



## ***CRVS Insight***

November 2019



### **How has CRVS in Asia and the Pacific progressed since 2015?**

#### **-Member states are responding to the CRVS Decade (2015 - 2024) midterm questionnaires**

As an important component for monitoring and evaluating progress, countries committed to reporting their progress throughout the [CRVS Decade \(2015-2024\)](#). In 2015, countries submitted baseline reports detailing their nationally set targets, their status for the targets, information on national CRVS coordination mechanisms, comprehensive assessments and national strategies for CRVS.

By 16 December, countries should submit responses to the [midterm questionnaire](#) updating their progress on meeting their goals and targets. The responses to the midterm questionnaires will be aggregated into a midterm regional synthesis report and used to generate an updated regional picture of CRVS system developments. The [regional baseline report](#) from 2015 provided countries and development partners with a “regional picture” of CRVS systems and highlighted areas needing attention.

Country responses to the midterm questionnaire will be used to inform and guide the preparations for the **Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in October 2020** where ministers are expected to renew political commitment to CRVS development, highlight the importance of CRVS systems as the foundation

for legal identity, and showcase the critical role CRVS plays in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The midterm questionnaires will allow countries to monitor their progress in meeting the targets of Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific but also enable development partners to identify where support is needed.



#### **Papua New Guinea's comprehensive CRVS assessment completed**

With support from the [Brisbane Accord Group](#) and the [Pacific Community](#), the Papua New Guinea CRVS Committee, led by the Registrar-General, recently completed a Comprehensive Assessment of the national CRVS system.

Among other things, the assessment found that less than 15% of estimated births and less than 2% of estimated deaths are registered. In response to the findings, a workshop was held in September which developed a draft Action Plan with key actions for making immediate improvements. The draft Action Plan is expected to be finalised in November, but in the meantime *Insight* readers can find the Comprehensive Assessment on the [Pacific Community website](#) or on [www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org).



### **Fifth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration**

The Fifth Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration (COM5) took place from 14 to 18 October 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia. The theme of the conference was Innovative Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System: Foundation for Legal Identity Management. Many development partners active in Asia and the Pacific were present at the meeting and organized sessions, exhibitions and training. Documents from the meeting, including several background documents highly relevant also in the Asia-Pacific setting, are available from [www.apai-crvs.org/CR5](http://www.apai-crvs.org/CR5) and [www.moha.gov.zm/com/](http://www.moha.gov.zm/com/).

The [Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) was represented at the meeting by one of the Vice-Chairs of the group, Ms. Ani Mkhitarian, Head of the Civil Acts Registration Agency, Ministry of Justice, of the Republic of Armenia. She will use the insights from the meeting to provide advice to the ESCAP Secretariat on the organization of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific 6-9 October 2020.



### **Vital statistics workshop for North and Central Asian countries**

The [ESCAP Statistics Division](#), [Statistics Norway](#), and the [European Free Trade Association](#) jointly co-hosted a workshop to improve the capacity of national CRVS systems in producing and disseminating vital statistics from civil registration records in North and Central Asian countries.

The workshop, which took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 7 to 11 October 2019, introduced participants from key national CRVS stakeholders (National Statistics Office, Civil Registration Organization and Ministry of Health) to methodology on key birth and mortality indicators, with the aim of supporting countries developing a national vital statistics report. Participants then applied the methodology to their own data during data labs to produce national indicators and design graphs to communicate and disseminate their findings.

The organizers wish to thank the [National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic](#) for its support in organizing the meeting. For more information and to access the presentations or resources please visit [www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org). The workshop used the [Guidelines and template for developing a vital statistics report](#) to assist countries with their reports.



The role of research  
in strengthening  
CRVS systems



### **New CRVS journal publications**

The [World Bank Group](#) recently published [nine research articles](#) covering various aspects of how to strengthen CRVS systems in low- and middle-income countries.

The peer-reviewed manuscripts discuss topics such as institutional arrangements, linking CRVS with other systems, recommendations on hosting options for electronic CRVS systems, obstacles to birth registration, economic analysis of production vital statistics using civil registration data, and more. Country examples and best practices from around the globe are included to provide practical guidance.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Between 26 – 28 November, the [Maldives Department of National Registration](#), with support from [ESCAP Statistics Division](#) and [UNICEF ROSA](#), will host the second meeting of the [Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia](#) (CR8) in Male, Maldives. The meeting will bring together the civil registrars for the eight South Asian countries, as well as organizations and individuals involved in strengthening national CRVS systems.
- On 28 November, the [CRVS Committee of Fiji](#) will meet in Suva, Fiji to undertake a comprehensive assessment of their CRVS system and develop a national action plan for continued improvements.
- The [Brisbane Accord Group](#) will also meet in Suva on 29 November to update partners on work undertaken during 2019, reflect on current country needs and continue planning for work in 2020.
- Starting on 10 October, the [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#) began a four-part webinar series entitled *The Power of Population Data*. The webinars are being held once per month from 10 October through January 2020 and cover issues such as citizen-generated data, linking CRVS and identity management systems, and new methods for estimating population data. For more information and to [register click here](#).
- Finally, preparations are already underway for the Sixth meeting of the [Regional Steering Group](#) for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in 30 March- 1 April 2020. More information will be included in future *Insight* editions and uploaded to [www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org) as it becomes available.

### **NEW RESOURCES**

- Australian National University Professor Chalapati Rao recently published [Elements of a strategic approach for strengthening national mortality statistics programmes](#) in *BMJ Global Health*, an open access, online journal producing global public health-related content.



If you have a new resource, upcoming event or article you would like highlighted in CRVS Insight, please send your submissions to [escap-crvs@un.org](mailto:escap-crvs@un.org).

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