**UNICEF PROGRESS REPORT TO
Italian Agency for Development Cooperation**

**Project to Strengthen the Civil Registration
System for Children's Right to Identity:
"Identification for Development" - Phase II**

A couple registering the birth of their newborn child in SNNP region.
©SNNP RVERA Ethiopia/2017/Gashaye

**Submitted By
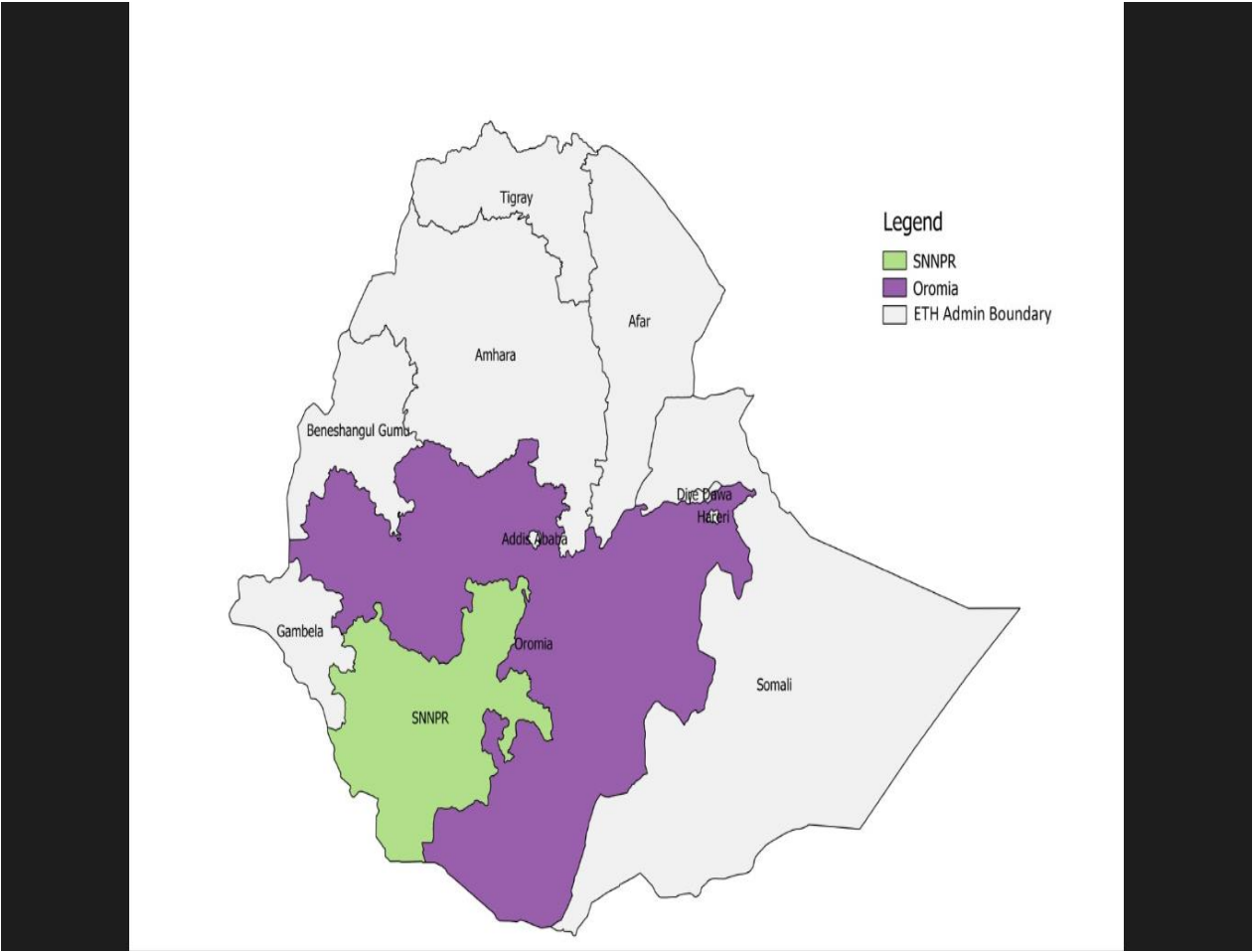UNICEF Ethiopia**

June 2018

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List of Acronyms

BoH	Bureau of Health
BoJ	Bureau of Justice
BoWCA	Bureau of Women and Children Affairs
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
EDHS	Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey
FVERA	Federal Vital Events Registration Agency
HEW	Health Extension Worker
RVERA	Regional Vital Events Registration Agency
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SNNP (R)	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' (Region)
SoE	State of Emergency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Map of Ethiopia with the target regions: Oromia and SNNP

