

Universal Civil Registration and Reliable Vital Statistics

Getting the Basics Right for Development

2014 Ministerial Meeting on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

Did you know?

- **The majority** of countries in Asia and the Pacific do not have universal civil registration and reliable vital statistics.
- **One to two-thirds** of children in Asia and the Pacific have not had their birth registered.
- **Less than 1 in 10** children in some South Asian countries have had their birth registered.
- **Around two-thirds** of deaths are unregistered or incorrectly certified.



Alarming, millions of people in Asia and the Pacific live and die without leaving an official trace.

Without registering their births, marriages, divorces, adoptions and deaths, these people, many of whom are members of marginalized populations, are consequently missing out on a range of critical rights, protections and entitlements. Meanwhile, without the crucial planning and monitoring tool of reliable statistics on these life events, governments and the development community are struggling to understand who has been excluded, who needs help, and how to design targeted policy responses.

In November 2014, a Ministerial Meeting will be held with the aim of accelerating efforts to address this urgent issue by improving civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific. It comes at the request of governments of the region, who through a resolution in May 2013 called for the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and development partners to convene the Ministerial Meeting.

Why CRVS must be prioritized

Universal civil registration and reliable vital statistics are basics of development: they are essential for protecting and fulfilling people's rights, and for achieving good governance. In addition, they contribute to poverty eradication, maintaining the rule of law, modernizing and streamlining the delivery of public services, and accurate monitoring of progress towards achieving national and international development goals, such as the MDGs.

Civil registration is critical for individuals since it represents official recognition that they exist as a person and establishes their legal identity. This in

turn is the basis for exercising a wide range of rights and accessing essential services like healthcare, education, and social welfare and protection. For example, birth registration proves where and when a child was born and who their parents are, which can be crucial in establishing nationality and preventing statelessness. Likewise, registering life events is necessary to unlock entitlements, such as the need to register a death for relatives to claim inheritance. Civil registration is effectively the foundation of the social contract between the individual and the State.

Civil registration is also a means of empowerment and strongly linked with equity and inclusive development. Importantly, civil registration facilitates formal ownership of land, businesses and other property, which contributes to economic and social development. Other activities that are enabled by civil registration include: voting and participating in political processes, migration, opening bank accounts, applying for credit, enrolling in university and seeking formal employment.

What is civil registration?

Civil registration is the process of officially recording and documenting the occurrence and details of the important events in people's lives, which are:

- **Birth**
- **Adoption**
- **Marriage**
- **Divorce**
- **Death** (including the cause of death)

Registering these life events serves the fundamental purpose of establishing the legal identity of individuals, and consequently defines the relationship that they have with society and their government. At the same time, civil registration is the best source of vital statistics in terms of completeness, accuracy and timeliness.

Since they do not exist under the eyes of the law, people who are not registered are at greater risk of human smuggling, trafficking and exploitation. Civil registration is thus a key tool of protection, especially for vulnerable populations such as refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities and displaced persons.

Civil registration is the underpinning for authorities to establish and ensure the integrity of population databases, identity card systems and voter lists.

Universal civil registration is the only way to generate complete, accurate and continuous vital statistics, which allow governments to better respond to the needs of their populations, particularly marginalized, remote and underserved groups. Vital statistics tell us how many people live, where they live, why people are dying and about family relationships. Vital statistics are therefore essential markers of social and economic progress, and a powerful tool for effective and efficient national and sub-national planning.

With such consequence, CRVS represents a fundamental function and responsibility of government.

November 2014: Ministerial Meeting on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

The Ministerial Meeting will build on a rapidly growing momentum that has galvanized governments and the development community to act. Since 2010, 48 governments in the region have completed a rapid assessment of CRVS in their country and 26 governments have or are in the process of conducting comprehensive assessments that will lead to national improvement plans.

The ministerial meeting will have three key objectives:

1. **Increased awareness of the importance of universal civil registration and reliable vital statistics**, including pushing for this issue to figure in the post-2015 development agenda.
2. **Firm commitment and accountability from governments**, through a Ministerial Declaration and endorsement of a regional action plan, that they will prioritize the improvement of CRVS.
3. **A harmonized approach by development partners for the support that they provide to countries.**

Preparatory consultations with governments and development partners will be organized throughout 2013 and 2014 to ensure that, for the first time ever in Asia and the Pacific, all of the diverse aspects of CRVS are brought together and reflected in a shared and practical vision for the region. The consultations

Key information

- Will be held in the week of 17 to 21 November 2014, **coinciding with the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November.**
- Ministers representing the civil registration, health and statistics sectors of over 60 countries will be invited to attend.
- Called for by governments through ESCAP resolution 69/15.
- Builds on the highly successful High-level Meeting on CRVS held in Bangkok in December 2012, which was attended by over 230 senior officials from 46 countries and 22 organizations.
- The planning process will be guided by the Regional Steering Group on CRVS, which is made up of government representatives.

will review the Ministerial Declaration and regional action plan, including a conference of civil registrars from around the region. In addition, expert consultations will be held on the different development perspectives on CRVS, which will contribute to the planning of the Ministerial Meeting and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practice. These consultations will also be an opportunity to identify financing gaps that need to be filled to allow adequate investment to support building strong efforts to improve CRVS.

How to help *Get the Basics Right*

A working group of organizations (logos above) is initiating the planning of the Ministerial Meeting and its preparatory consultations. The working group is consulting with governments and other development partners to decide on the focus, dates and locations of the preparatory consultations, as well as arranging advocacy activities to elevate the profile of the ministerial meeting and the issue of CRVS. This ongoing collaboration will be central to the success of the Ministerial Meeting.

The working group is now looking for:

- **A host government for the Ministerial Meeting in November 2014.**
- **Donors to help realize the Ministerial Meeting and its preparatory consultations, including to ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders and to support advocacy activities.**
- **Support for the implementation of the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting.**

For more information about the 2014 Ministerial Meeting on CRVS, please contact Jonathan Marskell (ESCAP) at marskell@un.org

我们的产品



大数据平台

国内宏观经济数据库

国际经济合作数据库

行业分析数据库

条约法规平台

国际条约数据库

国外法规数据库

即时信息平台

新闻媒体即时分析

社交媒体即时分析

云报告平台

国内研究报告

国际研究报告

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_5602

