



## CRVS Insight

June 2021

The banner features the ESCAP logo, the event title 'Get every one in the picture', the date '28 June 2021 1-2 pm. (GMT+7)', and a QR code to register. Below the banner, the text reads 'REGIONAL LAUNCH GETTING EVERY ONE IN THE PICTURE - A SNAPSHOT OF PROGRESS MIDWAY THROUGH THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS DECADE'. It lists speakers and opening remarks:

- Opening Remarks:**
  - Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
  - Ms. Kamni Naidu, Administrator-General, Ministry of Justice, Fiji
- Speakers:**
  - Mr. Gogita Todroitze, Executive Director, National Statistics Office of Georgia
  - Mr. Petra Nylmas, Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP
  - Mr. Mohammed Shohidul Islam, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
  - Ms. Gemma Van Haldeman, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP

### Launch of Getting Every One in the Picture - a snapshot of progress midway through the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade

Asia-Pacific has reached the midpoint of the [Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics \(CRVS\) Decade](#) (2015-2024). The Decade is dedicated to achieving universal and responsive CRVS systems.

To highlight the progress countries made in meeting their national targets under the [Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#), ESCAP is proud to publish a snapshot of progress midway through the CRVS Decade. Prepared as part of the analysis informing the organization of the [Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) between 16-19 November 2021, the snapshot report shows the Asia-Pacific region is on the right path to reaching the goals of universal and responsive CRVS systems.

The report will be launched on **28 June 2021 from 13:00 - 14:00** (Bangkok time) by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The launch will also feature opening remarks by Ms. Kamni Naidu, Administrator-General, Ministry of Justice, Fiji and Chair of Regional Steering Group for CRVS, as well as presentations on country progress from Bangladesh and Georgia.

For more information on the Regional Launch please visit [www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org), or [register for the event here](#).

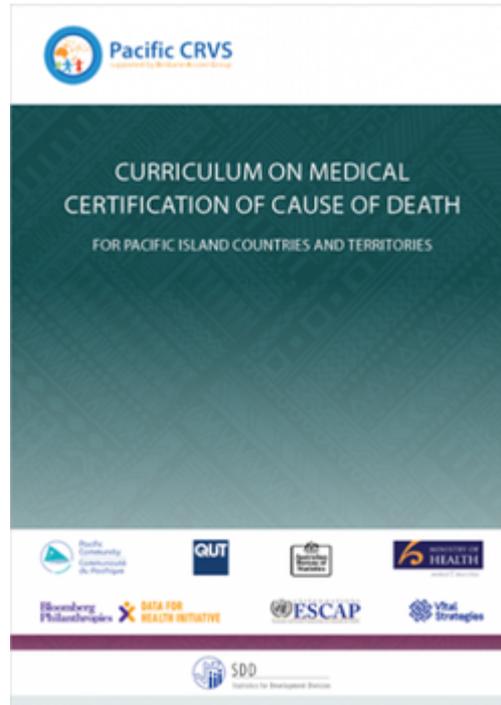
The regional launch will be followed by four, subregional launches, to focus on the particular achievements and challenges faced in each subregion.

**Pacific:** 29 June 2021, 9:00 - 10:00 (Bangkok time). [Registration](#)

**South and Southwest Asia:** 29 June 2021, 13:00 - 14:30 (Bangkok time). [Registration](#)

**South East Asia:** 1 July 2021, 10:00 - 11:00 (Bangkok time). [Registration](#)

**North and Central Asia:** 1 July 2021, 15:00 - 16:00 (Almaty time). [Registration](#)



### The Secretariat of the Pacific Community releases training curriculum on MCCoD

A death certificate is a permanent record of the fact of and characteristics of death and provides important information about the decedent, the circumstances and cause of death while also serving as the main source of mortality statistics for a country. Unfortunately, in many developing countries, doctors do not receive sufficient training on accurately certifying deaths in alignment with international standards.

To address this gap in the Pacific region, the [Brisbane Accord Group](#) has been providing routine training to medical doctors on this subject and recently published a [training curriculum on medical certification of causes of death](#). The Group is also working with colleagues at Fiji National University to give students access to the curriculum moving forward.



### LAUNCHING ON JUNE 17: NEW REPORT by the Global COVID-19 Consortium

**TOGETHER WE CAN:**  
*The COVID-19 Impact on Stateless People  
& A Roadmap for Change*

The upcoming report is grounded in the lived experience and emergency response of grassroots groups, stateless activists & NGOs in 13 countries. It documents the many hard-hitting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on stateless people, showcases important initiatives by stateless groups and sets out a roadmap for change.

