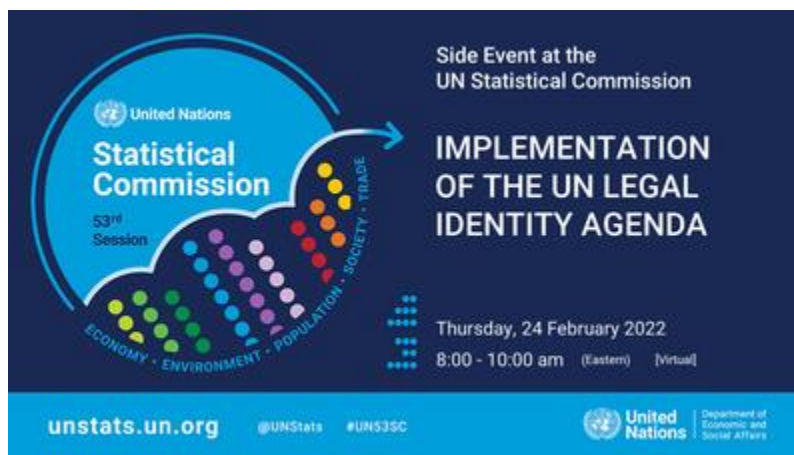




CRVS Insight

February (2) 2022



Side event on Implementation of the UN Legal Identity Agenda

Thursday, **24 February 2022**, 8:00-10:00am (EST/GMT-5)

Please register [here](#).

This [side event](#), organized by ESCAP, IOM, and UNSD (in collaboration with the other two co-chairs of UNLIA TF - UNICEF and UNDP), provides an opportunity for national statistical offices, international organizations and delegates of Permanent Missions to acquire a more detailed overview of activities under the UN Legal Identity Agenda umbrella, in addition to the [documents](#) provided to the 53rd Session of the UN Statistical Commission.

The event will provide an overview of regional progress and outcomes of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, held on 16-19 November 2021, when over 400 participants, including ministers, senior officials and stakeholders from 48 countries and 15 international and civil society organizations convened virtually to mark the midpoint of the Asia and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024).

Please click [here](#) for the detailed concept note, agenda and meeting link.

The full schedule of side events at the 53rd Session of the UN Statistical Commission, can be found [here](#).



International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) now in effect

The World Health Organization's (WHO) Eleventh Revision of [the International Classification of Diseases \(ICD-11\)](#) has now come into effect.

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) provides a common language that allows health professionals to share standardized information across the world. ICD is used by health insurers who make reimbursement decisions on the basis of ICD coding, by national health programme managers, by data collection specialists, and by anyone who tracks progress in global health and determines health resource allocation.

Compared with previous versions, ICD-11 is entirely digital with a new user-friendly format and multilingual capabilities that reduce the chance of error. It has been compiled and updated with input from over 90 countries and unprecedented involvement of health-care providers.

Among other updates, ICD-11 improves the clarity of terms for the general public and facilitates the coding of important details such as the spread of a cancer or the exact site and type of a fracture. The new version also includes updated diagnostic recommendations for mental health conditions and digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates.

ICD-11 was adopted at the [72nd meeting of the World Health Assembly](#) in 2019 and member States committed to start using it for mortality and morbidity reporting in 2022.

Resources and implementation guides to support the transition to ICD-11 can be accessed [here](#).



Inception workshop launches CRVS Inequality Assessment project in Pakistan

Organised with the support of the Technical Support Unit for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (TSU-CRVS), provincial governments convened face-to-face and virtually for the inception workshop to launch the ESCAP project on implementing inequality assessments and strengthening demographic capacity on CRVS in Pakistan.

The inception workshop held on 11 February 2022 in Lahore was attended by almost 50 participants from six administrative divisions of Pakistan, namely, Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. Representatives from UN entities, such as WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA also joined the discussions during the workshop.

The participatory workshop introduced the project and engaged relevant stakeholders to discuss the approaches and data needs for conducting inequality assessments, as well as any associated challenges to collaboratively develop a plan for the way forward.

As a next step, the TSU-CRVS will work closely with a national consultant and key stakeholders to map and evaluate available secondary data sources that can be used to assess the extent to which population subgroups experience lower civil registration completeness rates.

ESCAP's inequality assessment project seeks to provide technical support and capacity strengthening to the national statistical office and other relevant national stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of inequality assessments of CRVS systems using secondary data sources. This will involve building capacity for demographic analysis to undertake inequality assessments in the future, as well as dialogue with policy-makers to ensure the results are used for policy formulation.

In addition to Pakistan, the project is also being rolled out in four other countries: Bangladesh, Fiji, Lao PDR and Samoa. For more information, please visit [Inequality Assessments projects](#) page of ESCAP.



Release of CRVS profiles for Pacific Islands

The Pacific Community (SPC), together with UNICEF have published a series of CRVS profiles for the Pacific Island region. The profiles consolidate knowledge shared by countries on the status of their CRVS systems in the recent past, including through government websites, published reports, media releases and presentations, and direct engagement between the authors of these profiles and in-country civil registration offices and health information offices.