1. Programme Summary

Project Name	Project to strengthen the civil registration system for the children's right to identity: "identification for development" (ID) - Phase II
Country	Ethiopia
Donor	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
Grant Reference	SC170732
Total Contribution	EUR 1,000,000
Funds received to date	EUR 1,000,000
Funds utilized to date	US$ 405,007.16
Unspent balance	US$ 779, 826.96
Duration of grant	December 6, 2017 – December 5, 2018
Report Type	Bi-annual
Reporting Period	6 December 2017 – 5 June 2018
Report due date	30 June 2018
Report prepared in	June 2018
UNICEF Strategic Plan and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets	**UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021** • **Outcome indicator 3.7:** Percentage of children under 5 whose births are registered **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets** • **Target 16.9:** "By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration" • **Indicator 16.9.1:** "Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority"
UNICEF Outcome and Output	**UNICEF CP Outcome:** "By 2020, an increased number of children and adolescents susceptible to violence, exploitation and abuse in emergency and non-emergency settings benefit from quality gender-sensitive, community-based and formal child preventive and responsive services in the specific targeted locations." **UNICEF Output:** "Strengthened birth registration services as part of a civil registration and vital events system."
Geographic focus area	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) region and Oromia region in Ethiopia
Focus Population	Estimated 819,570 new-born children in targeted 50 per cent of the *woredas* (districts) in Oromia and SNNP regions
Programme Partners	The Vital Events Registration Agencies of Oromia and SNNP regions; Oromia and SNNP Bureaus of Health (BoH)

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2. Executive Summary

Oromia is the largest region in Ethiopia and shares its borders with all regions except Tigray. It also borders the neighboring countries of South Sudan and Kenya. The region is divided into 20 administrative zones, 317 *woredas* (districts) and is further sub-divided into 7,339 *kebeles* (villages), of which 7,209 are rural and 125 urban. The projected population of Oromia is about 35,467,000, with over 85 per cent living in rural areas. Of the 5,367,235 children under five in the region, the rate of birth registration is only 2 per cent (Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) 2016).

SNNP region has an estimated population of 19,171,000, which is approximately 20 per cent of the total Ethiopian population. Ninety per cent of the population lives in rural areas. The region has 15 zones, 170 *woredas* and 4,202 *kebeles*. The region is projected to have 2,810,085 children under five years of age. Based on the 2016 EDHS, only 3.4 per cent of children under five have had their birth registered by a civil authority.

Both regions have expanded the geographic coverage of registration services. In Oromia, 93 per cent of the administrative *kebeles* provided civil registration services in May 2018, compared to 86.1 per cent in July 2017. In SNNP region, 92 per cent of the administrative *kebeles* have become functional as of May 2018, which is a 4 per cent increase from July 2017. The two regions have also improved the quality of data and the interoperability of civil registration with health services. For the period from January-March 2018, the SNNP and Oromia regions' Regional Vital Events Registration Agencies (RVERAs) reported birth registration rates of 12 per cent and 9 per cent respectively of children under the age of one.

Despite these achievements, there are areas that require further strengthening to boost registration rates: procedural barriers include the requirement of the presence of both parents to register birth; the interoperability of civil registration with health services needs to be improved; there is a need to focus on timely registration; registrars have limited capacity; registration centres are poorly equipped in terms of office equipment, data archiving and storage facilities; and there is limited awareness of and demand for registration among the communities.

Through this project, UNICEF aims to boost the standard and performance of the civil registration system through strategic investments, addressing identified gaps around capacity, quality and demand. Interventions on the supply-side help to strengthen the capacity of the decentralized RVERAs, focusing on the *kebele*-based civil registration centres. Technical support, combined with rigorous monitoring, also improves the quality and effectiveness of the civil registration system, including the interoperability with health services. Interventions on the demand-side consist of various targeted promotion activities to increase public awareness about the value and importance of birth registration. Community-based formal and informal networks, including those linked to traditional and religious leaders, are systematically targeted with evidence-based communication to address the limited awareness among communities.

Overall, with regards to the capacity strengthening of registrars, the situation is improving. Out of the 6,107 registrars targeted by the project 1,128 have been trained on civil registration concepts, frameworks, and procedures, which has resulted in significant improvement in the quality of completed registers. For example, the percentage of completed registers with errors (that require being sent back from the federal level to the regions, from regions to zones, from zones to *woredas* and from *woredas* to *kebeles* after going through different quality assurance ladders) is at a record low, at 0.6 and 0.7 per cent in SNNP and Oromia regions respectively.

The interoperability with health services is also steadily improving the timeliness and quality of birth registration. For example, the training provided to health extension workers (HEWs) in SNNP region has contributed to an increase in the notification of out-of-facility births. The training has created better awareness and commitment among the HEWs on their role in notifying births that occur in the community as well as on their role in creating demand for vital events registration services. In addition, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between VERA and the Bureau of Health (BoH) has been cascaded down to *woreda* level, creating an accountability mechanism that helps health practitioners to discharge their responsibilities.

On the demand-side, informed by communication strategies developed at regional level, messages developed and disseminated using diverse communication platforms have improved awareness and demand for birth registration. However, communities still face obstacles such as having to travel long distances to *kebele* registration offices, the inability of both parents to be present for registration, the inability to pay fees for certificates, and cultural taboos against registration of vital events. UNICEF and partners hope to address these challenges through targeted and continuous advocacy and sensitization on the benefits of vital events registration.

Despite the increased geographic coverage of registration services in Oromia, the recent security situation in the region has affected the rates of birth registration. The internal conflict, mass displacement and the recent State of Emergency (SoE) imposed in February 2018 and lifted in June 2018, have resulted in frequent closures of registration centres, restricted community movement to registration centres, and less monitoring and supportive supervision due to travel restrictions. These have, in turn, led to decreased birth registration rates by 1 per cent when compared to the 2017 achievements. As various ethnic conflicts continue (for example, Somali-Oromia and Gedeo-Guji), implementation rates in the coming months may still be slowed down.

