

CRVS Insight

August 2024

2 September 2024
12:00-13:00 pm (UTC+7)

Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series

Opening remarks:

Speakers:

Petra Nahmias
Chief of Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP

Sovannaroeth Tey
Associate Statistician Statistics Division, ESCAP

Marjorie Villaver
OIC Chief of the Vital Statistics Division, Philippines Statistics Authority

Fathimath Riyaza
Statistician, Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS), Maldives

Tanja Sejersen
Statistician and CRVS Lead, Statistics Division, ESCAP

REGISTRATION
forms.office.com/e/S1zgzHMfE6

Join ONLINE-Teams meeting
rb.gy/1337jy

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

STATS CAFE
Good coffee makes your day but good data helps you decide.

The deadline for submitting the Questionnaire for the 2025 Review of Progress in Implementing the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific is approaching

The deadline for the questionnaire submission is approaching. A Stats Cafe is being held on 2 September to support countries in these efforts. Following the [first Stats Cafe on the questionnaire](#) that was organized on Wednesday, 14 August 2024, the second session of the Stats Cafe series on Completing the Questionnaire for the 2025 Review of Progress in Implementing the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will provide support to participants in the process of completing the questionnaire.

The questionnaire was launched in June, and members and associate members of ESCAP are requested to return the completed questionnaire to ESCAP by **15 September 2024**. ESCAP has compiled a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers on our [getinthepicture.org webpage](#).

Date and time: Monday, 2 September 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (UTC+7)

Place: MS Teams

Registration: [here](#)

For further details, please visit the event page [here](#).

For more information on the 2025 review, please refer to the following [webpage](#).



CRVS Applied Research and Training (CART)

Cohort 2 is opening for applications!

The [CRVS applied research training \(CART\) initiative](#) focuses on enhancing CRVS systems through supporting applied research on strategies, interventions, and tools. This project aims to strengthen the capacity of CRVS practitioners to conduct high quality CRVS related research. Participants will be assigned a topic expert mentor, join online and face to face training, submit deliverables and receive support you through every step of the way: from your initial idea through to submitting a paper and getting your evidence used to improve CRVS programmes. Participants are expected to dedicate significant time to conduct their research.

The first cohort from Asia, Pacific and Africa participated in a face to face workshop in Dubai, United Arab Emirates during 26 to 30 August 2024.

With the first cohort successfully underway, the *CART initiative is opening for applications for the second cohort*. The application period is 2 September - 25 October 2024. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by mid December 2024.

Please circulate among your networks or apply yourself! If you think you might like to be a mentor, please get in touch! Additional information is available on the [CART website](#).



Additional funding for the Data 4 Health Initiative announced

The Data for Health Initiative works with governments and partners to improve public health data in order to drive for better-informed public health policies. With improved birth and death records, governments can make effective health policy decisions.

Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Gates Foundation are committing additional USD 190 million to support the ongoing collaborative efforts toward improving health data systems globally with a specific emphasis on birth and death registration systems.

More information [here](#).

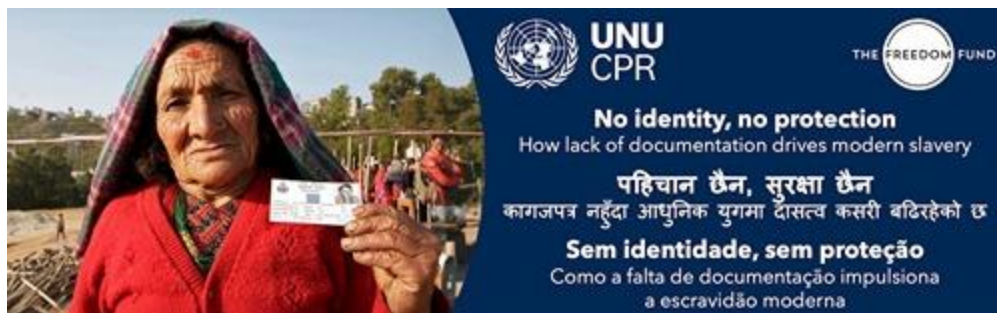


CRVS Inequality Assessment Project in Indonesia

ESCAP, in collaboration with Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS-Statistics Indonesia) and supported by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health (D4H) Initiative, organized an inception workshop to officially launch a project focused on implementing inequality assessments in Indonesia. Held on August 6, 2024, in Jakarta, the workshop brought together approximately 50 participants from key ministries involved in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems, including the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), and the Ministry of Health (MOH). Representatives from WHO, the World Bank, UNHCR, UNFPA, and UNICEF also participated in the workshop.