The objective of these CRVS country profiles is to provide a living resource (updated every 2-3 years) and quick reference point on the status and developments in CRVS systems in the region. It is envisaged that these country profiles will serve as a fundamental tool in advocating for further investment in strengthening the coverage and completeness of CRVS systems across the Pacific Island region. Country profiles are available for download [here](#).



New chapter added to the CRVSID Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit

The Global Health Incubator Advocacy (GHIA) released [a blog](#) to announce the publication of an additional chapter to the Civil Registration, Vital Statistics, and ID Management (CRVSID) Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit ([“the Toolkit”](#)), which focuses on the unique challenges faced by women and children in accessing CRVSID services.

The new chapter entitled "**Inclusion of Women & Children**", available online [here](#), focuses on the unique hurdles, challenges and bottlenecks faced by women and children when attempting to register their births, deaths, stillbirths, marriages, divorces and other vital events. It documents best practices and guidance for ensuring that women and children have equal access to CRVS and ID services and clarifies how the relevant legal frameworks can be drafted to ensure that these barriers and obstacles are eliminated.



CRVS Champion: Ms. Gloria Mathenge

Regularly, our community newsletter puts a spotlight on one person who has gone above and beyond in their efforts to support CRVS programmes in Asia-Pacific, raise awareness of CRVS issues or lead CRVS improvement efforts in their home country. This month we are happy to highlight Ms. Gloria Mathenge.

What is your current (and previous) title and role?

I am currently a Statistician at the UN Economic Commission for Africa, headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I joined UNECA in September 2021. Prior to this, I worked at the Pacific Community (SPC) in New Caledonia as a Social Statistician and civil registration and vital statistics advisor. I also coordinated the Brisbane Accord Group partnership and represented the group on the Regional Steering Group on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

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

Despite having worked on CRVS for a number of years before, working in this area in the Pacific region (while at SPC) brought a lot of new insights about how crucial CRVS systems are to individuals and governments, how the organization of civil registration systems in different contexts may need to differ in order to attend to special needs and how performance of CRVS systems can heavily influence development planning and policy making.

The Pacific Island region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The vastness of its sea area and high number of sea activities also creates additional health risks; which are believed to contribute to a considerable (though unknown) proportion of deaths in the sea and cases of disappearance persons. Learning from the example of countries like Vanuatu that have severally been hit by disasters, civil registration records have in many instances demonstrated to be of lifesaving value due to their usefulness in informing pre and post disaster planning and policy making and in supporting humanitarian efforts to offer relief during times of disaster. In the mitigation/reduction of deaths at sea and cases of

disappearance of persons in the sea, civil registration records remain highly relevant in guiding governments to understand the scale of the problem and to develop of adequate policies to guide sea safe activities. Unfortunately, deaths and disappearances in the sea are often under reported.

How are you currently involved in CRVS improvements?

In my current role, I support implementation of the regional CRVS programme in the Africa region. I am tasked with providing technical assistance to African countries in CRVS systems improvement. This entails supporting development of regional technical resources on CRVS, supporting countries in implementation of such resources and providing overall support to the Secretariat of the regional CRVS programme based at UN ECA.

How would you like to see CRVS in Asia and the Pacific develop by the end of the CRVS Decade?

Similar to the Africa region, my dream is to see countries in the Asia and Pacific region achieving universal registration of vital events and being able to demonstrate what a well performing CRVS system can offer to their governments. I envision a time when there will be a great demand for CRVS outputs at a national level and when civil registration offices will be able to meet such demands sustainably.

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

I would advocate that they consider inclusion of civil registration education in elementary school curricula to ensure that the generations to come have a holistic understanding of the value of the systems and that they participate proactively in making these systems functional.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The [53rd session of the Statistical Commission](#) will be held online **1-4 March 2022**. [Agenda item 3f](#) focuses on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Statelessness statistics.

The 8th meeting of the [Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics](#) (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific will be organized online on **9-10 March 2022**, at 13:00-16:00 Bangkok time (GMT+7). Members have been invited directly.

The [9th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development \(APFSD\)](#) will be organized on **28-31 March 2022** with the theme of "Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific". Side events can be organized and sponsored by Member States, UN agencies, other Intergovernmental organizations, accredited Civil Society Organizations or other stakeholders.

The [78th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#) will be held in a hybrid modality from **23 to 27 May 2022** at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online. Guided by the theme "A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific", the annual session will be an opportunity to discuss and shape the future of regional cooperation centered around a new form of multilateralism and regional cooperation. The outcomes of

the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will be highlighted during the session.

RESOURCES

Vital statistics resources: This page constitutes a hub of available resources for building capacity in the production of vital statistics, from international guidelines to e-learning courses.

Regional study on late birth registration, issuance of nationality documents and statelessness: Standards, best practices, barriers and challenges in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay. This document was jointly prepared by the Regional Bureau for the Americas of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA), part of the Department for Effective Public Management (DEPM) within the Organization of American States (OAS).



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 rattanakittiaporn@un.org 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](#).