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## **CRVS Insight**

December 2020

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### **Consultation with children and youth on CRVS**

In preparation for the [Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific](#), the Child Rights Coalition Asia, World Vision, and UN ESCAP will, over the coming months, conduct:

1. children and youth consultations in selected countries in Asia and the Pacific; and
2. a virtual forum of children and youth in the sub-regions of Greater Mekong, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

CRC Asia is hiring a [videographer](#) and a [research team](#) to be part of their efforts in the build-up to next year's Second Ministerial Conference. For more information and to read the Terms of References for each position, please visit the [CRC Asia website here](#).

If you would like to know more about the consultation process, please contact Indah Abayan, Programme officer with CRC Asia ([labayan@crcasia.org](mailto:labayan@crcasia.org)). Interested NGOs are particularly encouraged to take contact.

CRC Asia is a network of child rights organizations working together to be a strong voice for child rights in the region by leading in strengthening child rights movements, promoting innovative programs, and advocating better policies for and with the children. A key part of its work is the advancement of children's right to be heard on issues that either directly or indirectly affect them, including the development of CRVS systems.

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**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**

## Request for proposals to the Global Grants Programme within the Data 4 Health initiative

On Nov. 15, 2020, the [Global Grants Program](#) within Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health (D4H) Initiative launched a new request for proposals.

The program supports focused, results-oriented projects that improve public health data in the following priority areas: data use, civil registration and vital statistics, innovations in non-communicable disease surveys, the COVID-19 response and cancer registration. Government agencies and organizations applying may request preliminary feedback on a project idea before submitting a complete application.

The Global Grants Program is targeted to ministries of health, statistics and other relevant agencies at the national, subnational or municipal levels in low- and middle-income countries that have not received funding from the Data for Health (D4H) Initiative.

If interested, [please visit the website here](#) for more information on eligibility, priority areas and how to apply. Applications are due by January 15, 2021.

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### Regional NGO on statelessness launched

Following a number of years of consultations and planning, the Statelessness Network Asia Pacific (SNAP) is now officially registered as an organization in Australia under the new name [Nationality for All](#). But despite the name change, Nationality for All will continue working as a regional NGO in partnership with civil society to promote collaboration and address statelessness. Importantly, this continued work includes supporting CRVS-related programmes with an understanding that well-functioning CRVS systems act as a central mechanism in providing people with legal identity, thereby reducing statelessness.

To help develop their work ahead, NFA is [launching an online survey and consultation series](#) to inform strategic priorities and collaborative advocacy opportunities to address statelessness. This will also inform comparative research being undertaken together with Open Society Justice Initiative and the Refugee Solidarity Network to identify positive legislative, policy, and programmatic examples relevant to addressing statelessness.

For readers interested in completing the online survey\*, they will also be given an opportunity to express interest in attending one of four webinars being planned throughout Nov. and Dec., including:

- Criminal Law and Detention (including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic): Tuesday November 24 –ICT 1pm
- Legal Status and Documentation: Tuesday December 1 –ICT 1pm
- Children's Rights and Birth Registration: Thursday December 3 –ICT 1pm
- Access to Education, Employment and Health(including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic): Thursday December 10 –ICT 1pm

(\*Please note that the webinars have limited numbers and only those completing the online

survey will be considered for participation.)

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### **More than 3 million Pinoys register for Phil ID**

In a major step toward universal registration, the [Philippine Statistics Authority](#) (PSA) reported that [around 3,315,000 low-income Filipinos have taken the first step of the registration phase](#) for the Philippine identification system (PhilSys). Elaborating on the progress, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Undersecretary Claire Dennis Mapa stated “given the current count and the pace of our operations, we are confident that we will hit our nine-million-target for Step 1 Registration, before the year ends”.

Despite slowdown of the registration process due to the to the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly (international name Goni), the surge in registration has allowed PSA to reach 120 percent of its target for step 1 of the PhilSys registration.

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### **CRVS Champion: Ms. Kamni Naidu**

The ESCAP CRVS team is proud to announce the launch of a new series we are calling "**CRVS Champions**". Each month, our community newsletter will put a spotlight on one person from Asia-Pacific that 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. Kamni Naidu from Fiji.

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

I am the Administrator-General in the Ministry of Justice, Government of the Republic of Fiji

My key role, amongst others, is to oversee the overall administration of the legal registries within the Ministry of Justice and these are: (1) Births, Deaths and Marriages Office, (2) Official Receiver's Office, (3) Registrar of Titles Office, (4) Registrar of Companies Office.

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

I have been in my current role since April 2018 and I have been closely working with the Births, Deaths and Marriages ('BDM') office. We have about 20 BDM offices around Fiji and there are several people who access this office on a daily basis. Working with BDM staff and effectively serving the many people who access our office is an experience on its own. Being an essential service in Fiji, we are required to have an effective and efficient civil registration system more so as a birth certificate is the source document to access a lot of services in Fiji including admission in school, passport, and lot more.

***How are you currently involved in CRVS improvements?***

We have a CRVS committee in Fiji and I chair this committee. We have representatives from the Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Education and National Heritage, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Communications and some ad hoc members. Our main goal is to achieve the set targets of reaching 100% completeness rate and ensure that births and deaths are registered within the required time.

Together with the Registrar-General at the BDM office, I work closely with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to ensure that births and deaths occurring in Fiji are registered on time. We have number of ongoing digital projects to ensure that the systems used to register births and deaths in Fiji are integrated whilst data accuracy and integrity is maintained.

I am the chair of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific and I also work closely with Gloria Mathenge- CRVS advisor at the Pacific Community to achieve our intended targets.

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

Fiji does have a functioning CRVS system which registers births and deaths, issues birth and death certificates, and compiles and disseminates vital statistics, and we would like to ensure that we register all births and deaths on time. We would like to see 100% completeness in births and death registrations.

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

My advice, given my current experience, working with the BDM office is to have a very streamlined documented processes to ensure that all information given at the time of birth and death is captured, accurately. A birth certificate shows that a person has a legal identity, name, nationality, proof of age, and the related are important human rights and enables individuals to exercise their rights, so it is vital that we advocate this right and have the means and measures to ensure that everyone is able to obtain a birth certificate – and that such service should be accessible, efficient and allow for on time registration.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

On **2 December**, the [CRVS Partnership for Asia and the Pacific](#) will meet to discuss preparations for the 6th Regional Steering Group Meeting, ongoing preparation for the Second Ministerial Conference

on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific as well as coordination of CRVS related activities in the region.

The ESCAP Statistics Division will host the virtual 6th meeting of the [Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) on **8 - 9 December from 13:00 - 16:00 (Bangkok time)**. The meeting will address general knowledge sharing on the continuation of CRVS during COVID-19, as well as discussions of the findings from the midterm review of the CRVS Decade and continued preparations for the Second Ministerial Conference in 2021. Please visit [www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org) for more information.

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### **NEW RESOURCES**

Data for Health (D4H) has been working with Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) to implement an automated SmartVA system. You can read more about D4H's work [piloting a complementary, paper-based VA data collection process here](#).

The most recent videos from ESCAP's ongoing Stats Café webinar series can be found by visiting the [Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series](#) website. Each webinar is organized in collaboration with relevant development partners and countries and covers a variety of statistics-related topics.

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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.

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