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# CRVS Insight

October 2023

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## OPENING REMARKS



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## Advancing equity: Improving population health through gender mainstreaming in policy

Join the discussion on Advancing Equity: Improving Population Health Through Gender Mainstreaming in Policy led by Vital Strategies' Data Impact Program on **Oct. 20, 2023 at 11:00 am New Delhi Time**.

India's parliament passed a [landmark bill that will reserve a third of its seats in the lower house and state assemblies for women](#), in a major win for rights groups that have for decades campaigned for better gender representation in politics. Globally we have seen similar changes to ensure more equitable gender representation and with that, a deeper consideration of gender in laws and policies. These systematic changes have major implications on population health.

Register to the webinar [here](#).

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## Pacific Heads of Planning and Statistics endorses CRVS action plan and regional cause of death approach

In a significant step toward enhancing the quality of data and statistics in the Pacific region, the [Pacific Heads of Planning and Statistics](#) (HOPS) met this month to discuss and agree on the way forward on CRVS and other issues.

The [Action Plan for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics](#) endorsed the [Brisbane Accord Group's Action Plan for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics 2023-2026](#). This facilitates increased collaboration between country-level agencies and partner organizations to enhance civil registration comprehensiveness and ensure the utility of civil registration data for statistical analysis.

The [regional cause of death approach](#) supports the establishment of a regional support team for technical assistance in cause-of-death coding, advocating a regional approach, and acknowledging ongoing work and next steps for this collaborative effort.

The outcome of this meeting provides hope and a sense of direction in strengthening CRVS systems and improving the quality of data collection and analysis in the region.



## National Convention on CRVS in the Philippines

The [Philippine Statistics Authority](#) (PSA) celebrated a significant milestone with the conduct of the [3rd National Convention on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics](#) (3NCCRVS) and the [2nd Philippine Identity Summit](#) (2PIS), which were held back-to-back from 26 to 28 September at the SMX Convention Center in Bacolod City.

Adopting the theme “CRVS and [PhilSys](#) (Philippines identity System): Promoting Inclusivity and Accessibility through Digital Transformation”, the PSA remained steadfast in achieving its commitment to the CRVS Decade declaration of getting everyone in the picture through innovation and technology. The topics covered in the 3-day activity highlighted the inextricable link of civil registration to statistics, social service delivery, identity, and nationality.

A total of 1,683 participants attended this major event, including local civil registrars, local government officials and personnel, solemnizing officers, summit speakers, and PSA officials and staff.

The convention and summit aim to update and inform stakeholders about the recent developments in civil registration and vital statistics, recent guidance by the Civil Registrar General, and showcasing the use cases of PhilSys. This event coincided with the celebration of PSA's 10th anniversary and was a testament to the agency's progress and innovation in its mandates on statistics, civil registration, and national identification over the past decade.

More information about the event available [here](#).

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**CRVS data-sharing Memorandum of Understanding lays the path towards the first Viet Nam vital statistics report according to UN principles and recommendations**

Three different government agencies are currently involved in the production of vital statistics in Viet Nam. The [General Statistics Office](#) (GSO) uses population census data to produce and publish some national statistics, the [Ministry of Justice](#) (MOJ) provides statistics on the registration of some vital events, and the [Ministry of Health](#) (MOH) produces a table on the leading Causes of Death (COD) for health facility deaths.

In accordance with UN principles and recommendations, the [Viet Nam National Action Program on CRVS for 2017-2024](#) (NAP) stipulates that accurate, complete, and timely vital statistics (including cause of death) are to be produced based on registration records and disseminated publicly and transparently in an annual national vital statistics report. Currently, GSO lacks access to the necessary data from the MOH and MOJ to produce vital statistics in line with the NAP.

On September 26, 2023, with support from [Vital Strategies](#), and [UNFPA](#), under the [Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative](#) (D4H), the MOH, MOJ, and GSO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes a mechanism to share and exchange necessary data between the three agencies to produce an annual vital statistics report. The MOU also assigns GSO as the agency responsible for the production and publication of the vital statistics report, while MOJ and MOH will support the process by sharing data as required. The MOU is necessary to ensure uniformity in the collection, exploitation, and publication of birth and death data and forms a foundation for implementing the tasks of the NAP.

