***Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) – EuropeAid - EU Commission***

**Strategic engagement**:
- Linking BRS with the overall Civil Registration and Vital Statistics approach ("systems approach") for more comprehensive and sustainable actions as a matter of good governance, informing long-term socioeconomic planning, policy-making and national budgets.
- Working on cross-sectorial engagements for cohesion strengthening (justice, health, education, social protection, security…) and on interoperability between sectors through strong national coordination mechanisms and clear governance architecture.
- Importance of innovative technologies to reach most vulnerable populations and isolated areas (birth registration through SMS "rapid alert systems", mobile identity, use of cheap smartphones and portable Wi-Fi hotspot routers, real time data collection…), notably through stronger public-private partnerships.
- Increase mobility for a better access: mobile units of social agents, mobile justice, public hearings and registration caravans in villages.
- Identify the best entry points for birth registration, often health through primary health centre, immunization campaigns and other outreach health programmes (easier, quicker and more economical), training registration agents and Traditional Birth Attendants to reach birth outside health facilities, addressing the shortage of staff to bring it to scale and reach remote areas.
- Decentralizing the process to district / subnational / local levels in order to reach remote and isolated areas, shortening the distance between the beneficiary and the service
- Importance to keep the motto about universal, compulsory and free birth registration.
- Strengthening knowledge: linkages between birth registration and child protection (evidences on migration, child labour, trafficking, recruitment by armed groups, sexual exploitation; evidences on enlarged access to basic services for vulnerable but registered children)
- Strengthen "One UN" or "One international community" approach on birth registration: better cooperation framework as a matter of relevancy and cost-efficient engagement. Work on targeted issue using the added-value of each organization (statelessness and UNHCR, health and WHO, civil administration and electoral assistance and UNDP…).
- Focus on the whole cycle of birth registration from notification to certification and registration: current bottleneck in the receipt of the birth certificate by families.
- Develop strong resource mobilisation strategies putting accountability on the States for a prioritization of birth registration on governments' agendas, budgeting, scaling-up and addressing demographic growth in certain continents.

**Beneficiaries:**
- reaching a better balance through working more on the demand side rather than often exclusively on the offer side: awareness rising of population in the most remote areas about the importance of BRS through tailored messages, adapted to the contexts ("culturally sensitive registration systems"), defusing local fears, innovative communication plans, reaching out through community radios, theatre for change and community debates for a change in attitudes and practices, engaging with community leaders / faith leaders as social agents of change.
- Develop gender-specific programmes for female-headed households, single mothers and children born out of wedlock as cases where registration of new-borns is often difficult.
- Run in parallel cost-efficient and simplified catch-up programmes delivering birth certificates for unregistered adults and children at affordable costs for beneficiaries.

**Regional approach**:
- Strengthening the instrumental role of regional organizations (AU, ECOWAS, ASEAN, ESCAP, ABfD….) given the current momentum on the SDGs and specific regional initiative (APAI-CRVS)
- Importance of mentoring, peer-to-peer approaches between accelerating countries and more left behind, cross-border exchanges on practices and sharing lessons learnt adapted to the context.
- Fomenting champions at local, national and regional level.