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CRVS Insight Newsletter

July 2025



Asia-Pacific Nations Reaffirm Commitment to Legal Identity for All at Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Ministers and senior officials from across the Asia-Pacific region wrapped up the [Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics \(CRVS\)](#) in Bangkok, pledging to ensure that every birth is registered and every death is recorded by 2030. The renewed commitment marks a bold extension of the region's CRVS Decade initiative, first launched in 2014, into a new phase that aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Target 16.9 on legal identity for all.

Hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, the three-day event on 24 - 26 June, convened leaders from key sectors—health, justice, planning, statistics, and digital innovation, to advance CRVS systems across the region. The multi-sectoral nature of the effort was underscored by partners such as Bloomberg Philanthropies, CDC Foundation, Child Rights Coalition Asia, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, IOM, Pacific Community, Plan International, Statistics Norway, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, Vital Strategies, WHO, World Bank, World Vision and Global Financing Facility.

ESCAP Executive Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana highlighted the human dimension at stake: “[Everyone counts. Data saves lives, legal identity is a right, not a privilege. No one should be left behind – simply because they were never counted in the first place.](#)”

During the conference, a new [Ministerial Declaration](#) was adopted, charting a regional roadmap toward universal, inclusive, and digitally robust CRVS systems capable of withstanding crises and reaching marginalized groups. Governments committed to strengthening workforce capacity, expanding outreach, and enhancing cause-of-death reporting through verbal autopsies and certification reforms. The declaration also underscored the importance of marriage registration and the critical role of civil registration in promoting gender equality and effective governance. Looking to 2030, the pledge reinforces legal identity as a fundamental right and a pillar of sustainable development.

Find more information about the conference and its outcomes at the [Conference webpage](#).



**Calling all RVS researchers and innovators:
2026 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Research Forum**

Researchers and practitioners focused on civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) are invited to submit abstracts for the 2026 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Research Forum, set to take place in Bangkok from 30 March to 1 April 2026. This hybrid event aims to accelerate progress towards universal birth registration and death recording by 2030, offering a unique platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and collaborative innovation.

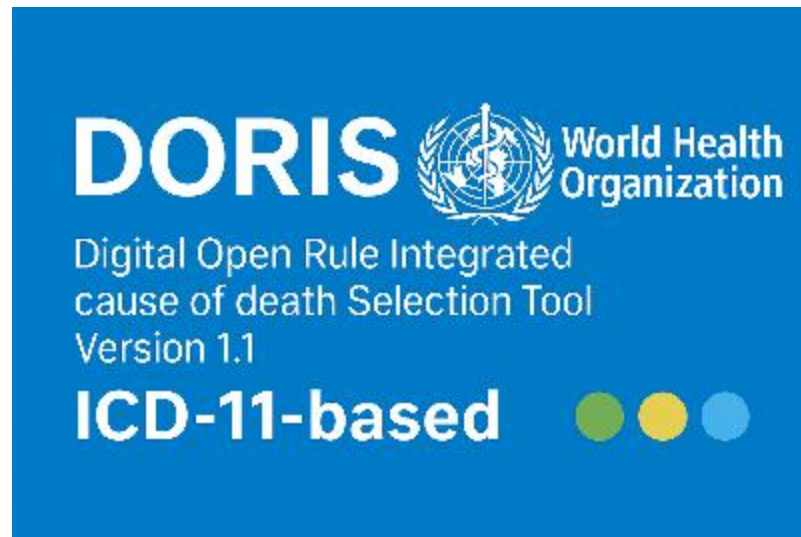
Co-organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the forum is a direct response to the recent recommitment by Ministers across Asia and the Pacific to strengthen CRVS systems.

The three-day forum will spotlight innovative methods and approaches crucial for achieving comprehensive registration, documentation for all, and the production of robust vital statistics derived from civil registration records. Participants will have the opportunity to present their research, engage in interactive sessions, and learn from successful country-level initiatives that are making tangible impacts on individuals and communities.

The forum encourages engagement from CRVS practitioners across National Statistics Offices, Ministries of Health, Civil Registration/National Identity Authorities, as well as from international organizations, academic institutions, private sector entities, and civil society.

This upcoming event builds on the success of ESCAP's CRVS Research Forum in 2023, which brought together over 30 speakers from 15 countries, presented 24 research papers, and attracted nearly 400 registered participants. That forum highlighted the diverse and impactful initiatives underway to foster more inclusive and effective CRVS systems across the region.

The **call for abstracts** for the 2026 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Research Forum is now open. Interested researchers and practitioners are encouraged to visit the [CRVS Research Forum webpage](#) for submission guidelines. Abstract submissions close Friday 15 August 2025.



WHO Launches Upgraded DORIS Tool to Enhance Global Mortality Data

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released DORIS version 1.1, an advanced digital tool designed to enhance the accuracy and consistency of cause-of-death coding using the ICD-11 classification system.