### Global COVID-19 Consortium launching report on COVID's impact on Stateless people

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion will launch their COVID-19 impact report on 17

**June 2021.** The new report is a follow up to the [2020 COVID-19 impact report](#) and details the impact COVID has had on stateless people across the world. The 2021 report was written jointly by the ISI [COVID-19 Consortium](#), and takes a deep-dive into specific country contexts, including Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Nepal and a number of Central Asian countries. The new report will also provide details on a practical 3-step roadmap for change.

The global launch is on **17 June 2021 at 14:00 (London) / 9:00 (New York)**. A specific Asia-Pacific launch will be on **21 June at 13:00 (Bangkok)**.

All interested participants can find [more information about the launches, including how to register, at the ISI website here](#).

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### **Improving civil registration of births and deaths: How can the health sector contribute?**

The World Health Organization, UNICEF and Vital Strategies are pleased to announce an upcoming webinar on health sector best practices for engaging and improving coverage and inclusion for birth and death registration. *Insight* readers are invited to join the live discussion on **23 June 2021 from 8 a.m.–9:30 a.m. (New York)** focused on the importance of CRVS systems for individuals and countries.

The event will highlight country case studies of inspiring leadership, sound governance and coordination and their role in reinforcing linkages with health systems to ensure that every birth and every death is registered and counted. More information on the event including [how to register can be found here](#).

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## June CRVS Champion - Ms. Gemma Van Halderen

Each month, our community newsletter puts a spotlight on one person from Asia-Pacific who 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. Gemma Van Halderen from UN ESCAP.

### ***What is your current title and role?***

Director of the Statistics Division at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

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

This year I was touched by a news story from Afghanistan about women risking their lives to claim their identities and be recognised on the birth certificates of their children. The news touched me greatly and I shared it with the wider statistics profession through the International Statistical Institute's series, "[Bringing joy to people's lives – Statisticians React to the News](#)". Here was a story about the importance of Civil Registration, a story which illustrates the importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems to people and human rights, and a new insight into what well-functioning systems can mean.

### ***How would you like to see CRVS in the ESCAP region develop by the end of the CRVS Decade?***

By the end of the CRVS Decade in 2024, I would like to see the vision articulated by governments fully achieved. UN ESCAP is a proud member of the UN Development System and our success is only ascertained if countries are successful in realising their ambitions and meeting their goals. I would like to see governments complete the decade with a big green tick against every goal and target they set for themselves under the Regional Action Framework for CRVS. If there is unfinished business for the countries, then the Secretariat has not done our best to support countries in doing their best.

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

My advice is to aim high, leverage regional cooperation mechanisms such as UN ESCAP, and ensure country-led ownership of the improvement aims. The Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024) set an ambitious agenda of universal registration in one of the most diverse regions of the world, yet we are witnessing transformational outcomes in birth and death registration, identity management, the adoption of innovative ICT tools to reach marginalized communities and regional collaboration. In addition, regional cooperation mechanisms such as resolutions, steering committees and reporting have been critical to identifying and agreeing on ambitions, transparent monitoring of progress, and celebrating shared successes.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The World Health Organization will be launching a Regional Report on the Health-Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Targets in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, which will be held as a virtual webinar on **Wednesday, 16 June 2021, from 10:30am to 1:30pm** (Cairo time, UTC+2). Interested participants can [join the Zoom Meeting here](#) with meeting ID - 989 1481 6906 and passcode - 067680.

On **14 - 16 June 2021**, and **28 - 30 June 2021**, ESCAP and UNICEF are co-organising two workshops in Lahore and Muzaffarabad outlining the essentials of CRVS activity in Pakistan in support of the

in Lahore and Muzaffarabad outlining the essentials of CRVS activity in Pakistan in support of the [Technical Support Unit for CRVS](#). More information about the workshops can be found on [www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org).

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### **NEW RESOURCES**

Newly updated, the [11th revision of the WHO International Classification of Diseases](#) (ICD-11) now provides over 17,000 diagnostic categories, along with 130,000 medical diagnostic terms and additional COVID-19 emergency codes. The ICD-11 is fully digitized for online or offline use and boasts several improvements and updates to support governments, the medical community and data users.

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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).

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 @ because you have expressed interest in CRVS activities in Asia and the Pacific.

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