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CRVS Insight Newsletter

April 2025

CRVS Insight Newsletter



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The CRVS Insight Newsletter team is calling on our subscribers to help expand the reach of the newsletter. This monthly publication provides crucial updates on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) developments across the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting upcoming events and essential resources.

CRVS systems are fundamental to inclusive development, ensuring legal identity for individuals and providing governments with critical data for effective policymaking. The [CRVS Insight Newsletter](#) serves as a key tool for staying informed about these advancements.

Due to recent technical issues with our mailing list provider, we encourage you to **forward** this month's edition to your colleagues and networks working in CRVS and related fields. Your support in sharing this newsletter will help us reach a wider audience and ensure that all stakeholders are informed and engaged in strengthening CRVS systems.

New subscription link is [here](#).



Programme for the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific is now online

The [Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#) (3MCCRVS) is set to take place from 24 to 26 June 2025 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok. The conference centers on the shared vision of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade, recognizing the crucial role of civil registration and vital statistics in achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

The provisional programme is now [here](#). All relevant information will be available on the event webpage, including pre-session documents, and the speaker request form for a country statement.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the organizing partners invite organizations contributing to strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems to host a

side event or CRVS exhibition during the Ministerial Conference. Please read the call for proposals/expressions [here](#). The deadline for proposals has been extended to 15 April 2025.

Please also note the associated events of the conference organized by the co-organizers of the conference. These include [subregional and sectoral forums](#) on 23 June, [journalist training](#) and a class for interested government staff on [data centered leadership for senior CRVS managers](#).



Young People and Civil Society Forum on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia), World Vision International (WVI), Plan International, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Vital Strategies, Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held a forum convening 37 representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and 44 representatives of young people groups and their mentors in Bangkok, Thailand on 4-6 March 2025.

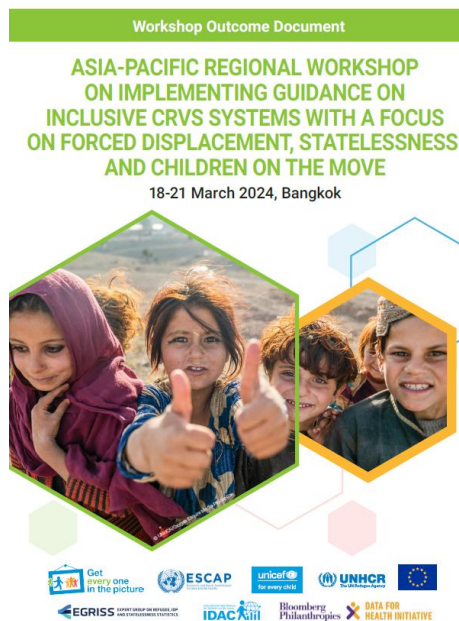
The forum was attended by 81 participants, representing 48 organizations and sub-organizations from 16 countries, where they shared experiences and discussed challenges and improvements to CRVS systems across Asia and the Pacific.

Key themes and discussions included: improving inclusivity and resilience of CRVS systems; disseminating data from CRVS systems to create impact and awareness; and developing key messages on CRVS. Workshops and World Cafés were organized to bolster engagement and to exchange ideas around these themes and to identify key challenges and recommendations.

CRVS representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia and the Philippines also delivered presentations reporting on the outcomes of the country-level civil society consultations hosted in December 2024 and January/February 2025. The representatives highlighted key issues within their countries and provided recommendations on improvements to CRVS needed.

Participants at the forum initiated the development of statements from young people and civil society to be delivered at the [Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#) in June 2025.

Details of the Civil Society Forum and the engagement with young people and CSOs can be found [here](#).

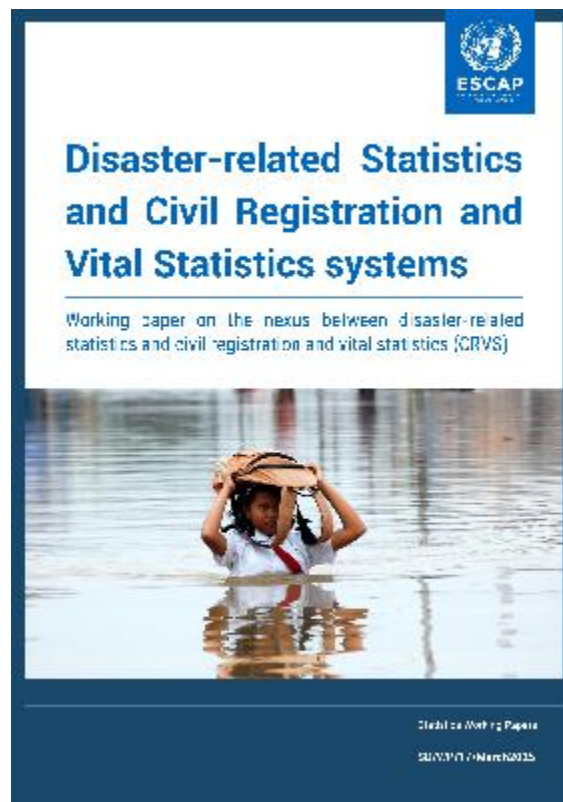


Report for the workshop of Inclusive CRVS Systems with a Focus on Forced Displacement, Statelessness and Children on the Move

