

CRVS Insight

June 2024

Launch of the Questionnaire for the 2024 Review of the Asia and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024)

13 June 2024
10:00-11:00h (UTC+7)
Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series

Opening remarks:

Speakers:

Moderator & Closing remarks:

Treta Sharma
Administrator-General
Ministry of Justice, Fiji

Philip Setel
Vice President, Civil Registration
and Vital Statistics, Vital
Strategies

Sovannaroth Tey
Associate Statistician
Statistics Division, ESCAP

Tanja Sejersen
Statistician and CRVS Lead,
Statistics Division, ESCAP

REGISTRATION
rb.gy/5kva0j

Join us ONLINE-Teams meeting
sherturl.at/BCoIS

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific

STATS CAFE
Good coffee makes your day
but good data helps you decide

Video Call Interface:
Participants visible in the call include: Anish P. Prasad, Tanja S. Sejersen, Sovannaroth Tey, Philip Setel, Vital Strategies, Lavinia B. Ariana, and J. H. Moon, Malaysia.

Is every one in the picture? The 2025 review of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific throughout the CRVS Decade, 2015-2024

Members and associate members of ESCAP came together in 2014 to proclaim the Asia-Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade, 2015-2024. They shared the same vision: By 2024, all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive CRVS systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development. Ten years after the proclamation of the Decade, have we achieved this vision?

A comprehensive review of progress throughout the Decade is required to answer this question. In this regards, ESCAP recently organized a Stats Café to launch the questionnaire for the 2025 review of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific (RAF) on 13 June 2024. Ms. Treta Sharma, Administrator-General, Ministry of Justice, Fiji, and Chair of the Regional Steering Group (RSG) for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific officially launched the questionnaire which was followed by Dr. Philip Setel, Vice President, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, Vital Strategies, who presented on the importance of reviews for monitoring and evaluating progress and for identifying areas of support. ESCAP secretariat shared the rationale, timeline, process and available support to countries for completing the 2025 review questionnaire. For more information on the Stats Café, please refer to this [link](#).

ESCAP and development partners will provide support to members and associate members of ESCAP to complete the questionnaire. Information on the available support, frequently asked questions, and relevant information are available on our [getinthepicture website](#). Members and associate members have until 15 September 2024 to return the completed questionnaire to ESCAP. After collecting and validating the responses from the questionnaires, ESCAP will produce a regional progress report, to be endorsed at the [Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and Pacific](#), which is scheduled to take place from 24-26 June 2025.



The banner features logos for Vital Strategies, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Data for Health Initiative at the top. Below the logos are four colored circles (yellow, blue, red, green). The main text is centered and reads: **Call for Proposals :
Data for Health Global Grants Program
Launches New Gender Equity Round of
Support**

Call for Proposals: Data for Health Global Grants Program Launches New Round of Support for Gender Equity

Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative's Global Grants Program (GGP) is launching a new round of support for projects focused on gender equity. This round supports projects that will improve the use and dissemination of sex and gender data for decision-making and policy change, focusing on advancing gender equity to promote public health in the core thematic areas of civil registration and vital statistics, data use for decision-making, and population-based cancer registries.

Project ideas should be submitted between 10 June – 7 July 2024. Selected ideas will lead to full proposal submission by 22 July 2024.

Please click [here](#) for more details on the Global Grants Program (GGP).

Read more on the Call for Gender Equity Project Applications [here](#).



Bhutan releases Vital Statistics Report 2023

Bhutan's National Statistics Bureau has published the 2023 Vital Statistics Report. The report uses administrative data maintained by the Department of Civil Registration and Census (DCRC), under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHCA).

Please find the report [here](#).



Photo credit: Unsplash/Muhammad Abdul Majid

Blog: Measuring adult mortality: All deaths count even if they are not counted

Mortality has played an important role in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), which focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. National governments have recognized the significance of mortality estimates.

Mortality in younger ages has successfully declined, however, accurate adult mortality estimates are still lacking. With diversity and inequality in adult mortality patterns being frequent, it is necessary to have universal and inclusive adult mortality estimates, in order to leave no one behind.

Comprehensive and inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems play a vital role in providing high quality data on adult mortality, however, in terms of death registration, many systems are incomplete, which is exacerbated during times of crisis. In countries with incomplete CRVS systems, estimates of adult mortality are mostly based on census and survey data, with supplemental measures like verbal autopsies.

Countries in Asia and the Pacific are strengthening death registration as part of their commitments under the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade.

Visit the blog for full story [here](#).



