

CRVS Insight

January 2020



Wishing you a Happy New Year!

Before diving into this month's stories, we want to wish all of our readers a Happy New Year from the CRVS team in ESCAP's Statistics Division. As we begin 2020, we want to take this moment and reflect upon some achievements. Overall, 2019 was a great year when many countries and development partners worked hard to improve CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. Some of our favorite stories highlighting the progress being made to strengthen and improve national systems are included below.

1. First, we were excited to read the recent [UNICEF report on birth registration](#) highlighting great progress in birth registration across the world, and in particular, in South Asia.
2. Second, we watched as the [Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform](#) in Pakistan undertook a [sweeping legal review](#) of their existing laws at the national and provincial levels. The review focused on the review of pre- and post-independence CRVS laws, concentrating on the legislation for registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorces; all with an eye toward crafting a universal CRVS legal framework.
3. Third, we welcomed the completion and publication of Papua New Guinea's [comprehensive CRVS system assessment](#) and the subsequent development of their [National Plan of Action](#) for 2020-2021.
4. And fourth, we celebrated alongside our colleagues when UNHCR announced that Kyrgyzstan was being recognized as the [first nation to successfully eliminate all known cases of statelessness!](#)

Finally, we are very happy to announce that as of this writing, 31 countries have submitted responses to the [midterm questionnaires](#). As you know, the aggregated and anonymized information will form the basis of a midterm regional report and be used to inform the [Second Ministerial Conference](#) in October 2020.

To continue reading about progress throughout the CRVS Decade (2015-2024) please stay tuned to our *Insight* newsletter and keep visiting www.getinthepicture.org.



A decade of action for the 2030 Agenda: Statistics that leave no one and nowhere behind

ESCAP is pleased to invite abstracts for the [2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics Week](#) to be held from 15-19 June 2020, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Asia-Pacific Statistics Week will provide a forum for experts and managers involved in official statistics and national statistical systems in the Asia-Pacific region. We encourage research with a focus on CRVS as [research on CRVS](#) can play an important role in improving CRVS systems.

The Asia-Pacific Statistics Week provides CRVS researchers with an opportunity to engage the broader Asia-Pacific statistical community by illustrating the significance of CRVS in national statistical system development.

More information on the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week, including the official "call for abstracts/papers" and the "abstract template", is [available online](#).



ISI offering two courses on statelessness in 2020

The [Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion](#) is offering two courses on statelessness in 2020: 1) The Statelessness Summer Course, and 2) The Advanced Course on Childhood Statelessness & the Child's Right to a Nationality.

The Summer Course will be offered for the ninth year in a row and is open to anyone interested in statelessness issues. The Advanced Course follows a curriculum developed in close partnership with UNICEF and is meant for professionals working specifically in the area of child protection and child rights.

Both courses incorporate case studies and group work assignments through which the participants learn how to apply the theory covered and have the chance to develop key skills, as well as share their own ideas and expertise with one another. The participants benefit from the knowledge, and the professional and lived experiences, of both the lecturers and their fellow participants. The case studies and assignments will draw on examples of statelessness situations from all around the globe.

For more information on the courses and how to apply please visit the [ISI website](#) or visit



Connecting vital events registration and gender equality (ConVERGE)

The [Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems](#), along with [Open Data Watch](#) and [UNFPA](#), will be hosting a conference from 25-26 February 2020 on "Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality". The ConVERGE Conference will assess the progress made in the CRVS and gender equality field since their first annual meeting in 2018.

This event will evaluate present-day and future opportunities and challenges to ensure all civil and vital life events are universally registered, as well as certified and granular vital statistics for improved development planning are generated and used, and to contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

For more information please visit the [Open Data Watch website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The UN Statistical Commission will host its [51st session](#) from 3 - 6 March 2020, in New York where multiple CRVS-related topics will feature on the agenda.
 - From 25-27 March 2020, high-level officials will convene again in Bangkok, Thailand for the [Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#) to address "Accelerating action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific".
 - The [Regional Steering Group](#) for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will convene for their sixth meeting from 30 March - 1 April, in Bangkok, Thailand to continue preparing for the Second Ministerial Conference in October 2020. Please stay tuned to www.getinthepicture.org for more information as the dates approach.
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NEW RESOURCES

- Following a four-part webinar series entitled *The Power of Population Data*, the [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#) published ***Advancing Sustainability Together? Citizen-generated data and the Sustainable Development Goals***. For *Insight* readers who missed it, you can [watch the webinar here](#) and download the summary report by visiting www.getinthepicture.org.
- To advance learning and action on comprehensive and holistic CRVS and identity management systems, the [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#) collaborated with the [Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems](#) to produce a ***Compendium of Good Practices in Linking Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and Identity Management Systems*** featuring six country case studies. Readers can find the Compendium and Case Studies by visiting www.getinthepicture.org.
- UNICEF's new report, ***Birth registration for every child by 2030: Are we on track?*** presents the latest

Feedback

As we are always looking to improve content, we'd love to hear your feedback and your inputs for articles. CRVS Insight is written for you, and your opinion matters most to us!

If you have a new resource, upcoming event or article you would like highlighted in CRVS Insight, please send your submissions to escap-crvs@un.org.

This e-mail has been sent to because you have expressed interest in CRVS activities in Asia and the Pacific. If you would like to stop receiving future communications, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe.