

ASIA PACIFIC CRVS NEWSLETTER



SDG target 16.9 on legal identity

The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goal 16 containing the target on providing legal identity for all, including birth registration ([target 16.9](#)) were endorsed at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

The process on agreeing on the indicators to measure the 17 SDGs has been long underway, with the most recent development being the second meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). The group is tasked with fully developing a proposal for the indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, under the leadership of the national statistical offices. The meeting of 26-28 October aimed to reach consensus and identify unresolved issues in respect to the list of indicators and the indicator framework. For more information on this process, please visit [the UN Statistics Division IAEG-SDGs webpage](#).

The inclusion of target 16.9 means that the provision of legal documentation is being recognized and addressed as a global development issue. The current suggestion for an indicator on legal identity is the percentage of children under 5 whose births have been registered with civil authority. Various stakeholders have suggested additional or alternative indicators such as whether it would be more relevant to monitor registration of children under 1, as this would highlight the need for timely registration. The indicator for target 16.9 is on the 'green list'.

As agreed at the 2nd IAEG-SDGs meeting in Bangkok, [additional comments on the indicators coded as "green"](#) can be submitted through the electronic form. From Wednesday, 4 November 9 am EST until Saturday, 9 am 7 November EST. IAEG-SDG members will continue deliberations on this green list until November 20, after which it will be submitted to the United Nations Statistics Commission for endorsement in March 2016.



Bloomberg Data For Health (D4H) Initiative

The new D4H initiative launched in March is a public/private partnership between the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Bloomberg Foundation that aims at helping low- and middle-income countries to:

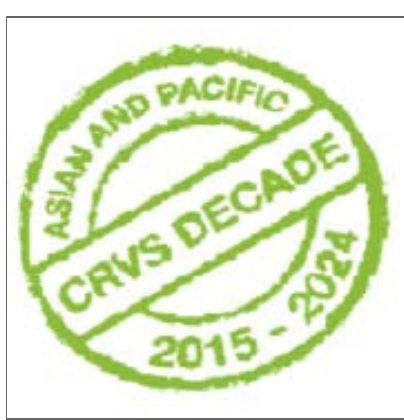
- Build and strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems
- Improve capacity for data analysis and interpretation
- Strengthen ability to use public health data for policy
- Conduct efficient public health surveys to monitor major risk factors for Non Communicable Diseases.

The initiative will focus on 20 countries and cities in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America to whom it will provide support, mostly in form of Technical Assistance (TA) but also through innovation and institution strengthening. The support for the CRVS component will be delivered by recognized global experts and coordinated through the University of Melbourne. For activities in ESCAP member countries, coordination efforts with the Regional Action Framework for CRVS and ESCAP have begun and will be important throughout the 4 years of the initiative.

The interventions and trainings offered in CRVS cover registration issues, improvement of cause of death data quality, medical certification, automated coding, VA for community deaths, data visualization and use. A baseline of country CRVS systems will be measured using a standard framework at the beginning and end of the initiative with progress being monitored on an annual basis.

As the inception phase comes to an end soon and the country work begins, it is expected that the tools and resources developed over the coming years, as well as the learnings from implementing system changes, will be widely shared in the region. All tools and knowledge generated under the initiative will be made publicly available.

Check out this [infographic](#) which shows why this work is so important



Reporting on national targets and current CRVS situation

A key element of the [Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) is regular liaising between countries and the ESCAP secretariat to report and monitor progress on implementation. This includes submitting a baseline report on national targets and baseline data in 2015.

To facilitate the preparation of this national baseline report, ESCAP on the 26th of October sent requests for reporting using a reporting template developed together with the Regional Steering Group on CRVS. The reporting template is available in English and Russian. Responses will be compiled, analysed and presented in a report to the 72nd ESCAP Commission session in 2016.

To assist countries in implementing the Regional Action Framework including monitoring and reporting, the ESCAP secretariat has also developed [Guidelines for setting and monitoring the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS](#) available in English and Russian.

Media



Digital technology can help strengthen CRVS systems

This movie from Plan International describes their approach to using technology to improve birth registration and CRVS.



CRVS Brochure now available in Russian

This Russian brochure provides a quick and basic introduction to civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS), highlighting its importance in CRVS systems. It also includes a snapshot of CRVS in the Asia-Pacific region.



Regional Action Framework, in Russian

This publication contains the Ministerial Declaration to "Get Every One in the Picture" and the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

Events



Identity and the SDGs: Finding the Missing Millions Helps Development Goals

Watch the recorded live stream from the Center for Global Development

(3 Nov 2015 3 - 4:30 PM EST)



11th Asian Government Forum on Electronic Identity

The themes of this year's forum are:

1. Latest Thinking in National Electronic Identity Schemes
2. Delivering Secure and Legal Online Digital Identity
3. Enabling Financial Inclusion and Online Financial Services

(1 Dec 2015, Dhaka, Bangladesh)



Webinar for National CRVS Focal Points

This webinar will give national CRVS focal points an overview of the reporting template and a chance to ask questions regarding reporting to the Regional Action Framework as agreed at the Ministerial Conference in November 2014. The deadline for reporting is 15 December 2015.

(10 Nov 2015, 2-3pm GMT+7)

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

You are receiving this email since you have shown interest in or participated in CRVS activities in the past.

[Unsubscribe from this list.](#)
For more information visit our website

