



CRVS Insight

May 2021

Stats Café on Harnessing civil registration records for vital statistics on 24 May

The next Stats Café session will highlight the experiences of Georgia, Bhutan and Fiji in utilizing civil registration records for the production of vital statistics reports.

ESCAP, with the help of partners, continues to provide technical assistance and have developed tools to countries in the region to realize the third target of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

Technical assistance has focused on facilitating the calculation, analysis and presentation of vital statistics, including the revision of the Guide for the Production of a Vital Statistics Report released in December 2020. However, at least 17 countries in the region have yet to use civil registration records for producing vital statistics.

The Stats Café will be held **Monday 24 May 13.00-14.00 (GMT+7)**.

You can get more information [here](#) and register [here](#).



Seventh Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS

The [seventh meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) took place virtually on 18-19 May 2021. The group discussed preparations for the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, including reviewing draft papers, the communications strategy and discussing participation for the Ministerial Conference, which is due to take place in November.

The group worked to develop a first draft of a Ministerial Declaration, which will be the outcome document for the Ministerial Conference. The draft version will be sent to Members and Associate members of ESCAP for consultation in June.

In addition, the Regional Steering Group provided inputs to further guide ESCAP's work to support CRVS inequalities assessments in Asia and the Pacific.

APRIL 2021 (VERSION 1.0)

CRVS Systems Improvement Framework

CRVS Systems Improvement Framework published

The [CRVS Systems Improvement Framework](#) has been launched by several international partners. Recognizing the existing gaps to universal registration in most countries, it offers a structured approach to help bridge these gaps. This new comprehensive tool will support countries in improving civil registration processes to register every birth, death, marriage and divorce.

The new tool will support CRVS stakeholders in analyzing and redesigning existing processes to improve their CRVS system's performance and transform these recommendations into a strategic action plan for implementing improvements. The framework builds on an array of existing CRVS guidelines and uses business process mapping to introduce an approach to strengthening CRVS systems.

You can read more about the tool [here](#).

Bloomberg
Philanthropies



DATA FOR
HEALTH INITIATIVE

Global Grants Program



D4H Global Grants program open for funding proposals

The Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative has launched a new funding cycle for its Global Grants Program. It offers the opportunity for country institutions to submit project ideas to improve public health data, including through the strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics systems. This round introduces equity as a new thematic priority area. Proposals related to the inclusion of marginalized populations or alleviation of inequities in data systems are therefore encouraged.

An initial project idea can be submitted **until 31 May**. You can find more details on the process [here](#).



Launch of the first Vital Statistics Report of Bhutan

To leverage the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, the National Statistics Bureau has published a Vital Statistics Report using data maintained by the Department of Civil Registration and Census under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs. This is the first report of its kind using civil registration data in the country. The report provides detailed statistics on births, deaths and registration completeness, as well as other related statistics for the year 2019 and prior.

The report is part of the commitment Bhutan made for the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade, 2015-2024, to strengthen the CRVS system in the country to Get Every one in the Picture. The commitment, stewardship by national authorities, and trust and collaboration of stakeholders have all enabled the publication of this report.

The report can be downloaded [here](#).



CRVS Champion: Shorenna Tsiklauri

Each month, our community newsletter puts a spotlight on one person from Asia-Pacific who has gone above and beyond in their efforts to support CRVS programmes, raise awareness of CRVS issues or lead CRVS improvement efforts in their home country. This month we are happy to highlight Shorenna Tsiklauri from Georgia.

What is your current title and role?

I am the head of the Population Census and Demographic Statistics Department at the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat). In addition, since 2017 I have been teaching at the Ilia State University a course on the Principles of Demography. I am member of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific.

The main functions of Population Census and Demographic Statistics Department is to plan, organize and implement the population census and demographic surveys in Georgia. In addition, the department is responsible for the collection, processing and dissemination of demographic data.

My key role is to lead the department. With my excellent team we are working to produce reliable, accurate, timely and internationally comparable demographic data.

Can you please share with us a particular experience which highlighted the importance of CRVS to you?

I have been working at Geostat for 8 years and in my current position since 2018. Throughout this time, we have had close collaboration with the Public Service Development Agency under the Ministry of Justice and the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, as it is quite difficult to produce reliable vital statistics without a strong civil registration system and good collaboration.

In 2017, the first Vital Statistics Report was published. I am proud to have been a member of the working group and to have been actively involved in the preparation of the publication.

Last year, I have had the honor of working closely with colleagues in Thailand as a consultant supporting the publication of their first Vital Statistics Report.

How would you like to see CRVS in Georgia develop by the end of the CRVS Decade?

Georgia has highly developed online registration system of births and deaths. Not only quantity but also quality matters. Therefore, one of Geostat priority is to produce demographic statistics which is compatible with international standards. The National strategy for the Development of Official Statistics of Georgia (2020-2023) highlights activities which are related to the improvement of the quality of causes of death indicators.

In addition, the publication of Vital Statistics Reports is included in the Statistical Working Program which is approved by the Government of Georgia.

Which advice would you give to others trying to improve CRVS systems?

Close collaboration between NSOs and concerned Ministries is the key for CRVS system's improvement.

At the same time, solving the problem first requires realizing that the problem exists. It means that any country should assess the current situation, analyze and plan how to improve the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics processes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

To launch its report "Getting everyone in the picture: A snapshot of progress midway through the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade", ESCAP will organize a series of webinars. A regional webinar presenting the results from the midterm questionnaires throughout Asia and the Pacific will take place on **Monday 28 June**, followed by subregional events delving in subregional lessons later that same week. More details will be given soon on getinthepicture.org and in the next newsletter.

NEW RESOURCES

The Pacific Community has published its [first information paper on population registers](#). Acknowledging the absence of population registers in the Pacific, the series aims at sharing knowledge to make their implementation easier. It starts off with definitions and a conceptual framework to frame action.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Organization of American States, has published a report on ["Emergency response by civil registry and identification offices during the COVID-19 pandemic: Impact, best practices and innovative initiatives implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean"](#).

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with an accompanying photo to escap-crvs@un.org.

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