Representatives from over 40 governments across Asia and the Pacific convened at a joint workshop co-organized by ESCAP, UNHCR, UNICEF, EGRIS, and IDAC in 2024 to discuss inclusive CRVS systems and statistics on statelessness, forced displacement, and children on the move. The workshop aimed to enhance understanding of methodologies related to statelessness and forced displacement statistics within CRVS frameworks, facilitate the exchange of best practices, and address challenges in including stateless and displaced groups in CRVS systems. Participants also explored areas for technical support and partnerships aligned with regional priorities.

As a result of the workshop, ESCAP recently released an elaborate report on key discussion, the action points, and relevant guidance/mandates. Key takeaways included a push for stronger national coordination, detailed inequality assessments, improved vital statistics, and strategies to integrate displaced and stateless populations into national statistical frameworks.

Please access the report [here](#).



Working paper: Disaster-related Statistics and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems

ESCAP has released a new working paper, titled "Disaster-related Statistics and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems," examining the critical link between disaster-related statistics and civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems. The working paper highlights the importance of integrating these data systems to enhance disaster preparedness and response.

The paper emphasizes the necessity of robust data collection and management. Drawing from insights gained at the 4th Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics in Ethiopia, and contributions from the Asia Pacific CRVS Partnership, the paper underscores how accurate and timely disaster statistics, when combined with comprehensive civil registration data, can significantly improve disaster risk reduction strategies. By aligning these systems, policymakers can gain a deeper understanding of the impact of disasters on populations, enabling the development of more targeted and effective interventions.

The working paper is available [here](#).



Digital Public Infrastructure and Development: A World Bank Group Approach

World Bank has published a white paper titled "Digital Public Infrastructure and Development: A World Bank Group Approach," which explores the transformative potential of digital public infrastructure (DPI) in fostering sustainable development. The paper underscores the importance of designing inclusive, user-focused digital systems that prioritize safety and tangible outcomes over mere technological advancement.

The reliability of high-assurance digital IDs depends on thorough verification. This usually means confirming the user's identity in person or through virtual help. Connecting these digital IDs to legal documents like birth certificates or national IDs makes them more trustworthy, especially for government services. Strong and accessible national ID and civil registration systems are essential. Making sure these systems are reliable and inclusive is key to creating secure digital IDs and building trust in the digital transactions they support.

The white paper is accessible [here](#).



NADRA marks 25 years of transforming legal identity

Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) celebrated its Silver Jubilee with a grand ceremony at its headquarters in Islamabad in March 2025. The event marked a significant milestone in NADRA's history, highlighting its achievements in legal identity management and national

database integration. The President and Prime Minister of Pakistan sent congratulatory messages, praising NADRA's contributions to public service delivery, economic growth and inclusivity.

NADRA also launched Pakistan's first dematerialized ID card, serving as a complete digital ID, eliminating the necessity for users to carry physical cards for transactions. The dematerialized ID card is included in the [PAK ID](#) mobile application. This initiative, funded by the World Bank's Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP), seeks to establish digital verification systems across various services. A pilot project for the fully digital identity is set to launch on August 14, 2025.

Please read NADRA's press release [here](#).



The Philippines celebrated the 35th Civil Registration Month

The Philippines marked its 35th Civil Registration Month in February 2025, an annual event led by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The celebration underscores the significance of registering vital events like births, marriages, and deaths. Instituted by Proclamation No. 682 on January 28, 1991, this event serves to remind Filipinos of their responsibility to register key life events and legal changes impacting their civil status.

The 2025's theme is "Building a Resilient, Agile, and Future-Fit Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System." PSA kicked off the month-long celebration with a community parade and Thanksgiving Mass, followed by various activities such as sport games, contests, and webinar and forum.

For further details, please click [here](#).



