NEXT STEPS

The Government of Solomon Islands is planning for national roll-out of the new birth registration system with expansion to an additional two provinces in 2014 and the remaining provinces in 2015. In doing so, the Government is taking into consideration the following factors:

1. Capacity of the Civil Registry Office/MOHA, including available financial and human resources (HR) and the ability of donor partners to support capacity building;
2. Capacity of key implementing agencies, including the MHMS and the Ministry of Education (MOE) to assume BR functions;
3. Degree of desired decentralization of civil registry functions to CRO satellite centers and/or outsourced to other agencies;
4. Pace of BR-related law reforms to enable decentralization and/or outsourcing of CRO functions and ensure consistency within and between relevant legislation;
5. Determination of location and age priorities for effective roll-out;
6. Capacity of the MOH and BR implementing agencies to absorb the suggested implementation changes (as outlined in Section 4) aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the pilot project and enable replication during roll-out, and
7. The application of global “best practice” guidelines in birth registration systems (see Table 2, page 20) are used as a reference in guiding the development of the “National Birth Registration Implementation Roadmap for 2014-2020” (see Section 5.3).
The Solomon Islands has one of the lowest birth registration rates in the world, with just 0.1% of births registered in 2015. This includes strengthening partnerships and collaboration between the MHA and the MHMS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office (CRO) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to establish an efficient and reliable national birth registration system.

**The Registration System in Solomon Islands**

The current population of Solomon Islands is approximately 600,000 and about 23% of all births take place at health facilities while 14% occur at home. The proportion of births in health facilities is higher in urban areas than in rural areas. About 85% of births are attended by a skilled provider – 95% in urban areas and 84% in rural areas.

A 2008 study in Solomon Islands estimated the number of formal birth registrations at 0.1%, the lowest in the Pacific region up to that time. In 2012/2013 the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) and the Office (CRO) undertook a comprehensive assessment, development and full implementation of a national birth registration system.

In February 2014, the Government of Solomon Islands launched its’ new Civil Registration System, the National Civil Registration System (CRS). This new database has been designed to provide a single source of a comprehensive and highly effective information system. The new database is a multi-functional electronic database with national storage and broad accessibility.

**Decentralization of key functions of civil registration:**

The growing number of applicants for retrospective registration has steadily increased over the last three years largely due to: i) heightened awareness on the need and importance of birth notification/registration; ii) improved understanding of registration processes, and iii) improved awareness of the government’s commitment to the老百姓 of the nation.

**Until recently, the CRO had very limited finances provided solely through the government recurrent annual budget to the MOHA and the MHMS, and the CRO’s support to birth registration and civic registration in Solomon Islands, and the attending health facilities.

**PROGRESS & RESULTS**

- The demand for birth registration has steadily increased over the last three years largely due to: i) heightened awareness on the need and importance of birth notification/registration, ii) improved understanding of registration processes, and iii) increased demand, especially from existing partnerships and strategies including the multi-sectoral Working Group and multi-ethnic youth volunteers.

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- In 2017, BR were formally registered nationally, with the support of the project more than 3,000,000 are now legally registered (as of June 2014) and are on the national electronic civil registration database.

- Prior to the project, all civil registration work took place at the CRO in Honiara. Since the project commenced, access to birth registration for children and their families living in rural areas and outer islands has significantly improved with the establishment of 15 additional “satellite service centers” in health facilities in Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Western Provinces and Honiara that directly facilitate birth registration through faciltating birth notification.

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- Creating a single and accessible database for multiple functions (i.e., marriages and adoptions) can be based on existing partnerships and strategies including the multi-sectoral Working Group and multi-ethnic youth volunteers.

- The project has created a collection of unique and verified birth notifications in Solomon Islands, and the attending health facilities have been successfully generated to achieve these outcomes among multiple government and donor partner agencies.

**Additional Information**

Additional information can be found at the website: <http://www.mtni.gov.so> for further assistance. Contact information is available on the portal. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) has a comprehensive and highly effective information system.