During the reporting period, a total of US$ 405,007.16 has been utilized for the implementation of project activities, leaving a balance of US$ 779, 826.96.

3. Purpose

The Phase II "Identification for Development" project scales up the decentralized universal birth registration system by enhancing the institutional, technical and operational capacity in Oromia and SNNP regions. The project is expected to contribute to children's right to identity through the improvement and standardization of the civil registration and vital statistics system, thereby helping to protect them from violence, abuse and exploitation, and ensure their access to basic services. The aim of the project is to standardize the civil registration and certification services provided to children in Oromia and SNNP regions.

Data gathered from the standardized civil registration and certification system are vital for monitoring progress towards key development indicators such as the country's Growth and Transformation Plan II, whose 2020 target is for 50 per cent of all children in Ethiopia to have a birth certificate. In addition, vital events registration statistics, including that of birth registration, are fundamental to inform immediate, medium-term and long-term planning for children's access to basic services. This will, in turn, contribute to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) outcome 13 which states that by 2020, national and sub-national institutions apply evidence-based, results-oriented and equity-focused decision-making, policy formulation, programme design, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

This project was designed and implemented in collaboration with the two RVERAs of SNNP and Oromia regions. UNICEF provided technical and financial support for project planning, management, implementation and monitoring. The implementation of the project is ongoing based on a jointly developed annual work plan as part of UNICEF's Child Protection Programme. The project work plans are coordinated and implemented by the RVERA and BoH in SNNP and Oromia regions.

4. Results

4.1. Main Results Achieved

From December 2017 to June 2018, UNICEF's assistance to the Oromia and SNNP RVERAs, consisting of technical and institutional capacity building and advocacy, helped to improve the geographic coverage

of the civil registration system and the rates of registered births and other vital events. Through these efforts, 93 per cent and 92 per cent of administrative *kebeles* in Oromia and SNNP regions respectively, provide civil registration services. The performance in both regions is higher than the current national average of 88 per cent.

Table 1- number/percentage of functional registration structures across regions

Region	Regional Administrative Structures			# of *kebeles* with Vital Events Registration Centres				# of *kebeles* without Vital Events Registration Centres			
	Zones	*Woredas*	*Kebeles*	Rural	Urban	Total	%	Rural	Urban	Total	%
Tigray	7	52	813	729	78	807	99.3	6	0	6	0.7
Afar	2	32	378	170	45	215	56.8	158	5	163	43.1
Amhara	15	209	3,924	3,691	229	3,920	99.8	3	1	4	0.2
Oromia	20	317	7,339	6,711	127	6,838	93.2	500	1	501	6.8
Somali	11	93	1,396	153	64	217	15.5	1,179	0	1,179	84.5
Benishangul Gumuz	3	21	486	448	32	480	98.8	0	6	6	1.2
SNNP	15	170	4,202	3,420	427	3,847	91.6	306	49	355	8.4
Gambella	3	14	263	192	28	220	83.7	41	2	43	16.3
Harari	0	9	36	3	19	22	61.1	14	0	14	38.9
Dire Dawa	0	0	0	38	9	47	100	0	0	0	0
Addis Ababa	10	117	0	0	117	117	100	0	0	0	0
Total	86	1034	18,837	15,555	1175	16,730	88.8	2,207	64	2,271	11.2

Source: FVERA, December 2017

With support from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, UNICEF also contributed to an increase in birth registration rates for newborns. According to administrative data from Oromia and SNNP RVERAs and the Federal Vital Events Registration Agency (FVERA), the number of births registered (less than one year after birth) between January and March 2018 was 22,703 in SNNP and 29,542 in Oromia[1]. Compared to the total number of births in the two regions during the same period (184,047 in SNNP and 327,830 in Oromia), the birth registration rate reached 12 per cent in SNNP and 9 per cent in Oromia region.[2] Compared to the birth registration rates in July 2017, registration rates have increased by 3 per cent in SNNP while dropping by 1 per cent in Oromia. The Oromia RVERA reported that the drop in the rate of registration in Oromia is associated with the recent unrest in the region and the State of Emergency declared in February 2018, which resulted in frequent closures of registration centres, restricted communities' movement to registration centres, and restricted travel for monitoring and supportive supervision. Given that the 2016 EDHS reported a birth registration rate of only 2 per cent and 3 per cent of children under five in Oromia and SNNP respectively, the progress made during the reporting period is encouraging. The progress in both regions is attributable to the launching of a conventional vital registration system in the country in August 2016 and continuous capacity building and demand creation interventions.

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[1] These figures are a sum of 'on-time' registrations (registrations taking place less than 90 days after birth) and 'delayed' (more than 90 days, but less than one year after birth).

