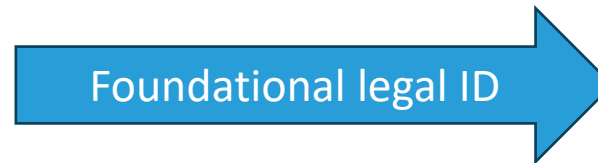# BHASKAR MISHRA

CRVS & Legal Identity Specialist, UNICEF HQ

Interconnected Fundamental Rights: Travel and Birth Registration

UDHR, ICCPR, CRC, ICRMW, ECHR

Demand

Foundational legal ID

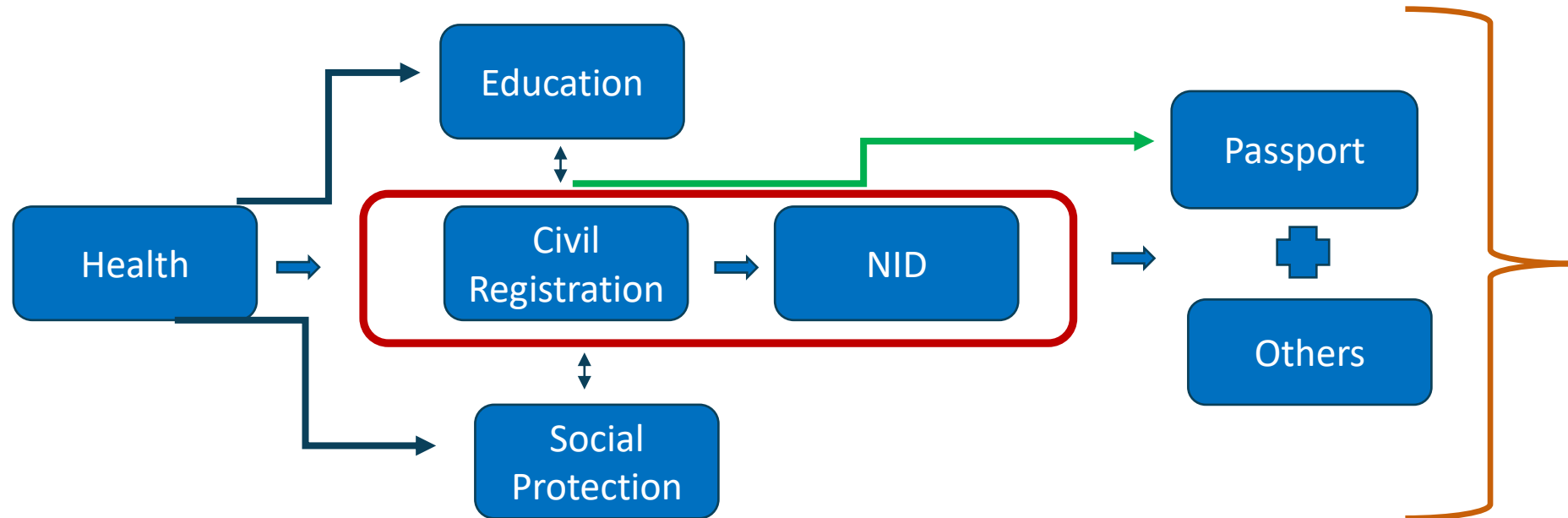Unregistered populations: A loss to both sectors

Single Source of Truth – what and why

Basic characteristics of an individual's identity

Name, sex, date of birth, place of birth, parentage

DPI

Why is it still so hard to keep basic data fields accurate and consistent across systems?

