A.

KAMU K. (2011) Enhanced Electronic Vital Events Registration System for Ethiopia (EEVERSE). Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University

LABISO T (2020) Challenges and Boons of Refugee on the Host Communities: In the Case of Benishangul-Gumuz Regional state, Western Ethiopia. Int J Environ Sci Nat Res.. 25(3):556171. <https://doi-org/10.19080/IJESNR.2020.25.556171>

LABISO T, ZEWDU S.Y. (2021) Land suitability analysis for surface irrigation in Humbo woreda, wolaita zone, Southern Ethiopia EQA - International Journal of Environmental Quality, 44: 32-43. <https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2281-4485/12727>

LABISO T (2021) Socio- Economic Impact of Villagization, in Assosa Zone, Western Ethiopia F WU Journal of Social Sciences, 15:143-153 <http://doi.org/10.51709/19951272/spring2021/15-12>

UN (1998) Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems Computerization, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/73, ISBN 92-1-161403-1, New York.

UN,(2001) . Principles and recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/19/Rev.2, ISBN 92-1-161439-2, New York,

YEMANA T.(1967).Statistics, an Introductory analysis, 2nd edition, New York, Harper and Row