[2] May 2018, administrative data management system of SNNP and Oromia RVERAs.
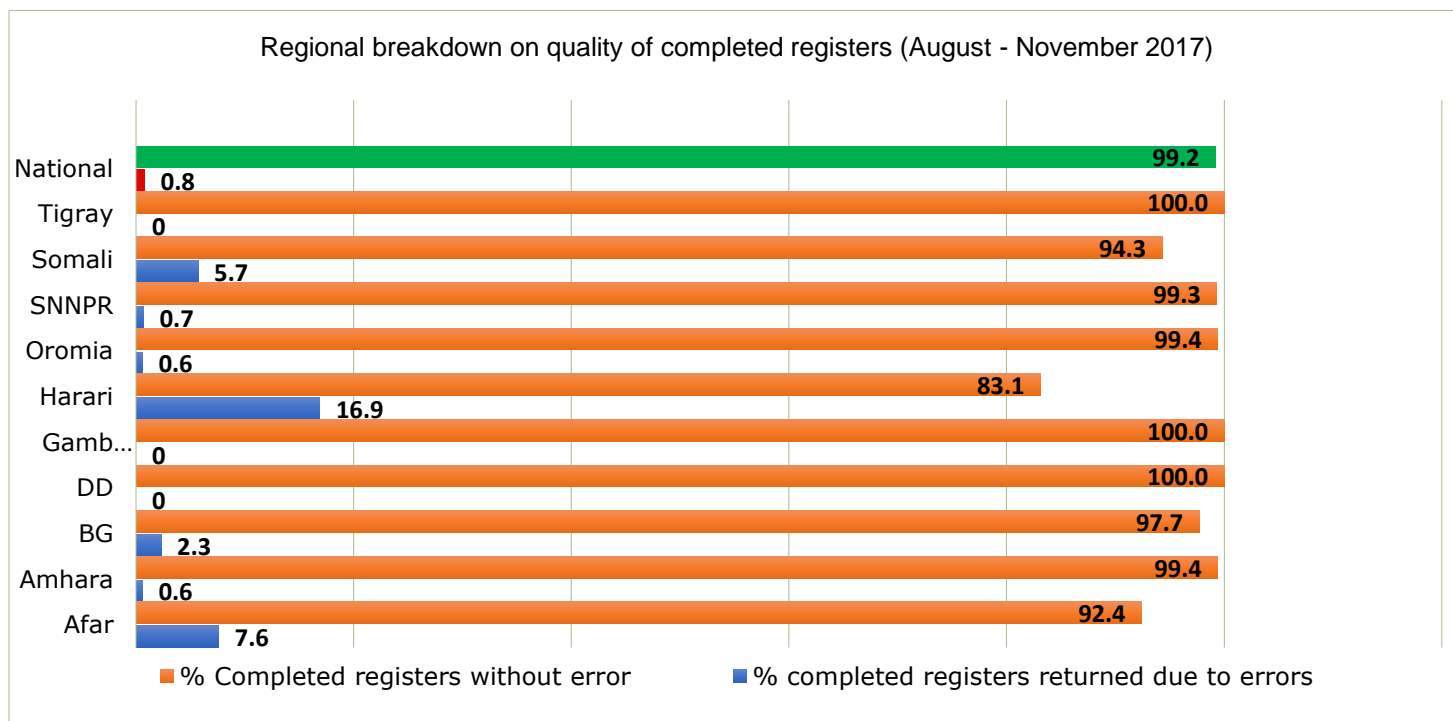
4.2. Specific Project Activities and Results Achieved

Output 1: Improved institutional and technical capacity of RVERAs in Oromia and SNNP to effectively lead and coordinate the registration of vital events.

In order to help improve the technical capacities, efficiencies and effectiveness of the RVERA personnel for delivery of civil registration and certification services, project funds were used to train 1,148 (228 in SNNP and 920 in Oromia) newly assigned civil registrars at *kebele* level. Each training lasted for five days and covered topics relating to the roles and responsibilities of civil registrars, including issues such as civil registration work flow, concepts and principles, data management and archiving, data quality, and legal frameworks (e.g. Proclamation on Vital Events Registration and Regulation on Establishment of Vital Events Registration Agency (2012), and the revised Proclamation (No.1049/2017). The training also covered the content of relevant registration instruments, including registers, directives, and certificates that are applicable to registrations of births and other vital events. It also included types of information to be captured in the registration instruments, such as characteristics of the child, the parents, informants of the event, and particulars of the registration office. The trainees represented 228 *kebeles* in SNNP (5.5 per cent of total *kebeles* in the region) and 920 *kebeles* in Oromia (12.5 per cent of the region's total). In addition, based on identified gaps in competencies and knowledge of civil registrars, as well as the quality of completed registers, SNNP RVERA provided refresher in-service trainings to 550 (525 male and 25 female) registrars from January 30 – February 2, 2018.

The capacity-building interventions continue to be successful in improving the quality of completed registers in the two project regions. Based on December 2017 FVERA administrative data, out of the completed and transferred registers between August-November 2017, only 0.6 per cent in Oromia and 0.7 per cent in SNNP were found to be substandard and therefore had to be returned back from RVERA and FVERA for correction. In comparison, during the first six months of the registration system (August-December 2016), nearly 50 per cent of the completed registers in both regions had to be returned for corrections due to errors and incomplete data. Significant progress in the quality of the completed registers was reported by July 2017, with less than 6 per cent of the completed registrations identified with quality concerns. More recent figures are expected in the coming months and will be shared once received.

Table 2 - Regional breakdown on quality of completed registers (August - November 2017)

Source: FVERA and RVERAs, presented at the bi-annual review meeting for EFY2010

Output 2: Established information management system on CRVS.

Activities for this output are planned for July-December 2018; none took place during this reporting period.

