



CRVS Insight

May 2022



BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE WITH INCLUSIVE CRVS - STRENGTHENING LINKAGES WITH THE HEALTH SECTOR

The Government of Pakistan, UNFPA, UNICEF and ESCAP are organizing a side event during the 78th session of the [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#) on 23 May, 13.30-14.30 (UTC+7). The focus of the event is on *Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics – strengthening linkages with the health sector*.

In the past decades, countries have enhanced the role of the health sector to improve civil registration rates and reporting quality for causes of death. Many countries now require the health sector to declare directly to the civil registrar or support families to submit vital-event declaration forms. This shift in reporting responsibility recognizes that data produced from civil registration are a public good and that governments have a duty to ensure complete registration of all vital events within their territory. Pakistan is following this paradigm shift and will share their experience with interested participants at the side event.

This hybrid event will be held on MS Teams and at MR-H, United Nations Conference Centre, Please follow this [link](#) to register for the event and find additional information.



STATS CAFE:

MAKING CIVIL REGISTRATION MORE USER-FRIENDLY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

16 May 2022, 12:00-13:00 (UTC+7).

Countries in Asia and the Pacific are adopting the [CRVS Systems Improvement Framework](#) to identify challenges, redesign procedures and enhance their business processes. They aim to streamline the civil registration system to alleviate the burden on families and increase availability of vital-event data for policymakers. With support from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, ESCAP, Vital Strategies and other development partners established the Framework to offer an innovative, multi-sectoral and participatory approach to enhance CRVS systems. ESCAP, Vital Strategies and WHO-SEARO are currently supporting countries in the region to implement Phase 1 of the Framework to map birth and death registration processes, identify performance issues and analyze policy options.

This [Stats Café](#) will highlight country experiences in using the CRVS System Improvement Framework to analyze and redesign their CRVS systems. Presenters will also share their reflections on how this effort has informed their policymaking and ongoing civil registration system strengthening. Please register [here](#).



GETTING EVERYONE IN THE PICTURE THROUGH ASSESSING INEQUALITIES

A recent [blog](#) by ESCAP highlighted the need to address inequalities in civil registration to advance the “leave no-one behind” agenda. Eradicating civil registration inequalities is key to achieving SDG indicators on legal identity for all and birth and death registration targets by 2030, [SDG indicators 16.9.1](#) and [17.19.2](#).

Countries that have adopted the [Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) are committed to following all implementation steps including inequality assessment for CRVS. Now, more than ever, addressing inequalities in CRVS is crucial as COVID-19 highlights the importance of universal death registration and recording of causes of death for responsive and inclusive policymaking.

ESCAP recently launched the [Inequality Assessments and Strengthening Demographic Analysis Capacity](#) project to strengthen capacities of countries in the region to implement CRVS inequality assessments using secondary data sources. The support ranges from building demographic analytical capacities for national stakeholders to promoting dialogues with policymakers. ESCAP are currently organizing national and regional workshops to address relevant skills gap and refine the methodology for inequality assessments.

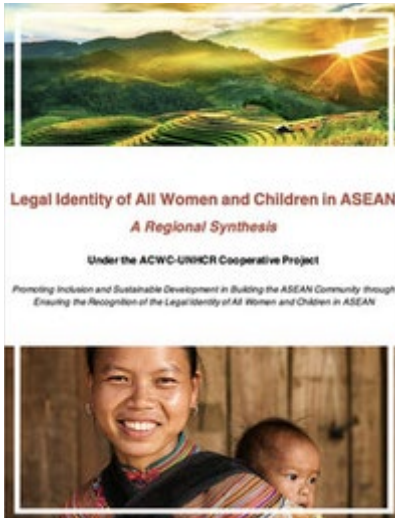


EMERGING TRENDS IN CENSUS APPROACHES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Traditional census-taking, in principle, entails canvassing the entire country, reaching every single household, and collecting information on all individuals within a stipulated period of time. While the majority of countries in the world, as well as those in Asia and the Pacific, continue to employ this traditional approach, an increasing number of countries are turning towards registers (solely or partially, complemented by a full field enumeration or sample survey).

This report showcases approaches adopted by some countries in the region on the use of administrative data in censuses.

Download the full report [here](#).



UNHCR AND CIVIL REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) in cooperation with UNHCR, is working on the implementation of the recommendations of the ACWC study on "[Legal Identity of All Women and Children in ASEAN: A Regional Synthesis](#)" in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Activities in this context include capacity building elements. Currently, UNHCR also supports the governments' ongoing efforts in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan to follow up on their 2019 pledges to ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness. In Thailand, Viet Nam and Pakistan, UNHCR supports governments with the conclusion of and the follow up to the "[Bali Process Civil Registration Assessment Toolkit Pilot Projects](#)".



