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## CRVS Insight

December 2024

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### **Season's Greetings**

The year 2024 saw significant progress in civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) across Asia and the Pacific. Many countries made important strides, such as improving legal frameworks, streamlining processes, analyzing which groups are unregistered and using technology and innovation to increase registration rates. This shows our commitment to ensuring everyone is included in official records.

However, there is still much work to be done. In 2025, we will continue to work hard to build on these successes and ensure that everyone in the region benefits from strong and effective CRVS systems. We will also have the opportunity to reaffirm our commitments to universal registration, documentation for all and timely production of vital statistics at the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in June 2025. Let's celebrate the progress made and work together for a successful year ahead

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**CRVS CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM**

4 - 6 March 2024 UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

**Aims:**

- Review current engagement of civil society organizations
- Discuss measures to support them, sharing tools and practices to strengthen CRVS systems

**Expected outcomes:**

- A consolidated civil society statement, to be delivered at the Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in June 2025
- Identification and consistent engagement of civil society organizations in Asia towards improving CRVS systems

Calling all CSOs and NGOs in Asia-Pacific!

Register here :

or use the link : <https://forms.office.com/e/my7DUzrt5y>

**Calling civil society in Asia-Pacific to join the Young people and Civil Society Forum, Bangkok, 4-6 Mar 2025**

The Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will be held in June 2025. To ensure the voices of children, youth, and civil society are heard, ESCAP, CRC Asia, World Vision, Plan International, UNICEF and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) will lead the organization a joint Young People and Civil Society Forum on 4 - 6 March, 2025, in Bangkok, Thailand. Pre-consultations in specific countries are planned over the coming months to engage with existing CSO networks and gather input from stakeholders before the regional event in March.

This March forum will produce statements from both groups to be presented at the Ministerial Conference. The forum will have two parallel tracks: one for young people and one for civil society organizations.

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

Date: Tuesday 4th Mar 2025 to Thursday 6th Mar 2025

Venue: UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Registration link: ([Please register your interest in joining the March forum here](#))

Visit the event page [here](#).

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator and other development partners will host civil society consultations on CRVS in the months leading up to the Civil Society Forum. Links to register interest in the country level consultations can be found below:

[Bangladesh](#), 15 January 2025

[Cambodia](#), 3 December 2024, co-hosted by ESCAP and Vital Strategies

[India](#), 23 January 2025

[Philippines](#), 20-21 January 2025, co-hosted with the Philippine Legislative Committee on Population and Development and Child Rights Network Philippines

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### **New global data on birth registration**

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) just released a report showcasing the latest global update on birth registration.

The report, titled "The Right Start in Life: Global Levels and Trends in Birth Registration," reveals that while global birth registration rates have increased from 75% in 2019 to 77% today, millions of children still remain unregistered and invisible to government systems. Over 150 million children under five remain unregistered, leaving them

vulnerable and excluded from essential services. Approximately 50 million of these live in Asia and the Pacific.

The report emphasized the need for continued investment in civil registration systems and targeted interventions to reach marginalized communities, ensuring that every child, regardless of their background or location, has a legal identity.

Please [click here](#) for the report.

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### **Civil and Identity Registry Bill passed in PNG**

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, James Marape, has commended Parliament for passing the Civil and Identity Registry Bill, which aims to create a comprehensive registry for births, deaths, marriages, and other vital records. This new law replaces the Civil Registration Act and is expected to significantly enhance the accuracy and efficiency of population data collection. Marape emphasized the importance of reliable identity information for effective government planning and service delivery, noting that accurate data is essential for addressing socioeconomic challenges and advancing the country's development agenda.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister highlighted that the new registry will help address issues such as border security, transnational crime, and law enforcement by providing better access to specific identity information. With improved identity records, the government aims to better manage public services, including education, healthcare, and financial processes, ultimately contributing to the social well-being of the population.

Read full article [here](#).

Papua New Guinea has made significant progress in birth registration, increasing the number of processed birth certificates from 26,000 in 2023 to nearly 78,000 in 2024. UNICEF Papua New Guinea is working to improve birth registration across all 22 provinces. This includes providing mobile registration kits, training staff, and supporting the national CRVS committee.

