Workshop on ensuring the recognition of the legal identity of all women and children in ASEAN

The Preparation Workshop on promoting inclusion and sustainable development in building the ASEAN Community through ensuring the recognition of the legal identity of all women and children in ASEAN was held in Ha Long City, Viet Nam from 6-7 November. The workshop was organised by Viet Nam’s Representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Viet Nam (MOLISA), and UNHCR. Participants included ACWC Representatives on Children’s Rights and Women’s Rights, Nominated Focal Points for the research on ensuring the legal identity of all women and children, as well as experts from the ASEAN Secretariat, UNHCR, UNESCAP, and academia.

The workshop’s aim was to discuss the research phase of the Project on ensuring the recognition of the legal identity of all women and children in ASEAN, adopted at the 13th Meeting of the ACWC in Singapore in October 2016. To this end, participants finalized and adopted the research methodology, questionnaire, and research outline. The finalized questionnaire will now be circulated to ACWC Representatives and Focal Points, with responses due to be sent back to UNHCR by the end of 2017.

Focal Points and ACWC Representatives also delivered presentations highlighting good practices, challenges, and lessons learned on ensuring the recognition of legal identity for women and children. ASEAN member states are making significant progress in this area, primarily through increasing civil registration completeness and access to identity documentation, as well as preventing statelessness and realizing the right to a nationality through the implementation of national laws.

Ten new countries join the Global Financing Facility

Ten new countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia and Indonesia, have joined the Global Financing Facility (GFF). The GFF is a country-led, multi-stakeholder partnership to improve the health, nutrition and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents. GFF funded initiatives include work on improving national CRVS systems. The other seven countries to join are: Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Haiti, Madagascar, Malawi and Rwanda.
The GFF Trust Fund is supported by the Canadian, Norwegian and British governments; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and MSD for Mothers; and is currently in the middle of a $2 billion replenishment drive. Funds invested in the GFF are linked with several sources of additional funding, including domestic government resources, international development banks and the private sector. Through this collaborative approach the GFF hopes to address the $33 billion financing gap in improving the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents around the world. The number of GFF countries now rises to 26, with plans to expand to 50 countries accounting for 96% of this financing gap over the next five years.

**Training materials for CRVS digitisation from Plan International**

In 2015, Plan International developed the CRVS Digitisation Guidebook on behalf of the Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement of CRVS. This is an online resource that provides step-by-step guidance for countries to plan, analyse, design and implement digitised systems and automated processes for CRVS. Recognising the need for relevant actors to be trained in CRVS digitisation skills, based on the CRVS Digitisation Guidebook, Plan has developed a curriculum and materials that can be used by any partner wishing to train government partners in this area. The curriculum and materials were developed to support a CRVS Digitisation training session for four African countries in August in Cape Town, South Africa, supported by Vital Strategies and the APAI-CRVS.

**Health Information System Strengthening (HISS) Resource Center: A new hub of HIS information**

MEASURE Evaluation’s Health Information System Strengthening (HISS) Resource Center is a new repository of resources related to Health Information Systems (HIS). The Resource Center’s objectives are to collect evidence on what works to strengthen HIS, to collect evidence on how HIS improve health outcomes, and to serve as a learning space for health professionals to share and exchange HIS information. Strong HIS are crucial for providing policy makers with accurate and useful information for planning informed health programmes and interventions.

Information available in the Resource Center includes MEASURE Evaluation’s HISS Model, performance outcome indicators, country profiles, an assessment tool database, links to regional networks, as well as an annotated bibliography of HIS literature and resources. One critical component of strong HIS is birth and death registration completeness, which is elaborated on in the Resource Center’s Vital Registration page. Registration completeness is also used as one of the indicators in the country profiles, which provide an overview of the current status of national HIS.

MEASURE Evaluation is funded by USAID with the objective of strengthening capacity in gathering, interpreting, and using health data in developing countries; developing evaluation tools and approaches; and strengthening national HIS.
A Call For Contributions

Do you have anything you want to share? We welcome contributions to the newsletter and website. If you have a story on CRVS insights, events, information or tools, please send them through to sejersent@un.org

For more information contact the Statistics Division of United Nations ESCAP at stat.unescap@un.org or +66 2288 2593, or visit www.getinthepicture.org

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