



Asia-Pacific CRVS Research Forum

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CRVS Legal Reviews – Advancing Civil Registration Systems in the Asia-Pacific

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Abstract

Introduction: Robust legal frameworks that are aligned with international best practices and human rights principles are the foundation for well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems.¹ Reviewing these frameworks is an essential step toward achieving a universal, permanent, and continuous civil registration system capable of providing accurate vital statistics information for better public health data production and use as set out in the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.² By helping government stakeholders assess the legal and regulatory environment surrounding their CRVS systems, legal reviews inform legal and policy reforms, public health decisions, and CRVS system improvement initiatives.³

Methods: A CRVS legal review is a carefully guided, customizable process that involves expert evaluation of the legal and regulatory frameworks that underpin a country's civil registration and vital statistics systems, culminating in the drafting of a recommendations report that provides stakeholders with a detailed, action-oriented, and substantive blueprint for aligning their CRVS legal frameworks with international best practices.⁴

CRVS legal reviews are conducted using the Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit (the toolkit)⁵ developed by the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health (D4H) Initiative. The toolkit provides a guide for analyzing all laws that support and pertain to a country's CRVS systems. By setting out international best

¹ Schwid A et al. Civil Registration, Vital Statistics, and Identity Management (CRVSID) Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit. Chapter 1: Purpose, Scope and Methodology for a CRVSID Legal Framework Analysis. pp 6. Available at: <https://dfweawn6ylvgz.cloudfront.net/uploads/2022/01/Chapter1.pdf>

² The Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific – Section II: Goals and Targets. November 2014. pp 4. Available at: https://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Action%20Framework%20on%20Civil%20Registration%20and%20Vital%20Statistics%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific_0_0.pdf

³ CRVSID Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit. Chapter 1: Purpose, Scope and Methodology for a CRVSID Legal Framework Analysis. pp 7.

⁴ Global Health Advocacy Incubator. The Data for Health Initiative and the Role of a CRVS Legal Review. Available at: https://dfweawn6ylvgz.cloudfront.net/uploads/2022/05/CRVSID_Legal_Review_Summary.pdf

⁵ Schwid A et al. Civil Registration, Vital Statistics, and Identity Management (CRVSID) Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit. Available at: <https://dfweawn6ylvgz.cloudfront.net/uploads/2022/03/CompleteToolkit.pdf>



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practices for building a continuous, permanent, and universal civil registration system, the toolkit helps government stakeholders identify gaps or obstacles in existing CRVS legal frameworks and highlight opportunities for improvement.⁶

Results: Since 2017, twelve countries in the Asia-Pacific Region – Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam – conducted or are conducting a CRVS legal review. The outcomes of these reviews led to the drafting and/or adoption of new CRVS laws in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Thailand, Maldives, Sri Lanka, the Solomon Islands, and Vietnam.

Conclusion: Without strong and integrated CRVS systems, countries cannot capture the most basic and essential data about their populations, and individuals will not realize their fundamental human rights. Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region have already benefited from a CRVS legal review, while others still need to implement this activity as part of their CRVS system improvement efforts. A CRVS legal review is recommended for countries aiming to build universal, permanent, and continuous civil and identity registration systems that are ideal sources of vital statistics and in alignment with international best practices.

⁶ Ibid.



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Background

The following paper provides a primary analysis of the legal review projects supported by GHAI over the past five years, illustrating the gaps identified in the common issue areas across nine countries located in the Asia-Pacific region⁷, along with a brief analysis of the recommendations made to each country's systems and planned activities for future CRVS legal review and reform efforts within the D4H Initiative.

GHAI's specialized legal review role⁸ within the D4H Initiative is to (1) provide technical assistance and oversight for analyzing the legal and regulatory frameworks pertaining to civil registration, vital statistics (CRVS) systems in both D4H priority countries and Global Grants Program (GGP) countries; (2) identify where countries' legal frameworks do and do not align with international best practices; (3) train government stakeholders on international CRVS best practices; and (4) draft laws, regulations, and other legal documents necessary for CRVS legal reform.

Methodology for a CRVS Legal Framework Analysis

A legal review – an evaluation of the legal and regulatory frameworks that govern a country's civil registration and vital statistics systems – is conducted using the legal review toolkit⁹ that comprises thirteen distinct topics, covering all aspects of CRVS systems, from birth, death and stillbirth registration, to determining and certifying causes of death (COD), to ensuring equal access to all individuals in a population. Conducted in close to thirty countries to date, CRVS legal reviews provide stakeholders with detailed findings and recommendations on how best to align their CRVS systems with international best practices. The revised and up to date version

⁷ The countries in the Asia-Pacific region that have completed CRVS legal reviews to date are Bangladesh, Cambodia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Maldives, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Legal reviews are ongoing in India, Indonesia, and Pakistan.

⁸ Data for Health Program, Global Health Advocacy Incubator. See: <https://www.advocacyincubator.org/what-we-do/our-public-health-advocacy-programs/civil-registration>

⁹ Schwid A et al. Civil Registration, Vital Statistics, and Identity Management (CRVSID) Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit. Available at: <https://dfweawn6ylvgz.cloudfront.net/uploads/2022/03/CompleteToolkit.pdf>



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of the toolkit is accessible to the broader global audience in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese languages to help facilitate CRVS legal reviews across different regions of the world.

CRVS Legal Reviews in the Asia-Pacific

Since 2017, twelve countries in the Asia-Pacific region have initiated or completed a review of legal frameworks governing their respective CRVS systems. The following sections of this paper provide an analysis and discussion of the major findings and recommendations made under the common thematic areas listed below in the nine countries of the Asia-Pacific region that have completed CRVS legal reviews.

Findings and Recommendations

1. Structure of Civil Registration Systems

Among the countries that had completed CRVS legal reviews, five countries – Bangladesh, Maldives, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Vietnam – identified gaps in the way their birth and death registration systems are structured. In the Maldives, existing laws failed to identify and authorize central and local offices and officials responsible for the provision of civil registration services¹⁰, whereas, in PNG, where the law clearly establishes the responsible government authority, services are not accessible at local and district levels.¹¹ In the Philippines¹², where the civil registration agencies are functional and services are sufficiently decentralized, the central civil registration authority lacked disciplinary power over local civil

¹⁰ ImagineLaw. Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Maldives – Executive Summary. June 2022. pp 5.

¹¹ Global Health Advocacy incubator (GHA). Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 19.

¹² Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA). Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Philippines. July 2017. pp 4.



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registrars. In Bangladesh¹³, where the structural challenge related to the routine practice of frequently rotating civil servants including register generals at both national and sub-national levels, recommendations were made to keep these officials and their deputies in office for a sufficient period to ensure better control of the CRVS system improvement initiatives.

A need to amend and supplement laws was identified in Vietnam, Solomon Islands, PNG, and the Maldives to better define the roles and responsibilities of key CRVS actors and government stakeholders at both national and sub-national levels, as well as to address human resource gaps in civil registration offices. Additional recommendations in PNG¹⁴, Solomon Islands¹⁵, and Vietnam¹⁶ were to institutionalize coordination mechanisms to help ensure interoperability, efficiency, data sharing, and cooperation among CRVS stakeholders. In the Solomon Islands, the legal review identified a lack of requirement for vital statistics to be derived from civil registration data, for which a recommendation was made to require a regular transmission of civil registration data to government statistics officials¹⁷.

The lack of enabling laws and funds to support the day-to-day operations and full and continuous functionality of CRVS systems was another challenge identified in the legal reviews. Implementing system-wide reforms to enable the generation of revenue and allocation of sufficient resources in support of CRVS initiatives and human resource needs were among the recommendations made in the Solomon Islands, PNG¹⁸, and the Philippines¹⁹. Moreover, the legal reviews identified a lack of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in the CRVS systems

¹³ Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi). Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 11.

¹⁴ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 5.

¹⁵ Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi). Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the Solomon Islands. January 2021. pp 4

¹⁶ Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi). Report on Legal Framework Assessment on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification Management in Vietnam. October 2021. pp 16-19.

¹⁷ Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the Solomon Islands. pp 46.

¹⁸ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 36.

¹⁹ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Philippines. pp 28.



