

The Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific
6 - 9 October, 2020
Bangkok, Thailand
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CRVS Insight

March 2020



Pakistan's Seminar for Parliamentarians

On 18 March 2020, Pakistan's [Technical Support Unit](#) in the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives will host a Seminar on "Mainstreaming Primary Health Care in CRVS".

The event will be attended by high level officials and development partners and discussions will focus on placing CRVS at the foundation of Pakistan's future development strategies, current global best practices in CRVS improvements, legal identity in the digital era, as well as a specific session dedicated to the launch of multiple CRVS assessment studies, including a national legal study, a gap analysis of CRVS practices and CRVS quality in the Punjab province.



Congratulations to SPC, the Global CRVS Group's new Chair

Following the recent meeting of the [Global CRVS Group](#) on 2 March, in New York, the Global CRVS Group elected the [Secretariat of the Pacific Community](#) (SPC) as the new Chair to guide the group for the 2020-2021 period. During their tenure, SPC 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.



Kazakhstan amends law to ensure universal civil registration coverage

In good [news from Kazakhstan](#), the Kazakh government recently amended the "Code on Marriage and Family" to ensure that "all children born in the country are registered at birth and issued birth certificates, regardless of the legal status of their parents". UNHCR heralded the Kazakh government's decision saying, "this speedy decision and action" would "prevent children from becoming stateless in the future".

This amendment represents a broader shift in how countries are starting to adapt in order to [end statelessness](#) and follows the widely praised 2019 [announcement](#) recognizing Kyrgyzstan as the first country to eliminate all known cases of statelessness.



OpenCRVS goes live in Bangladesh

OpenCRVS is an open-source, digital CRVS system designed for low-resource settings. The system pilot is now live in Bangladesh. The OpenCRVS pilot seeks to prove a model for digital civil registration in Bangladesh that will contribute to sustainable universal registration in the country. Based on extensive design research, OpenCRVS has been configured for the Bangladesh context and takes civil registration services to the community through the use of a mobile application used by Community Health Assistants.

The pilot is being conducted in 2 locations, one rural and one peri-urban, and will last 12 months. The focus of the project is to test, learn and change the model on a continuous basis in order to understand and document the most cost effective and efficient model for birth and death registration at scale.

OpenCRVS is now available as a digital public good. See github.com/opencrvs for source-code and info on how to deploy, configure and customize for specific country context. Designed for low resource settings, OpenCRVS provides governments with a user-centric, rights-based and fully interoperable civil registration solution that can be deployed, operated and maintained by local teams.

Check out www.opencrvs.org or contact Edward Duffus at edward.duffus@planinternational.org for more information.



ESCAP's Statistics Director raises awareness for the Ministerial Conference in October

In an effort to raise awareness for the upcoming [Ministerial Conference](#) in October, ESCAP's Statistics Director, Gemma Van Halderen, recently attended both "Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality" ([ConVERGE](#)) in Ottawa, as well as the [51st Statistical Commission](#) in NY. During each event, Ms. Van Halderen emphasized the progress being made in Asia-Pacific, as well as the remaining challenges and expected outcomes for the Ministerial Conference.

ConVERGE, hosted by the [Centre of Excellence](#) for CRVS Systems, UNFPA and [Open Data Watch](#), assessed global progress being made in meeting gender-related targets and focused discussions on

using CRVS systems to integrate gender analysis across CRVS improvement activities.

The 51st Statistical Commission focused its CRVS discussions heavily on civil registration as a foundation for legal identity, as well as using data generated from CRVS systems to measure the progress of SDG indicators. Civil registration was also discussed under the agenda item on health statistics.



CRVS highlighted as foundational to a holistic legal identity agenda

In addition to discussing the role of CRVS in generating accurate and timely public health statistics, CRVS systems also played a prominent role among the member states in [discussing national approaches](#) to a holistic legal identity agenda.

Chief Statisticians attending the intergovernmental forum discussed the [United Nations Legal Identity Agenda](#) which builds on the existing methodological framework for CRVS as developed under the auspices of the International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of CRVS Systems and expands it to ensure a holistic and interoperable approach between civil registration, vital statistics production and identity management.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Due to recent travel restrictions pertaining to Covid-19, the following CRVS-related meetings have been postponed.
 - The 7th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development, originally scheduled for 25 - 27 March.
 - The Sixth Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, originally scheduled for 30 March - 1 April.
 - The joint ESCAP - UN Statistics Division workshop on "Measuring SDGs from Population and Housing Censuses and Civil Registration Data, originally scheduled for 2 - 3 April.
 - The joint ESCAP - Vital Strategies workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Business Process Improvement, originally scheduled for 6 - 8 April.

NEW RESOURCES

- The Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), with support from development partners, recently released the Best Practice Guidelines and Examples of Legislation for CRVS in the Pacific, V. 2, along with a framework for building model CRVS legislation.
- *BMC Medicine* presents a [series of articles](#) on progress in strengthening CRVS systems, highlighting key methodological advances, innovations and implementation experiences that resulted in significant gains in knowledge about best practices to strengthen national systems.



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

If you have a new resource, upcoming event or article you would like highlighted, please send submissions to escap-crvs@un.org.

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