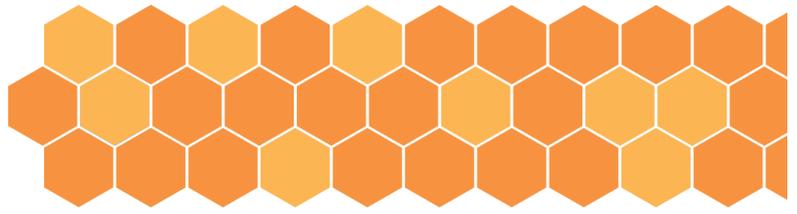




Get
every one
in the picture



Concept note

Fifth meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

The fifth meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific (RSG) will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 17-19 September 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to support the midterm review of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024) including the Ministerial Conference on CRVS to be held in 2020.

Background

During its third meeting in 2017, the RSG recommended convening a Ministerial Conference on the midterm review of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework (RAF) on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific.¹ This decision was endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its 74th session in 2018.²

The midterm review comprises several activities:

1. Countries report on midterm progress in achieving the goals of the RAF (i.e., universal registration; legal documentation to all; and accurate, complete and timely vital statistics) using a standard template (2019);³
2. The ESCAP secretariat will compile the country reports and prepare a regional synthesis report (2019 - 2020); The synthesis report will form the basis for the midterm review of progress by the Ministerial Conference in 2020.
3. The Ministerial Conference will celebrate the midpoint of the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015– 2024), review progress and consider the direction and focus of efforts towards 2024.

In addition, at its fourth meeting in 2018, the RSG started the discussions on the main themes of the Ministerial Conference and the preparation for the midterm review, including the format of country reports.

It is expected the Ministerial Conference will result in an outcome document highlighting the progress achieved during the CRVS Decade and possible make additional commitments to account for developments since the launch of the Get Every One in the Picture initiative, such as the role and linkage between CRVS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of CRVS in relation to identity management, digitization and service delivery for

¹ Report of the third meeting of the RSG: <https://bit.ly/2xcGqY1>

² ESCAP Resolution 74/8 Accelerating the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: <https://www.unescap.org/commission/74/documents>

³ Regional Action Framework with the description of the country report (called midterm report): <https://www.unescap.org/resources/regional-action-framework-civil-registration-and-vital-statistics-asia-and-pacific>

inclusive growth.¹ The Ministerial Conference in 2020 provides an ideal opportunity to discuss these issues and consider the alignment of the Decade with the current global development context.

The 2019 meeting of the Regional Steering Group will provide the Secretariat and partners with further guidance in the conduct of the midterm review and regional priorities to be included in the Ministerial Conference. The meeting is timely to initiate analytical work to support deliberations and decisions by the Ministerial Conference on these matters.

Objectives

The RSG meeting is held to support the midterm review of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade, 2015-2024. The midterm review includes country progress reports, a regional synthesis report, and the second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific.

The meeting will focus on:

1. How to support countries to ensure submissions of midterm evaluation reports
 - a. Feedback from countries on progress with their midterm reports so far
 - b. Discussion on potential further support to countries
2. Preparatory work for the Ministerial Conference (main event)
 - a. Briefing on the planned preparatory process for the Ministerial Conference
 - b. Discussion of elements to be covered in the regional synthesis report
 - c. Discussing key issues and responsibilities for additional analytical work, such as the link between CRVS and SDGs, ID systems, gender equality, interoperability, innovative technologies and whole-of-government approaches to improving CRVS.
 - d. Proposing and discussing possible content of the draft outcome document of the Ministerial Conference.
 - e. Communication and advocacy for the Ministerial Conference
3. Preparatory work for the Ministerial Conference (side events and special sessions)
 - a. Briefing on the potential for side events and special sessions to be held in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference
 - b. Identifying key issues and responsibilities for side events and special sessions
4. Working arrangements of the Regional Steering Group:
 - a. Discussing focus and modality for RSG support to the midterm review, including ensuring quality and high response rate for country midterm reporting.
 - b. Reporting back from the task force on capacity development of supply side, primarily on information on causes of death established at the 3rd RSG
 - c. Develop Terms of references and organize the work of the 4 task forces established at the 4th meeting of the RSG
 - i. conduct of the midterm review of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework;

- ii. clarification of linkages among civil registration and vital statistics, legal identity and related issues;
 - iii. clarification of linkages between civil registration and vital statistics and the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - iv. and identification of events for advocacy at the Ministerial Conference.
- d. Assessment of the work of the Regional Steering Group 2015-2019 and advice for organization of the work of the new group 2020-2024

Format of the meeting

The meeting will be hosted by ESCAP at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC). It will feature presentations from RSG members, ESCAP and other development partners engaged in conducting CRVS improvement activities. The meeting will be designed to stimulate interaction, knowledge and information exchange, and networking among participants.

As in previous years, a CRVS marketplace will feature and allow interested countries and partners to showcase their new initiatives and ideas. The marketplace will facilitate informal dialogue between countries and partners. *A separate note with further information will be circulated shortly.*

Participants

As per its terms of reference, the current composition of the Regional Steering Group is valid until the end of 2019 and a new group for the term 2020-2024 was approved by the 75th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held in May 2019. To support continuity, both 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 members of the Regional Steering Group will be invited for the meeting. Participants will be Regional Steering Group members or their chosen alternates. In addition, other Members and Associate members of ESCAP and development partners and donors can participate as observers.

Language

The working language of the meeting will be English.

Meeting of the Asia-Pacific CRVS partnership, 16 September 2019

The CRVS partnership supporting the implementation of the RAF will meet on 16 September 2019 (the day prior to the start of the RSG) at the same venue. *More information to follow.*