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in the Philippines²⁰ and the Solomon Islands, including systems of administrative, civil, and/or criminal penalties for fraudulent acts, needed to ensure accountability and good governance²¹.

On the other hand, there have been developments in the region in making registration services accessible to all. The Philippines, through a decentralized system, has made registration services accessible and compulsory²². Cambodia is another country that is making significant progress in reforming CRVS laws to ensure universal registration. Similarly, in PNG²³, a draft CRVS law has been prepared that authorizes the establishment of primary registration sites at local and district levels.

Providing working definitions for vital events' under national laws, including definitions for the terms birth, live birth, death and stillbirth, in alignment with definitions provided by the United Nations (UN), was recommended for the CRVS systems in the Maldives²⁴, the Philippines²⁵, and PNG²⁶. The role of the law in enabling the use of technology for advanced civil registration functions has also been identified and recommended for the CRVS systems in the Maldives²⁷ and the Solomon Islands²⁸.

2. Informants

Strengthening the health sector's role in birth and death registration and vital statistics production has been a significant recommendation made in the legal reviews conducted for several countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In Bangladesh, making the health sector

²⁰ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Philippines. pp 27-28.

²¹ Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the Solomon Islands. pp 17.

²² Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Philippines. pp 4.

²³ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 32.

²⁴ Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Maldives. Pp.21.

²⁵ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Philippines. pp 27.

²⁶ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 31.

²⁷ ImagineLaw. Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Maldives. pp. 18.

²⁸ Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the Solomon Islands. pp 17.



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responsible for civil registration has been recognized by stakeholders as a high-priority recommendation²⁹, while the law reform process in Cambodia has incorporated it as a significant system reform measure. In PNG, similarly, the draft law establishes primary notifiers of vital events and strengthens the health sector’s role as an informant to help increase coverage.³⁰ Recommendations for Vietnam include supplementing the governing legal frameworks through a regulation that authorizes the health sector to issue death notices for natural deaths in the community³¹.

3. Place Of Registration and Required Evidence

There have been efforts in the Asia-Pacific region to introduce legal reforms to permit vital events’ registration at both places of occurrence and residence to facilitate and accelerate the registration of vital events. The draft law in Cambodia includes provisions permitting registration at the place of occurrence and residence, while for Bangladesh, a recommendation was made to amend the law and remove barriers to accessing services due to the narrow definition given to the term “permanent residence” that impacts certain population groups’, such as refugees, access to registration services.³²

To increase death registration rates, recommendations were made: (1) in Vietnam to require submission of a death notice to obtain permission to carry out burials, provide incentives (such as rewards), and redefine and expand persons responsible for informing deaths to civil registration authorities³³; (2) in PNG, for all deaths to be registered with an MCCOD before burial and measures to be taken against non-compliance³⁴; (3) In the Solomon Islands, to

²⁹ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 14.

³⁰ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 37.

³¹ Report on Legal Framework Assessment on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification Management in Vietnam. pp 53.

³² Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 3.

³³ Report on Legal Framework Assessment on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification Management in Vietnam. pp 61.

³⁴ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 6.



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remove the requirement of COD entry for deaths that naturally occur within the community and to mandate COD certification only for medically supervised and unnatural deaths³⁵; and (4) In the Philippines³⁶, to limit the broad exceptions to the requirement for registration of deaths before burial provided under the health sector's regulations and rules.

4. Information Collected at Registration

Information collected during registration was another issue identified in some of the legal reviews conducted in the Asia-Pacific region. In Bangladesh, where many of the UN-recommended vital statistics tabulations could not be generated from birth registration data, a recommendation was made to attach the relevant information from health facility records and include the dates of birth of parents when birth registration application forms are submitted to the registrar.³⁷ Although it is ideal to require COD information for registering deaths, considerations should be made in countries where people have limited access to physicians. In the Maldives, a recommendation was made to revise this requirement and explicitly prescribe the place and timeframe for reporting deaths³⁸. In Sri Lanka, the legal review indicated that existing laws failed to provide detailed procedures for the notification, validation, registration, and certification of vital events.³⁹

5. Medical Certification of Cause of Death

Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) was an issue area for CRVS system improvement programs across several countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The legal review projects in these countries identified challenges and made recommendations to address issues ranging from the absence of legal mandates for COD determination in Sri Lanka⁴⁰ to

³⁵ Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the Solomon Islands. pp 6.