Global Expert Workshop on Operationalizing Holistic Approaches to CRVS System Strengthening, 9-14 June, Kigali, Rwanda

A global expert workshop on operationalizing holistic approaches to CRVS system strengthening was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 9-14 June. The workshop which was co-organized by the Government of Rwanda, Vital Strategies and ECA, in partnership with GFF, UNFPA, the CDC Foundation and UNICEF, brought together 105 CRVS experts, representing 37 countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America. The hands-on and case-based learning opportunity of this workshop, focused on aligning CRVS system strengthening strategies to the UN Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System and the UN Legal Identity Agenda, drawing on real-world experiences in strengthening CRVS systems across diverse countries. The workshop further provided a platform to delve into the practical application of the process-centric approach to CRVS system strengthening which is outlined in the [CRVS Systems Improvement Framework](#). Participants also gained first-hand knowledge of the processes underlying the strengthening of the Rwandan CRVS system, through field visits to hospitals and health facilities in Kigali.

The workshop provided a basis for the potential establishment of a CRVS-strengthening community of practice among CRVS experts from around the world.



Regional Workshop on Agile Statistical Systems Fit for the Future, 17-19 June, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

This 3-day regional workshop which was co-organized by ESCAP and the National Statistics Office of Mongolia brought together 20 participants from National Statistical Offices, including 3 Chief Statisticians and 3 Deputy Chief Statisticians representing Bhutan, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan.

The workshop provided an opportunity for countries to present, review and discuss the key lessons learned from the work that ESCAP has been supporting to strengthen national statistical, civil registration and vital statistics systems, including through system reviews and efforts to improve business processes. Representatives from Fiji Bureau of Statistics and Maldives Bureau of Statistics shared their experiences of implementing the [CRVS Systems Improvement Framework](#) to improve civil registration business processes, and the subsequent and planned changes this has informed. The workshop also served as a forum for initial discussions on the high-level theme for the 9th session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics: 'Agile Statistical Systems Fit for the Future', with participants generating draft recommendations on business process improvements, change management and different ways of working, for subsequent consultation and consideration at the Committee session.



CRVS Champion: Md. Nazrul Islam

Our community newsletter puts a spotlight on people who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to support CRVS programmes in Asia and the Pacific, raise awareness of CRVS issues or lead CRVS improvement efforts in their home country or in the region. This month, we would like to dedicate this issue of Insight to Md. Nazrul Islam.

What is your current title and role?

I have been working at Vital Strategies, a global non-profit organization focused on public health, as a Country Coordinator in Bangladesh since 2020. My role is to oversee and facilitate the implementation of all interventions under Data for Health CRVS Improvement Program with a focus on system improvements. Previously, I was a bureaucrat by profession and ultimately progressed to the position of Permanent Secretary to the government several years ago. My final posting was as Secretary, Coordination and Reforms in the Cabinet Division, where my major responsibilities included governance reforms, institutionalizing performance management and strengthening CRVS systems. During my tenure, the CRVS Secretariat was established in the Cabinet Division. After retiring from the government service, I was appointed by the Honorable President as a Human Rights Commissioner, a role in which I had the opportunity to work on human rights issues linked to civil registration, and legal identity.

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

I had an opportunity to be part of the Bangladesh delegation at the 1st Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in November 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. I witnessed the issuance of Ministerial Declaration to 'Get Every One in the Picture', observed attendees' support to Regional Action Framework for CRVS and the Declaration of CRVS Decade (2015-2024). I was impressed by the ownership, commitment, and eagerness of the participants for a 'universal and responsive CRVS system'. Having a background of working on establishing good governance, I was deeply moved by the shared vision of the Ministerial Declaration for 'realizing rights, supporting good governance, health, and development'.

Later, while working in the Human Rights Commission, I came across many people struggling for legal identity. In one instance, a Bangladeshi being considered as illegal immigrant in a foreign country was facing difficulty in proving his identity due to a faulty birth registration. He could escape the sufferings only after having the birth registration corrected. This is one of many such cases that truly highlights the critical importance of functional and universal CRVS to me.

How are you currently involved in CRVS improvements?

As a Country Coordinator for Vital Strategies, my responsibilities include developing CRVS workplan, providing orientation on government aims and objectives in CRVS to different stakeholders, coordinating with different agencies and service providers to support CRVS system, and overseeing implementation of all CRVS related activities. I am involved in coordinating delivery of CRVS related trainings, supporting scale up of community birth and death registration model, strengthening the health-CR link for more efficient registration, facilitating implementation and scale up of MCD and ICD coding and automated Verbal Autopsy. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation of progress of the CRVS journey also comes under my responsibility.

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

CRVS is a great contributor to the Sustainable Development Goals. If you want to see full implementation of SDGs in your country, work tirelessly for achieving a fully functioning CRVS system, build up teams and communities of practice, identify champions at different levels and inspire them. Engage with the policy makers, show them the benefits of CRVS – you can expect better results. Being a dedicated CRVS ‘activist’ is an excellent way to serve one’s nation better.

NEW RESOURCES

- [The Third Regional Conference of Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia \(CR8\)](#)
 - [Expert meeting on birth registration and digital technologies on 17 May 2024](#)
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Global calendar of statistical events](#)
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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.

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 you 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](#).