



CRVS Insight

October 2021



Side Events for the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS are set to begin!

As *Insight* readers will know, ESCAP will be hosting the [Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) from 16 - 19 November 2021 to celebrate the regional achievements of the first half of the [CRVS Decade \(2015 - 2024\)](#), as well as address remaining challenges.

In the weeks leading up to the Second Ministerial Conference, between 25 October and 12 November, governments and development partners from Asia and the Pacific will host side events and present their development work to relevant civil registration and vital statistics stakeholders. The list of side events can be found below in the upcoming events section or on www.getinthepicture.org and will include, among others, events focused on digital innovation, the business process improvement for CRVS systems, risks and benefits to unique identifiers, as well as the voices of children and youth.

Different events will be held the week of the Conference, from 16 to 19 November. The sessions of the Conference will be preceded by warm-up sessions, which will include informative and interactive debates on the topics of the Conference. Three ministerial discussions focusing on the

impact of COVID-19 on CRVS systems and strategies to make them more resilient will also take place on the Thursday and Friday of the Conference (18 and 19 November).

Insight readers are encouraged to participate and can find all the relevant details, including date, time, speakers, format and virtual platform on www.getinthepicture.org.



Ministerial Conference begins on 16 November

The preparations for the [Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) are nearly complete and ESCAP is pleased to announce the details for the Conference are now posted and available on www.getinthepicture.org.

First, readers can find a [detailed programme](#) with a breakdown of daily sessions, including a brief synopsis of the session and the platform that will be used. Second, the [agenda and official documents](#) are now available, including translations, as well as information notes informing various sessions and [background documents](#) for the Conference.

Finally, please note the entirety of the Second Ministerial Conference will be broadcasted live on the [United Nations ESCAP Youtube page](#).



How an agile response transformed Vanuatu's civil register system at a time of crisis

In a recent article written for the [United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office in Fiji](#), Emily Moli and Anne-Sofie Gerhard write about how Vanuatu, working with UN stakeholders and the Government of New Zealand, used the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to strengthen their civil registration system. In particular, the authors tell the story of the [Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project](#) (VEEP).

The VEEP Project focused on strengthening the electoral system to conform to international standards and resolving problems with a deeply defective electoral roll and strengthen political stability. Launched in 2017, VEEP was set up specifically with this mission and it became evident that other related issues were at stake, in particular the country's civil registry. While its main focus was to support the Vanuatu Electoral Office and Commission, VEEP quickly scaled up its work to include a massive nation-wide joint civil and voter registration effort, including the issuing of national identity documents (ID), giving citizens a legal identity for the first time in the nation's history.

To read the article in full, as well as learn more about this project and how Vanuatu turned a crisis into an opportunity, please visit www.pacific.undp.org.



UN Capital Development Fund releases new scorecard for inclusive, digital economies

The [inclusive digital economy scorecard](#) (IDES) is a strategic performance tool developed by the [UN Capital Development Fund](#) (UNCDF). The IDES is a policy tool that governments can use to help set the priorities of their country's digital transformation. It identifies the key market constraints hindering the development of an inclusive digital economy and helps set the right priorities with public and private stakeholders in each country to foster a digital economy that leaves no one behind. Notably, the scorecard's [list of indicators](#) includes registration, thereby highlighting registration's importance in building a digital and inclusive society.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In light of the upcoming Second Ministerial Conference, *Insight* readers can find a the list of upcoming side-events below. For more information on accessing the event please visit www.getinthepicture.org.

25 October 2021 / 09:00-10:30 hrs

Digital Innovation: Civil Registration and Covid-19 Vaccine Record

[UNDP / Government of Japan]

3 November 2021 / 14:30-16:00 hrs

Establishment of CRVS Sister Districts in SAARC Countries

[Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Pakistan / UNICEF Pakistan Office]

8 November 2021 / 11:00-12:30 hrs

Birth Registration of Refugees in ESCAP Member States

[UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific]

9 November 2021 / 14:30-16:00 hrs

#CountingEveryone Through Leadership and Innovation

[Vital Strategies / Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative and partners]

10 November 2021 / 12:00-13:30 hrs

Business Process Improvement - An Innovative Approach to CRVS System Strengthening

[Vital Strategies / ESCAP / WHO South-East Asia Regional Office]

11 November 2021 / 09:00-10:30 hrs

Review and revision of CRVSID legal frameworks: An essential component of CRVS system strengthening

[Vital Strategies / Global Health Advocacy Incubator, CDC Foundation]

11 November 2021 / 14:30-16:00 hrs

Unique Identifiers: How can we minimize the risk and maximize the benefits?

