The First Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok from the 28 - 30 July. Senior government officials from the Health, Statistics, Planning and Civil Registration sector as well as development partners attended the meeting and a work programme for the Regional Steering Group was developed and three subgroups established.

The Regional Steering Group comprises 30 members: 22 from members and associate members and eight development partners. The group provides guidance for the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, and is mandated to act as custodians of the Asia and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015 - 2024). More information on the new Regional Steering Group here.

If you have any questions on the Regional Steering Group, please contact: Ms. Tanja Sejersen, Statistics Division, ESCAP at sejersent@un.org.

Guidelines to assist countries in setting and monitoring

Guidelines for setting and monitoring the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific are currently being developed and will soon be published. Setting national targets according to the Regional Action Framework depends entirely on the national context, ambition and capacity, and the resources that can be dedicated to establishing or improving CRVS systems.

These guidelines highlight approaches and considerations that countries may take into account in order to set realistic goals for achieving CRVS targets and monitoring the implementation of the Regional Action Framework.

The target audience for the guidelines are civil registration authorities, government departments responsible for collecting or using vital statistics, local governments, planning authorities and development partners involved in supporting improvement of CRVS and related systems.

National CRVS Focal Points

National Focal Points are now identified in 33 countries of the region. They will play a crucial role in the implementation of the Regional Action Framework. The focal points’ role is to coordinate engagement with development partners and country stakeholders. The focal points will be liaising with the ESCAP secretariat to report and monitor progress in implementing the Regional Action Framework on behalf of all CRVS stakeholders in their country.

For more information, contact the Statistics Division of United Nations ESCAP at stat.unescap@un.org or +66 2288 2593, or visit www.getinthepicture.org

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