Education

Health

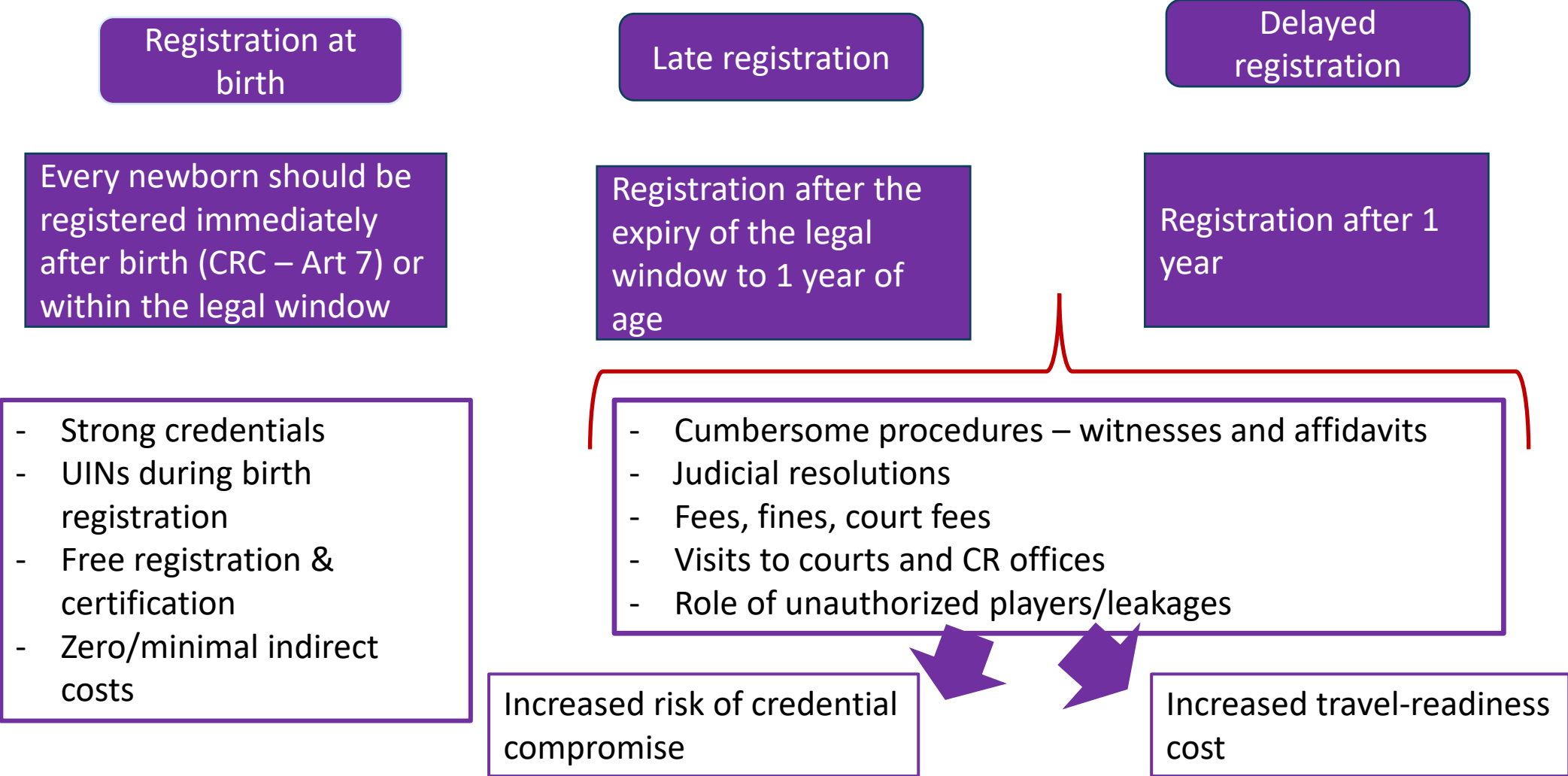Civil Registration → NID

Social Protection

Passport

Others

- Unharmonized data standards
- Non-availability of individual level data
- Insufficient & inappropriate digitalization
- Systemic flaws
- Left-out populations and many more…

Every system flaw or gap is a threat to legal identity and travel documents

4

Understanding the birth registration process

Why registration at birth is an indispensable necessity?

Registration at birth

Late registration

Delayed registration

Every newborn should be registered immediately after birth (CRC – Art 7) or within the legal window

Registration after the expiry of the legal window to 1 year of age

Registration after 1 year

- Strong credentials
- UINs during birth registration
- Free registration & certification
- Zero/minimal indirect costs

- Cumbersome procedures – witnesses and affidavits
- Judicial resolutions
- Fees, fines, court fees
- Visits to courts and CR offices
- Role of unauthorized players/leakages

Increased risk of credential compromise

Increased travel-readiness cost

Consequences of variations in key data fields

Three real-life examples

Name was different in the birth certificate and the school leaving certificate

Birth was registered with his nickname

Class X certificate had the proper name

Difference stalled his passport application

RBD ACT doesn't allow change in name

Despite a court order, it took him 6 months to get the amended birth certificate

Name as well as date of birth was different in the birth certificate and the school leaving certificate

