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## ***CRVS Insight***

November 2021

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### **Second Ministerial Conference for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific begins on 16 November!**

Between 16 – 19 November, ESCAP will be hosting the [Second Ministerial Conference](#) on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Conference will be conducted virtually and live proceedings can be followed via the ESCAP YouTube platform.

On [www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org), readers can find a [detailed programme](#) with a breakdown of daily sessions, including a brief synopsis of the sessions and links to access them on YouTube, the [agenda and official documents](#), including translations, as well as other relevant [background documents](#) for the Conference.

Additionally, in the lead up to the Conference, ESCAP is pleased to announce that member states, associate members and a wide variety of civil society organizations are organizing side events aimed at enhancing participants' knowledge base prior to the Conference. Most events will occur in the week leading up to the Conference with the exception of those events linked directly with formal sessions of the Conference. For *Insight* readers convenience, we are publishing the list in full below, but additional information including registration links and social media flyers can be found by clicking the link in the event title.

**8 November 2021, 11:00-12:30 hrs**

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific - [Birth Registration of Refugees in ESCAP Member States](#)

**8 November 2021 (postponed from 3 November), 14:30-16:00 hrs**

Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Pakistan and the UNICEF Pakistan Office - [Establishment of CRVS Sister Districts in SAARC Countries](#)

**9 November 2021, 12:00-13:30 hrs**

ESCAP - [Deaths in Asia and the Pacific: How many remain uncounted?](#)

**9 November 2021, 14:30-16:00 hrs**

Vital Strategies Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative and partners - [#CountingEveryone Through Leadership and Coordination](#)

**10 November 2021, 12:00-13:30 hrs**

Vital Strategies, ESCAP and WHO South-East Asia Regional Office - [Business Process Improvement- An Innovative Approach to CRVS System Strengthening](#)

**11 November 2021, 09:00-10:30 hrs**

Vital Strategies, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, CDC Foundation and UNSD - [Review and revision of CRVSID legal frameworks: An essential component of CRVS system strengthening](#)

**11 November 2021, 14:30-16:00 hrs**

UNICEF - [Unique Identifiers: How can we minimize the risk and maximize the benefits?](#)

**12 November 2021, 11:00-12:30 hrs**

Vital Strategies, Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative and partners - [Introducing an eLearning Course to Guide the Analysis and Use of Vital Statistics](#)

**12 November 2021, 14:30-16:00 hrs**

World Vision International, CRC Asia and ESCAP - [Count us in the Picture: Voices of Children and Youth on CRVS](#)

**15 November 2021 (postponed from 10 November), 14:30-16:00 hrs**

Statistics Norway - [Register-based Censuses](#)

**16 November 2021, 12:45-13:30 hrs**

ESCAP - [Deep dive on progress made during the first half of the Decade](#)

**17 November 2021, 08:45-09:30 hrs**

Vital Strategies and WHO - [Warm-up session: Health sector and civil registration and vital statistics](#)

**17 November 2021, 12:45-13:30 hrs**

ESCAP, UNHCR, World Vision and CRC Asia - [Warm-up session: Civil registration and vital statistics as an accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

**18 November 2021, 08:45-09:30 hrs**

UN Women, UNFPA, and ESCAP - [Warm-up session: Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality](#)

**18 November 2021, 12:45-13:30 hrs**

UNICEF, World Bank, UNHCR and UNDP - [Warm-up session: Legal identity](#)

**18 November 2021, 16:30-17:30 hrs**

ESCAP - [Ministerial Discussion: Stocktake at half-time in the shadow of the pandemic: Is Asia and the Pacific on track to achieve legal identity for all by 2030?](#)

**19 November 2021, 08:30-09:30 hrs**

ESCAP - [Pandemics, people and preparedness: ministerial roundtable on civil registration and vital statistics, COVID-19 and health](#)

**19 November 2021, 12:30-13:30 hrs**

ESCAP - [Ministerial roundtable: Building resilient CRVS systems – incorporating lessons from COVID-19 in the second half of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade](#)



**Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative opening new round of funding for Global Grants Program**

The Initiative, supported by [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#) and the Government of Australia, supports technical exchanges in to low- and middle-income countries worldwide to improve public health data systems. The Initiative focuses on [three major programmatic areas](#): civil registration and vital statistics; non-communicable disease risk factor surveys; and data use for policy making.

