

CRVS INSIGHT - ASIA PACIFIC



New Chair of the Regional Steering Group on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

The Regional Steering Group on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific is pleased to welcome its new Chair. The Honourable Minister for Health and Medical Services in Fiji has accepted to continue Fiji's leadership on CRVS. Prior to taking up the appointment as Minister for Health and Medical Services, the Hon. Minister Ms. Rosy Sofia Akbar served as the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, a position she held very close to hearth. Minister Akbar has a post graduate degree in educational leadership and is a strong advocate for the empowerment of women and gender development with a passion to serve the marginalised individuals and families in Fiji.



Reporting on baselines and national targets for the Regional Action Framework

In 2016, 37 countries in Asia and the Pacific submitted their baseline data and national targets for the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024). The findings were summarised in a [report to the 72nd session of the ESCAP Commission](#). Countries who are yet to submit their reports are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Assistance for completing the reports are available from www.getinthepicture.org and in some countries development partners can assist as well.

If your country has already submitted a report, but would like to revisit some of the information, the Secretariat welcome revised reports. More research on the findings of submitted reports will be conducted over the coming months and the reports also provide the information presented in the country profiles on the website. The [country profiles](#) will soon undergo development to improve the way information is presented. In addition, a regional dashboard, showing the status of the region, is under development.

First meeting of the CRVS coordination mechanism in the Maldives

The first meeting of the newly established national CRVS coordination mechanism was held 1 March in Male. The meeting brought together senior officials from the Ministry of Health, Department of National Registration, National



Centre for Information Technology, and the National Bureau of Statistics and was chaired by the State Minister of Health.

Challenges to improve the CRVS system were highlighted by the experiences with writing the first vital statistics report of the Maldives. The report writing was supported by the [ESCAP project to strengthen national capacity in producing and disseminating vital statistics from civil registration in Asia and the Pacific.](#)

As a result of the meeting, a technical working group to review issues of data quality was established. This group will report back to the Committee. It was also agreed to increase the number of stakeholders invited for the next meeting and for the Committee to have frequent meetings.

The meeting identified which agencies will be leading the review process of the CRVS system and be responsible for coordinating with other relevant agencies.



The first vital statistics reports based on civil registration data are almost finalized in several Asian countries

This week, participants from Health, Statistics and Civil Registration in Bhutan, Georgia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Vietnam participated in the [second workshop of the project to strengthen national capacities to produce vital statistics reports from civil registration records.](#) Since the initiation of the project in December 2016, countries have been working hard to develop their national reports. For several countries this is the first time civil registration data is ever used for producing reports.

The development of the national vital statistics reports have highlighted issues with coordination, data sharing and data quality in many of the participating countries. The second workshop will equip participants to address some of these issues and the country teams will continue their work to finalise their vital statistics reports for publication later this year.

The project is supported by the [Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative \(D4H\).](#)

Events & Media

[Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development](#)

[2nd workshop of the project to](#)

[48th session of the Statistical](#)

29- 31 March 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

[support vital
statistics from
civil registration](#)

6-10 March 2017,
Bangkok, Thailand

[Commission](#)

8-11 March 2017
New York, UN
Headquarters

A Call For Contributions

Do you have anything you want to share? We welcome contributions to the newsletter and website. If you have a story on CRVS, insights, events, information or tools, please send them through to sejersent@un.org

For more information, contact the Statistics Division of United Nations ESCAP at stat.unescap@un.org or +66 2288 2593, or visit www.getinthepicture.org

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