The case was similar to the previous one, but the date of birth was also different – there was a difference of one year

The court agreed to the name change, but rejected the request for the date of birth change

After 1 year or so, he got the passport but with the dob as per his birth certificate
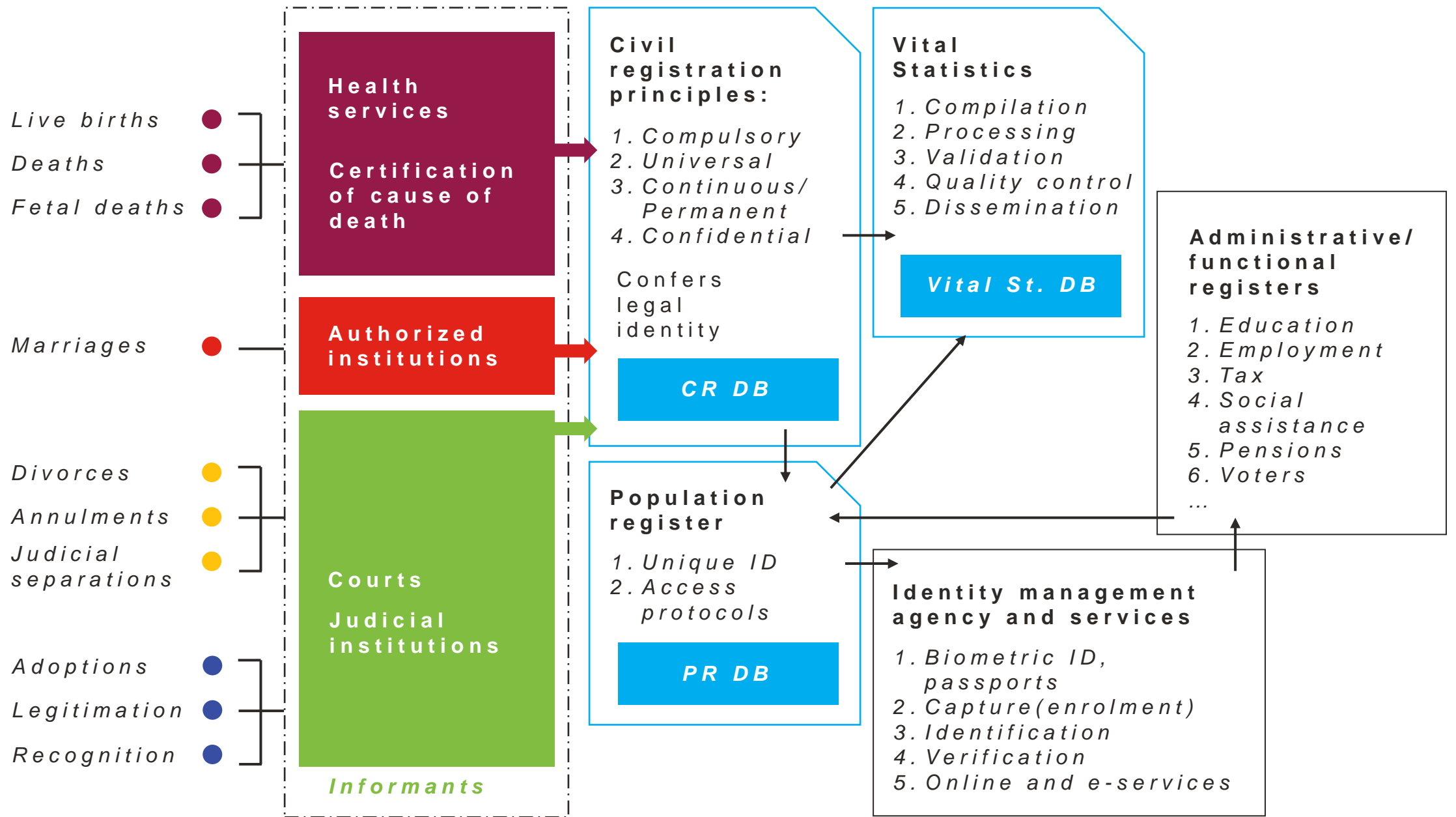