³⁶ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Philippines. pp 10.

³⁷ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 23.

³⁸ ImagineLaw. Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Maldives. pp 25.

³⁹ Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA). Legal Review of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System of Sri Lanka. October 2021. pp 58.

⁴⁰ Legal Review of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System of Sri Lanka. pp 53.



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introducing changes in systems that required family informants to provide COD information in the absence of a medically certified COD in Bangladesh⁴¹, and incorporating explicit requirements for the registration of COD information in Health Facilities in Cambodia.

In PNG⁴² and the Maldives⁴³, new CRVS laws provided rules that enable the determination and certification of COD information by authorized individuals. In PNG, the law provided guidance on who is responsible for certifying COD in specific cases, such as medically attended or unattended deaths, deaths in ambulances, and dead-on-arrival cases, as well as the method for certifying COD such as verbal autopsy, postmortem analysis, and autopsy. ⁴⁴In the Philippines⁴⁵, a recommendation was made to enable mandatory training on COD determination in medical schools and hospital facilities and for the health sector to issue rules mandating minimum ICD-10 qualifications for ICD-10 coders, such as educational attainment level, experience, and training hours. To enable coordination between the health sector and the civil registration authority on COD information, a recommendation was made to amend rules in Bangladesh to require MCCOD information to be recorded and submitted directly to the registrar instead of the deceased's family⁴⁶, and in Maldives⁴⁷, to require health centers to refer medicolegal deaths to responsible authorities such as police or coroner.

⁴¹ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 25.

⁴² Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 6 and 37.

⁴³ ImagineLaw. Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Maldives. pp 38.

⁴⁴ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 6.

⁴⁵ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Philippines. pp 4.

⁴⁶ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 18-19.

⁴⁷ ImagineLaw. Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Maldives. pp 6.

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6. Verbal Autopsy

The use of verbal autopsy – a structured interview of the decedent’s family members or other caregivers who can provide enough information to determine the probable COD, either using a computer algorithm (automated VA) or by a physician who reviews the interview results and assigns a COD (physician-certified VA) – for deaths occurring without medical care or supervision was covered in the legal reviews/reform efforts in some of the countries in the region. In PNG, the draft CRVS law introduces a verbal autopsy system to improve COD determination in non-medically attended deaths and ICD coding to produce uniform and high-quality mortality data.⁴⁸ Similarly, in the Maldives, recommendations are made to (1) allow registration where the COD in medically unattended deaths cannot be appropriately determined and (2) consider authorizing the use of verbal autopsies for deaths in the community.⁴⁹ For Bangladesh, the recommendation was to amend rules to permit the use of verbal autopsies for out-of-facility deaths while clearly stipulating that the information will be collected after registering the death and used only for statistical purposes⁵⁰.

7. Late and Delayed Registration

To help advance timeliness and accuracy in vital events’ registration, the legal review projects in some Asia-Pacific countries made recommendations. In Bangladesh, the law reform incorporated measures to ensure uniform enforcement of legal requirements across all levels to encourage registration⁵¹. Whereas, in the Maldives⁵² and the Solomon Islands, prescribing

⁴⁸ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 36-37.

⁴⁹ ImagineLaw. Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Maldives. pp 38.

⁵⁰ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 26.

⁵¹ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 9.

⁵² ImagineLaw. Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Maldives. pp 24.

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additional requirements that govern cases of late or delayed registration was recommended to improve civil registration services and ensure the accuracy of registered information⁵³.