Read UNICEF's blog post [here](#).

The poster is for a 'Stats Café' event. At the top left is the ESCAP logo with the text 'Good coffee makes your day but good data helps you decide.' The main title is 'Inclusivity in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics' under the 'Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series'. The date and time are '13.00 p.m. - 14.30 p.m. (UTC+7), 27 January 2025'. A paragraph describes the event's focus on CRVS inclusivity and its relevance to an upcoming ministerial conference. At the bottom left, there is a registration link and a QR code. At the bottom right, there is a 'Watch LiveJoin us ONLINE-Teams meeting' QR code. The right side of the poster features a 'Speakers' section with four portraits and names: NI NI Aung (Independent Consultant, Freedom Fund), Katie Maskiell (Head of Policy and Advocacy, UNICEF Australia), Winida Albertha (BPS Indonesia, CART participant), and Tanja Sejersen (Statistician and CRVS Lead, Statistics Division, ESCAP).

### Stats Cafe: CRVS inclusivity

Over the past decade, the Asia-Pacific region has significantly advanced its civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems, notably reducing unregistered births. Despite this progress, challenges persist, such as enhancing the completeness of CRVS data and addressing disparities in access to these services. This Stats Café will explore countries' experiences in estimating the completeness of vital events and explore qualitative research on CRVS inclusivity, with inclusivity a central theme for the upcoming Ministerial Conference on CRVS.

Date: Monday 27 January 2025

Time: 13-14.30 (UTC+7)

Venue: MS Teams

Registration link: ([Please register here](#))

Visit the Stats Cafe page [here](#).

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### **High level side event on unlocking the power of civil registration data for effective governance**

On the sidelines of the 9th Committee on Statistics in Bangkok, countries had a chance to share transformative work and strategies they have been implementing towards strengthening CRVS and UNICEF presented on the new global birth registration estimates. The discussions highlighted innovative measures to increase CRVS coverage and ensure inclusivity, particularly among underserved populations.

During the Meeting, H.E. Siromi Turaga, Minister for Justice, Fiji presented on activities to improve the CRVS system, these includes the introduction of financial incentives to encourage timely registration for families registering births and deaths and additional support is offered to families during the first year of school. It was noted that mobile registration units have significantly improved access to CRVS services for remote communities. In addition to that, an Inequality Assessment of the CRVS system have been conducted, leading to recommendations to addressing challenges faced by indigenous populations to ensure inclusivity. This is now leading to tailored approaches for these communities.

As a result, Fiji reported a 500% improvement in CRVS registrations, with more than half of these being delayed registrations beyond the legally stipulated one-year period. The

results underscore the critical need for continuous community outreach and awareness campaigns.

In another presentation, H.E. Dr Ali Haidar Ahmed, Minister of Housing, Land and Urban Development, the Maldives highlighted the enactment of the Civil Registration Act, which has established a solid legal foundation for a robust and integrated CRVS system. This legislative milestone is expected to ensure consistency and accuracy in vital statistics, supporting national development priorities.

Dr. Haishan Fu from the World Bank highlighted how CRVS is a cornerstone for governments digitalization efforts and the important role and increased global focus on data governance.

The CRVS side event underscored the transformative potential of innovative policies, digitalization, legal frameworks, and targeted financial incentives.

Please click [here](#) for the event page.

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#### **2024 Q4 Meeting of the Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia**

**The last 2024 quarterly meeting for the Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia (CR8) took place virtually on 25 November 2024 and offered the opportunity to share updates on key areas of work and discuss preparations in the lead up to the Third Ministerial Conference. Specific themes for experience sharing for Q4 2024 meeting were inequality assessment, waiving fees for birth registration, and CRVS advocacy. Inequality assessment has been identified as an area of interest since**

**the third CR8 meeting in Dhaka, 2023, and it remains a crucial implementation step under RAF that requires more attention and resources.**

Inequalities can be assessed using quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods, and the data for the assessment can be derived from primary, secondary or combined sources depending on available resources. In addition to inequality assessment, addressing barriers to registration and increasing advocacy efforts among targeted population groups are also priority areas of work for our region. Following experience sharing, ESCAP and UNICEF briefed members of CR8 on preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and for the South Asia sub-regional forum to be held on 23 June 2025. 30 participants attended and engaged actively during the virtual meeting. For more information on the meeting including recording, please refer to the following [link](#).

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### **7th Border Management and Identity Conference**

The 7th Border Management and Identity Conference (BMIC) took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from December 11th to 13th, 2024. The event centered around the theme "The Future of Borders and Borders of the Future: Accelerating Seamless and Secure Cross-Border Travel and Trade with Technological Solutions and Re-engineered Identity Management Processes."

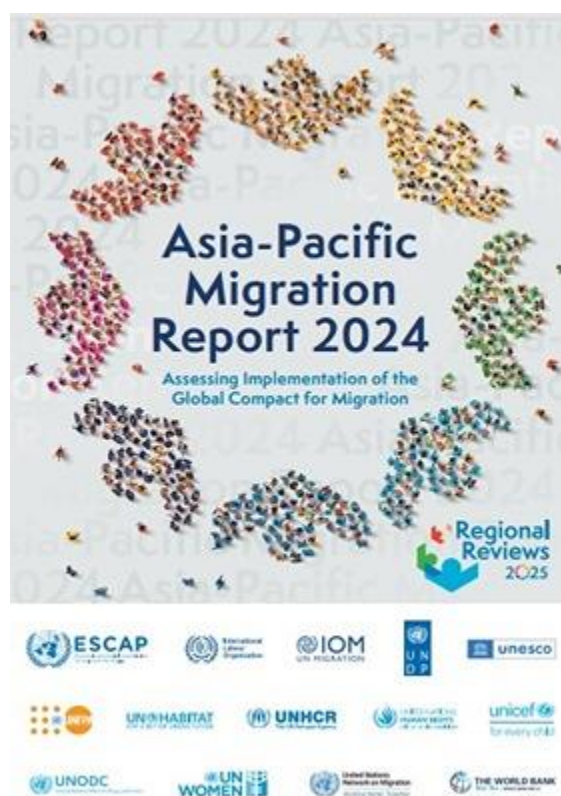
BMIC served as a platform for stakeholders to discuss the latest advancements in border and identity management, share experiences, and explore technological solutions to enhance cross-border travel and trade. The conference included



presentations, panel discussions, and an exhibition showcasing the newest border and identity management technologies.

For more details of the conference, please click [here](#).

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### **Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024**

The Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024 underscores the vital role of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems in enabling safe, orderly, and regular migration across the region. It stresses the importance of accurate and accessible CRVS data to support various migration-related policies and services.

The report also acknowledges the challenges many countries face in enhancing their CRVS systems, such as limited resources, lack of capacity, and inadequate infrastructure. To address these issues, the report recommends investing in CRVS systems; building capacity; promoting digitalization; and strengthening partnerships.

Download the Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024 [here](#).



### **eLearning courses from SIAP**

The United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) provides a valuable resource for professionals seeking to deepen their understanding of statistics. Their diverse online courses offer a flexible and accessible way to enhance skills and knowledge relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. Discover SIAP's eLearning offerings [here](#), covering a wide range of topics including Methodology & Statistical Process, Environment & Disaster Statistics, Population & Social Statistics, Principles & Practices of Official Statistics for SDGs, Economic Statistics, Agricultural & Rural Statistics, and SDG Indicators.

Visit the [Get in the Picture website](#) to explore free eLearning courses from different providers and register for the ones that align with your professional development goals.

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Image credit @World Bank

### **CRVS Civil Society Consultations in Cambodia**

ESCAP, in partnership with Vital Strategies, the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), and key local partners, organized the first country level consultations civil society consultations in the lead up to the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. The consultations were held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on December 3, 2024. These discussions focused on an in depth understanding of CRVS systems with an emphasis on universality, inclusivity, and sustainability.

