



March 2021



Between 23 - 26 March 2021, the United Nations ESCAP will host the [8th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development](#) with the theme of . The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an annual and inclusive intergovernmental forum and a regional platform for supporting countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. APFSD also serves as a regional preparatory meeting to the [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#).

Jeff Montgomery from New Zealand, as the Rapporteur for the [Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#), will be hosting a side event during the APFSD entitled:

The side event will be held on and will address key concerns regarding the region's progress on civil registration, including; civil registration as the foundation for legal identity, integrating civil registration with ID systems, and civil registration and vital statistics as an accelerator for SDG achievements. More information, including [how to register can be found here](#).



The [Vanuatu Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Department](#) is committed to achieving the

Sustainable Development Goal 16, Target 16.9, which states that, "By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration." And it's seeming very possible this target will be achieved in the next few years and most likely long before 2030.

In 2019, the CRVS Department and the Vanuatu Electoral Office established a joint, nationwide project to undertake combined civil and voter registration, issuing National ID cards ahead of the General Elections in March 2020. The project, funded and supported by [UNDP](#) and the [New Zealand Government](#), was successful and in 2020, after the General Elections, the project entered into a new phase with the objective to validate and verify the citizens datasets stored in the CRVS and VEO systems. And with the field work finished, all collected forms are consolidated in a specific database where a dedicated group of data entry staff, based in Port Vila, work on data corrections and updates, production and issuance of birth certificates and National ID cards, thereby enabling Vanuatu to achieve SDG 16.9 and get every one in the picture.

* To learn more, including how category 5 tropical cyclone Harold impacted the project and how the team adapted, please see the extended version of the article on www.getinthepicture.org.



Due to the virtual nature of the Statistical Commission this year, there was no discussion on Demographic Statistics, where the issue of CRVS is normally debated. Several States did however, submit written statements on the issue, those can be accessed on the [UNSD website](#).

Nevertheless, the Commission held multiple CRVS-related side events, including a 26 February side event entitled [UN Legal Identity Agenda: Implementation during the Pandemic](#). Presentations and the recording of the session are [available online](#).

Other side events included: [A New Collaborative on the Use of Administrative Data for Statistical Purposes](#); and [How the COVID-19 Pandemic Changed the World for Children](#).



Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Group

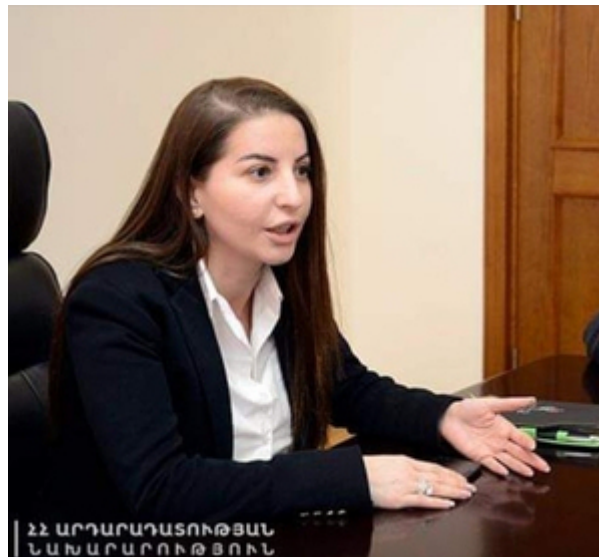
Following their recent meeting during the UN Statistical Commission in New York, the [Global CRVS Group](#) elected Niall McCann from the [United Nations Development Program](#) to serve as

Chair for 2021-2022. During UNDP's tenure, they will be tasked with promoting CRVS improvement agendas globally, while maintaining adherence to the Group's central promise to strengthen national CRVS and related systems through coordination and collaboration on global and regional initiatives and exchange of information. Members congratulated and thanked the outgoing Chair, Gloria Mathenge from the [Secretariat for the Pacific Community](#), for all her hard work overseeing activities during the 2020-2021 period. Gloria very successfully managed to highlight the needs of CRVS systems in the Pacific to the global community.



