

ASIA PACIFIC
CRVS NEWS UPDATE

President declares 2015-2024 as CRVS decade in Philippines

President Benigno Aquino III officially declared the years 2015 to 2024 as the “civil registration and vital statistics decade” in the Philippines. In the declaration, President Aquino urged all relevant national government agencies – namely health, civil registration and statistics - to strengthen and improve civil registration and vital statistics activities. He also called on the private sector, development institutions and the greater public to actively participate and support all programmes related to the “Get every Pinoy and Pinay in the Picture” initiative – a Philippine offshoot of the “Get everyone in the Picture” regional initiative in Asia and the Pacific. The pioneering declaration by the President of the Philippines is testimony of the value placed on complete and responsive civil registration systems in achieving inclusive, equitable and people-centred development.



The initiative follows the historic outcomes of the first Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, held in November 2014. The Conference, which was attended by high-level officials and representatives of development partners, realized three core outcomes, namely:

- (i) Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration to “Get Every One in the Picture” in Asia and the Pacific;
- (ii) Endorsement of the Regional Action on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;
- (iii) Proclamation of the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015 – 2024.

The Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Framework aim to accelerate and focus efforts to improve CRVS systems in Asia and the Pacific and ensure the realization of the shared vision that by 2024, all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development.

Guidelines for setting and monitoring the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific - [now available!](#)

As Members and associate members prepare to set their own national targets for the CRVS Decade, ESCAP and partners have finalized a set of guidelines to assist countries in this process.

Setting national targets depends entirely on the current situation, national ambition and capacity, and the resources that can be dedicated to establishing or improving CRVS systems. The guidelines highlight approaches and considerations that countries may take into account in order to set realistic goals. They are not intended to be prescriptive, but rather to point national stakeholders towards the pertinent issues and resources that can provide further guidance.

The purpose of the guidelines is to assist countries in the Asia and Pacific region with setting and monitoring their national targets relating to birth and death registration and legal documentation, and the production and dissemination of vital statistics under the Regional Action Framework. In addition to providing background and general considerations, the guidelines outline the methods of calculation, ideal levels and ranges, data sources, and the issues and considerations for each target and includes links to further resources as well as a glossary.

UNICEF releases videos on birth registration in Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands



UNICEF has just published three videos on birth registration in the Pacific. The videos highlight the different challenges as well as some of the common solutions. The video on the [left](#) explains the Kiribati government's plans to decentralize civil registration services to all provinces and expand the number of service points and agencies with authority to provide civil registration. These activities will ensure increased registration coverage of vital events, in particular births. Recognizing that disaggregated data is instrumental for government planning and decision making, the video also showcases the recently introduced electronic databases that allow countries to further disaggregate data.

The development of the Civil Registry's Information Management System by the Department of Civil Status in Vanuatu received international recognition for promoting national ownership in addition to facilitating decentralisation and reaching families in some of the most hard to reach islands. A 14 minute video documenting this unique and innovative approach is also [available](#).

A key goal of the Government of the Solomon Islands is to establish functional civil registration services in rural and urban areas. This [video](#) captures the value of an expanded and decentralized approach towards birth registration in significantly contributing towards the establishment of a wider national civil registration system in the long term. The improved system will reach all children in the main island as well as the outer islands.

Workshop on Vital Statistics and the 'Get Every One in the Picture' initiative in Istanbul

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) convened a four-day workshop on *Applying Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System for implementing the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia*. The workshop was hosted by the Institute of Statistics of Turkey and took place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 15 to 18 September 2015.

The workshop contributed to the initiatives at the global and regional levels to accelerate improvement of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS). With the view of strengthening technical capacity to improve civil registration and vital statistics systems, the workshop sought to increase the knowledge of government statisticians and civil registration officers about the revised international principles and recommendations for compiling, processing and disseminating vital statistics. Civil registrars and statisticians participating in the workshop also got a chance to get acquainted with the outcomes of Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, including the Ministerial Declaration to “Get everyone in the picture”, the Regional Action Framework, and its implementation.

Civil registrars and statisticians from 11 member States attended the workshop, namely: Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

For more information, contact the Statistics Division of United Nations ESCAP at stat.unescap@un.org or +66 2288 2593, or visit www.getinthepicture.org

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