The interactive workshop introduced the project, engaging relevant stakeholders to share best practices implemented at the regency level to enhance the completeness of civil registration. Participants also discussed challenges faced and approaches and data requirements for conducting inequality assessments.

Following the inception workshop, a three-day capacity-building session was held from August 7-9, focusing on the application of various statistical techniques to estimate the completeness of birth and death registrations and to identify those who are left behind across different dimensions of inequality. The workshop was attended by 40 participants, with the majority representing BPS. Additional participants included representatives from BAPPENAS, MOHA, MOH, WHO, as well as intern students at BPS and students from the College of Statistics, which is managed by BPS.



Report launch: How lack of documentation drives modern slavery

The United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR), together with the Freedom Fund have examined modern slavery risks among individuals lacking documentation. In order to share updates on the report which discusses the research findings, the global evidence review, and the potential policy solutions and approaches, the Report Launch Webinar is organized as follows.

Date: Monday 9th September 2024

Time: 6:45-8:45pm Kathmandu | 4:00-6:00pm Nairobi | 2:00-4:00pm London | 10:00am-noon São Paulo | 9:00-11:00am New York

This event will be hosted in English, with Nepali and Portuguese interpretation

For further details and to register for the event, please visit the event page [here](#).



Leaving No One Behind: A Digital Path Toward Counting Everyone

Vital Strategies is hosting the next edition of VitalTalks on the importance of digitalized civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems. Digitalized CRVS systems lead to timely and cost-efficiency registration of births and deaths, which in turn, result in better access to

benefits for more people and timely data on public health for informed public policies by governments.

Date and time: Thursday, 19 September from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Place: Vital Strategies, 100 Broadway, Floor 4, New York NY 10005

If you cannot attend in person, you can register to get the recording of the event to watch.

For further details and to register for the event, please visit the event page [here](#).



Enhancing Demand for Civil Registration through People-Centered Campaigns in the Philippines

The challenge the Philippines is facing in terms of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) include the current law that hampers affordable procedures and timely processes. To overcome the challenges and improve the system, the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) and the Philippines Legislative Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), with funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, have rolled out media and outdoor campaign to support an Omnibus CRVS Bill for a universal, more inclusive and accessible civil registration system. The proposed Bill will make ways for improved accuracy, universality, and inclusivity.

The campaign, dubbed “Get Everyone in the Picture”, sends out a unified message of “universal birth registration for all,” and the messages also encompass all vital events that are essential to ensure the rights of the people and the informed public planning and policies.

For more information, see the full article [here](#).



Call for Papers: International Population Conference in Brisbane, Australia 13-18 July 2025

The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) is calling for papers for the International Population Conference. The conference takes place every four years and includes plenary sessions, debates, invited panel discussions, training workshops and side meetings before and during the Conference. The papers can be on the subject of one of the 24 conference themes or one of the 72 member-organized session topics.

Deadline to Submit an Abstract: 15 September 2024

Please visit the website [here](https://ipc2025.iussp.org).



Photo credit: Unsplash/Muhammad Abdul Majid

Indonesia: The UN and BPS met to strengthen collaboration

The UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) in Indonesia organized a courtesy visit and meeting between the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), Ms. Gita Sabharwal, and the BPS (National Statistics Agency) Deputy Chief Statistician of Social Statistics, Dr. Ateng Hartono, SE, M.Si, on August 20th, 2024, at the BPS office. Accompanying the RC were technical staff from WFP, UNEP, UNICEF, UNFPA, Global Pulse Asia Pacific, and UNHCR. The Deputy was joined by the Director of Population and Manpower Statistics, Mr. Ali Said, and his team.

