
CRVS Insight

August 2023



Workshop on Data Analysis and Report Writing for Civil Registration Based Vital Statistics in Maldives, 30 July – 03 August 2023

In collaboration with [Maldives Bureau of Statistics](#), ESCAP organized a 5-day national capacity building workshop on data analysis and report writing for civil registration based vital statistics in Male, Maldives from 30 July to 03 August 2023.

This was the first of two workshops to be conducted in Maldives to build the technical capacity for the production of a vital statistics report. The first workshop focused on the production of vital statistics on births, marriage and divorce using national civil registration data from 2019-2021. The workshop engaged a total of 22 national stakeholders from the Ministry of Health, Department of National Registration, Maldives Bureau of Statistics, Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH), Department of Judicial Administration, the Family Court and the Civil Court.

The [next workshop](#) is planned for 03 to 07 September and will be co-organized with WHO. The workshop will focus on the production of vital statistics on deaths including Causes of Deaths, as well as ANACoD3 training.

More information on the event available [here](#).



Vital Strategies Continues to Support CRVS Development of Asian and Pacific Countries

[Vital Strategies](#) recently launched projects with Laos and Tuvalu in order to help enhance their MCCOD practices (Medical Certification of Cause of Death) via workshops to refine procedures, train coders in manual and automated ICD coding tools, develop a model for off-site registration support, and provide training to staff in data analysis and reporting.

Furthermore, Vital Strategies has also planned to enhance their support to the Cook Islands with their current registration methods and help them design the implementation of an e-CRVS system.

More information of Vital Strategies' work on CRVS can be found [here](#).



Launch of UNICEF Malaysia's report *For Every Child an Identity*

On the 23 of August, [UNICEF Malaysia](#) launched their report *For Every Child an Identity*. The launch event was attended by many government agencies, including the National Registration Department. This report set out to understand the gaps and challenges related to the birth registration of children affected by migration in Malaysia, with a focus on Peninsular Malaysia. It investigates the links between birth registration and children's access to legal identity, rights and protection, identifies the groups affected and explores both demand- and supply-side barriers. The report identified that the largest barriers to registration were structural or logistical, and provides recommendations in order to make registration more accessible.

The report is structured to be of operational use to the Malaysian government, UNICEF, and partners at local, national and international levels and presents valuable new data that contributes to the evidence base about birth registration for migrant and refugee children under the age of five years in Malaysia.

The report, executive summary, policy paper, and desk review are available [here](#).



Refreshing the Papua New Guinea CRVS National Action Plan

A series of three workshops were jointly organized by ESCAP, [CDC Foundation](#), [SPC](#), the WHO and UNICEF from 23-25 August to revitalize the Papua New Guinea CRVS Action Plan and re-energize key stakeholders and development partners. The Papua New Guinea CRVS Action Plan (2020-2021) set out the goal that universal and timely registration of all births and deaths in Papua New Guinea would be achieved and that the country is able to produce vital statistics from civil registration records by 2050.

The workshops engaged over 30 national stakeholders from the Papua New Guinea Civil and Identity Registry (PNGCIR), Department of Health, National Statistics Office, Department of Justice, Department

of Information and Communications Technology, Provincial and Local Governments, and twelve development partners (ESCAP, ADB, UNICEF, CDC Foundation, WHO, World Bank, MFAT, DFAT, Vital Strategies, UNDP and UNFPA). The workshops focused on an in-depth examination of interoperability and data sharing between relevant authorities engaged in the CRVS system in PNG, which informed an update of the national action plan to reflect progress made since 2019 and specific areas which require more targeted support.

National stakeholders, together with development partners, developed and agreed upon an updated National CRVS Action Plan for 2023-2025, and development partners identified specific areas of the action plan where they could provide further support.

More information on the event available [here](#).



Viet Nam Working on the Development of a Student Register

With the support of [Statistics Denmark](#), the [General Statistics Office of Viet Nam](#) worked on implementing a first prototype version of the future Vietnamese student register. The register is based on external micro data linked to the Vietnamese national ID system. The first implementation included development of supporting registers and design of data transmission format, as well as coding in R for data cleaning, data integration and basic test indicators.

More information available [here](#).



