



CRVS Insight

October 2019

Fifth Regional Steering Group Meeting for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

Between 17 – 19 September, in Bangkok, Thailand, the [Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) met for the fifth time to analyze the progress of country reports on the 2019-20 Midterm Questionnaire, discuss ways in which ESCAP and development partners can offer country support in order to ensure high quality responses, as well as continue preparing for the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific to be held 6-9 October 2020. Additionally, the Regional Steering Group discussed its own working arrangements for the latter half of the CRVS Decade, 2020-2024. More details on the meeting's programme, as well as country and partner presentations can be found on www.getinthepicture.org.

Following immediately on the heels of the meeting ESCAP also hosted a one-day workshop for Southeast Asian countries designed to support national focal points in submitting their responses to the [midterm questionnaire](#); the goal of which was ensuring their responses are included in the discussions during the Second Ministerial Conference in 2020. The workshop participants were briefed on the concepts behind the various targets of the Regional Action Framework, shared best practices for self-assessments and setting national targets, and analyzed the methodology and data requirements necessary for completing the questionnaire. More information about the workshop, as well as the presentations and agenda, can be found on www.getinthepicture.org.



Ending Statelessness in North and Central Asian Countries

North and Central Asian countries are moving quickly to address statelessness within their borders. Notably, two recent events brought together key stakeholders to celebrate successes and identify the remaining challenges ahead.

First, on 31 July, participants presented their national achievements on reducing and preventing statelessness at the Central Asian Network on Statelessness Fourth Annual Meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The meeting marked the mid-point of the [UNHCR #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness](#) and identified action plans and recommendations for continued success. More information can be found on the [UNHCR site here](#).

Second, between 5 - 6 September, more than 80 delegates gathered in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan for the [Second Regional Conference on the Right to Legal Identity and Prevention of Statelessness: "Leaving No One Behind at Birth"](#). Co-organized by UNHCR, UNICEF, UN ESCAP and the European Union, the Conference explored national efforts in addressing birth registration from the specific perspective of preventing statelessness and ensuring that no child is born stateless. UN ESCAP was on hand to further align the [Get Every One in the Picture](#) initiative with future statelessness prevention activities, as well as raise awareness for the 2020 Ministerial Conference.

In related news, the Kyrgyz Republic announced as the first country to successfully eliminate all known cases of statelessness

There is no region of the world unaffected by statelessness, particularly given the annual increase in refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants. That's why it was big news when [UNICEF and UNHCR jointly announced](#) that since 2014, Kyrgyzstan has identified more than 13,700 stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality and provided them with birth registration or citizenship. Thanks in large part to the work of a team of dedicated Kyrgyz lawyers, [one of whom was awarded the 2019 Nansen Refugee Award](#), thousands of otherwise undocumented peoples now have access to formal employment, social protections and legally guaranteed rights.



Data for Now Initiative seeks to leave no one behind by increasing data quality

During the [74th Session of the UN General Assembly](#), the [UN Statistics Division](#), the [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#) (GPSDD) and the [Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems](#) co-hosted a launch event for the [Data for Now Initiative](#). UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed spoke and highlighted the challenges faced by countries in achieving the SDGs by 2030. Her focus was primarily on the lack of accurate and timely data preventing the progress monitoring. The Deputy Secretary-General insisted on the fundamental importance of CRVS systems in that perspective noting “Measurement of 65 SDG indicators [...] depend on the quality of civil registration and vital statistics, but some 1.1 billion people around the world cannot officially prove their identity”. More information about the event and the Data for Now initiative [can be found here](#).



CRVS Fellowship Program

The University of Melbourne, as part of the [Bloomberg Data for Health \(D4H\) Initiative](#), hosts a CRVS Fellowship Program to build technical capacity in both individuals and institutions to enhance the quality, sustainability and policy utility of CRVS systems. The Program provides eligible applicants the opportunity to work on a CRVS project and receive intensive, one-on-one mentoring by University of Melbourne technical experts, to learn more broadly about CRVS systems and to establish networks within the international CRVS community. Selected participants will spend six weeks at the University of Melbourne with funding provided for travel, accommodation and incidentals. [Eligibility information and application guidelines can be found here.](#)

The submission deadline for the February 2020 fellowship is **31 October**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Starting on 10 October, the [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#) will begin a four-part webinar series entitled *The Power of Population Data*. The webinars will be held once per month from 10 October through January 2020 and cover issues such as citizen-generated data, linking CRVS and identity management systems, and new methods for estimating population data. For more information and to [register click here](#).
- From 14 – 18 October, in Lusaka, Zambia, African CRVS stakeholders will gather for the [Fifth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration](#). The Conference is being co-organized between the [African Union Commission](#), the [Economic Commission of Africa](#), the [African Development Bank](#) and the [Government of the Republic of Zambia](#). UN ESCAP will also be on hand to raise awareness for the 2020 Ministerial Conference in Bangkok, as well as advocate for the [Get Every One in the Picture Initiative](#).
- Between 26 – 28 November, the [Maldives Department of National Registration](#), with support from [UN ESCAP Statistics Division](#) and [UNICEF ROSA](#), will host the second annual meeting of the [Civil Registrars of South Asia](#) (CR8) in Male, Maldives. The second meeting will once again bring together the civil registrars for the eight South Asian nations, as well as organizations and individuals involved in strengthening national CRVS systems. The main areas of focus for the meeting will be sharing CRVS-related innovations and techniques, cross-border collaboration, CR8 inputs for the 2020 Ministerial Conference on CRVS, as well as training on the national midterm reports for the [CRVS Decade \(2015 - 2024\)](#).

NEW RESOURCES

- The [UN Statistics Division](#) recently created a [new website](#) dedicated to the work of the [Legal Identity Expert Group](#). The new site provides a background on the LIEG's formation, their objective and the four pillars focusing their efforts, as well as events and information on the pilot countries collaborating with the World Bank on initiatives integrating CRVS and identity management systems.
- [Bangladesh](#), with support from [Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative](#), recently published a paper on the government's pilot project to strengthen the CRVS system and generate cause of death data in Kalingaj Upazila. The paper, which can be found on the www.getinthepicture.org, elaborates on notification training efforts for community workers, verbal autopsy interviews and international cause of death certification training for physicians and coders.
- Just before the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage at the UN General Assembly, the WHO released the [Primary Health Care on the Road to Universal Health Coverage: 2019 Global Monitoring Report](#). Notably, well-functioning CRVS systems were cited as a "vital component" for monitoring trends in equity, as well as providing dis-aggregated data necessary for filling gaps in universal coverage. The full WHO Report can be [found on www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org).



If you have a new resource, upcoming event or article you would like highlighted in CRVS Insight, please send your submissions to escap-crvs@un.org.

This e-mail has been sent to 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](#).

