



## CRVS Insight

April 2022

**ASIA-PACIFIC STATS CAFE SERIES**  
**Excess mortality and the importance of data in the fight against COVID-19**  
20 April 2022, 13:00-14:30 (UTC+7)

**OPENING REMARKS**  
*"More than two years into the pandemic, several vaccines and new treatments have been developed, but are we any closer to estimating the true death toll of COVID-19?"*

**Moderator:**  
Ms. Rachael Joanne Beaven  
Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP

**Speakers:**  
Ms. Chloe Harvey  
CRVS Consultant, Statistics Division, ESCAP  
Mr. Steve MacFeely  
Director, Data and Analytics, World Health Organization  
Mr. Thomas Moutrie  
Professor of Demography and Director of the Centre for Actuarial Research, University of Cape Town, South Africa  
Ms. Helen Ho  
Design Analyst, Population Insights, Stats New Zealand  
Dr. Shubash Shender  
Head, Survey Research Centre and Centre for Burden of Disease Research, Ministry of Health, Malaysia  
Ms. Bulmi Sriwattan  
Independent Data Journalist and Host of pandemic podcast, "The Moving Curve"

**REGISTER HERE** [QR Code]  
**JOIN THE MEETING HERE** [QR Code]

Stats Café logo and ESCAP logo are visible at the bottom.

### Stats Café: Excess mortality and the importance of data in the fight against COVID-19

20 April 2022, 13:00-14:30 (UTC+7)

More than two years into the pandemic, several vaccines and new treatments have been developed, but are we any closer to estimating the true death toll of COVID-19? Demographers, data scientists and epidemiologists have turned to the estimation of excess mortality to try to understand just how many people died as a result of COVID-19.

Being able to ascertain the true impact of COVID-19 on human lives is critical for informing resource allocation and assessing the effectiveness of public health interventions as the pandemic evolves. However, many countries still lack functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems to provide accurate, complete and timely data on deaths and causes of death.

This Stats Café aims to share a snapshot of some of the varied approaches taken by countries and organizations to produce estimates of excess mortality, as well as providing a journalistic insight of best practices in reporting on it.

Please register [here](#). More information on ESCAP Stats Café webpage is [here](#).

---



### **Launch of *Guidelines for estimating completeness of civil registration of vital events***

On **28 March 2022**, the [Guidelines for estimating completeness of civil registration of vital events](#) were launched during an [Asia-Pacific Stats Café](#), organized by the Statistics Division of ESCAP. During this Stats Café, countries shared their experiences of estimating completeness of vital events registration, in addition to discussing the way forward. Please find the recording of the session [here](#).

These Guidelines and accompanying materials have been prepared to support national statistical offices, ministries of health, and other relevant government and non-government agencies to better estimate the completeness of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems, in particular, the completeness of birth and death registration. This was in response to findings from the [mid-term review](#) and accompanying [technical report of progress](#), which showed that despite significant progress made by countries in the region, one of the challenges that remains is countries' capacity to evaluate the completeness of their civil registration systems.



### **First regional workshop on Estimating Completeness of Civil Registration of Birth and Deaths**

The first regional workshop on estimating completeness of civil registration of births and deaths was held as part of an ongoing project initiated by ESCAP, to strengthen the demographic capacity of countries to implement inequality assessments of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems.

The workshop was conducted virtually over a period of five afternoons from **28 March to 1 April 2022** and all instruction and practical sessions were provided and facilitated by Professor Tom Moultrie, Professor of Demography, University of Cape Town, South Africa with support from ESCAP staff. At the end of the workshop, participants were expected to have a greater understanding of the issues underpinning the assessment and evaluation of the completeness of civil registration data on births and deaths.

Techniques for adjusting for vital events that may be reported in the future were presented, along with a number of approaches for estimating the completeness of vital events using sources of data such as census or administrative data.

The programme, photos and presentations from the workshop can be found [here](#).

---



### **Inception Workshop: Assessing Inequalities in Civil Registration in Lao PDR**

The "Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Inception Workshop for Assessing Inequalities in Registration" was held on **11 March 2022** in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Lao PDR has been selected as one of the countries in the region to participate in an ESCAP initiative to support countries in undertaking CRVS inequality assessments. The project seeks to provide technical support and capacity strengthening to the Lao Statistics Bureau and other relevant national stakeholders, in order to facilitate the implementation of CRVS inequality assessments using secondary data sources. This involves building capacity for demographic analysis to undertake inequality assessments in the future, as well as facilitating dialogue with policy-makers to ensure the results are used for policy formulation.