One of the best data entry operators

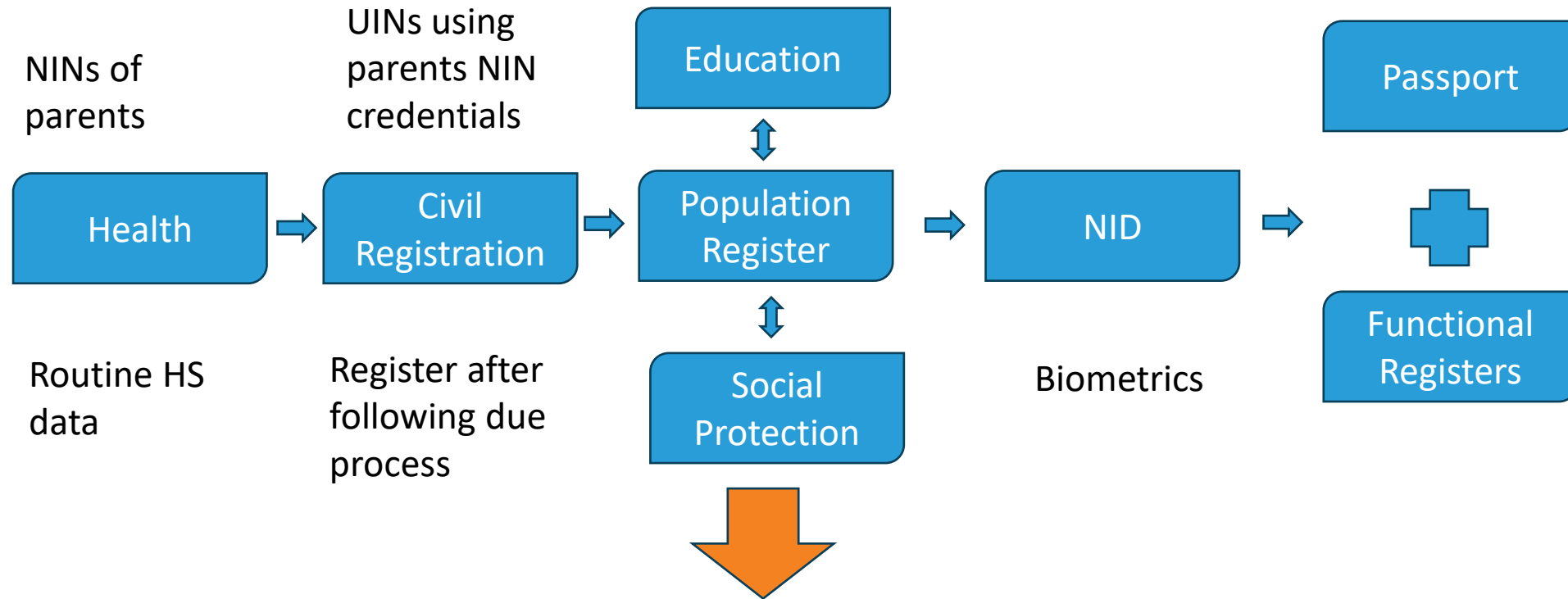Got an opportunity for a UNICEF internship in another country

Missed the opportunity as she didn't have a birth certificate, a must for the passport

Took 2 more years to get her birth registered as she was a 3rd gen. stateless and didn't have proof of birth

6

Live births ●

Deaths ●

Fetal deaths ●

Marriages ●

Divorces ●

Annulments ●

Judicial separations ●

Adoptions ●

Legitimation ●

Recognition ●

Health services

Certification of cause of death

Authorized institutions

Courts

Judicial institutions

Informants

Civil registration principles:

1. *Compulsory*
2. *Universal*
3. *Continuous/ Permanent*
4. *Confidential*

Confers legal identity

CR DB

Population register

1. *Unique ID*
2. *Access protocols*

PR DB

Vital Statistics

1. *Compilation*
2. *Processing*
3. *Validation*
4. *Quality control*
5. *Dissemination*

Vital St. DB

Administrative/ functional registers

1. *Education*
2. *Employment*
3. *Tax*
4. *Social assistance*
5. *Pensions*
6. *Voters*
...