Undertaking an assessment of the existing paper-based data management system has been identified as an initial step towards the establishment of a standardized information management system on CRVS in the two regions. Recent consultations held with FVERA and the two RVERAs have underlined the importance of harmonizing the assessment in the two regions with planned national comprehensive CRVS assessment. This approach will not only help to standardize the data capture, transfer and analysis tools and practices in the two regions, but will also allow for synchronization of the effort vis-à-vis the national system. Led by the FVERA, the technical and logistical preparations, including recruitment of national and international consultants, have been initiated, and a proposal has been developed to guide the national assessment. Reviewing the data management system is one of the critical aspects of the initiative. Accordingly, the assessment is expected to commence in August 2018 and findings will be used to determine the technical requirements to standardize the system.

Output 3: Improved knowledge of the importance and benefits of birth registration in selected kebeles.

UNICEF provided financial and technical assistance to Oromia and SNNP RVERAs for awareness-raising and community mobilization activities. In order to inform the development of key messages as well as determine the means of broadcasting, assessment of opportunities and barriers on vital events registration among the community were carried out during the first phase of the *Identification for Development Project*. Based on the assessment, specific messages were developed and disseminated focusing on the procedural requirements as well as the importance of registration of vital events (birth, death, marriage and divorce). Regional and local radio, FM stations, school and community radios were used as communication channels to spread the messages. The communication interventions are guided by a communication strategy and messages are developed at the regional level. In Oromia, to inform harmonized communication interventions on vital events registration, 210 government communication personnel drawn from RVERA, BoH and Public Service bureaus were trained for five days on the use of the communication strategy developed at regional level. To measure the effectiveness of the communication interventions, Oromia RVERA is conducting an assessment on the results of the interventions in two *woredas* and six *kebeles*. The assessment is expected to be completed by the end of August 2018.

In SNNP, a vital events registration knowledge and practice assessment was conducted in 14 zones, including 10 project-supported *woredas*. The findings are still being assessed.

Output 4: Improved inter-sectoral collaboration, monitoring and supportive supervision for delivery of standardized CRVS programme.

The project funds have been used to strengthen inter-agency coordination mechanisms at different levels in both regions. The coordination groups are composed of representatives of the key agencies including RVERA, Bureau of Justice (BoJ), BoH, Bureau of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCA), UNICEF, academic institutions, the private sector and members of religious and community groups. Performance review and monitoring interventions undertaken under the auspices of the coordination mechanism are guided the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) data collected and analysed by the RVERAs and presented for discussion to members of the coordination group during the review sessions.

In Oromia region, joint programme monitoring was conducted for three weeks, from April 30 – May 19, 2018 with representatives of RVERA, BoH and Public Service and the Human Resource Development Bureau. The joint monitoring covered 5 zones, 5 *woredas* and 20 *kebeles*. The targets of the monitoring were vital events offices at zonal, *woreda* and *kebele* level as well as health centres and health posts. The findings of the joint monitoring were presented and deliberated in a five-day workshop organized in Adama town. Some of the challenges identified during the monitoring mission included: limited progress in terms

of birth notifications by health facilities, reluctance of mothers to register their children after receiving a notification form from the health facility, poor standard of data archiving and storage facilities, high workload and turnover of registrars, and limited awareness of the importance of registering vital events and the preconditions to register vital events among communities. The findings from the monitoring mission and the workshop have led to recommendations to address some of the identified gaps. The first recommendation relates to the need to strengthen the notifications from health facilities to boost timely registration and the second one is ensuring participation and active engagement of the health sector in capacity building training and monitoring.

Coordination meeting at Shashemene town (©SNNP RVERA Ethiopia/2018/Gashaye)

During the first six months of the project, the SNNP regional coordination platform held two joint review meetings with the zonal coordination mechanism between 1 and 13 May 2018. The review meetings were held for two days in Yirgalem and Shashemene towns with representatives from RVERA, BoH, the Bureau of Education, Regional Administration, Public Service Bureau, BoWCA, BoJ, Prison commission, the Labour and Social Affairs Bureau, Police Commission, Regional Supreme Court, Youth League, Women League, Law and Justice Administration Standing Committee of the Regional Council, the Orthodox Church, Mosque leaders,

Coordination meeting at Yirgalem town (©SNNP RVERA Ethiopia/2018/Gashaye)

Media, Youth and Women Federation, Hawasa University, Idir leaders, Civil Society representatives, and banks. During the forum, the roles and responsibilities of government sectors, private sector, academic institutions, and religious and community groups were reviewed. At the conclusion of both review meetings, the direction was set for each sector to create demand for birth registration as a soft conditionality, to mainstream birth registration in all advocacy and training forums, to improve notification through community structures like women development groups and Idirs, to train frontline workers (e.g. midwifes, health extension workers).

Output 5: Generated evidence on effectiveness of CRVS interventions and results.

As presented under Output 4, regular performance reviews, including monitoring and coordination meetings, are guided by review and monitoring tools with clear indicators, including vital events data collected, analysed and reported by the RVERAs to members of the coordination platform (members elaborated above). Using these tools, progress on results is systematically reviewed along with challenges

and bottlenecks to inform corrective action and accountability. Regular monitoring and quality assurance interventions have been carried out in both regions, led by the RVERAs, which reviewed, among other things, the quality of completed registers, leading to on-the-spot guidance to the responsible civil registrar where the quality of the completed registers was found to be compromised. During the first quarter of 2018, SNNP RVERA has carried out monitoring and quality assurance missions in 19 zones, 32 *woredas* and 64 *kebeles*. In addition to the review of the quality of completed registers, the performance of interoperability with health institutions and public awareness has been reviewed as well.

