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## ***CRVS Insight***

August 2020

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### **Results from the midterm review of the CRVS Decade at the Seventh Session of the Committee on Statistics**

The [seventh session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics](#) will take place from **26-28 August 2020**. During the Committee, the [Report on progress towards the achievement of the goals of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade \(2015–2024\)](#) will be introduced to provide an overview of progress against the three goals, 15 targets and eight implementation steps of the Regional Action Framework. The Report highlights areas of success during the first half of the Decade and looks at areas requiring sustained efforts to achieve the shared vision of all people in Asia and the Pacific benefiting from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems by 2024, facilitating the realization of their rights and supporting good governance, health and development.

The Committee session will discuss matters of strategic importance to regional statistical development, regional cooperation and the formulation of regional positions to advance official statistics in line with existing commitments, including the Collective Vision and Framework for Action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community adopted by the Committee in 2016 and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind adopted by the Commission in 2019.



### **The importance of CRVS systems for gender equality**

CRVS systems play a significant role for all individuals by ensuring the registration of births, deaths, marriages, and other vital events, and the recording of causes of death. They provide individuals with legal forms of identification, enabling access to government services such as education and healthcare but also facilitating opening a bank account, formal employment and getting a driving license or a passport.

However, people in many countries face barriers that limit registration, and the impact of registration or lack of registration often depends on sex. The barriers potentially block women and girls from accessing services, restrict their enjoyment and exercising of rights and reinforce a gender gap. As a result, a gender lens is required because gender inequalities shape the constraints of CRVS systems, thus determining many of the gaps and challenges in using civil registration data for producing vital statistics. A recently published [ESCAP information note](#) highlights the importance of CRVS systems for gender equality.



## WHO to support seven countries in CRVS systems' strengthening

As part of its ongoing support for countries improving the performance of their CRVS systems, particularly death registration and causes of death, the [WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia](#) (SEARO) is supporting CRVS strengthening in seven countries. The countries selected for the project are India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Timor Leste.

The objective of the project is to support the countries in improving CRVS systems through the development of strategic action plans with a special focus on death registration and causes of death systems, and following a holistic and systemic approach. The project will use the [CRVS Improvement framework](#) which is based on a process-centric approach.

The guiding principles for the project will be: a) country-led and country-owned process; b) well-coordinated and consultative process; c) guided by international standards and concepts, and best practices; d) building a more pro-active system, as opposed to a passive system; and e) include innovations and scaleable pilots on verbal autopsy based on civil registration records.



### New round of facilitated CRVS eLearning course launched by World Bank

The World Bank has announced that another round of the Advanced-Level (Facilitated) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) eLearning Course is now open for enrollment. This course covers 13 modules and is virtually guided by international experts who further facilitate online discussions and assignments. It requires the completion of the Basic-level (Self-paced) CRVS course.

To enroll:

1. Go to the Open Learning Campus website: <https://olc.worldbank.org/>
2. Click on Log in on the top right of the page and login with your credentials
3. Go to <https://olc.worldbank.org/content/civil-registration-and-vital-statistics-systems-advanced-level-facilitated> and click on "Enroll now"

After completing the registration process, you will initially be added to a waitlist, while it will be verified that you have completed the pre-requisite course and set up your account in the new course. Please allow some time for this process, and you will be contacted again closer to the course start date. The course will be offered from **September 21 to November 1, 2020**.

The course is free. For more information, please contact [crvselearningcourse@worldbank.org](mailto:crvselearningcourse@worldbank.org).

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## The Nexus Between Civil Registration and Social Protection Systems: **Five Country Practices**



### **Center of Excellence publishes *The Nexus Between Civil Registration and Social Protection Systems***

The [Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems](#) has recently launched [a compendium](#) on the links between CRVS and social protections systems. Based on experiences in Argentina, Chile, Namibia, Republic of Korea, and Tunisia, it stresses the importance of universal registration to improve public service delivery. Reinstating the importance of the pledge to leave no one behind including via legal identity, as expressed under target 16.9 of the SDG agenda, it highlights the benefits of developing CRVS systems to this end through practical case studies. By providing concrete examples on the solutions offered with such development, the compendium offers a rich picture of the range of actions which can be undertaken in parallel to vital events' registration.

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community recently launched its webinar series on the utilization of registers and administrative data in census programmes of Pacific island countries. The program, as well as the recording of previously held meetings can be found [here](#). The [next session](#) will be held on 26th August, focusing on "Understanding the key requirements for the utilisation of registers for census statistics."

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#### **NEW RESOURCES**

A recording of the ESCAP's Stats Café on COVID-19 and Death registration, with presentations from Australia, Sri Lanka and WHO, can be found [here](#). You can access other webinars of this series by visiting the [Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series website](#). Each webinar is organized in collaboration with relevant development partners and countries.

The group of practitioners and academics who contributed to [The Palgrave Handbook of Global Health Data Methods for Policy and Practice](#) recently launched a new website: [globalhealthdata.org](http://globalhealthdata.org). The website is complementary to the book in its endeavor of helping to assist students, practitioners, policymakers and the general public understanding how public health data is collected and disseminated.

The World Bank's ID4D Initiative recently published a qualitative research toolkit entitled

["Understanding People's Perspectives on Identification"](#). It provides a comprehensive guide of qualitative research as a basis for ID systems reforms and evolution. A [webinar](#) discussing the toolkit is also available.

The Singapore Department of Statistics recently released the 36th iteration of its [Statistics on Marriage and Divorces for 2019](#). The annual publication is presented in two parts: Part One analyses the marriage trends, and characteristics of grooms and brides, while Part Two highlights the trends in marital dissolutions as well as characteristics of divorcees.

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