Photo credit: UN Photo Contest: Biswas Prasanta

CRVS Re-Design Workshop in India

On March 11-12, 2025, Jharkhand hosted a CRVS Re-Design Workshop in Ranchi, organized by the Department of Planning & Development in collaboration with UNICEF and ESCAP. The event brought together key CRVS stakeholders to assess challenges, explore solutions, and propose reforms to improve the efficiency and accessibility of the registration system. Some highlights from the workshop included:

- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Government officials, local authorities, healthcare institutions, and civil society representatives participated in discussions on modernizing Jharkhand's CRVS framework.
- **Challenges Identified:** Participants examined existing gaps, including delays in registration, low public awareness, administrative inefficiencies, and technical barriers affecting data collection.
- **Proposed Reforms:** Key recommendations included streamlining digital registration processes, integrating CRVS data with health and social welfare systems, and launching targeted awareness campaigns to improve registration rates.
- **Capacity Building:** Strengthening institutional capacities through training programs for registrars, health workers, and local authorities was emphasized as a priority.

The insights from the workshop will inform a strategic roadmap for CRVS reforms, aimed at ensuring universal and timely registration. Strengthened coordination among stakeholders will be crucial in

achieving a robust and efficient civil registration system, enhancing governance and service delivery across Jharkhand.

Read more about this project [here](#).



Digital Identity Progress Highlighted at MOSIP Connect 2025

MOSIP Connect 2025, held in the Philippines in March 2025, concluded with a strong focus on strengthening legal identity systems globally. The event emphasized the advancement of inclusive digital identity systems and the importance of integrating these systems to reach marginalized populations and provide equitable access to essential services.

This year's event brought together government, technology developers, policymakers, and civil society representatives to discuss the future of digital identity infrastructure. Key highlights included emphasis on inclusive digital identity, technological advancements, collaboration, and government involvement.

Please click [here](#) for the news article.



Vital Strategies' Global Grants Program (GGP) kicks off in the Pacific with a gender data analysis workshop

The Pacific Community (SPC), with support from Vital Strategies' Global Grants Program (GGP), ESCAP and the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative ran a three-day regional workshop for participants from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Niue, and Tonga from 3-5 March in Nadi, Fiji. During this workshop, participants worked to enhance capacity in gender-responsive data analysis and evidence-based policy making on a range of topics from gender disparities in birth and death registration to reproductive health needs.

SPC is also providing technical support to Samoa, Tonga and Niue for implementation of their national GGP grants which focus on a range of in-country CRVS Strengthening activities to facilitate the analysis of gender inequities. Country-level support through Vital Strategies' GGP program in these three countries will include activities such as the digitization of paper-based registration records to facilitate the analysis of cause of death data to assess gender inequities in health outcomes and integration of gender mainstreaming across the data lifecycle, from collection to analysis and reporting. To find out more about this workshop and access related materials, visit the [SPC website](#).

As part of Fiji's national GGP project to assess gender inequities in birth registration by geographic location, a workshop was organized by Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), in collaboration with UNSW and ESCAP from 18-19 March in Suva, Fiji.

The workshop focused on the standardization of geographic variables in the national birth registration database (place of birth & place of birth registration), which has previously hindered the analysis of birth registration completeness at sub-national levels. Now that these variables have been standardized, sub-national analysis of gender inequities in on-time birth registration has been made possible and will inform further qualitative work in remote and hard-to-reach areas of Fiji to discern the barriers and obstacles faced by families to register the birth of their child within one year of occurrence. Attended by a range of stakeholders from relevant ministries and agencies engaged in the national CRVS system, the workshop also benefitted from the valuable insights provided by divisional registrars from the more remote divisions of Fiji. The findings from quantitative and qualitative analysis will further inform the design of targeted interventions, aimed at improving on-time birth registration in Fiji and reducing gender inequities. Find out more [here](#).



ANACoD3 Regional Training for Pacific Countries, 6-8 March 2025, Nadi, Fiji

The Pacific Community (SPC), with support from Vital Strategies and Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, ran a three-day regional workshop from 6-8 March in Nadi, Fiji, during which participants from Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu learnt how to use the [ANACoD3 tool](#) (developed by WHO), to perform comprehensive and systematic analyses of their national cause of death data. This workshop also aimed to build capacity of a cadre of ANACoD3experts in the Pacific who could also contribute to the emerging [Regional Cause of Death Coding Approach](#), by building a virtual team able to analyse death data for countries without capacity in this area. Find out more [here](#).



CIS nations to develop unified data exchange for civil registration offices

Uzbekistan has been tasked to develop a unified data exchange system for civil registry offices across the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This initiative is designed to streamline the exchange of vital records, including birth, death, marriage, and divorce documents, among member states.

The new system aims to simplify governmental interactions and enable CIS citizens to easily obtain necessary documents, regardless of their original place of registration. By creating a single, integrated network, the project also seeks to enhance the accuracy of civil registry data across the CIS. The CIS Executive Committee has announced that work on the project has commenced, with implementation planned in stages, starting with concept development, followed by technical execution and integration of national systems.

Please click [here](#) for further details.



