

Concept Note
Sub-Regional Forum for North and Central Asia
Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS

Date: 23 Jun 2025

Time: 09:00 – 12:00

Background

The First Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific, held in 2014, launched the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024) through the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration to *Get Every One in the Picture*. This was accompanied by the Regional Action Framework (RAF), which outlined key principles and targets to improve CRVS systems across the region. The midterm review in 2020 highlighted both progress and challenges, necessitating continued efforts to ensure universal and inclusive CRVS systems.

North and Central Asia have made considerable advancements in civil registration, but significant challenges remain. These challenges can generally be grouped into four main categories:

1. **Limited digitalization and data quality issues:** There is still a reliance on paper-based systems in some areas, leading to inefficiencies and data loss, particularly regarding transmission of data to international organizing bodies. There is a lack of interoperability between CRVS systems and national identification and health databases, creating challenges in with data accuracy, timeliness, and completeness for vital statistics.
2. **Barriers to access and inclusivity:** Lack of awareness and geographic inaccessibility limit CRVS coverage for some more rural and migrant populations. There are also difficulties faced by some minorities, refugees, and undocumented people in obtaining legal identity.
3. **Insufficient use of CRVS data for policy and planning:** There is not enough integration of CRVS data into national planning, health monitoring, and other programs. Limited use of causes-of-death data prohibit public health decision-making from being evidence based, and so there is a tendency to revert to “decision-based evidence-making”. There is also weak statistical capacity to analyze and disseminate CRVS data for evidence-based policy making.
4. **Weak legal and institutional frameworks:** Outdated or inconsistent laws do not fully align with international and recommended CRVS standards. There is also a lack of inter-agency coordination between health, justice, and civil registration authorities.

This forum aims to foster dialogue and collaboration among North and Central Asian countries to accelerate progress towards universal and responsive CRVS systems.

Objectives

The Sub-Regional Forum for North and Central Asia will serve as a platform for government representatives, civil registration professionals, and development partners to:

1. **Share Progress and Challenges:** Discuss achievements, ongoing efforts, and obstacles currently experienced, with special attention to the challenges above.

2. **Promote Digitalization and Interoperability:** Explore strategies for enhancing CRVS digitalization, improving interoperability with national identity systems, and leveraging technology to increase efficiency and accessibility.
3. **Enhance Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Identify opportunities for integrating CRVS with health, education, and social protection systems to enhance service delivery.
4. **Strengthen Regional Cooperation:** Facilitate knowledge-sharing and discussions on establishing a regional CRVS network for North and Central Asia, building on successful models in other countries and sub-Regions.

Tentative Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
9:00 – 9:20	Welcome and Opening Remarks	WHO Europe
9:20 – 10:00	Regional Overview: CRVS in North and Central Asia	TBC
10:00 – 10:30	Digitalization and CRVS System Interoperability	TBC
10:30 – 10:45	Break	ALL
10:45 – 11:15	Strengthening regional cooperation and cross-sectoral collaboration	ALL, moderated by WHO Europe
11:15 – 11:45	Panel discussion: Experiences with ICD-11 training and implementation	Panelists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan who attended ICD-11 training, WHO Europe
11:45 – 12:00	Closing remarks and next steps	WHO Europe

Language

The forum will be conducted in English and Russian, with materials provided in both languages.