UN ESCAP is pleased to announce two new, short term consultancies in the build up to the Second Ministerial Conference in November. ESCAP is hiring two consultants to assist in the preparations and who will work with the CRVS team in the Statistics Division. More information on the consultancies, including the Terms of Reference, can be found below.

1. [Communications and Outreach Consultant](#)
 2. [Consultant on the Guidelines for Inequality Assessments](#)
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Each month, our community newsletter puts a spotlight on one person from Asia-Pacific who has gone above and beyond in their efforts to support CRVS programmes, raise awareness of CRVS issues or lead CRVS improvement efforts in their home country. This month we are happy to highlight Ms. Ani Mkhitarian from Armenia.

I am the head of the Civil Status Acts Registration Agency (CSAR) of the Ministry of Justice of

Armenia. I coordinate the work of civil status acts registration in Armenia and partnerships in this field with other countries.

So, I have been working at the Agency since 2014 and over the years there have been many circumstances that have confirmed the importance of CRVS. But the last year for us was really particular... It was very difficult to provide birth and death registrations in total lock down. But the Agency worked non-stop to ensure no one will have future problems with their registrations, legal documents and social benefits, and also to ensure current information was provided to the Statistic crevice. Despite the difficult circumstances - it was done!

As the head of Agency I am the responsible person for improving and developing the civil status acts registration in Armenia. During this year all the development programs created by the Agency were approved by our Government and National Assembly. We made many changes in the legislation, trying to make registrations more accessible, more digital and very simple.

In 2015 the Minister of Justice established an interagency working group as the national coordination mechanism for CRVS.

The working group included representatives from Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Regional Government and Local Self-governing bodies, the State statistics Agency and Passport Department. We are still working together and it has resulted in us solving many problems by collaborating and sharing information.

Starting from 2014 all the types of registrations in Armenia are implemented by the CSAR integrated electronic registration system. As a result, all civil and vital events are registered only by this system. This electronic system is also linked to other government departments and structures and thus provides possibility for the transmission of information to the Statistical Service and other stakeholders. From 2019 all civil status certificates and references are electronic and after every registration the electronic system send it to the mail of the applicant. In 2020 we established a new electronic system for online application for copy of certificates and references. I hope that we will develop all our digital tools and give the opportunity for online applications for every registration. Which would make the registration process very fast and simple.

Never give up, even if you are one and only who wants to change, develop and improve it!!!

On the [Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems](#) will host its final Virtual Training Webinar on learning how to enhance demand for civil registration services through training on communication for development, entitled: . Interested readers can find [more information and register here](#).

On the Center of Excellence for CRVS Systems will host a webinar on . To read more about the speakers and to register for the event please visit the [Center of Excellence website](#).

The [World Health Organization](#) recently released its "". Among other things, the Strategic Plan covers the WHO's key priority areas, guiding principles for the Plan, as well as the scope of their expected work. readers can download a copy of the Plan by visiting www.getinthepicture.org.

UN ESCAP has drafted and published a "" on the role population registers can play in producing accurate and timely vital statistics. A full version of the Brief can be found on www.getinthepicture.org.

On , ESCAP Statistics Division held the last of three [webinars on Inequality Assessments](#) and which focused specifically on [indirect demographic methods for measuring completeness and coverage for low capacity countries](#). On the Statistics Division will conclude its three-part series with an invite-only [expert group meeting](#) to continue exploring coverage and completeness issues with relevant stakeholders.

The [World Bank](#) recently announced that another round of the will be taking place and is now open for enrollment. The course will run from , will cover 13 modules and is virtually guided by international experts facilitate online discussions and assignments. A pre-requisite for this course is the Basic-level (Self-paced) CRVS course. For those interested in more details, including how to register, please visit the [World Bank's Open Learning Campus](#) for more details.



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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 @ because you have expressed interest in CRVS activities in Asia and the Pacific.

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