Photo credit: General Department of Identification, Ministry of Interior, Cambodia

Cambodia advances toward Universal Civil Registration

Cambodia has been making significant strides in establishing a robust Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system, marking a major step towards providing legal identity for all its citizens. A recent joint op ed by Dr. Top Neth, Director-General of the interior ministry's General Department of Identification; Jo Scheuer, UN Resident Coordinator in Cambodia; Romain Santon, Regional Deputy Director, Asia and Pacific CRVS Improvement Program, Vital Strategies; and Rachael Beaven, Director of the ESCAP Statistics Division, highlights some of these achievements and Cambodia's unique journey.

The full op-ed can be accessed [here](#).



Photo credit: Data for Health Initiatives (D4HI)

The second MLDI Stakeholder Workshop in PNG

Papua New Guinea (PNG) was selected as one of the five countries to pilot the Medicolegal Death Investigation (MLDI) baseline assessment tool in 2024. Under the leadership and with the support of Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG), the initiation of this assessment subsequently led to the initiation of the legal review of one of PNG's MLDI laws and regulations, the Coroner's Act of 1953 and its Regulations of 1955.

This was the second MLDI stakeholder workshop co-hosted by DJAG and Data for Health Initiatives (D4HI) over 2 days with representation also from the Medicolegal Death Investigation International Community of Practice (MLDI ICoP) and Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH).

The aims of the workshop are:

- To present the MLDI baseline assessment results and discuss and plan next steps, and
- The meeting is also an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and enhance effectiveness in the overall initiation and establishment of a robust and functional MLDI system in PNG.

The objectives of the workshop include:

1. The Department of Justice and Attorney General to present an update of the Legal review of the Coroner's Act 1953 and next steps

2. Provide an overview of the importance of MLDI systems and the MLDI tool used for the Baseline Assessment
 3. Present the findings of the National Level and Facility level assessment
 4. For stakeholders to discuss current roles within the MLDI space, discuss challenges, bottlenecks as well as their response to assessment findings.
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CRVS professionals across the Pacific region convene for the PCRN meeting in Nadi, Fiji

Between 26 and 28 March, over 60 civil registrars and CRVS professionals, representing 20 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) convened in Nadi, Fiji for the Pacific Civil Registrars Network (PCRN) meeting which was organized by The Pacific Community (SPC), with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative. The [PCRN](#) was created in 2014 with a vision that civil registrars across the Pacific will work together in ways that are responsive to local needs, with a shared approach to legislative change, thus enabling technology and data exchange.

The meeting provided a forum for civil registrars to share progress and challenges in CRVS improvement, facilitate knowledge exchange and identify areas for potential collaboration, as well as priority areas that are of common concern to civil registrars in the region. Some of the key themes which the meeting addressed included digitization of CRVS systems, mobility, climate resilience and regional approaches to build capacity, such as the [Regional Cause of Death Coding Approach](#).

Mr. Jeff Montgomery (Programme Lead for CRVS at SPC) commented: “Increasingly, Pacific people are being born in one country and are dying in another.” Mr. Montgomery explained “Economic and climate factors are likely to lead to additional population relocation in coming years.” Read full article [here](#).

The [Pacific Health Information Network \(PHIN\)](#) meeting also took place concurrently to the PCRN meeting, which convened over 60 health information system professionals from across the Pacific, providing a collaborative space for national government agencies, development partners and other stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices, and identify gaps in digital health capabilities.

To access resources and country presentations from the PCRN meeting, please visit the [SPC website](#).

Resources

[CRVS-related eLearning courses](#)

[Recording: Webinar: An R Package for Better Civil Registration & Vital Statistics](#)

[GHA! Briefing paper: International Obligations on Civil Registration](#)

[Article: The role of mortality surveillance in pandemic preparedness and response](#)

[IOM: Standard Operating Procedures: Determining the Legal Identity of Migrants Without Proof of Legal Identity](#)

[Samoa Bureau of Statistics: official data portal](#)

Events

[UNSD: Global calendar of statistical events](#)

[SPC Statistics for Development Division: Event calendar](#)

[15 - 17 April 2025: The first meeting of civil registrars from Central Asian countries, Ankara, Türkiye](#)

[23 - 25 April 2025: WHO workshop: Getting everyone in the picture-how the health sector accelerated improvements in CRVSs, Chonburi, Thailand](#)

[29 April 2025: 2025 meetings of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific \(Third session\)](#)

[22 May 2025: 2025 meetings of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific \(Fourth session\)](#)

[16 - 18 June 2025: 4th International Forum on Migration Statistics \(IFMS 2025\), Malmö, Sweden](#)

[23 June 2025: Associated events: Sub-regional and Sectoral Forums \(the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific\)](#)

[24 - 26 June 2025: Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#)

[27 June 2025: Conference of donors supporting civil registration and vital statistics improvements in Asia and the Pacific](#)

Professional Opportunities

[ESCAP: Intern-Statistics Division](#)



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