



## **CRVS Insight**

December 2019



### **23 Member states have already reported on their progress on CRVS since 2015 by submitting their midterm questionnaire to ESCAP**

As an important component for monitoring and evaluating progress, countries committed to reporting their progress throughout the [CRVS Decade \(2015 - 2024\)](#). By **16 December**, countries should submit responses to the [midterm questionnaire](#) updating on their progress on meeting their national CRVS targets. The responses to the midterm questionnaires will be aggregated into a midterm regional synthesis report and used to generate an regional picture of the status of CRVS and highlight existing challenges.

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.

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 which resulted in the [regional baseline report](#).



### **South Asia makes huge progress in birth registration, shows new UNICEF report tracking 2030 progress in birth registration**

On December 11th 2019, on the occasion of its 73rd birthday, UNICEF launched a new publication, [Birth Registration for Every Child by 2030: Are we on track?](#)

The report presents the latest available country data and global and regional estimates of the number of unregistered children for both those under 5 years of age and under 1 year of age. It also assesses progress over time and presents evidence for the amount of investment that will be needed to achieve universal birth registration by 2030.

The publication draws from some 400 data sources spanning a period of nearly 20 years. Its findings are intended to inform the development of related policies and programmes. The publication also seeks to raise awareness of the need to strengthen civil registration systems as the most effective strategy to achieve universal birth registration and to ensure that every child is given a legal identity from birth.



### **Papua New Guinea releases a new comprehensive assessment and action plan**

Following the release of the [Papua New Guinea Comprehensive CRVS System Assessment](#), the PNG National CRVS Committee also endorsed and released their [CRVS national action plan for 2020-2021](#).

The comprehensive assessment of PNG's CRVS system was commissioned by the PNG CRVS Committee, led by Chair Mr. Noel Mobiha (Registrar General) and Co-Chair Mrs. Manah Dindi (NDoH) with considerable support from Mr. Nicholas Piauka and Dr. Viola Kwa. The comprehensive assessment and development of this report was led and supported by Jeff Montgomery, with funding provided by the Pacific Community (SPC) and Brisbane Accord Group.



### **Legal identity expert group settles on definition of 'legal identity' with civil registration foundation**

At the request of DSG Ms. Amina Mohammed, a time-bound inter-agency group — the UN Legal Identity Expert Group (UN LIEG) was established in September 2018 under the purview of the UN Sustainable Development Group's Strategic Results Group on SDG Implementation. The LIEG is composed of 17 UN agencies. The substantive focus of the LIEG is an emphasis on building legal identity system founded on civil registration from birth to death, and with a human rights approach.

The LIEG defines legal identity as the "basic characteristics of an individual's identity. e.g. name, sex, place and date of birth conferred through registration and the issuance of a certificate by an authorized civil registration authority following the occurrence of birth".

The LIEG expands saying, "in the absence of birth registration, legal identity may be conferred by a legally-recognized identification authority. This system should be linked to the civil registration system to ensure a holistic approach to legal identity from birth to death".

To read more about legal identity issues please visit the [UN Legal Identity Agenda website](#) or [www.getinthepicture.org](http://www.getinthepicture.org).



### **Second Meeting of the Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia (CR8)**

From 26-28 November 2019, the [second gathering of CR8](#) took place in the Maldives. Hosted by the Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure, and supported by UNICEF and ESCAP, the group comprised 19 government experts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Pakistan, as well as representatives from development partners.

The meeting aimed to (i) address issues of common concern in civil registration of South Asia, including cross border issues; (ii) provide a platform for a professional forum to share innovative practices; (iii) provide information and inputs for the second Ministerial Conference on CRVS to be held in 2020; and (iv) foster a professional network of organisations and individuals from South Asia involved in civil registration.

The CR8 group decided on co-chairs for the next two years and will work together to highlight issues of relevance to CRVS improvement in South Asia. In early 2020 a compendium reflecting on the key discussions at the meeting will be released.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 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](#).
- Between 3 - 7 February 2020, the [Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion](#) will be holding an intensive, web-based course on statelessness. The course aims to provide participants with the skills and practical tools necessary for understanding and addressing problems of statelessness. Sign up through the University of Melbourne Law School website [here](#).

## **NEW RESOURCES**

- The [Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion](#) recently released a [policy brief on SDG 16.9](#) tracking the latest trends in implementation efforts at achieving "legal identity for all".
- Keeping with statelessness, the [Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion](#), along with the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness at Melbourne Law School, is also releasing the second edition of the [Statelessness and Citizenship Review](#). Being released in time for Christmas, the journal is dedicated entirely to advancing the understanding of statelessness and related citizenship phenomena to meet growing demand for the exchange of ideas and knowledge among scholars in the field of statelessness studies. If you enjoy reading the Statelessness and Citizenship Review, consider submitting to the next edition. [Calls for submissions are out now](#) and ideas are due by 15 January 2020.
- A recent op-ed in "The Economist" from the Executive Director of UNICEF, Henrietta Fore, [outlines a path for using technology to grant legal identity to all children](#). The op-ed is a guest contribution for the The Economist's Open Future Initiative, which aims to foster global conversations on the challenges of the 21st century.
- Data and Analytics Section, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring and Child Protection Section, Programme Division recently penned a "comment" in the Lancet journal entitled [Universal birth registration by 2030: progress and challenges](#).



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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