Every Child’s Birth Right: Inequities and Trends in Birth Registration

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Where we stand today
Some numbers

- The births of nearly 230 million children under five have never been registered.

- More than half of these unregistered children live in Asia and around one in three in India.

- In 2012 alone, 57 million births were not registered with civil authorities – or 4 out of 10 babies delivered worldwide.

- Additionally, 1 in 7 of the registered children do not have a birth certificate.

- As a result, there are 290 million children under five without a birth certificate in the world.

A country can achieve a high birth registration rate even with low per capita income

Many mothers lack knowledge of how to register a child’s birth

Some progress, albeit small, has been achieved in raising birth registration levels since 2000

Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered, by region

Brazil is improving its national birth registration rate while closing regional gaps

Percentage of births registered in Brazil, by region

Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Estatísticas do Registro Civil, 2000-2011.

South Africa has seen a steady increase in birth registration over two decades

Percentage of births registered in South Africa

Note: Figures for South Africa presented in this chart include late registrations.

Principles

• Within the civil registry
• Free
• Continuous, permanent and available
• Universal in coverage
• Confidential
• Timely and accurate
Thanks