



CRVS Insight

January 2021



ESCAP is kicking off a three-part webinar series on assessing inequality

The [ESCAP Statistics Division](#), in collaboration with international and national organizations, is organizing a three-part seminar series under the theme, "[Inequalities in CRVS: Let's really get every one in the picture!](#)" as part of the [Stats Café series](#). This three-part series will provide practical and clear guidance on measuring the inequalities in CRVS with the ultimate goal of narrowing the gap in civil registration. Each seminar will comprise a webinar open to all, and a subsequent Expert Group Meeting on the same topic which will be by invitation only. All webinars are open to everyone and will be held from 12:00 to 13:30 (Bangkok time).

[Webinar 1: Qualitative assessments of the CRVS systems, 25 January](#)

Webinar 2: Using secondary sources to assess inequality in civil registration, **08 February**

Webinar 3: Guidance on indirect demographic methods for measuring completeness and coverage for low capacity countries, **08 March**

The [first webinar on inequality](#) will focus on methods for qualitative assessments of CRVS systems, including through the [Bali Process Toolkit](#). The session will explore questions such as: What are the challenges in implementing a qualitative assessment of CRVS systems? How can they be addressed? What is the Bali process toolkit process all about? How can it be improved? Can it be extended to capture inequalities in the wider population? What must be considered when adopting a qualitative framework for inequality assessments in CRVS? The session will also be followed by an [EGM to reflect on the discussions of the webinar](#).

Please visit www.getinthepicture.org for more information on the Second and Third webinars.





CRVS improvement processes underway in the Maldives

The CRVS Stakeholders of Maldives started working on the improvement of CRVS as part of a larger project on the assessment, analysis and redesign for the birth and death registration business processes. This project, to be concluded by the end of March, is supported by ESCAP as part of its long running collaboration with the Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative in support of the implementation of the [Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#).

In the spirit of the Regional Action Framework, work is carried out in a collaborative manner by a core team led by the [National Bureau of Statistics](#) and including members from the Local Government Authority, the Department of National Registration, the Ministry of Health, Male City Council, the National Centre for Information Technology. The core team is currently developing a full description of the processes and will soon start a list of performance issues and prioritized redesign ideas for improving the processes. This work is informing the implementation of Maldives' new ICT platform for civil registration and the revision of the civil registration act. It is also used as an opportunity for core team members to get more familiar with the work of the other agencies and improve collaboration among CRVS stakeholders.



Data for Health launches MCCOD e-learning for physicians and medical students

Accurate medical certification of death plays a critical role in the generation of high-quality mortality data, but certifying physicians are often working in time-poor, high-pressure settings. In response to this issue, Data for Health is excited to share their course, [which will allow both undergraduate and early-career physicians](#) to gain a comprehensive understanding of MCCOD that can be easily applied to their work. The instructions provided in the two courses are based on the full version of the WHO 2016 medical certificate of cause of death.

To learn more about the breakdown of the courses, and to register, please visit www.crvsgateway.info.



CRVS Champion: Ms. Nazaria Baharudin

Each month, our community newsletter puts a spotlight on one person from Asia-Pacific that has 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 are happy to highlight Ms. Nazaria Baharudin from Malaysia.

What is your current title and role?

Presently, I am the Deputy Chief Statistician, Social & Technical Development Program of the Department of Statistics (DOSM), Malaysia. I am overseeing six Divisions encompassing Population and Demographic Division; Household Income & Expenditure and Prices Division; Manpower & Social Statistics Division; Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division; Methodology Division; and Integration and Data Management Division. In addition, I am also the Chief Information Officer of the Department and the Deputy Commissioner of Census Malaysia 2020 (Strategic Operation) as well as overseeing the Core Team.

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

I assume the present role since February 2017 and CRVS is the responsibility of Demographic Section under the Population and Demographic Division. DOSM in particular has long standing relationship with the National Registration Departments (NRDs). There are three regional offices which include Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. Offices of NRD Peninsular Malaysia are distributed across all states. The registrations of births, deaths and marriages of non-Muslim are under the purview of the NRDs. DOSM receives records from NRDs via online every month. The records are processed by DOSM to produce Quarterly Demographics Statistics, annual Vital Statistics, Life Expectancy Statistics and annual Statistics of Causes of Death.

Muslim's records of marriages and divorces are obtained from the State Religious Departments (SRDs) and Syariah Judiciary Department, Malaysia. These records together with the non-Muslim from NRD are processed to produce annual Statistics on Marriages and Divorces. The identity card number has been used in all services provided by the government as well as transactions in the private sector such as banking etc. At DOSM's level, it is very important to have timely and quality statistics of CRVS. DOSM has been actively involve at all levels and with the stakeholders such as in working groups on data, causes of death as well as training for coding causes of death. Years of engagements with SRDs have been fruitful with first publication on Marriages and Divorces published in 2018.

How are you currently involved in CRVS improvements?

I am overseeing the CRVS activities and the publications. I chair the meeting for finalising

CRVS data at programme's level and publication Committee prior to the release of the publication. I am also a member of Inter Agency Planning Group (IAPG) on Statistics of Births and Deaths and IAPG on Marriages and Divorces. At the national level, I am a member of the Technical Committee on CRVS. Presently, I am one of the Vice Chairs of the Regional Steering Group of CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

How would you like to see CRVS in Malaysia develop by the end of the CRVS Decade?

Malaysia have a fully functioning CRVS system which comprise registration of births and deaths, issuance of birth and death certificates for NRD and DOSM processes and disseminates vital statistics. It is our hope that we achieve 100 per cent registration of all births and deaths on time. No is left behind.

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

Having a good CRVS system not only provide an identity for a person, but will also enable a person to have access to the services provided and for the government to provide the necessary assistance to the target population. It is certainly a worthwhile investment by the government.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ESCAP's first of three webinars on inequality assessments will start on **25 January**, while the second and third webinars will occur on **8 February** and **8 March**, respectively. Each webinar will take place from from 12:00 - 13:30 (Bangkok time). More information can be found at www.getinthepicture.org.

NEW RESOURCES

The updated version of the **Production of a Vital Statistics Report: Guide** is now available on www.getinthepicture.org for use by CRVS stakeholders. The newly updated version also includes a Template and Workbook.

The most recent videos from ESCAP's ongoing Stats Café webinar series can be found by visiting the [Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series website](#). Each webinar is organized in collaboration with relevant development partners and countries and covers a variety of statistics-related topics.

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.

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