The half-day inception workshop provided an opportunity for relevant CRVS stakeholders (data providers, data users and policy makers) to meet and share experiences of the possible challenges in conducting inequality assessments, and to collaboratively develop a plan for progressing the assessment.

An overview of the workshop and presentations can be accessed [here](#).

---



### **Strengthening the production and use of vital statistics in Lao PDR**

The Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) convened a national stakeholders meeting to discuss strengthened collaboration for the production of vital statistics in line with international standards in Lao PDR.

The consultation meeting on **17 March 2022** was the first step taken in response to the results of a regional situational assessment of national vital statistics, commissioned by the UNFPA Regional Office for Asia Pacific in 2021. The study identified areas where capacity building is needed to support the timely production, dissemination and use of vital statistics in Lao PDR. UNFPA will continue to work closely with LSB to utilize existing data from the Census and the Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) for the production of up-to-date vital statistics.

Full article can be read [here](#).

---





### **First national workshop on demographic and statistical capacity building in Fiji**

The first national capacity building workshop to strengthen demographic and statistical capacity for assessing inequalities in civil registration was held from **21-25 March 2022** in Suva, Fiji.

The workshop which was convened in a hybrid modality and led by a demography expert, was attended by 29 participants from relevant government agencies involved in the national CRVS system. Throughout the five-day workshop, participants learnt how to assess inequalities in civil registration, with a particular focus on death registration. The instruction sessions and practical exercises were tailored to the national context, using national data, and focused on the measurement of civil registration completeness, assessment of data quality, production of disaggregated estimates for death registration and interpretation of these findings for use in policy-making.

Please visit the [webpage](#) for more information about the workshop.



### **Multisectoral coordination meeting to strengthen the CRVS system in Pakistan**

A multisectoral and multi-partner coordination meeting was held in Islamabad from 29-30 March, with the goal of establishing a unified approach to CRVS improvements, in line with the WHO's CRVS Strategic Implementation Plan and Pakistan's CRVS priorities.

The WHO's CRVS Strategic Implementation Plan 2021-2025 aims to empower Member States to more effectively mobilize their health sector to lead or contribute to CRVS system strengthening efforts in order to ensure maximum benefit from routine data systems for policy and development.



### **60 million Filipinos complete the PhilSys Step 2 registration**

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) achieved a new milestone by successfully registering over 60 million Filipinos for Step 2 Registration of the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys).

As of 16 March 2022, 60,483,095 Filipinos have been onboarded to the PhilSys Step 2 Registration, which involved capturing biometric information, such as fingerprints, iris, and front-facing photographs at registration centers.

*“Despite the previous challenges posed by COVID-19 during the early implementation of the PhilSys program, the PSA achieved its targets successfully. We thank our partners and the millions of Filipinos for their cooperation despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic. With their continued support, the PSA is confident that we will be able to register more Filipinos in the next months,”* PSA Undersecretary, Dennis S. Mapa.

Full article can be read [here](#) and for the latest information on PhilSys, please visit the [Facebook page](#)

---

### **UPCOMING EVENT**

- 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 centered 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.

---

## **RESOURCES**

- **Tapping into administrative data in census-taking: an emerging trend in Asia and the Pacific.** [ESCAP Stats Brief, April 2022 \(Issue no. 31\)](#). This Brief is part of the ESCAP's work on population registers and censuses under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative (D4H) Project: "Supporting improvements to civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in Asia and the Pacific (Phase III)".
  - **The 2021 ID4D and G2Px Annual Report** highlights the work done in 2021 to advance #GoodID & #digitalpayments to empower people and build inclusive & dynamic digital economies. Download [here](#).
- 



As we are always looking to improve content, we'd love to hear your feedback and input for articles. CRVS Insight is written for you and your feedback matters to us!

If you have a new resource, upcoming event or article you would like highlighted, please send submissions along with an accompanying photo to [escap-crvs@un.org](mailto:escap-crvs@un.org).

Please note by submitting photos you are granting ESCAP Statistics Division permission to publish the photo in the current article and any future articles it deems appropriate.

This e-mail has been sent to [rattanakittiaporn@un.org](mailto:rattanakittiaporn@un.org) because you have expressed interest in CRVS activities in Asia and the Pacific. If you would like to stop receiving future communications, please [click here to unsubscribe](#).