Identity management agency and services

1. *Biometric ID, passports*
2. *Capture(enrolment)*
3. *Identification*
4. *Verification*
5. *Online and e-services*

Health –CR –National ID – Passport pathway – a way forward

DPI

NINs of parents

UINs using parents NIN credentials

Education

Passport

Health → Civil Registration → Population Register → NID → Passport / Functional Registers

Routine HS data

Register after following due process

Social Protection

Biometrics

Functional Registers

Collect information once, use it multiple times

Enable tracking changes, if any, where and when

Move information, not people

CRVS and ID management is critical for the overall ID ecosystem

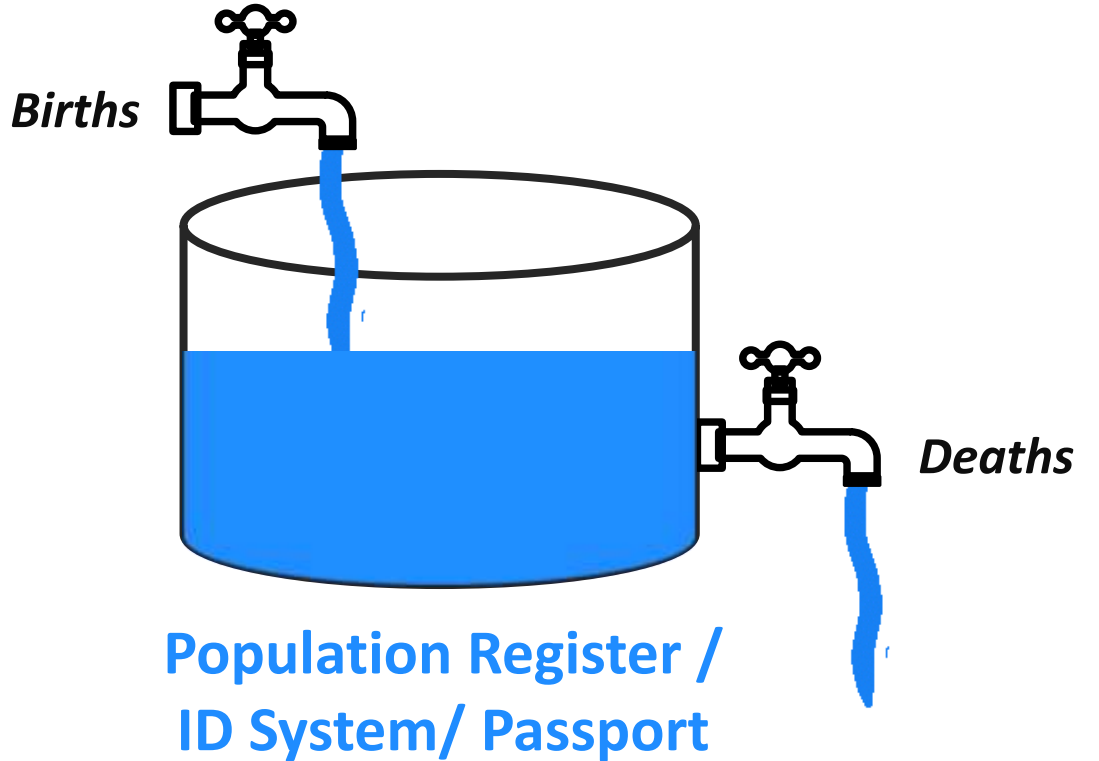A single source of truth for under-18 cohort

Under 5	5-17

Birth registration compulsory for UINs/NINs

Verify the status of birth registrations and provide the necessary information to the civil registration authorities for any unregistered children

It will ultimately cover all age groups

Linking birth and death registration with ID system

Births

Deaths

Population Register / ID System/ Passport

Retiring identity is essential to prevent its misuse

Three takeaways

Ensuring the integrity of travel documents is closely connected to maintaining data integrity in Health, CRVS, and NID Systems

Greater and sustained investments are essential across systems to enhance
- Standardization
- Digitalization
- Interoperability
- Data privacy and Security
- Inter-agency collaboration

Civil registries act as the **first layer of defense** against false identities

Thank You

North American
Central American
and Caribbean
(NACC) Office
Mexico City

ICAO
Headquarters
Montréal

European and
North Atlantic
(EUR/NAT) Office
Paris

Western and
Central African
(WACAF) Office
Dakar

Middle East
(MID) Office
Cairo

Asia and Pacific
(APAC) Sub-office
Beijing

Asia and Pacific
(APAC) Office
Bangkok

Eastern and
Southern African
(ESAF) Office
Nairobi

South American
(SAM) Office
Lima

ICAO