Civil society consultations are also being organised in other countries, including Bangladesh, India, and Philippines and interested organisations are encouraged to join. Regional consultations with civil society are planned for 4-6 March 2025. See further details [here](#)

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## **Updates on National Digital IDs across the region**

### **Pacific Islands**

Financial inclusion and digital transformation in the Pacific Islands are critically dependent on robust digital public infrastructure, with inclusive digital identity systems at the core. This necessitates developing foundational identity and digital ID systems, as exemplified by Samoa's World Bank-funded project. The absence of such infrastructure not only hinders financial inclusion but also limits economic growth by restricting trade and opportunities. Addressing this requires concerted regional collaboration. Partnerships with countries like Australia, which possess strong connections with global financial markets, can significantly support the development of low-risk digital identity systems in the Pacific, as evidenced by the Australian government's recent \$3 million investment aimed at developing digital identity infrastructure and combating the debanking crisis in the region.

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

### **Papua New Guinea**

Papua New Guinea launched its National Digital Identity Policy 2024, establishing SevisPass, a unified digital ID system for all citizens. This key initiative, led by the ICT

Minister, aims to streamline government services, enhance transparency, and complement the recently launched eGovernment portal. The policy prioritizes inclusivity, aiming to improve access to essential services while addressing infrastructure and literacy challenges.

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

### **Thailand**

The Digital Economy and Society Ministry has approved the second phase of Thailand's digital ID framework, which will run from 2025 to 2027. This phase aims to significantly increase the number of e-government services accessible with digital IDs, expanding from approximately 400 to 1,000. Notably, the framework will now include foreign residents and juristic entities, enhancing their access to digital services.

The Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) is responsible for implementing these plans, ensuring secure and compliant electronic transactions. The ETDA executive director, highlighted the importance of reliable digital ID verification for foreigners, a process that involves multiple agencies and is expected to be finalized next year. The Digital Government Development Agency (DGA) oversees the budget, prioritizing projects that enhance the use of digital IDs for accessing e-government services.

Click [here](#) for full article.

### **Republic of Korea**

The Republic of Korea is set to launch a pilot program for mobile resident registration cards on 27 December. Led by the Ministry of Interior and Safety, this initiative aims to enhance citizen convenience and security by digitizing the identification process. The mobile ID, incorporating blockchain and encryption technology, will ensure data protection while streamlining access to government services.

Eligible citizens aged 17 and above can obtain a mobile ID by visiting local issuance offices and scanning a QR code or using an IC chip-embedded card. The pilot program, spanning two months across nine municipalities, will include the issuance of 468,000 free mobile IDs to first-time applicants.

Read full article [here](#).

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## CRVS Newsletter 2024 Survey



### **2024 Reader Survey for CRVS Insight Newsletter**

We value your feedback! To ensure the CRVS Insight Newsletter provides you with the most valuable and engaging CRVS-related content, we invite you to participate in our 2024 Reader Survey. Your input is instrumental in helping us understand your reading preferences, identify areas for improvement, and shape the future direction of our newsletter. The survey is short and anonymous, and your participation will only take a few minutes. We appreciate your time and valuable insights.

To access the survey, please use the QR Code or click [here](#).

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### **NEW RESOURCES**

- [CRVS-related eLearning courses](#)
  - [Birth registration and the prevention of statelessness in Europe: Identifying good practices and remaining barriers](#)
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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- [Global calendar of statistical events](#)
- [SPC Statistics for Development Division event calendar](#)
- [14 - 16 January 2025: The second meeting of South-East Asia Civil Registration Professionals Network, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 14-16 January 2025](#)

- [27 January 2025: Stats Cafe: CRVS inclusivity](#)
  - [4 - 6 March 2025: Children, Youth and Civil Society Forum](#)
  - [16 - 18 June 2025: 4th International Forum on Migration Statistics \(IFMS 2025\), Malmö, Sweden](#)
  - [24 - 26 June 2025: Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#)
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## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- [SPC: Statistics Officer / Adviser \(Civil Registration and Vital Statistics\), Suva-based](#)
  - [ESCAP: INTERN – STATISTICS DIVISION - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics \(CRVS\)](#)
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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](mailto:escap-crvs@un.org).

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