



CRVS Insight

February 2022



Inception workshop for assessing inequalities related to civil registration in Fiji

Well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) help ensure that every person has a legal identity. However, many countries experience lower civil registration completeness rates among hard-to-reach populations and people in vulnerable situations. Knowing who is left behind is critical to address disparities in civil registration and ensure inclusive systems.

ESCAP is currently providing technical support and capacity strengthening to a number of national statistical offices and other relevant national stakeholders to facilitate the assessment of inequalities related to civil registration using secondary data sources. This involves building capacity for demographic analysis as well as fostering dialogue with policy-makers to ensure the results are used for policy formulation. Currently, ESCAP is planning to support inequality assessment in five countries, namely, Bangladesh, Fiji, Lao PDR, Pakistan and Samoa.

Fiji was the first country to organize an inception workshop to kick off the project. The workshop was held on 28 January 2022 and introduced the project to officials from the Fiji

Bureau of Statistics, key line ministries and UN agencies. During the workshop, they actively exchanged views and experiences on how to move forward with the project. The project will focus on topics related to the improvement of data sharing and the quality of existing data, capacity building to government staff to make the inequality assessment sustainable, and mechanisms needed to complete it.

For more information on the project and workshop, please follow [Implementing Inequality Assessments and Strengthening Demographic Analysis Capacity](#).



**The adoption of Our Common Agenda:
Measures to prove legal identity and end statelessness**

The United Nations at its seventy sixth session of the General Assembly ([UNGA76](#), 14-27 September 2021) adopted the resolution [A/RES/76/6](#) on 'Our Common Agenda'. The actions proposed in Our Common Agenda includes *Measures to prove legal identity and end statelessness*. This adoption recognizes legal identity as key to sustainable development.



Inspirational statement from children and youth to the 2021 Ministerial Conference

At the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, delegates and participants witnessed the [joint statements of children and youth on CRVS](#).

To amplify the voices and experiences of young people on CRVS and to promote children and youth's meaningful participation in decision making process related to CRVS, ESCAP, World Vision International and Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) conducted consultations with children and young people on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in 2021. This statement is an inspiration for everyone and a reminder of the importance of CRVS.

In addition to the statement, a [report](#) was produced outlining the consultation process and key findings. For more information, please consult the website www.countusinthepicture.org



53rd Statistical Commission: Side events

The United Nations Statistical Commission will be organized virtually from 1 to 4 March 2022, with a range of side events being held in February and March. Please stay tuned [here](#) for the full schedule of UNSC Side events.

The CRVS related side event on the **Implementation of the UN Legal Identity Agenda** will take place 8:00-10:00 (EST/GMT-5) on 24 February 2022 (Thursday), with several speakers from Asia and the Pacific. Please register [here](#)

This side event, organized by ESCAP, IOM, and UNSD (in collaboration with the other two co-chairs of UNLIA TF - UNICEF and UNDP), provides an opportunity for national statistical offices, international organizations and delegates of Permanent Missions to acquire a more detailed overview in respect to activities under the UN Legal Identity Agenda umbrella, in addition to the documents provided to the 53rd Session of the UN Statistical Commission.



New South Wales's special birth certificate for the 'Tiger year'

In Australia, the New South Wales (NSW) Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages celebrated the Tiger lunar year by launching the Tiger commemorative birth certificate; the design celebrates the multicultural diversity of NSW and blends Chinese and Australian culture.

The certificate features a commissioned artwork by Australian/Chinese contemporary oriental brush painter, Lucy Wang, and combines the traditional aesthetics of Chinese culture along with the contemporary themes and motifs of NSW. Please watch the video of new birth certificate design [here](#).



Pacific countries using civil registration data for vital statistics

Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Vanuatu and Samoa are working to produce vital statistics report based on civil registration data. A string of activities have supported the 5 countries since July last year.

From **July to September 2021**, the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG), including ESCAP, SPC and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) organized an online course on **data analysis and report writing for civil registration based vital statistics**. In total 21 participants from the 5 countries joined the course, including representatives from Ministries of Health, Ministries of Justice, National Statistical Offices and others.

The course aimed to strengthen the capacity of countries in the analysis of administrative data generated from civil registration systems by assisting participants to build proficiency in key analytical, interpretation and presentation skills required to release data to be used for planning and policy review purposes.

Following the completion of the online course, participating countries have further worked on the analysis of their data with support of the organizers. The objective is for the five countries to release their vital statistics reports in 2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The [53rd session of the Statistical Commission](#) will be held online **1-4 March 2022**. Agenda item 3f is on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Statelessness statistics.

The [9th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development \(APFSD\)](#) will be organized on **28-31 March 2022** with the theme of "Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific". Side events can be organized and sponsored by Member States, UN agencies, other Intergovernmental organizations, accredited Civil Society Organizations or other stakeholders.

The [78th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#) will be held in a hybrid modality from **23 to 27 May 2022** at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online. Guided by the theme "A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific", the annual session will be an opportunity to discuss and shape the future of regional cooperation centred around a new form of multilateralism and regional cooperation. The outcomes of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will be highlighted during the session.

The [8th meeting](#) of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific will be organized online, on 9 and 10 March 2022, at 13:00-16:00 Bangkok time (GMT+7). Members have been invited directly. Interested observers can contact the ESCAP CRVS team on escap-crvs@un.org.

RESOURCES

Between 15 - 17 December 2021, the United Nations Statistics Division hosted the Expert Group Meeting on the [Draft Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses](#) with the aim of reviewing the draft handbook and providing input and guidance on the content. The purpose of this handbook is to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and census agencies on the process of transitioning from the traditional census methodology to other approaches involving the use of administrative registers and/or sources. Once finalized, the handbook will become a component of the United Nations methodological framework for population and housing censuses.

A recent blog by ESCAP highlighted the importance of CRVS and the outcomes of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. The blog, entitled: [Building a more resilient future with inclusive civil registration and vital statistics](#) outlines the key commitments made during the Conference.

Opportunities to join CRVS team at ESCAP and UNICEF

INTERN - STATISTICS DIVISION - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), applications close 14 March 2022. [Job description available here.](#) Further information about ESCAP internships can be found [here](#).

UNICEF - International Consultant for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, based in Dili, Timor-Leste. Please see detail at the [hiring page here](#).



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