



CRVS Insight

January 2022



The Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific concluded with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration!

ESCAP and 12 co-organizers together prepared the [Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#). The Conference was attended by over 400 participants from 48 different countries and 16 international organizations, including [40 ministers and deputy ministers](#).

The Conference kicked off with a senior officials segment between 16 - 18 November, with discussions focusing on reviewing the progress made by countries during the first half of the CRVS Decade (2015-2024) and identifying the existing challenges to implementing the Regional Action Framework for CRVS. Discussions delved into different aspects of CRVS, including the role of the health sector, gender-sensitive CRVS systems and CRVS as an accelerator for

implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The formal sessions of the Conference were complemented by a series of side-events and warm-up sessions organized by ESCAP and other partner organizations.

The last day of the Conference, 19 November, was reserved for the ministerial segment and included two ministerial roundtables; the first discussing CRVS system responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the second discussing methods for building resiliency into CRVS systems to respond to challenges for the second half of the CRVS Decade (2015-2024).

The ministerial segment concluded with the adoption of the ministerial declaration entitled, "[Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics](#)", which affirms regional commitment to the shared vision of universal and responsive systems, as well as emphasizes the critical role of CRVS in implementing the 2030 Agenda and notes the importance of CRVS in developing a holistic legal identity management system and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recordings from the Conference and side events are available on www.getinthepicture.org.



It's Time to Start Counting Everyone!

The Ministerial Conference and the work to improve CRVS over recent years have highlighted the need for champions and high level political commitment to drive change. Dr. Siddhi Aryal, Regional Director, Asia Pacific Hub of Vital Strategies, and José Luis Castro, President and CEO of Vital Strategies, recently highlighted the work of Vital Strategies and [called for attention to the progress being made in many countries](#).

They noted that "experience from the first six years of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Data for Health Initiative has demonstrated that CRVS improvements can happen rapidly. When driven by high-level political will and ownership, strong leadership by primary stakeholders and champions, and effective intersectoral coordination and collaboration, sustainable improvements and the benefits that accrue from stronger systems are arriving quickly."

Leaders and champions of CRVS are driving this progress. The coordination and governance structures they have established harness the power of each system's diverse set of stakeholders. Vital Strategies and partners are now sharing these stories through #CountingEveryone: a new campaign highlighting the critical nature of coordination, governance and leadership to strengthen CRVS systems.



Cambodian government drafting new civil registration and legal identity laws

In November, Minister of Interior Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng met with the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana to discuss his country's ongoing CRVS development. During the meeting, Mr. Kheng highlighted the government's ongoing efforts on draft laws on civil registration and identification aiming to ensure that each citizen has a single identity.

Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng acknowledged that legal identity is imperative to serving the daily activities of the Cambodian people. He also noted the Cambodian CRVS system was destroyed under the Khmer Rouge regime, but that Cambodia "has been actively working on this subject and has been enforcing our 2016-2021 strategic plan on civil registration". He emphasized that civil registration is important and serves the daily living activities of the people.

Insight readers can access the full article by visiting the [Phnom Penh Post website here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date! On **25 January 2022, from 14:00 - 15:00 (CET)**, the World Health Organization will be hosting a webinar on ICD-11 coding with the International League of Dermatological Societies. Additional

details, including the meeting agenda and Zoom link can be found by visiting the [WHO's information page here](#).

The [53rd session of the Statistical Commission](#) will be held online **1-4 March 2022**. Agenda item 3f is on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Statelessness statistics.

The [9th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development \(APFSD\)](#) will be organized on **28-31 March 2022** with the theme of "Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific". Side events can be organized and sponsored by Member States, the UN system, other Intergovernmental organizations, accredited CSOs or other stakeholders.

The [78th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#) will be held in a hybrid modality from **23 to 27 May 2022** at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online. Guided by the theme "A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific", the annual session will be an opportunity to discuss and shape the future of regional cooperation centred around a new form of multilateralism and regional cooperation. The outcomes of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific will be highlighted during the session.

RESOURCES

Between 15 - 17 December 2021, the United Nations Statistics Division hosted the Expert Group Meeting on the [Draft Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses](#) with the aim of reviewing the draft handbook and providing input and guidance on the content. The purpose of this handbook is to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and census agencies on the process of transitioning from the traditional census methodology to other approaches involving the use of administrative registers and/or sources. Once finalized, the handbook will become a component of the United Nations methodological framework for population and housing censuses.

A recent blog by ESCAP highlighted the importance of CRVS and the outcomes of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. The blog, entitled: [Building a more resilient future with inclusive civil registration and vital statistics](#) outlines the key commitments made during the conference.

Opportunities to join the ESCAP CRVS Team

Consultant to support strengthening demographic capacity and implementing inequality assessments for civil registration and vital statistics systems in Bangladesh, applications close 24 January 2022. [Job description available here](#).

INTERN – STATISTICS DIVISION - Civil Registration and Vital Statistic (CRVS), applications close 14 March 2022. [Job description available here](#). Further information about ESCAP internships can be found [here](#).



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