

Conference of donors supporting civil registration and vital statistics improvements in Asia and the Pacific

Friday, 27 June 2025, UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Organizer

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Background

CRVS is about a person's legal identity, including their right to recognition as a person before the law and their formal relationship with the State. For example, a birth certificate provides individuals with documentary evidence proving their name, age, family relationships and nationality; documentation of which is important for accessing essential services like healthcare and education. Legal identity established through civil registration provides additional rights and activities such as political participation, recourse to justice, property ownership, formal employment, financial services and inheritance. As such civil registration underpins efficient public and private sector service delivery by providing a single source of truth regarding identities. For example, interlinkage with the civil registration system, can increase inclusion in social protection program by identifying all new birth and enable formal employment by providing residents with a legal identity. Digitalized civil registration systems form a critical component of the digital public infrastructure that many countries in the region are in the process of establishing.

Recording every life event is also an opportunity to produce accurate, complete and timely vital statistics on the health and demographics of the population, as well as maintaining a national civil registry or population database.

In 2014, countries in Asia and the Pacific adopted the [Ministerial Declaration to 'Get Every One in the Picture'](#) and proclaimed the 'Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade' for 2015-2024. In the Ministerial Declaration, Member States:

“Proclaim(ed) our shared vision that, by 2024, all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development...”¹

The Ministerial Declaration was accompanied by the [Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#), which sets out six implementing principles, with specific

¹ Ministerial Declaration to “Get every one in the picture” in Asia and the Pacific. Available at: http://getinthepicture.org/sites/default/files/resources/Ministerial.Declaration.English.final_.pdf

targets for the three goals included in the Declaration. The Regional Action Framework also outlined areas of national action and means of implementation at the national and regional level. The [Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics 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.

Most member states and associate members of ESCAP established ambitious targets for improvements throughout the CRVS Decade. Some countries have been able to make substantial progress following the implementation steps recommended in the Regional Action Framework (both on their own and with support from development partners and donors).

The ESCAP secretariat is currently conducting the [2025 review of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework](#), which is expected to highlight significant progress made by countries throughout Asia and the Pacific. The report will also identify gaps requiring more efforts and resources to accelerate progress to realize the shared vision.

Throughout the Asia Pacific CRVS Decade, multiple development partners and donors have been supporting countries to improve their CRVS systems and processes. Large initiatives supporting CRVS work have also been established during this period, including ID4D, the Global Financing Facility and the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative. In addition to these, many bilateral donors are supporting specific countries or groups of countries to facilitate digitalization of systems, improved linkages with health management information systems and the health sector, outreach activities, legislative changes, improved quality and use of civil registration data and the production of vital statistics and many other areas. An overview of development partners contributions to country efforts during the first half of the CRVS decade² was included as an official document for the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, and a similar document is being produced for the period 2021-2024 as part of the preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.³

The [Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS will be held 24-26 June 2025](#) and is co-organized by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Centers for Disease Control (CDC, in collaboration with CDC Foundation), Child Rights Coalition Asia, ESCAP, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, IOM, Pacific Community, Plan International, Statistics Norway, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, Vital Strategies, WHO, World Bank and World Vision.

The objectives of the conference includes:

- (a) To celebrate the achievements of the CRVS Decade;
- (b) Based on the 2025 review, to identify areas where further work is needed to achieve goals and targets of the 2014 Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Framework and the 2021 Ministerial Declaration;
- (c) To formally extend the Decade to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

² [Agenda and Official Documents - 2nd Ministerial Conference | Get Every One in the Picture \(getinthepicture.org\)](#)

³ [Agenda and Official Documents: 3rd Ministerial Conference | Get Every One in the Picture](#)

- (d) To identify key actions and enhance commitment to ensure inclusive and resilient civil registration and vital statistics systems as a foundation for legal identity for all

The preparations for the conference are led by the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. The group guides the implementation of the Regional Action Framework and acts as the custodian of the Asia and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015 - 2024). Membership in the Regional Steering Group is based on Governmental nominations and represents a balance of both geography and sectors, including civil registration, statistics, justice, health and planning. The current composition of the Regional Steering Group was endorsed by the ESCAP Commission at its 75th session in May 2019 and includes 30 members; 22 member states and 8 development partners.

The [Asia Pacific CRVS Partnership](#) is comprised of both UN funds and programmes, as well as international development partners presently engaged in helping Asia-Pacific countries improve their CRVS systems and building the foundation for many other government functions. The Partnership actively supports countries in reaching their nationally-set targets aligned with the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. A key role of the Partnership is to coordinate support to countries as well as facilitating regional initiatives, such as the various civil registrars networks.

Objectives and Scope

The conference is designed to ensure donors are aware of the outcomes of the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and provides an opportunity to align donors' activities in the area of CRVS, often within sectoral specific support to civil registration, health, statistics and digitalization. The conference will also provide opportunities for donors involved in supporting government systems (e.g. social protection programs) that benefit from fully functional, complete, and digitized civil registration systems, to discuss how their engagements could link to national civil registration systems for efficiency gains.

The conference will provide a platform to explore the kinds of support which have been given throughout the Asia Pacific CRVS Decade and what further support is needed to achieve the vision of universal registration, documentation for all and use of civil registration data for producing better quality and timely vital statistics – and for the civil registration system to reach their full potential for all-of-society.

The conference aims to increase awareness about CRVS amongst potential donors and supporters. Participants will also be provided with the opportunity to network with other donors that are active in similar fields or are working on similar projects.

Key Outputs

- Create awareness of the important role of donors in the significant CRVS improvements made during the CRVS Decade
- Identify current funding priorities, strategies and approaches
- Agree how to align activities with the priorities and identify any funding gaps

- Raise awareness about the value of investments for investment in CRVS systems to accompany a wide range of development efforts

Event Format

The event will be held as an in-person only event and conducted in English only.

Target audience

Bilateral donors, foundations and development partners supporting countries in the CRVS improvement activities, in particular in the areas of registration, statistics, health and digitalization as well as other sectors of development support that will benefit from robust and trusted identity data.

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Tentative Programme

Time	Programme
9-9.45	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair of the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific - Chair of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific - ESCAP
9.45-10.15	Introductions (format depending on numbers)
10.15-10.45	Setting the scene -ESCAP presentation/video on key findings from review of the Decade, the Ministerial declaration and existing coordination mechanisms Description of the issues from children and youth representatives Description of the issues from civil society representative
10.45- 11.15	Coffee break
11.15-12.00	Key priorities of donors supporting different sectors of the CRVS system (likely in a world café format) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -health -statistics/data -digitalization -registration processes -other areas
12-14	Lunch with the Executive Secretary of ESCAP (TBC)
14-15	Identification of current funding priorities and strategies (likely in breakout groups)
15-15.30	Coffee break
15.30-16.00	Bringing back the key discussion items from earlier parts of the day
16.00-16.45	Plenary discussions on priorities and funding gaps and how to align activities going forward.
16.45-17.00	Closing