Developed by WHO's Classifications and Terminologies Unit, DORIS (Digital Open Rule Integrated cause of death Selection) automatically analyzes medical certificates to identify the underlying cause of death, applying ICD-11's fully digitalized coding rules. This latest version introduces enhanced algorithms for various conditions, including infectious diseases, neoplasms, injuries, HIV, tuberculosis, and substance intoxications.

To boost transparency and training, DORIS 1.1 now features four visualization modes: Textual, Tabular, Rule Flow, and Rule Sequence reports. These allow coders and reviewers to easily follow the logic behind each selection step.

Available via web interface, desktop applications, and APIs, DORIS supports multiple languages and is a crucial resource for countries implementing ICD-11. WHO emphasized that this tool is vital for strengthening health information systems and improving the quality of global mortality statistics.

For more information, please click [here](#).



New E-learning on Data Cleaning and Quality Assessment for the Production of Civil Registration-based Vital Statistics

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in partnership with Vital Strategies, the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and the Pacific Community (SPC), has announced the launch of a self-paced e-learning course focused on data cleaning for civil registration-based vital statistics (CRVS).

This course is specifically designed for national CRVS stakeholders, offering practical training in preparing birth and death registration data for statistical analysis. Participants will gain hands-on skills in identifying data quality issues, standardizing entries, creating new variables, and tabulating data by key characteristics. The course features interactive modules and demonstrations using MS Excel, with equivalent syntax provided for Stata, SAS, and R.

Supported by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, this initiative aims to enhance the quality and usability of vital statistics, aligning with international standards. It forms part of ESCAP's broader commitment to ensuring every life is counted and recognized through robust CRVS systems.

Click [here](#) for further details.



Report: Digital innovations at the forefront for Universal Birth Registration

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has released a new thematic report titled “Use of Digital Technologies to Achieve Universal Birth Registration.” This report supports the global commitment to provide legal identity for all by 2030, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal target 16.9 and Human Rights Council Resolution 52/25.

The OHCHR report highlights how digital tools can significantly improve birth registration, making the process more efficient and accessible. These technologies have the potential to streamline administrative procedures, reduce the need for physical travel, increase public awareness, and help identify urgent situations more quickly.

The report emphasizes the need for responsible implementation. OHCHR calls for robust legal safeguards to protect personal data, ensure cybersecurity, and maintain the confidentiality of identity systems. It also cautions about potential risks if digital platforms are not managed or used properly.

The full report: OHCHR, Use of Digital Technologies to Achieve Universal Birth Registration, 25 April 2025, A/HRC/59/61 is available online [here](#).



Lao PDR accelerates Digital Transformation with Citizen Data Integration Initiative

The Lao government has issued a Prime Ministerial Order to integrate citizen databases and national ID card systems across all ministries and state agencies. This directive aims to modernize public service delivery and strengthen digital governance by enabling real-time identity verification and streamlined administrative procedures.

Under this initiative, the Ministry of Public Security will lead efforts to digitize household registration books, issue chip-embedded ID cards, and ensure data quality. Other ministries, including Health, Education, Finance, and Agriculture, are tasked with aligning their databases to support services such as healthcare access, tax verification, and land title management. The Ministry of Technology and Communications will oversee data security, while the Ministry of Justice will revise legislation to facilitate inter-agency data exchange.

Local authorities are expected to promote digital literacy and citizen engagement through outreach campaigns and one-stop service centers. By establishing a centralized identity infrastructure, the government aims to enhance transparency, reduce administrative costs, and lay the foundation for a digital economy and society, in line with national development goals.

Read the full article [here](#).



Improving the measurement of adult mortality

By 2030, an estimated 90% of deaths in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will be among adults, yet many governments still lack reliable data on these deaths. Without accurate information on causes and locations, policymakers remain constrained in designing effective health interventions.

Recognizing this urgent challenge, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, launched the Measuring Adult Mortality Community of Practice (MAM-CoP) in 2023, which now includes over 140 global members working to improve mortality data systems.

The network promotes data integration, comparability, and accessibility, enabling governments to design targeted public health interventions. Its efforts are vital for progress toward universal death registration and sustainable development.

Read more in The Bulletin of the World Health Organization [here](#).

Visit the Measuring Adult Mortality Community of Practice (MAM-CoP) [here](#).

Events

- [UNSD: Global calendar of statistical events](#)
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Resources

- [Report of the 3rd Ministerial Conference on CRVS](#)
 - [Ministerial Declaration on a Decade of Action for Inclusive and Resilient Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#)
 - [Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics: Agenda and Official Documents](#)
 - [Handouts Primer on the Philippines CRVS Decade](#)
 - [GHA - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics: A Passport for a Healthy Life and a Thriving Society](#)
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Professional Opportunities

- [ESCAP: Intern-Statistics Division](#)



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