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## **NGO celebrates registration awareness month in Nepal**

The [Citizenship Affected People Network](#) (CAPN) is a civil society network of over 1800 affected people in Nepal, formed in 2015. They strive to achieve universal and compulsory birth registration in Nepal, as it is the fundamental basis of the legal identity of children. Without it, children lack access to human and child rights, including the right to education.

For the month of November, CAPN launched the Nepalese registration awareness month. This program is part of an international initiative that celebrates November as a month of 'Childhood Statelessness and the Right to Education' and is led by the [Institute of Statelessness and Inclusion](#) (ISI). As a national partner, CAPN is celebrating this through various activities, including a school outreach program to spread awareness.

To directly engage children, CAPN will organise awareness raising sessions within six higher secondary schools and develop an informative Tiktok campaign, focusing on the procedure and required documents related to birth registration and minor ID card. CAPN also plans to create and distribute flyers, infographics and pamphlets explaining the procedure for birth registration that will be shared with students' parents.



## **Report on civil registration in South East Asia: Legislation, digitization and inequality**

[ESCAP](#) recently published a compendium focusing on CRVS systems in South-East Asia, addressing legislative reforms, digitalization, and inequalities. It concludes with recommendations for improving the region's CRVS systems and ways to increase collaboration across countries. This compendium serves as an important resource for policymakers and stakeholders aiming to enhance vital registration systems in South-East Asia and foster cross-border cooperation. The compendium is a result of the discussions held at the [first meeting of South East Asian Civil Registrars](#) held in February 2023.

The full report can be found on this [link](#).

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## **Cambodia enhances fetal mortality data collection**

Last August, Cambodia established a Technical Working Group comprising of the [National Institute of Statistics](#) (NIS) and the [Ministry of Health](#) (MOH), with a mission to enhance fetal death data collection, quality, and reporting.

[Vital Strategies](#), under the [Data for Health Initiative](#), has been a key partner in supporting Cambodia's adoption of the Medically Certified Cause of Death (MCCD) standard and the development of a digitized system, which not only facilitates fetal death data collection but also captures birth and death events at health facilities and MCCD data. This system, completed in March 2023, aligns with the MOH-NIS system for stillbirths and the civil registration system for birth and death notifications, with plans for full integration into existing health information systems.

The [new CRVS ID law](#), approved in July, has now mandated nationwide fetal death data collection and sharing between the MOH and NIS. With continued support from Vital Strategies, Cambodia is preparing to introduce the new fetal death data collection form digitized system at health facilities in 2023 and 2024.

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## **Congratulations to Lao PDR for launching their first CRVS Inequality Assessment**

On October 19, Lao PDR celebrated the launch of their first [CRVS Inequality Assessment report](#). The [Lao Statistics Bureau](#) (LSB), in collaboration with [ESCAP](#) and [UNFPA](#) have developed this resource.

A series of national workshops were held to inform key stakeholders about the project's objective. These workshops included capacity-building sessions on demographic indicators and data completeness estimation. Despite incomplete data, a preliminary inequality assessment was conducted, with recommendations provided to support the implementation of the CRVS system in Lao PDR.

The report underscores the need for improved collaboration among national and international stakeholders to enhance the national civil registration system. It also emphasizes the importance of developing the skills and capabilities of government officials in CRVS and related systems, enabling the country to conduct future inequality assessments.

Congratulations to LSB for this achievement!

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### **NEW RESOURCES**

- [Technical Guidance for Strengthening the Vital Statistics Production Process](#)
- [Civil Registration in South East Asia: Legislation, Digitization and Inequality](#)
- [Rights and Ethics in Biometric Population Registration](#)
- [Inequality Assessment for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Lao PDR](#)

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **23 – 25 October 2023:** [CRVS 2nd National Capacity Building Workshop for Assessing Inequalities in Registration, Samoa](#)

- **01 – 02 November 2023:** [Seventh North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
  - **06 – 07 November 2023:** [Seventh Southeast Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal](#)
  - **15 – 17 November 2023:** [Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference](#)
  - **20 – 22 November 2023:** [The Seventh North-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
  - **21 – 22 November 2023:** [The Seventh Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#)
  - **20 – 23 February 2023:** [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#)
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