CRVS Champion: Dr. Santi Kusumaningrum

Our community newsletter puts a spotlight on people from Asia-Pacific who have 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 would like to dedicate this issue of Insight to the late Dr. Santi Kusumaningrum.

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the recent passing of Dr. Santi Kusumaningrum, Director of [PUSKAPA](#) (Center on Child Protection and Wellbeing at Universitas Indonesia).

Santi was a true champion in the field of civil registration and vital statistics. Her work focused on ensuring systems and services enable social inclusion, child wellbeing, and resilience; solving the barriers to legal identity and personhood, so they facilitate (and not discriminate) people's access to public services, justice, and opportunities; and mastering the politics of policy transformations.

Santi asked the question, "How can people access all the support and services they need if they remain unseen by the system?"

With PUSKAPA, she worked towards ensuring everyone is registered since birth, owns legal identity documents throughout their life cycle, and their data are governed to inform resource allocation and improve public services.

Through research and advocacy, Santi led the process of identifying the layers of structural barriers individuals face when dealing with the civil registration service: 1) individuals lack access due to poverty, remoteness, and immobility; 2) individuals deal with services which are unresponsive to their special needs; and 3) individuals experience discrimination due to their social identities, such as gender, religion, ethnicity, etc.

Her work was not just about making sure more people can access CRVS services, but also about pushing for services and program improvements that are based on data.

While she might not have been the first one to introduce the concept of CRVS to Indonesian bureaucracy, Santi was persistent in advocating for the government to approach and view civil registration and vital statistics as a holistic system. As such, among governmental discussions and debates, the term, CRVS or PSSH, is now widely circulated, discussed, and debated.

In her insistence to see CRVS in its wider applications, uses, and consequences, Santi had traversed between various sectors in Indonesia, connecting several government ministries on the issue and advocating for CRVS to be prioritized as by the Government of Indonesia (GoI) by bringing the issue onto Bappenas' (Ministry of National Development Planning) table. Through the CRVS work of PUSKAPA, Santi built connections among these governmental silos but also connected these institutions to Civil Society Organizations working on the ground, to leverage the community-based work they do to make large-scale institutional reforms. The CRVS national strategy stated in Presidential Decree No. 62 of 2019 has mandated more than twenty ministries and agencies to participate, including the Ministry of Health and the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS).

In addition to Santi's keen efforts in institutional set-up and reform, Santi truly believed that CRVS matters at a very personal level; to individuals, families, and communities. To be recognized and registered is a fundamental right of a person. She believed that the justice aspect of CRVS through recognition of the state and its ability to produce timely basic data, has immediate and long-term ramifications for vulnerable people, citizens, and non-citizens alike in Indonesia. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, for instance, PUSKAPA pushed hard for the GoI to relax the requirement to produce NIK (National Identity Card) to access vaccination (as many do not have NIK on the ground, and this would have automatically excluded the Indonesian stateless population, including refugees), instead advocating for the GoI to use universal vaccination as a way to identify, locate, and serve people without proper legal identity.

On behalf of the CRVS community in Asia and the Pacific, we would like to express our deepest sympathies and condolences to Santi's family and friends and to her colleagues at PUSKAPA. She will be greatly missed.

NEW RESOURCES

- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance, Revision 1 ([English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#))

- Handbook on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management Systems: Communication for Development ([English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#))
 - Guidelines on the Legislative Framework for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management Systems ([English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#))
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **31 August 2023:** [Legal identity for all to achieve gender equality - An inter-regional dialogue](#)
 - **03 – 07 September 2023:** [Workshop on Data Analysis and Report Writing for Civil Registration Based Vital Statistics in Maldives: Deaths and Causes of Death](#)
 - **06 September:** [Measuring Coverage of Death Registration in Surveys and Censuses for Adult Mortality Measurement](#)
 - **11 – 15 September 2023:** [Regional Training on Assessing Inequalities in Civil Registration Completeness, Bangkok](#)
 - **15 September 2023:** [Unlocking SDG 16.9: Harnessing the UN Legal Identity Agenda for Leaving No One Behind](#)
 - **26 – 29 September 2023:** [Regional workshop on strengthening the national civil registration and vital statistics in Indonesia](#)
 - **18 – 20 October 2023:** [Technical Workshop on CRVS System Interoperability and Data Sharing](#)
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