



Asia-Pacific CRVS Research Forum

3–4 April 2023 | Bangkok, Thailand

Speaker bio: Ms Carla Abouzahr, Independent Consultant



Carla Abouzahr is a consultant working on civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) predominantly with Vital Strategies and the WHO.

With qualifications in statistics and public health, she had a two-decade career at the World Health Organization where she was responsible for the annual flagship publications, *World Health Statistics*, and for technical support to countries for health systems strengthening. Following her retirement, she established CAZ Consulting through which she provides consultancy support to countries and institutional partners in the area of health information systems.

Carla's involvement in CRVS originated in the course of her work on monitoring maternal mortality and the realisation that for two-thirds of the world's deaths there is no reliable evidence base to underpin public health interventions. Statistically modelled estimates of mortality and causes of death, usually developed in global development agencies and academic institutions, are a poor substitute for country-produced empirical data. Only by way of national systems to register all births and deaths can countries generate complete and continuous vital statistics on fertility, mortality and causes of death.

Carla led and coordinated the Monitoring Vital Events group of experts that produced the first series of papers on civil registration and vital statistics published in the *Lancet* in 2007. A second series of papers on CRVS progress was issued in 2015.

Carla was instrumental in the development of the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.