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## CRVS Insight

### January 2025

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### **Towards Inclusivity: Development of Civil Registration in Indonesia 2019-2023**

BPS - Statistics Indonesia has launched a new report titled "Towards Inclusivity: Development of Civil Registration in Indonesia 2019-2023". The report highlights progress made by the Indonesian government in improving its civil registration system.

Recent advancements in civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) include the formation of a dedicated National CRVS Committee, the creation of a comprehensive National CRVS Strategy, and the launch of several pilot projects aimed at enhancing data quality and coverage. The report underscores the critical role of inter-sectoral collaboration and community engagement in achieving universal civil registration.

Despite these achievements, the report acknowledges ongoing challenges, including the need to improve data quality, enhance data analysis and utilization, and address the specific needs of vulnerable populations. The report concludes with recommendations for strengthening Indonesia's civil registration system, emphasizing the necessity for continued investment in human resources, technology, and infrastructure.

Please click [here](#) for the report.

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## Calling civil society in Asia-Pacific: Young people and Civil Society Forum, Bangkok, 4-6 Mar 2025

The Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific will take place in June 2025. To ensure the voices of children, youth, and civil society are fully integrated into this critical event, Young People and Civil Society Forum will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from March 4-6, 2025.

This forum offers a unique opportunity for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on gender, child rights, inclusion, reaching marginalized populations, and other areas where CRVS is crucial, and young people directly impacted by CRVS systems.

Register now to join the dynamic discussions and contribute to shaping the future of CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

Details of the Civil Society Forum and the engagement with young people and CSOs can be found [here](#).

Date: Tuesday 4th Mar 2025 to Thursday 6th Mar 2025

Venue: UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Registration link: ([Please register your interest in joining the March forum here](#))

Visit the event page [here](#).

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## UNICEF releases 2025 Global Outlook report

UNICEF's recently released 2025 Global Outlook report, "Prospects for Children in 2025: Building Resilient Systems for Children's Futures," underscores the critical role of robust Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems in safeguarding children's rights and well-being.

The report highlights that millions of children worldwide lack legal identity, leaving them invisible to governments and denied access to essential services like education, healthcare, and social protection. This lack of legal identity makes children vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking, and other forms of abuse.

The 2025 Global Outlook report urges governments and international organizations to prioritize the well-being of children and build more resilient systems to protect them from the growing crises they face.

Please click [here](#) for the report.

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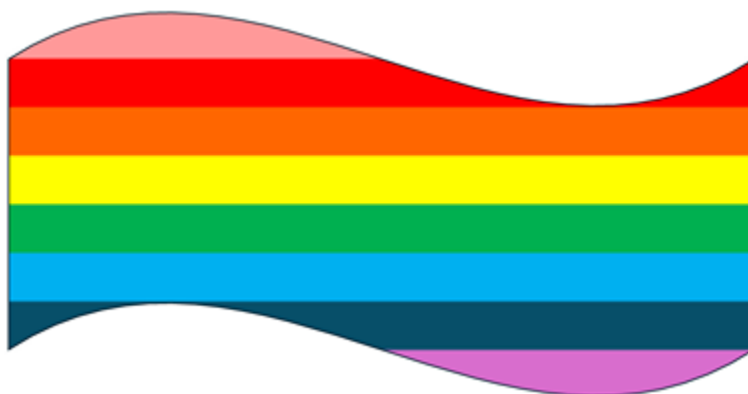
## **New round of funding announced for Data for Health Global Grants Program**

The Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative's Global Grants Program (GGP) is launching a new round of funding for projects that strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems and promote the analysis and use of high-quality data for public health policymaking.

Eligible applicants include ministries of health and relevant agencies in low- and middle-income countries that have not previously received funding from the Data for Health Initiative.

Candidates can apply for grant periods of up to 15 months with a maximum award amount of \$100,000. The first phase of applications must be submitted between 27 January - 17 February 2025 for screening. Please see [here](#) for details and links to apply.

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## **Thailand's Marriage Equality Law Takes Effect in January 2025**

Thailand has made a historic stride in LGBTQ+ rights with the enactment of its marriage equality law in January 2025. This law amends the Civil and Commercial Code to officially recognize same-sex unions, providing equal rights and benefits to same-sex couples.

In preparation, the Department of Provincial Administration (DPA), Ministry of Interior, has trained officials nationwide on the new procedures for registering same-sex marriages. The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system has also been updated to ensure a smooth transition. Same-sex couples can now register their marriages at any district office across Thailand.

For further details, please click [here](#) to read the full news article.