In her remarks, the RC expressed her desire to strengthen collaboration between the UN and BPS, building on previous engagements by individual UN agencies. The Deputy of Social Statistics delivered a presentation addressing the existing and ongoing collaboration between BPS and the UN, which includes strengthening the National Statistical System, improving Data Accessibility and Utilization, Harmonizing Data with International Standards, Developing Regional and International Cooperation, and Monitoring and Measuring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UN is expected to assist BPS in preparing for the 2030 population census by optimizing the use of registration data. With the UN's support, BPS is committed to continuing its modernization efforts, including initiatives such as digital demography, the Indonesia vital statistics system, international migration data, dynamic weighting for population surveys, and building a comprehensive data system from the village level up.



CRVS Champion: Urvashi Kaushik

Our community newsletter puts a spotlight on people who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to support CRVS programmes in Asia and the Pacific, raise awareness of CRVS issues or lead CRVS improvement efforts in their home country or in the region. This month, we would like to dedicate this issue of Insight to Urvashi Kaushik.

What is your current title and role?

Presently, I serve as Social Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at UNICEF India Country Office. I lead our CRVS programme nationally including assisting colleagues in the field doing great work at state level in India.

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

Personally, the most moving experience on birth registration was when we received the birth certificate of our son with our names as his parents after going through a long adoption journey and knowing that the baby is finally and fully ours. Incredibly, the certificate arrived when I was on a CRVS mission in Dhaka in June 2023 with all the South Asian country governments discussing progress on the CRVS Decade of Action!

Working in the Indian state of Bihar and now nationally, my professional experience on CRVS constantly inspires me to confront the complexities of the challenge, appreciate the collaborative efforts of a range of stakeholders to strengthen CRVS systems, and recommit to our contributions to ensuring all children everywhere realize their first right – the right to birth registration.

How are you currently involved in CRVS improvements?

At UNICEF, we support government programmes to strengthen CRVS systems through technical assistance, capacity building, and data interventions working jointly with partners in government, academia and civil society, and the UN. India has seen tremendous

progress in coverage of birth registration services driving further sustained efforts to achieve 100 percent birth registration and certification.

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

Three things. One. Perseverance is key, and we must keep up the passionate action. Two. To universalize civil registries, we must focus on the excluded groups. Three. None of us can do this alone so reach out and expand the partnerships base!

NEW RESOURCES

- [Q&As on questionnaire completion for 2025 review of progress in implementing the RAF](#)
- [Blog: Ensuring everyone counts: working together to include stateless and displaced persons in civil registration systems](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Global calendar of statistical events](#)
- [SPC Statistics for Development Division event calendar](#)
- [2 September 2024: The second session of the Asia-Pacific Stats Café on "Completing the Questionnaire for the 2025 Review of Progress in Implementing the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#)
- [9 September 2024: Stats Cafe: Asia-Pacific regional trends on forced displacement and statelessness 2023](#)
- [9 September 2024: Report launch: How lack of documentation drives modern slavery](#)
- [10 - 13 September 2024: Workshops on CRVS strengthening and cause of death data in Kiribati](#)
- [16 - 20 September 2024: Vital statistics report workshop for Pacific US Territories, Honolulu, Hawaii](#)
- [19 September 2024: VitalTalks: Leaving No One Behind: A Digital Path Toward Counting Everyone](#)
- [11 - 13 December 2024: 7th Conference on Technical Cooperation & Capacity Building for Border Management and Identity \(BMIC\)](#)
- [11 - 13 December 2024: The ninth session of the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#)



As we are always looking to improve content, we'd love to hear your feedback and input for articles. CRVS Insight is written for you and your feedback matters to us!

If you have a new resource, upcoming event or article you would like highlighted, please send submissions along with an accompanying photo to escap-crvs@un.org.

Please note by submitting photos you are granting ESCAP Statistics Division permission to publish the photo in the current article and any future articles it deems appropriate.

This e-mail has been sent to because you have expressed interest in CRVS activities in Asia and the Pacific. If you would like to stop receiving future communications, please [click here to unsubscribe](#).