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## CRVS Insight

June 2022

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### **ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ADOPTS THE RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION FOR BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE WITH CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS**

On Friday 27 May 2022, members and associate members of ESCAP adopted the Resolution [“Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics”](#) at the [78th Session of the Commission](#). This is a significant achievement as the resolution endorses the [Ministerial Declaration](#) adopted at the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS, held in November 2021, which reaffirms high-level commitments by governments on CRVS.

The resolution also requests a review of the CRVS Decade (2015-2024) at the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in 2025.

Bangladesh, China, Philippines, Viet Nam and others delivered formal [statements](#) on the importance of CRVS for sustainable development during agenda item 4 (j) at the Commission session.

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### **STRENGTHENING LINKAGES WITH THE HEALTH SECTOR TO IMPROVE CIVIL REGISTRATION**

Pakistan, together with UNICEF, UNFPA, and ESCAP, addressed the problem of low civil registration rates and poor quality reporting of causes of death at a side event of the [78th Session of ESCAP](#) on 23 May 2022. The panelists discussed efforts by countries to engage the health sector in vital events registration and shared lessons learned from Pakistan, Cambodia, and United States. For more information, visit this [link](#).



### **VANUATU: CRVS STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT FOR BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION**

On 18 May 2022, ESCAP and UNDP organized a one-day multi-sectoral consultation workshop on business process improvement for birth and death registration in Vanuatu. Stakeholders from various sectors participated in the event and engaged in lively discussions on the status-quo of the registration process for the two vital events. Participants also explored potential redesigned business improvement processes and policies to further streamline birth

and death registration and reduce burdens on families. The project team plans to conduct an additional series of consultations to build on outcomes from this workshop and decide on appropriate policies.

The project uses the CRVS Systems Improvement Framework developed by Vital Strategies, ESCAP, UNECA, and Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems. The Framework is designed to help CRVS stakeholders assess and reconfigure current business processes and resources to generate insights for relevant CRVS system improvement strategies and action plans.

Follow this [link](#) for learn more about the Framework.

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### **CAPACITY BUILDING ENSURES BUSINESS CONTINUITY FOR MORTALITY CODING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Coding of cause of death data is essential for mortality statistics and optimizing the benefits from a good CRVS system. Therefore, the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Data for Health Initiative (D4H) helped train 10 government officials and hospital staff in Papua New Guinea on International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) mortality coding.

Due to staff movement, retirement, and the unfortunate passing of the last coder at Port Moresby General Hospital, mortality coding in Papua New Guinea had been under significant strain. Papua New Guinea's Ministry of Health, with financial and technical support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation, adopted a user-centric virtual training approach to train existing staff and revitalize the unit with five new recruits. Components included in the online training were comprehensive ranging from principles of classification to chapter-specific coding and exercises. The training was conducted in "pulses" whereby trainees took breaks in between major components to review learned content and practice coding by doing various exercises. The trainers carried out a coding quality assessment 12 weeks after the training to identify issues and re-train the new staff on areas requiring improvement.

Mortality coding now resumes in Papua New Guinea with better quality and timely data collection. Looking ahead, Papua New Guinea's government aims to mitigate risks of staff shortage by creating career pathways and offering support for further education for the coders.

For more information on ICD, please follow this [link](#).

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## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS FOR INCLUSIVE CIVIL REGISTRATION IN NEW ZEALAND**

Civil registration is fundamental for securing legal identity and ensuring access to essential public services for every individual. On the basis of this guiding principle, the New Zealand government is consulting Māori (the indigenous people of New Zealand) on the possibility of collecting data about tribal (iwi) affiliation of the Māori population. One crucial consideration is the desire of the Māori people to share their information.

New Zealand's Department of Internal Affairs has established The Iwi Affiliation Data Decision Group to decide if and how the Government can collect iwi affiliation data. The Group is co-chaired by Kirikowhai Mikaere, Pou-Arahi/Maori leader of Te Kāhui Raraunga Charitable Trust, and Jeff Montgomery, the Registrar-General. They strive to develop a better understanding of the Māori community's needs and expectations for collecting, sharing, and verifying Iwi data. The Group will also consider the duties of both the Government and Māori throughout the data management lifecycle.

For more information, refer to this [press release](#) and this [link](#) to get the latest update from New Zealand's Department of Internal Affairs.

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### **FIJI TO DIGITIZE AND CONSOLIDATE BIRTH RECORDS**

A project in Fiji funded by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Global Grants Program and led by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics is working to digitize and consolidate birth records across the nation.

Since the project's inception in August of 2021, the project team has collected data on 26,228 births from 27 hospitals and maternity facilities. Currently, the team is in the process of entering this data in their national database for statistical analysis, after which it will be used in the development of a Vital Statistics report which will inform Fiji's national policy.

By the project's completion in December of 2022, this work will enable governments to provide reliable reports to support important national and international commitments as well as for regional development frameworks such as the Regional Action Framework for civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Committee on Statistics, Eight Session. Hybrid meeting, Bangkok, Thailand from 23 to 25 August 2022. For more information, please visit the following [link](#).

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### **RESOURCES**

- ICD-11 Fact Sheet: Better health with better information. The global standard for health data, clinical documentation and statistical aggregation. Download [here](#)
- Routine mortality surveillance to identify the cause of death pattern for out-of-hospital adult (aged 12+ years) deaths in Bangladesh: Introduction of automated verbal autopsy. [Full paper](#).
- Are there sex differences in completeness of death registration and quality of cause of death statistics? Results from a global analysis. The research paper can be found via this [link](#).

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## **VACANCIES**

- Opportunity for an internship (2 to 6 months) with the Statistics Division's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics team. For more details, follow this [link](#).
- UNICEF East Timor looking for an [International Consultant - Civil Registration Data Base system analyst](#)



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