SECTION 3
Basic Clinical Interventions for Maternal and Newborn Complications
Session 6-3: Birth Registration
Every child has a right to a name and nationality.

- Article 7, Section 1 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child states that:

  “The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by her or his parents.”
Birth registration

• the official recording of the birth of a child by some administrative level of the state and coordinated by a particular branch of government. It is a permanent and official record of a child’s existence.
Importance of birth registration

• Gives identity to a person

• It not only gives a child a recognized legal existence and identity, it is the sign that a child ‘belongs’ to a family, a community and a nation.

• Ticket to citizenship, without it a person does not officially exist and lacks legal access to the privileges and protection of a nation.
Importance of birth registration

- Opens door for accessing other fundamental rights such as:
  - Right to education and health
  - Right to family environment
  - Protection against exploitation and abuse
  - Juvenile justice
  - State benefits and participation in the society
- The registration of a child’s birth enables that child to obtain a birth certificate.
- A fully registered birth and the accompanying birth certificate help a child secure the right to his or her origins, to a nationality and also help to safeguard other human rights.
Importance of birth certificate

• A birth certificate is the most visible evidence of a government’s legal recognition of the existence of a child as a member of society.

• If a child is not registered at birth and has no birth record, he or she will not have a birth certificate with that all-important proof of their name and their relationship with their parents and the state.

• Indeed, a birth certificate is the document that generally determines the nationality of the child, as many countries grant nationality according to place of birth.
Responsibilities of the midwives

- Get information from the parents for the filling-up of the birth registration form.

- Follow-up the filing of the birth certificate.

- Ensure that the mother gets a copy of the registered birth certificate.

Sources:
- Birth Registration - Right From the Start. Downloaded at www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/pfd/digest9e.pdf