



Resilient Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems for More Effective Climate Change Action

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Overview

I. Background

II. Role of CRVS in supporting climate change adaptation

- Data for climate change preparedness and response
 - Case study: Vanuatu
- CRVS and public health
- Identity management and service delivery
- Population displacement
 - Case study: Philippines

III. Lessons from COVID-19: systems resilience

Background



- CRVS systems have an important role to play to ensure more effective climate change action
- Ensuring everyone in Asia-Pacific has a legal identity ensures that the global community upholds its promise to leave no one behind including those impacted by climate change
- In 2021 ESCAP Member States endorsed the Ministerial declaration on building a more resilient future with inclusive CRVS



- Well-functioning CRVS systems can provide timely and accurate data on population, which is critical for climate change induced disasters preparedness and response
- Longer term demographic changes and population dynamics, (occurring as a result of climate change) can best be monitored using vital statistics based on civil registration records
- However, many countries in Asia-Pacific face **challenges in developing disaster information management systems** and appropriate responses due to major gaps in data and analysis

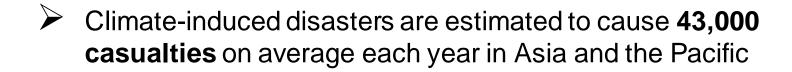
Centralizing vital registration systems in Vanuatu

- Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu in 2015 and affected half of the country's population
- Birth registration system was impacted
- The Government responded by increasing capacity for registration, launching awareness campaigns and mobile registration operations
 - Resulting in 250,000 children and adults being issued a birth certificate (including around 80,000 for the first time)



 A central civil registration database adapted to the specific needs of the country was also developed, ensuring accuracy of data and information

Health



- Universal civil registration of births and deaths, together with causes of death, provides information for Governments to identify population health risks and inform the design of effective public health policies and resource allocation
- The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) can help identify deaths caused by exposure to extreme forces of nature



Identity management and service delivery

- Identity management, public services and social protection measures can reduce people's vulnerability to climate change
- Effectiveness of social protection schemes can be severely reduced if the underlying administrative systems are weak



Displaced populations

- Number of displaced people due to climate change will **sharply increase** as a result of climate change
 - Most people are internally displaced
 - O Populations in the Pacific are at high risk
- Displaced populations are at higher risk of not being able to prove their identity due to loss of identity documents during disasters
- Displaced populations are **among those most in need** of the social and legal protection underpinned by CRVS systems

Improving access to civil registration services in the Philippines

- 4.1 million were displaced in the Philippines as a result of Typhoon Yolanda (2013)
 - Many people lost their IDs
- The Government ensured the civil registration of undocumented victims
- Mobile registration of vital events among the displaced and affected populations was enabled
- Outreach was conducted to affected communities to identify gaps and assist them in accessing necessary services



Lessons learned were used to improve access to CRVS for non-displaced populations in other contexts

Lessons from COVID-19: system resilience

- The pandemic provided lessons on the impact of other disasters and health crises on CRVS systems
 - Many CRVS systems in the region are deficient
 - Civil registration is often not considered an essential service, resulting in significant registration delays and obstacles
- There is a need to move towards digitization of CRVS systems
 - Potential to improve the collection of CRVS data
 - Limiting the risk associated with physical archives
- There is a need for increased collaboration with the health sector to improve CRVS systems, including through better data integration and timely notification of vital events

