

# Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific

May 2025

## Regional Snapshot

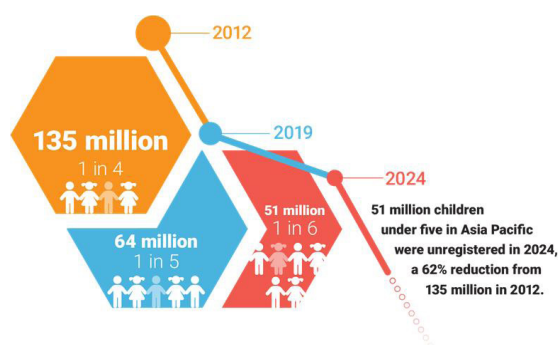
CRVS systems provide individuals with a legal identity, facilitate access to public services, and support governments by producing better data to guide decision making.

The Asia-Pacific region is making significant progress toward achieving universal and responsive CRVS systems. Encouraging trends highlight rapid improvements, particularly in countries that had low birth registration rates a decade ago. As a result, the number of unregistered children under five in the region has reduced from 135 million in 2012 to 51 million in 2024.

However, challenges still remain. An estimated 6.9 million deaths go unregistered each year, and only one in three deaths have a medically certified cause of death, leading to critical knowledge gaps about why people die and the necessary interventions to improve public health.

More needs to be done to count hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations and address the lack of access to registration, particularly among hard-to-reach populations and people in vulnerable situations.

Number of unregistered children under 5 years in Asia and the Pacific



## Number of unregistered children aged under five in 2024

# 51 million ▼

Down from 135 million in 2012, a reduction of 62%.

## Proportion of children under five without birth registration

# 1 in 6 ▼

## Birth certificate used as primary identification in issuing passports and school enrollment

# 35/46 countries

## Number of unregistered deaths per year

# 6.9 million

## Proportion of deaths with a medically certified cause of death

# 1 in 3

## CRVS Decade extended to 2030

Members and Associate members of ESCAP have asked for additional time to achieve universal registration. To further align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the focus of the Ministerial Conference is therefore to extend the Asia and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024) to 2030, ensuring continued progress toward comprehensive civil registration and vital statistics systems across the region.

Members and associate members of ESCAP reaffirm their shared vision that all people in Asia and the Pacific benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development.

## CRVS progressing the Sustainable Development Goals

A well-functioning CRVS system provides continuous, up-to-date birth, death, and population statistics, essential for SDG indicators. Cause of Death data from CRVS directly informs indicators on maternal and infant mortality, road accident deaths, and non-communicable diseases.

Improving CRVS is an SDG target. Target 16.9 aims for universal legal identity by 2030. Indicator 17.19.2 highlights the importance of CRVS to the production of statistics through targets of 100% birth and 80% death registration.

Beyond reporting, CRVS improves policy decisions and SDG implementation by providing accurate and timely vital statistics. Birth registration grants legal identity, reducing discrimination, trafficking, and statelessness while ensuring access to education, health services, and civic participation.



## Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia-Pacific

The Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will take place at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, from 24 to 26 June 2025.

This event will assess the achievements and challenges of the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade, with a strong focus on renewing commitments toward 2030. Key priorities include universal registration, legal documentation for all, and the use of registration records for vital statistics, which will be reinforced through a ministerial declaration.

Co-organized by 16 CRVS partners, the conference will bring together a diverse range of expertise in critical development areas across Asia and the Pacific. Guided by the theme of inclusivity and resilience, it will convene ESCAP members and associate members, UN agencies, international organizations, and civil society groups to share experiences and strengthen collaboration for more responsive CRVS systems.



## Get every one in the picture

### Additional resources:

- Get Every One in the Picture website: [www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org)
- The 2025 CRVS Decade progress report

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