Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems record the important events in people's lives such as births, deaths, and marriages. These records can be used to generate vital statistics that enable governments to better respond to people's needs. With 2020 as the midpoint for the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade, the time is here for countries and development partners to assess the progress made towards the region's shared vision of having universal and responsive CRVS systems that benefit all people in Asia and the Pacific.

The Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS will bring together key stakeholders from various sectors to learn best practices and identify areas still needing improvement. It will facilitate important discussions on emerging issues such as the link between CRVS and legal identity, and promote renewed commitment at the national and regional levels.

Well-functioning and inclusive CRVS systems will be crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including target 16.9, which states that by 2030 we must provide legal identity for all, including birth registration. But more importantly, CRVS plays a vital role in good governance as well as sustainable development, ensuring no one is left behind.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
- www.getinthepicture.org
- escap-crvs@un.org

Second Ministerial Conference
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
6-9 October 2020
Bangkok, Thailand
CRVS DECADE: WHERE WE’VE BEEN AND WHERE WE’RE GOING

2011
May
ESCAP adopts its first resolution on CRVS

2012
December
46 countries participate and agree on a Regional Strategic Plan

2013
June
CRVS Partnership formed

September
Regional Steering Group formed

2009
December
ESCAP Committee on Statistics stresses the need to improve vital statistics in the region

2014
November
First Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

2015
May
Adoption of resolution 71/14: Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade 2015-2024

September
UN General Assembly adopts the 2030 Agenda

December
CRVS baseline reports and national targets submitted

2016-2017
- Establishing National Coordination Mechanisms
- Development of National CRVS Strategies
- National improvements
- Increased support from development partners

2018
May
Adoption of Resolution 74/8: Accelerating the Implementation of Regional Action Framework on CRVS

2019
August
Midterm Review Process: Questionnaires sent

2020
March
Preparatory meeting for the 2nd Ministerial Conference

April

October
Civil Society Forum 2nd Ministerial Conference

The Regional Steering Group meets once a year and provides regional oversight and guidance for implementing the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.
The CRVS Partnership of development organizations meets 4-5 times a year.

HAS THE REGION PROGRESSED DURING THE CRVS DECADE?

As the Secretariat, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific will distribute a Midterm Questionnaire to countries. Based on the responses, a Regional Assessment Report will be prepared in order to measure the progress made in improving CRVS systems. It will highlight the considerable achievements of the region and the areas calling for refocused efforts.

As progress has been uneven across Asia and the Pacific, countries and development partners must prioritize actions that will lead to accelerating improvements. This entails the strengthening of commitments to the implementation of the Regional Action Framework as well as the formation of new partnerships, not only for the CRVS Decade but also for a sustainable future beyond 2024.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE A MIDTERM REVIEW?

1. To celebrate and measure progress in meeting the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS
2. To identify country needs and recommend improvements
3. To highlight to policymakers and donors that there is still a need for improvements in Asia and the Pacific and to accelerate progress
4. To ensure that CRVS systems maintain their relevance through showcasing links with other development priorities