**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Capacity Building Workshop for**

**National Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Focal Points**

***12-14 December 2017***

***Bangkok, Thailand***

**Background**

At the 2014 Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific, Governments adopted the Ministerial Declaration to “Get Every One in the Picture”, which lays out the following goals:

(a) Goal 1: Universal civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events;

(b) Goal 2: All individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events, as necessary, in order to claim identity, civil status and ensuing rights;

(c) Goal 3: Accurate, complete and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death), based on registration records, are produced and disseminated.

In addition to the three goals, Governments committed to the implementation of the Regional Action Framework for Civil Registration and Vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which outlines eight implementation steps recommended for Asia-Pacific countries, including:

(a) Establish a national CRVS coordination mechanism comprising all relevant stakeholders

(f) Develop and implement a comprehensive multisectoral national CRVS strategy

(g) Assign a national focal point within the Government that is responsible for coordinating with the ESCAP secretariat and development partners

(h) Through the national focal point, report relevant information (including national baseline, midterm and final reports[[1]](#footnote-1)) to the ESCAP secretariat

**How will the workshop support national CRVS systems improvements?**

Three years after from the Ministerial Conference, the Regional Steering Group on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific – responsible for guiding the implementation of the Regional Action Framework and comprising of representatives from 22 member States and eight development partners – has noted significant but mixed progress among the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, the Regional Steering Group, as well as the broader CRVS partnership, highlighted the development of a comprehensive, multisectoral CRVS strategy and a national coordination mechanism to implement the strategy as crucial to achieving the goals and targets laid out in the Regional Action Framework and, more broadly, improving national CRVS systems. Assigning a national focal point and reporting of relevant information such as the baseline reports, have also been noted by member States and the Asia-Pacific CRVS partnership as critical for enabling relevant government officials, facilitating regional support and knowledge sharing, and ultimately accelerating regional efforts to improve CRVS systems in the region.

This workshop will support participating countries in carrying out the four implementation steps mentioned above and more importantly, their wider efforts for improvements to national CRVS system. More specifically, participants will share experiences and insights in: establishing or strengthening national CRVS coordination mechanisms; developing, implementing and monitoring national CRVS strategies; and setting targets and assessing progress.

In broader context of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, strengthened capacity of national civil registration and vital statistical systems is critical for the achievement of various SDG goals and targets relating to health, education, justice and gender equality including explicit targets on birth registration (SDG 16.9) and statistical capacity (17.18 and 17.19).

The activities also respond to the vision of the Asia-Pacific statistical community, that by 2030, national statistical systems are enabled and empowered to lead development of and to deliver innovative, trusted and timely products and services for urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

**Objectives**

The workshop aims for participants to:

1. Build awareness with participants of the outcomes of the 2014 Ministerial Conference, including the recommended implementation steps of the Regional Action Framework and the roles and responsibilities of the National Focal Points (NFPs);
2. Discuss issues related to advancing the implementation steps in the national contexts including establishing national CRVS coordination mechanisms; developing national CRVS improvement plans; and setting targets and assessing progress (baseline reports)
3. Identify modalities and areas where regional support can be most effectively delivered to assist countries with the national implementation.

The expected outputs of the workshop are that participating countries move closer towards completing the implementation steps of the Regional Action Framework.

**Format**

The meeting will be hosted by ESCAP at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, from 12 to 14 December 2017. It will feature presentations from resource persons, ESCAP and other development partners engaged in conducting CRVS improvement activities. The meeting activities will be designed to stimulate a high level of interaction, knowledge and information exchange among participants.

**Participants**

The workshop will bring together national CRVS focal points and representatives of key stakeholder government agencies of CRVS from Asia-Pacific countries including National Statistical Offices, Civil Registration Authorities, Ministries of Health, Ministries of Interior and Ministries of Planning, depending on the national set up of the CRVS system. A particular focus will be given to countries that have not yet reported to the ESCAP secretariat on their national progress, established CRVS focal points or submitted baseline reports to ensure these countries can better benefit from and contribute to the regional efforts. In addition, development partners and resource persons from countries who have made significant progress with their CRVS systems in recent years will be invited to contribute to the knowledge sharing.

Tentative participants:

1. Countries who have identified National CRVS focal points, but have not submitted CRVS Decade baseline reports: Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan;
2. Countries who have not identified National CRVS focal points nor submitted baseline reports: Brunei Darussalam, China, Georgia, Nauru, Russian Federation, Singapore, Turkmenistan;
3. Other resource persons: Cambodia, Bangladesh, Armenia, Fiji (Ministry of Health), ESCAP Pacific Office, Partner organisations

**Language**

The working language of the meeting will be English.

1. The Regional Action Framework specifies that member States should submit to the ESCAP secretariat a baseline report containing:

(i) Most recent nationally representative baseline data for each target;

(ii) The national target value for each target;

(iii) A progress report on CRVS improvement activities;

(iv) The report of any comprehensive assessment conducted in the country, where available;

(v) Any national CRVS strategy, where available. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)