

CRVS INSIGHT - ASIA PACIFIC



Third meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

The [third meeting of the Regional Steering Group \(RSG\)](#) for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will take place in Bangkok from 18-20 October 2017. The RSG provides guidance for the implementation of the [Regional Action Framework](#) on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific as the custodian of the CRVS Decade (2015-2024). The objectives of this year's meeting include recapping regional progress, deciding on a framework for the midpoint review and sharing in-depth topical knowledge. The meeting will include discussions amongst countries and development partners on lessons learned and advice for the future. The event will also feature a 'CRVS marketplace', where CRVS related tools, resources or achievements are featured by partner organizations and countries. With a high rate of confirmed attendance, this year's meeting promises to be an expansive forum for advancing CRVS in the region.

In preparations for the Regional Steering Group meeting, a [full day meeting](#) of the [Asia Pacific CRVS Partnership](#) will be held on 17 October 2017.



Photo: World Bank/Mohammad Al-Arief

New video series on CRVS systems

Expert Talks: Understanding civil registration and vital statistics systems is a series of 22 short interviews with CRVS experts from around the world. They explain what CRVS systems are, how they help governments and people alike, why improving CRVS systems matters and what strategies different countries are using. For example, learn how Cambodia cleared a civil registration backlog by providing free, time-bound registration. Hear how verbal autopsies in India helped to inform decision-making in healthcare, or how the Philippines and Thailand made changes to increase access for vulnerable populations. Developed by the [Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems](#), the videos are all available in both English and French [here](#).

Located at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, Canada, the [Centre of Excellence](#) was established with seed funding from the Government of Canada. Its mission is to act as a global knowledge hub for information sharing and learning about CRVS systems, as well as to provide access to expertise. The Centre contributes directly to the work of the [Global Financing Facility](#). Active in 16 countries, the GFF's goal is to end preventable maternal, newborn, child and adolescent deaths, as well as to increase the health and quality of life of women, children and adolescents. Recognizing the important role of CRVS in calculating health indicators and improving evidence-based health policy, the

GFF invests in CRVS projects in a number of countries in addition to supporting global knowledge sharing and learning initiatives such as the Centre of Excellence. The GFF is currently engaged in a [replenishment drive](#) which it hopes to use to expand its operations to 50 countries, including countries in the Asia-Pacific region.



High-level panelists reaffirm the importance of CRVS at UN General Assembly side-event

High-level panelists at events hosted by [Data4SDGs](#) as part of the 72nd Session of the [UN General Assembly](#) have reaffirmed the importance of improving CRVS systems around the world.

At the first session on “[Using Data and Technology to Achieve the SDGs](#)”, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP, highlighted achievements made by Asia-Pacific countries in strengthening their CRVS systems. She specifically noted the advancements in mobile registration, applying new technologies and integrating CRVS with national ID systems. Kathy Calvin, President of the UN Foundation, also highlighted the importance of birth registration in improving access to education and property rights: “If a girl can count and she is counted, it makes a difference.” The Minister for Planning of Ghana, one of the hosts of the event, stressed the need to improve CRVS data sources to reduce national dependence on time-consuming and expensive surveys. Other panelists highlighted the role of birth registration in helping governments make better policy decisions, including allocation of vaccines and school supplies to send to each region, as well as the role of technology, including mobile phones and the internet, in facilitating registration.

At the second session on “Inclusive Data to End Poverty and Leave No One Behind”, panelists emphasized the need to produce disaggregated administrative data including by sex, age, and location in order to identify policy priorities and respond more effectively to crises. As the Minister for Planning for Ghana summarized, governments must find out who the poor are and where they are before appropriate policies can be made to help.

Global Estimates
of Child Labour



ILO highlights the importance of birth registration for social protection

On 19 September 2017 in New York, the International Labour Organization launched two seminal reports: [Global Estimates for Child Labour: Results and Trends, 2012 – 2016](#) and [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage](#). Following the multi-year, collaborative research project conducted with Alliance 8.7 Members, the Walk Free Foundation and the [International Organization for Migration](#), the reports reveal what the ILO deems the “[true scale of modern slavery around the world](#)”. Notably, the Child Labour report highlights the importance of birth registration, specifically as it pertains to building a policy response to child labour for the road forward.

First, the report emphasizes that, “Free and compulsory education of good quality up to the minimum age for admission to employment is a key tool in ending child labour”, but also notes that the cost to the family is one of the primary barriers preventing educational access for children. In response, the report stresses the need for investment in child education and singles out the link between cash transfers, non-means-tested benefits, and birth

registration as a viable method for offsetting “the indirect cost of children’s time in school”.

Second, the report acknowledges poverty, risks, and shocks to the family as the primary drivers behind child labour and says that “social security is critical to mitigating these vulnerabilities”. After emphasizing public employment programmes, health protections, unemployment protections, and basic income security as the basis for a well-designed social security system, the report ultimately concludes that “Birth registration, itself a key human right, is an essential starting point for ensuring coverage in all of these areas”.

Events & Media

CRVS Partnership Meeting

17 October 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

18-20 October 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

Workshop on the operation of CRVS and Identity Management systems in East Asia

13-17 November 2017
Hanoi, Viet Nam

A Call For Contributions

Do you have anything you want to share? We welcome contributions to the newsletter and website. If you have a story on CRVS, insights, events, information or tools, please send them through to sejersent@un.org

For more information, contact the Statistics Division of United Nations ESCAP at stat.unescap@un.org or +66 2288 2593, or visit www.getinthepicture.org

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