Supportive supervision feedback meeting with Derashe Woreda administrator (©SNNP RVERA Ethiopia/2018/ Gashaye)

Data generated through the monitoring and supportive supervision together with on-the-spot guidance have proved to be helpful in improving the quality of data/register completion[3], along with the technical capacity building interventions.

Output 6: Improved capacity and effectiveness among health institutions and personnel for notification of births occurring in health facilities and community.

Activities under this Output consist of identification and review of the practice of birth and death notifications by health facilities, including bottlenecks; creating accountability, and technical capacity building of responsible health personnel.

Both regions have carried out reviews of bottlenecks among health facilities in notifying births and deaths. Some of the bottlenecks identified included: limited awareness/knowledge about the responsibility to notify about these events, lack of notification forms, and lack of an accountability mechanism across the health structure for failing to notify births occurring in health facilities. Based on these findings, Oromia RVERA has supported the BoH to cascade the MoU signed between the two sectors at regional level to zonal and *woreda* level. This way, representatives of RVERA and health services at zonal and *woreda* level are familiarized with their respective responsibilities and have signed the MoU at their respective level. This measure aims to address the issue of accountability identified through the bottleneck analysis. BoH representatives were involved in a three-week joint monitoring mission that covered five zones, five *woredas* and twenty *kebeles*, the results of which are reported under Output 4.

In order to address some of the identified gaps in awareness and knowledge among health workers (mainly HEWs), SNNP RVERA and BoH trained 321 HEWs from 15 – 17 February 2018 on notification and registration of vital events, particularly births and deaths. The SNNP RVERA and the BoH will carry out an assessment of the performance of health facilities and health workers targeted by the training during the second half of 2018.

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[3] Note the progress reported under 'output one'- only 0.6 per cent in Oromia and 0.7 per cent in SNNP were identified as substandard.

4.3. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

The biggest challenge affecting the delivery of vital events registration services is the difficulty for people to fulfil the preconditions set for registration, particularly the requirement for both parents to be present for registration, and paying for the certificate. Such procedural requirements are found to be contrary to international standards and good practices as they preclude parents who are unable to fulfil the requirement for registering birth. Additionally, factors such as household income levels and the ability to secure the simultaneous availability of both parents go against the universal and comprehensive principle of the CRVS system. As this is not a specific challenge for Oromia and SNNP but is a nationwide bottleneck, UNICEF is advocating with the Government to remove or relax these preconditions. Both regions are also using informal community level structures such as women development armies, religious leaders and community leaders to create community awareness on the preconditions and benefits of vital events registration.

The transfer of hard copy documents and reports from *kebele* to *woreda* level and from *woreda* upwards is a difficult process for registrars and *woreda* focal persons. This is typically due to the remoteness of the rural *kebeles*, the lack of infrastructure and the lack of data protection to protect the documents during transportation. The procurement of motorcycles for every *woreda* with World Bank support and procurement of bags for transportation of reports and documents will help resolve most of these challenges. Similarly, the ongoing project partnership between the World Bank and FVERA and RVERAs towards the digitalization of the CRVS system will eventually addresses some of the challenges associated with the transfer and protection of civil registration data.

The commitment of the communities in the target regions to reach out to *kebele* registration offices and seek vital events registration services is negligible, mainly due to lack of awareness about the existence and benefits of vital events registration. In some areas, the distance to the *kebele* registration office from places of residence, preconditions set for registration, payment of fees for certificates, and cultural taboos contribute to low service-seeking behaviours among the community. The various advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives that not only focus on creating awareness about the benefits of vital events registration but also impart information on the preconditions of registration are believed to address the challenges. In addition, continuous sensitization and provision of information about the rewards of vital events registration should take place at the community level to address cultural barriers.

While efforts have been made to strengthen the partnership with the health sector, the number of births notified by health institutions against facility delivery rates remains low. This is because most midwives and other health officers have limited knowledge of the notification process. However, notifications of out-of-facility births are much higher as the HEWs are more knowledgeable about the process as a result of continuous trainings provided by RVERA. Additional capacity building trainings are required to increase the number of notifications by health institutions and to maintain the momentum of the significant improvement being progressively observed on data quality.

Although the Government is assigning the required human resources and allocating a steadily increasing budget, VERA is still a "new" institution and both regions face huge gaps in terms of financial resources and office supplies.

From September 2017 and onwards, the Oromia region has faced internal conflict and displacement, which has affected implementation and programme monitoring. The insecurity in the region, which is still ongoing in some parts, will continue to affect timely implementation, programme monitoring and reporting. However, with the lifting of the recent State of Emergency, it is anticipated that the provision of civil registration services will be reinstated, and that access to programme sites will be easier.

Lessons Learned

Continuous consultations and review meetings and concerted and systematic collaboration with stakeholders, especially with the health sector, encourage partners to take necessary measures to address bottlenecks and discharge their respective responsibilities more effectively.

The full potential of community-based structures, associations and religious institutions in enhancing the awareness of and demand for vital events registration services, particularly for the rural communities, has been untapped so far. The RVERAs in both regions need to design mechanisms to systematically engage the local structures and help them play a more instrumental role in advancing the vital events registration system.

4.4. Monitoring and Evaluation

UNICEF staff in both regions closely worked with partners, in particular RVERAs and BoHs, to ensure regular monitoring of the progress of the project, and to identify bottlenecks and seek remedial actions in a timely manner. Biannual review meetings further strengthened this process. An example of the joint field monitoring is the one conducted by SNNP RVERA technical staff in collaboration with UNICEF in 19 zones, 32 *woredas* and 64 *kebeles* in the first quarter of 2018. These aimed to track results and

RVERA monitoring visit at Maze registration centre in Kenba Woreda (©SNNP RVERA Ethiopia/2018/Gashaye)

provide on-the-job mentoring to improve the quality of data entry and reporting, and well as to strengthen the interoperability with health institutions.

4.5. Key Partnerships and Inter-Agency Collaboration

The project is jointly coordinated and implemented by RVERAs and BoHs of the two target regions, through jointly developed annual work plans. These government institutions are implementing the project in close collaboration with other government bureaus, such as the BoWCAs and the Bureaus of Education, as well as community level structures with big constituencies and influence.

An MoU elaborating the roles and responsibilities of RVERA and key stakeholders, particularly BoH and BoWCA, is improving effective coordination. The MoUs at regional level were put in place during the first phase of this project and are being rolled out to the *woredas* targeted for the current phase of the project.

The media, academic institutions, religious leaders and community level structures are also strategic partners, improving the effectiveness of and access to the civil registration system in the two regions.

5. Future Work plan

A. Procurement of supplies for phase II *woredas* and *kebeles*, after securing prior approval from the donor on the possibility of changing the types of supplies indicated under the project proposal;
B. Informed by identified gaps in skills and competencies of civil registrars organize capacity-building trainings for *kebele* managers, *woreda* VERA officers, health centre staff and HEWs.   Assess capacity needs and monitor results of the capacity building interventions;
C. Review data capture, transfer and analysis protocols, tools and practices, as part of the national comprehensive CRVS assessment. Based on findings of the assessment, provide technical

assistance to different levels of RVERAs to standardize data capture and the reporting process, including reviewing paper-based data capturing tool (Output 2);

D. Disseminate information education communication materials in local languages to promote birth registration and certification, and undertake pre- and post-assessments and surveys on knowledge, attitudes and practices to measure change among the target groups;
E. Continue supporting coordination and review mechanisms at regional, zonal and *woreda* level for effective review of performance of vital events registration;
F. Further strengthen project management and monitoring system of RVERA; and
G. Based on findings of the bottleneck analysis, support health facilities to improve notification of births and deaths.

6. Financial Implementation

Please see attached Donor Statement by Activity.

7. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF seizes this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation for the contributions of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. Thousands of children have benefitted and many more stand to benefit from your generous support to UNICEF-assisted programmes in Ethiopia. On behalf of the entire UNICEF team, we thank you once again for your generous support to the realization of our commitments to protecting the rights and improving the well-being of children and women in Ethiopia.

<u>**Donor Report Feedback Form**</u>

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions below for the above-mentioned report. Thank you!

Please return the completed form back to UNICEF by email to:
Name: Jennifer Schulz
Email: jschulz@unicef.org

<center>***</center>

SCORING:	5 indicates "highest level of satisfaction" while 0 indicates "complete dissatisfaction"

1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations? (For example, the overall analysis and identification of challenges and solutions)

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what did we miss or what could we do better next time?
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2. To what extent did the fund utilization part of the report meet your reporting expectations?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what did we miss or what could we do better next time?

_____
_____
_____

3. To what extent does the report meet your expectations in regard to the analysis provided, including identification of difficulties and shortcomings as well as remedies to these?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what could we do better next time?

_____
_____
_____

4. To what extent does the report meet your expectations with regard to reporting on results?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what did we miss or what could we do better next time?

_____
_____
_____

5. Please provide us with your suggestions on how this report could be improved to meet your expectations.

_____
_____
_____

6. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?

_____
_____
_____

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

OTHER RESOURCES CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED FROM: ITALY

unicef

Status of Contribution

External Reference:	
Description:	Ethiopia:Strengthening the Civil Registration System for Children's Right
Contribution Reference:	SC170732
Effective Date:	06.12.2017
Expiry Date:	05.12.2018
Recipient Office(s):	Ethiopia
Agreement Currency:	EUR
Agreement Amount:	EUR 1,000,000.00
Funds Received:	EUR 1,000,000.00
Refunds:	EUR 0.00
Funds Receivable:	EUR 0.00

Summary of Expenditures (USD)

Description	Cumulative Expenditure
Programmable Expenditure:	375,006.63
Indirect support cost 8%	30,000.53
Total:	**405,007.16**
Funds Received in USD:	1,184,834.12
Unspent Balance:	**779,826.96**

Summary of Expenditures by Recipient Office (USD)

	Incurred Expense		Cash Advances and	Cumulative	
Country/Regional Office	**2017**	**2018**	**Prepayments**	**Expenditure**	**Commitments***
Ethiopia	0.00	14,222.12	390,785.04	405,007.16	0.00

* "Commitments" include undelivered purchase orders, payment commitments for implementing partners and travel advances approved but not yet paid. The amounts shown in this column represent the status and value of the commitment as at the date the report is produced. As goods are received and commitments in respect of implementing partners and travel advances are paid these amounts will be added to "incurred expense".