[UNICEF]

12 November 2021 / 14:30-16:00 hrs

Count us in the Picture: Voices of Children and Youth on CRVS

[World Vision International / Child Rights Coalition of Asia / ESCAP]

TBD

Deaths in Asia and the Pacific: How many remain uncounted?

[ESCAP]

TBD

Introducing an eLearning Course to Guide the Analysis and Use of Vital Statistics

[Vital Strategies / Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative and partners]

16 November 2021 / 12:45-13:30 hrs

Deep dive on progress made during the first half of the Decade

[ESCAP]

17 November 2021 / 08:45-09:30 hrs

Warm-up session: Health sector and civil registration and vital statistics

[Vital Strategies / WHO]

17 November 2021 / 12:45-13:30 hrs

Warm-up session: Civil registration and vital statistics as an accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals

[ESCAP / UNHCR / World Vision and CRC Asia]

18 November 2021 / 08:45-09:30 hrs

Warm-up session: Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality

[UN Women / UNFPA / ESCAP]

18 November 2021 / 12:45-13:30 hrs

Warm-up session: Legal identity

[UNICEF / World Bank / UNHCR / UNDP]

18 November 2021 / 16:30-17:30 hrs

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?

[ESCAP]

19 November 2021 / 08:30-09:30 hrs

Ministerial roundtable: Pandemics, people and preparedness: civil registration and vital statistics, COVID-19 and health

[ESCAP]

19 November 2021 / 12:30-13:30 hrs

Ministerial roundtable: Building resilient CRVS systems – incorporating lessons from COVID-19 in the second half of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade

[ESCAP]



NEW RESOURCES

The World Health Organization, Regional Office for South East Asia, recently released a [Progress report on covering every birth and death: improving civil registration and vital statistics in the WHO South East Asia Region](#). Among other things, the progress report reviews the progress made between 2013-2019, provides

country profiles, addresses the growing demand for mortality data due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as providing readers with recommendations for making additional progress in the future.

UNICEF recently released their [Child Protection Strategy for 2021 - 2030](#) and key among the thematic priorities is the issue of legal identity and strong, inclusive civil registration systems. Specifically, UNICEF says its key strategies, among other things, includes ensuring birth registration; linking civil registration to other systems as entry points for identifying and registering children; reviewing laws and policies to provide for free and universal birth registration and to eliminate gender discrimination in nationality and civil registration laws to avoid the risk of statelessness, as well as preserve family unity and guarantee access to social services.

As part of the [IBELONG: Coalition on Every Child's Right to a Nationality](#), UNICEF and the UNHCR co-authored a new background information note on the continued issue regarding sex discrimination in birth registration. The note provides an overview and country specific examples of the kinds of legislative provisions and cultural norms that can negatively affect women's ability to register the birth of their children in the hopes that it will support advocacy efforts, and action by States.

Although it's come and gone already, **16 September** was [International ID Day!](#) The World Bank's ID4D Initiative celebrated the day by hosting a series of video events to highlight SDG 16.9, legal identity for all. *Insight* readers can [replay the events by visiting the ID4D website](#).

The [2022 IAOS Young Statisticians Prize](#) is now open for submission. The Prize is awarded for the best paper in the field of official statistics written by a young statistician. In addition to monetary prizes, the first-place winner receives travel funds to present the paper at an international conference. *Insight* readers are encouraged to promote the Prize within their networks and encourage young statisticians focused on civil registration and vital statistics to apply at the [IAOS website](#).



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.

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 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](#).