The [Global Grants Program](#) (GGP) supports focused, results-oriented projects that improve public health data in the thematic areas of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative so that governments are equipped with the tools and systems to collect and use data effectively.

To apply for the current round of funding, project ideas must be submitted between November 1 – November 30 for screening and selected successful ideas will be invited to submit a full proposal, due by January 15, 2022. To read more about the GGP, as well as obtain more information about the current funding round, please [visit the GGP website here](#).



### **WHO will host a CRVS technical partners meeting to ensure universal civil registration for universal health coverage from 9 - 10 November**

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of well-functioning CRVS systems which, as the [SCORE for Health Data Technical Package](#) assessment has shown, are still not producing data of sufficient quality to guide public health decision-making in many parts of the world.

In response, WHO is working with partners to prioritize CRVS strengthening at global, regional, and country levels. Efforts to strengthen CRVS systems by countries have already led to important lessons and experiences that we can together draw from, as we scale this work more broadly.

This meeting will focus on:

Introducing partners to WHO's global efforts in CRVS strengthening and the [WHO CRVS Strategic Implementation Plan 2021-2025](#);

Promoting a stronger role of health in CRVS and ensuring alignment with current WHO regional CRVS strategies, addressing the key concerns of the different regions;

Reviewing CRVS partners' activities and discussing potential collaborative opportunities; and,

Identifying and addressing the current gaps in CRVS systems.

Interested parties can access the technical partnership meeting via Zoom with the following information or contact Dr. Azza Badr ([badra@who.int](mailto:badra@who.int)) for any additional queries.

**9 – 10 November 15:00 – 18:00 CET**

**Zoom link:** <https://who.zoom.us/j/94222186038>

**Passcode:** Rpi=EKC5

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**CRVS Champion: Luz Indah Abayan**

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. Luz Indah Abayan.

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

I am currently a Program Officer at Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia). As such, I am fortunate to have been assigned to coordinate CRC Asia's projects related to issues of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) with its partner organizations such as UN ESCAP, World Vision International (WVI), and different country partners in the region.

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

I realized the importance of CRVS even before I learned what the acronym of CRVS stands for. In my 2 decades of experience working in or with the government, the consistent demand for evidence-based policy decision-making and programming of public services always called for an updated database about the conditions of the public.

While working as Planning Officer for a public school, I found that the success in the implementation of programs and the efficient allocation of public budgets always depended on how these have been made responsive to the needs of the school's beneficiaries and other stakeholders. And while working as an advocate for public investments in children, I learned that it is important for a government's finance management system to be anchored on a live database

about its population, efficiently segregated to enable public programs and services that progressively address the priority needs of children in different conditions and situations.

In both these experiences, a well-functioning CRVS system is indispensable to achieve inclusive and responsive public governance.

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

As CRC Asia's focal person on CRVS issues, I am assigned to coordinate with country partners, including children, youth, and members of civil society organizations, in the conduct of consultations and regional forums aimed at gathering their experiences, views and recommendations for the improvement of CRVS systems in the region.

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

By 2024, I hope to witness CRVS systems that meaningfully engage children, not only as respondents in surveys, but as integral part of the peoples' consultations related to the establishment, implementation, monitoring and improvement of its processes.

In the same year, I would also like to see CRVS systems and procedures made available in the different languages and forms of communication. I have learned so much from the valuable contributions of adults who provided valuable support to children as they participate in discussions about CRVS systems. Their support included the provision of translation from English to local languages and sign language interpretation. Without these, CRVS will continue to appear irrelevant, especially to families without access to basic education, residing in areas without nearby registration centers and are preoccupied by issues of survival.

I strongly believe that "leaving no one behind" should come with both a commitment and an action to facilitate information and education campaigns about the relevance of CRVS systems in the realization of everyone's rights. And such action should include the use of different languages and forms of communication accessible to different communities and individuals.

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

Governments and its different partners, including civil society organizations, will need to put premium in making CRVS systems understandable, accessible and relevant to each and every individual. Access to such information is a prerequisite to have everyone in CRVS systems and be part of a better and more sustainable future for all.



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 [supakalin@un.org](mailto:supakalin@un.org) 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](#).