



GET EVERY ONE IN THE PICTURE

Count us in the Picture:

Voices of Children and Youth in Asia Pacific on CRVS

A side-event of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

November 12, 2021 | 14:30-16:00 GMT+7

Zoom Meeting

Background:

In 2014, during the First Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific, the Ministerial Declaration to ‘Get Every One in the Picture’ was adopted and proclaimed the ‘Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade’ for 2015-2024.¹ The Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific² accompanied the Ministerial Declaration and outlined areas of national action and means of implementation at national and regional levels. The Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific was given the role as custodian of the CRVS Decade and tasked with providing regional oversight and guidance for implementing the Regional Action Framework. The Regional Action Framework is consistent with relevant international frameworks, including article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Asian and the Pacific Civil registration and Vital Statistics Decade 2015-2030 report in 2015 states deep concern on the estimated 135 million children under 5 years of age in the region that have not had their birth registered and that millions of other vital events are not registered.³ In the CRVS Decade Midterm report, a snapshot of progress midway through the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade, it cited UNICEF data stating the number of children under five years old in Asia and the Pacific whose birth was never registered decreased from 135 million in 2012 to 64 million in 2019. Out of the 64 million unregistered children in the region, about 50 million of them live in South and South-West Asia, and they represent 27 per cent of all children under five. The Pacific subregion has the highest percentage of children under five not registered (30 per cent). Nevertheless, even for countries with high birth registration completeness, it is not clear if they have truly achieved universal registration and even one unregistered birth is one too many.⁴

¹ More information on the CRVS Decade (2015 – 2024) is available at: <https://www.getinthepicture.org/asian-and-pacific-civil-registration-and-vital-statistics-decade-2015-2024>.

² More information on the Regional Action Framework is available at: <https://www.getinthepicture.org/regional-action-framework>.

³ This figure is an estimate provided by the United Nations Children’s Fund, *Every Child’s Birth Right: Inequities and Trends in Birth Registration* (New York, 2013).

⁴ UNICEF (2019). *Birth Registration for Every Child by 2030: Are we on track?* Available at www.unicef.org/media/62981/file/Birth-registration-for-every-child-by-2030.pdf.



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The youth advocates of the first Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, supported a common call from young people across Asia-Pacific to ensure that youth voices are heard and listened to as the region's governments finalize the CRVS Regional Action Framework to launch a Decade of CRVS.

To amplify the voices and experiences of young people on CRVS and to promote children and youth's meaningful participation in decision making process related to CRVS, UNESCAP, World Vision International and Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) conducted children and youth consultations in Asia and the Pacific, anchoring on the political commitments that have been declared in the previous years.

As part of the side-events of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS, a CAY (Children and Young People) co-created event will be conducted which will serve as venue to share the results of the Asia Pacific Children and Youth Consultations and Regional Forum on CRVS to different stakeholders such as CSOs, Government, UN Agencies, ASEAN, and Child/Youth organizations.

Key Messages

1. Globally, births of 166 million children under the age of 5 have never been recorded, 39% (65 million) of this are from Asia and the Pacific. Civil registration affects the lives of children and youth, and impacts their access to basic services such as healthcare, education and livelihood.
2. As part of the vulnerable sector of society, children and youth voices and views should be listened to and considered in the political and policymaking process related to Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.
3. Children and Youth need to be engaged in the decision making process on the issues of CRVS and be given equal opportunity to speak up about its importance, the challenges they experience and their recommendations to improve services related to birth, marriage and death registration.
4. While recognizing the committed efforts of the Asian and the Pacific governments and partners to get everyone in the picture, decision makers should also look into how children and youth contribute in addressing the challenges in achieving a universal and responsive CRVS.

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Forum Objectives:

1. Launch the Report on Children and Youth Consultation on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and highlight its key messages for the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS.
2. Empower children and youth to share their experiences and recommendations on CRVS to influence regional decisions to prioritize child rights.
3. Expand space for meaningful participation of children and youth in harnessing political commitments to address the challenges in achieving universal and responsive CRVS.

Target Audience

Children and Youth Organizations
 Civil Society Organizations
 Government Representatives
 UN Agencies
 CRVS Stakeholders

Agenda

| Time (Bangkok Time) | Topic | Resource Person |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 2:30 – 2:35 PM (5 mins) | Introduction and Preliminaries | Moderator |
| 2:35 – 2:40 PM (5 mins) | Welcome and Overview | Sarah Bearup Senior Director of Operations WVI |
| 2:40 – 2:50 PM (10 mins) | Child's Opening Statement | Child Delegate |
| 2:50 – 3:00 PM (10 mins) | Keynote Speech: The Role of Children and Youth in the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS | UNICEF (TBC) |
| 3:00 – 3:10 PM (10 mins) | Child Friendly Consultations on CRVS: A Participatory Approach | Hazel Bitaña Program Manager CRC Asia |
| 3:10 – 3:15 PM (5 mins) | Highlights of Children and Youth Consultations and Regional Forum on CRVS | Video |
| 3:15 – 3:45 PM (30 mins) | Young Voices and Perspectives on CRVS | 3 Child and Youth delegates |
| 3:45-3:50 PM (5 mins) | Call to Action | Child Delegate |
| 3:50 – 4:00 PM (10 Minutes) | Commitment Message and Closing Remarks | UNESCAP (TBC) |