



CRVS Insight

February 2020



Call for papers on civil registration and vital statistics

Following up on our story from January, this is a reminder that ESCAP is currently inviting abstracts for the [2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics Week](#) to be held from 15-19 June 2020, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Asia-Pacific Statistics Week will provide a forum for experts and managers involved in official statistics and national statistical systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

We encourage researchers to submit abstracts because [research on CRVS](#) can play an important role in improving systems. The Asia-Pacific Statistics Week will provide CRVS researchers with an opportunity to engage the broader Asia-Pacific statistical community by illustrating the significance of CRVS in national statistical system development.

Please note the deadline for submitting abstracts is 1 February.

More information on the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week, including the official "call for abstracts/papers" and the "abstract template", is [available online](#).



CRVS a top priority for the Government of Pakistan

Strengthening CRVS in Pakistan is a top priority for the new Government. The [Technical Support Unit \(TSU\)](#) was established under the [Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives](#) with an ambitious six-years' roadmap to promote CRVS in the country. One initiative in this plan is to develop CRVS Model Districts (starting in 10 districts) throughout Pakistan and scale this to other areas during the next phase.

Improving CRVS Legislation is one of the key areas for supporting the roadmap as identified by the National CRVS Steering Committee. Recent national CRVS studies revealed that current CRVS legislation is fragmented, mostly outdated, ambiguous, provides scanty information and needs to be reformed through a wide-ranging consultative process.

Given the significance of CRVS legislation, the TSU applied for the Global Grant Program (GGP) through the [Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health \(D4H\)](#) initiative. After a thorough and competitive process, D4H approved the grant to support TSU's legislative reform efforts starting in April 2020 and extending through Dec 2021.

Legislation reforms will focus on the following specific areas:

1. Comprehensive mapping of existing laws for vital events notification, registration and certification at national and provincial levels.
2. Identifying existing gaps in CRVS legislation by using international assessment tools.
3. Formulation and drafting of improved CRVS legislation framework for adoption and country wide implementation through a broader consultative process among stakeholders.

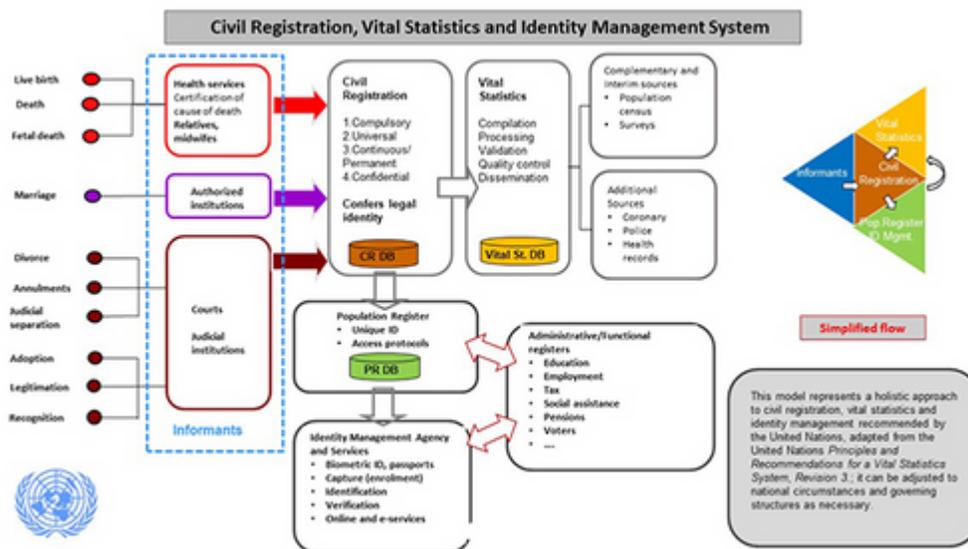
For more information on the work in Pakistan, please visit www.getinthepicture.org.



Thailand's Department of Provincial Administration prioritizes ending statelessness

Announced near the end of 2019, Thailand's Department of Provincial Administration created 10 separate "flagship" projects and made ending [statelessness in Thailand](#) one such project. The newly announced flagship project follows on the heels of previous [progress](#) and [efforts](#) in addressing this pervasive problem.

For more information please visit the [UNHCR Thailand](#) page or the [Department of Provincial Administration fan page](#).



Meeting of the UN Legal Identity Agenda Task Force

On 9 December 2019, the [United Nations Statistics Division](#) co-chaired the meeting of the newly established [UN Legal Identity Agenda](#) Task Force that took place on 9 December 2020 at UNICEF HQ in New York. The UN LIA Task Force takes over from UN Legal Identity Expert Group in terms of promoting the holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management.

The meeting discussed the work programme for 2020, instituting a financial vehicle to support the development of the UN Legal Identity Agenda. For those interested in reading more, the meeting's notes and related material will be posted at the [UN LIA website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The UN Statistical Commission will host its [51st session](#) from 3 - 6 March 2020, in New York. Many CRVS-related topics will feature on the agenda, including an introduction to the [UN Legal Identity Agenda](#), and collaborative efforts between national statistics offices, ministries of health, and national authorities responsible for CRVS in monitoring health-related SDGs.
 - From 25-27 March 2020, high-level officials will convene again in Bangkok, Thailand for the [Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#) to address "Accelerating action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific".
 - The [Regional Steering Group](#) for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will meet from 30 March - 1 April, in Bangkok, Thailand to continue preparing for the Second Ministerial Conference in October 2020. Please stay tuned to www.getinthepicture.org for more information as the dates approach.
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NEW RESOURCES

- UNICEF's new report, [Birth registration for every child by 2030: Are we on track?](#) presents the latest available country data and global and regional estimates of the number of unregistered children.
 - [Are inequities decreasing? Birth registration for children under five in low-income and middle-income countries, 1999-2016](#). This question is addressed in a recently published paper in BMJ Global Health.
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As we are always looking to improve content, we'd love to hear your feedback and your inputs for articles. CRVS Insight is written for you, and your opinion matters most to us!

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

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