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

OTHER RESOURCES CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED FROM: ITALY

Details of Expenditures by Activity - Office: Ethiopia

Outcome / Output / Activity Description		Incurred Expense		Cash Advances and Prepayments	Cumulative Expenditure	Commitments*
		2017	2018			
Outcome 001 001 HEALTH		**0.00**	**0.00**	**48,000.00**	**48,000.00**	**0.00**
Output 001 001 HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY STRENGTHENING		**0.00**	**0.00**	**48,000.00**	**48,000.00**	**0.00**
Activity 015 OR MONITORING AND EVALUATION		**0.00**	**0.00**	**48,000.00**	**48,000.00**	**0.00**
Transfers and Grants to Counterparts		0.00	0.00	48,000.00	48,000.00	0.00
0100319451 - 001	20064911 - Conducting supportive supervision for h	0.00	0.00	11,067.00	11,067.00	0.00
0100319451 - 002	20064919 - Conducting orientation on birth and dea	0.00	0.00	36,933.00	36,933.00	0.00
Outcome 005 005 CHILD PROTECTION		**0.00**	**0.00**	**313,838.00**	**313,838.00**	**0.00**
Output 003 003 BIRTH REGISTRATION		**0.00**	**0.00**	**313,838.00**	**313,838.00**	**0.00**
Activity 021 OR SUPP. MONITORING & REPORTING MECHANIS		**0.00**	**0.00**	**83,388.00**	**83,388.00**	**0.00**
Transfers and Grants to Counterparts		0.00	0.00	83,388.00	83,388.00	0.00
0100317652 - 003	20063809 - CRVC communication strategy developed	0.00	0.00	26,474.00	26,474.00	0.00
0100317652 - 004	20063814 - Assesment on the progress constraint of	0.00	0.00	24,848.00	24,848.00	0.00
0100317652 - 005	20063816 - CRVS administrative data system in plac	0.00	0.00	7,328.00	7,328.00	0.00
0100317652 - 006	20063851 - Program monitoring and supervision	0.00	0.00	24,738.00	24,738.00	0.00
Activity 033 OR SUPP. DEVELOPMENT &OPERATIONALIZATION		**0.00**	**0.00**	**230,450.00**	**230,450.00**	**0.00**
Transfers and Grants to Counterparts		0.00	0.00	230,450.00	230,450.00	0.00
0100317652 - 001	20063803 - Birth Registration CRVCsystem operation	0.00	0.00	126,150.00	126,150.00	0.00
0100317652 - 002	20063807 - Institutional capacity assesment conduc	0.00	0.00	104,300.00	104,300.00	0.00
Outcome 880 009 PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS OUTCOME		**0.00**	**13,168.63**	**0.00**	**13,168.63**	**0.00**
Output 009 009 STAFF SALARIES		**0.00**	**13,168.63**	**0.00**	**13,168.63**	**0.00**
Activity 001 FD INTERNATIONAL STAFF SALARY		**0.00**	**13,168.63**	**0.00**	**13,168.63**	**0.00**
Staff and Other Personnel Costs		0.00	12,606.13	0.00	12,606.13	0.00
0814137706 - 001	Base Salary # Int. Prof and Higher exc. Tas	0.00	5,040.31	0.00	5,040.31	0.00
0814137708 - 001	Post Adjustment # Int. Prof. and Higher exc. Tas	0.00	1,980.84	0.00	1,980.84	0.00
0814137711 - 001	Dependency Allow. (Int Prof. & Higher exc TA)	0.00	970.46	0.00	970.46	0.00
0814137714 - 001	Pension Fund Contn (Int. Prof. & Higher exc TA)	0.00	1,674.86	0.00	1,674.86	0.00
0814137717 - 001	Medical, dental, life ins contn (IP exc TA)	0.00	145.36	0.00	145.36	0.00
0814137720 - 001	Hardship allowance (Int. Prof. & Higher exc TA)	0.00	435.62	0.00	435.62	0.00
0814137724 - 001	Mobility allowance	0.00	507.81	0.00	507.81	0.00
0814137727 - 001	Rental Subsidy (Int. Prof. & Higher exc TA)	0.00	1,148.75	0.00	1,148.75	0.00
0814137729 - 001	Transfer to ASHI reserve - IP	0.00	351.06	0.00	351.06	0.00
0814137730 - 001	Transfer to Separation Fund - IP	0.00	351.06	0.00	351.06	0.00
General Operating + Other Direct Costs		0.00	562.50	0.00	562.50	0.00
0814137728 - 001	Persnl sec measures	0.00	375.00	0.00	375.00	0.00
0814137731 - 001	Central Serv cost attribution	0.00	187.50	0.00	187.50	0.00

OTHER RESOURCES CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED FROM: ITALY

Total Programmable Cost	0.00	13,168.63	361,838.00	375,006.63	0.00
Indirect support cost 8%	0.00	1,053.49	28,947.04	30,000.53	
Total	0.00	14,222.12	390,785.04	405,007.16	