#CountingEveryone

The [#CountingEveryone](#) campaign has shared stories from leaders in Bangladesh, Colombia, Rwanda and Viet Nam on their efforts to ensure everyone, everywhere, is counted. For more information, please follow this [link](#).



PAKISTAN'S FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTING INEQUALITY ASSESSMENT AND STRENGTHENING DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS CAPACITY ON CRVS

In collaboration with ESCAP, the Technical Support Unit - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives held the first national workshop on 25-26th March 2022 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

For more information about the workshop including presentations, please follow this [link](#).



UNFPA-PAKISTAN and CRVS

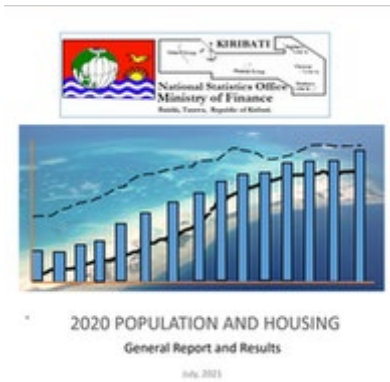
UNFPA is partnering with the Government of Pakistan to build a strong and centralized Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system. The video highlights Pakistan's efforts in utilizing CRVS to combat child marriage and improve data for health planning.



NEW ANALYSIS OF EXCESS MORTALITY AND COVID-19 IN MALAYSIA

Data on COVID-19-related deaths are essential to assess the mortality rate in a country. Due to the high transmissibility of the virus, collecting this particular data is very challenging but countries are adopting innovative approaches to address this issue. At a recent [Asia-Pacific Stats Café](#), the Centre for Burden of Disease Research, Institute for Public Health, National Institutes of Health, Malaysia shared the country's approach to achieving data completeness for COVID-19-related deaths. Malaysia's MoH has complemented hospital-based deaths (registered by medically certified officers) with public/home-based data (registered by informants/next of kin). This approach has enabled Malaysia to have the necessary data to analyze excess mortality due to COVID-19.

Latest excess mortality estimate by Malaysia's MoH during the pandemic (data available from March 2020 to December 2021) remained low, at 2.4% (+7,914). MoH cited high level of compliance with their COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by the public and wide vaccination coverage as the main reasons for the low excess mortality. For further information, a [journal article](#) was recently published in The Lancet.



KIRIBATI ON PATH TO TRANSFORM DATA PROTECTION AND GOVERNANCE

The National Statistics Office of Kiribati, in partnership with the Office of Civil Registration, aims to integrate multiple sets of health and civil registration data to create a complete source of population data. The team has developed a Draft Data Protection Policy and terms of reference for a new data governance mechanism. The policy will not only ensure the security of this data in Kiribati but also provide a model for other countries seeking to include data protection measures in their legal frameworks.

Further information is available in the latest edition of [The Data Digest](#), a quarterly Data for Health Newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Webinar on [ICD-11 implementation strategy and country experiences](#): As part of WHO ICD-11 webinar series, the Classifications and Terminologies Unit is organizing a webinar on the **16th of May 2022**. For more information please contact icd@who.int.
 - The [78th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#) will be held in a hybrid modality from **23 to 27 May 2022** at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online. Guided by the theme “A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”, the annual session will be an opportunity to discuss and shape the future of regional cooperation centered around a new form of multilateralism and regional cooperation. The outcomes of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will be highlighted during the session and a resolution on CRVS has been tabled by Pakistan for adoption by the Commission.
 - Global Calendar of Statistical Events: a large number of data and statistics events worldwide are posted [here](#).
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RESOURCE

- [The Final Report on Civil Registration Assessment of the Vulnerable Population Groups of Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Stateless Persons and Persons of Undetermined Nationality](#): This report, prepared with support from UNHCR, provides the Government of Pakistan with practical recommendations to establish inclusive civil registration systems.
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JOB OPPORTUNITY

- [Technical Advisor-CRVS](#): Vital Strategies Singapore, Singapore On-site. Technical Advisor, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Program. Reporting to the Regional Deputy Director, CRVS, the Technical Advisor will provide technical assistance to national ministries of health and other key stakeholders in 2 priority or 'focus' countries participating in the CRVS arm of the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Data for Health Initiative (Bangladesh and Cambodia).
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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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