8. Accessibility of Civil Registration Services

Accessibility of civil registration services has been identified as a challenge in some of the CRVS systems in the Asia-Pacific region. Accessibility is limited in many parts of Bangladesh⁵⁴ and the Solomon Islands for citizens⁵⁵, whereas in Vietnam, the gap was mainly in collecting information about non-citizens present in the country. To help address these issues, recommendations were made to (1) establish local-level civil registrars in Cambodia, (2) open mobile and secondary civil registration offices and expand registration office hours in Bangladesh⁵⁶, (3) link registration to access to government services, such as education, health care, and social services to increase coverage in PNG⁵⁷, and (4) expanding the scope of information collection of the National Population Register in Vietnam to increase coverage for non-citizens.⁵⁸

9. Still Birth Reporting and Registration

Legal review projects recommended empowering health sectors in Cambodia, Bangladesh⁵⁹, and the Solomon Islands with the authority to collect data on foetal deaths⁶⁰. Other gaps identified in the review of the stillbirth reporting and registration processes in these countries

⁵³ Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the Solomon Islands. pp 24.

⁵⁴ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 6.

⁵⁵ Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the Solomon Islands. pp 19.

⁵⁶ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 6.

⁵⁷ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 5.

⁵⁸ Report on Legal Framework Assessment on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification Management in Vietnam. pp 49.

⁵⁹ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 39-40.

⁶⁰ Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the Solomon Islands. pp 12.



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include the absence of a foetal registry in the Philippines⁶¹ and the lack of policies and laws governing stillbirth reporting and registration in Thailand.⁶² As a result of the recommendations from the legal review, the CRVS system was reformed in Thailand with the adoption of standard operating procedures for stillbirth reporting and definitions of key terms and responsible persons associated with stillbirth reporting.

10. Vital Statistics

The production of vital statistics was another area covered in the legal reviews in several of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region where recommendations were made to require health facilities to submit health information together with birth registration notification forms to the registrar (Bangladesh)⁶³; revise statistics forms in line with best practices (Philippines)⁶⁴; and empower, through laws, the relevant statistical authorities with authority to develop detailed civil status statistics in line with the UN recommendations, as well as amend laws to clarify stakeholder mandates and the process of registration and generation of vital statistics to ensure uniformity of procedures at all stages and increase efficiency, effectiveness, completeness, timeliness and accuracy (PNG⁶⁵ and Vietnam⁶⁶).

11. National Identity Registration

The legal and policy recommendations for identity registration are different in the three countries that had analyzed laws against best practices for national identity registration. In Bangladesh, the recommendation was to amend laws to establish and regulate the use of the digital platform and include an easy, efficient, and swift process to update, amend or correct

⁶¹ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Philippines. pp 4.

⁶² Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA). Legal Recommendations Report: Stillbirth Reporting and Registration in Thailand. 2022.

⁶³ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity Registration Laws of Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 7.

⁶⁴ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Philippines. pp 28.

⁶⁵ Legal and Regulatory Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of Papua New Guinea. January 2019. pp 27.

⁶⁶ Report on Legal Framework Assessment on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification Management in Vietnam. pp 33.



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NID information.⁶⁷ In the Maldives, the major recommendations were to specify the age of enrollment into the national ID system, to provide mechanisms to protect individual data and prevent identity theft and prescribe processes for appeal and for retiring identity.⁶⁸ In Vietnam, it was found necessary to authorize the commune-level police to participate in the citizen identification card issuance procedure to decentralize authority one step further, creating more convenience for citizens and making the card issuance process easier and more efficient.⁶⁹

Conclusion

Despite the significant progress that several countries in the Asia-Pacific region made in conducting legal reviews, only a few have stepped up to adopt new CRVS laws or introduce policy reform measures. Recognizing that legal review is just a starting point in the pursuit of legislative reform, which is where true population-level impact lies, GHAI plans to strengthen the D4H intervention to support countries through the entire legal review and reform process, which requires a shift to deeper, longer term, and more strategic engagement in countries. This also takes advantage of GHAI's comparative advantage in supporting locally-led advocacy to achieve policy change and promote public health. In the coming years, in countries prioritized for legal reform, GHAI will work to engage civil society organizations (CSOs) for multi-year implementation of political advocacy campaigns involving public and media advocacy as well as decision-maker engagement to push for law and policy reforms needed for CRVS system strengthening.

⁶⁷ Legal Review of Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and National Identity
Bangladesh: Final Recommendations Report. pp. 45.

Registration Laws of

⁶⁸ ImagineLaw. Legal and Institutional Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Maldives. pp 43.

⁶⁹ Report on Legal Framework Assessment on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification Management in Vietnam. pp 109.