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## **Statistics Denmark: The Right to be Counted!**

Statistics Denmark highlighted the critical importance of civil registration and identification systems in their latest news article, ["The Right to Be Counted!"](#)

Civil registration systems have become a fundamental civil right. These systems, which include birth certificates, national ID cards, and social security numbers, are crucial for individuals to exercise their democratic rights and access essential social services. However, significant challenges such as data privacy, accessibility, and potential misuse persist.

Civil registration systems are vital because they enable governments to recognize individuals and ensure they are counted. This recognition is essential for guaranteeing access to basic rights, including voting, social security, and civic engagement. Without formal recognition, millions of people worldwide are excluded from these rights.

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Photo credit: General Department of Identification, Ministry of Interior, Cambodia

## **Civil Registration Professionals in South-East Asia Unite!**

The second meeting of the South-East Asia Civil Registration Professionals Network (SEA CRN) was held from 14 to 16 January 2025 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. ESCAP co-organized the meeting alongside CDC Foundation, UNFPA, and Vital Strategies, with Cambodia's General Department of Identification (GDI) as the host. The Director General of GDI and UN Resident Coordinator in Cambodia opened the meeting, and over 85 participants were in attendance. The meeting brought together civil registration professionals from 10 South-East Asian countries and Papua New Guinea to share experiences on areas of common priorities, identify focus areas and ways of working for the SEA CRN moving forward, and prepare for the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. The three day meeting included a half-day field visit to the sub-regional, commune-level health centre and civil registration office to learn about the notification and registration processes of vital events at the local level in Cambodia.

At the end of the meeting, participants agreed to participate in quarterly virtual meetings to share progress and learn from their peers. A South-East Asia sub-regional forum is being planned for 23 June 2025 as an associated event to the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

For more information on the meeting including meeting materials, please refer to this [link](#).

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## **CRVS Business Process Improvement Workshop in India**

Jharkhand's Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), together with UNICEF and ESCAP, organized a 2-day inception workshop to launch the CRVS Business Process Improvement (BPI) project in Ranchi, India from 7 to 8 January 2025. Over 40 CRVS stakeholders covering many of the 24 districts in the State of Jharkhand participated in the workshop including representatives from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Planning and Development, Directorate of Census Operations, Department of Women, Child Development and Social Welfare, government and private hospitals and Urban Local Bodies. The workshop was opened by Mr. Mast Ram Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary, Planning and Development and Mr. Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Dr. Kaninika Mitra, Chief, UNICEF Jharkhand Field Office and Dr. Petra Nahmias, Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, ESCAP.

During this participatory workshop, stakeholders documented and mapped out current birth and death registration processes for vital events occurring at home/in the community, in government hospitals and at private hospitals, including the sub-processes that occur at different facilities. This was followed by in-depth discussions to identify the bottlenecks and performance issues affecting the current functioning of the CRVS system in Jharkhand, with the aim of strengthening the system and improving the quality of data collected and the use of this information for evidence-based decision-making. Over the next two months, stakeholders will be consulted to validate the outcomes from the workshop, before convening for a consultation and capacity building workshop in early 2025 to develop improvement policies and redesigned processes.

Read more about this project [here](#).

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Photo credit: Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Improvement Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative

## **Ethiopian Delegation Studies Thailand's Civil Registration System**

A delegation of 12 Ethiopian officials, led by Ms. Selamawit Dawit, Director-General of the Immigration and Citizenship Service (ICS) together with representatives from the Ethiopian Statistics Service (ESS), recently visited Thailand's Bureau of Registration Administration (BORA), Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA), Ministry of Interior of Thailand to learn about the country's successful transition to a digital civil registration system.

Coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA), the study visit aimed to provide insights for Ethiopia as it seeks to modernize its manual civil registration system.

The management of BORA: Ms. Suchada Khumwong, Deputy Director on digital technology and data system and Mr. Veenus Sisuk, Advisor of the BORA and former Director of the BORA provided welcoming remarks and presentation to the Delegation. The Ethiopian delegation participated in discussions and site visits to a local registration office, gaining firsthand experience of Thailand's digital system in action.

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## Webinar series: Right to identity and access to justice

The Identity Rights Working Group, co-chaired by CHIP and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), has launched a webinar series focusing on access to justice and effective remedies for children whose identity rights have been contravened. The series builds upon the valuable insights gained from a recent expert meeting that brought together key stakeholders, including members of the CRC Committee, UN agencies, NGOs, academics, and individuals with lived experience.

The series offers four 90-minute webinars, mirroring the structure and themes of the previous expert meeting. For the more details on the webinar series, please visit the information page [here](#). Webinar 3 and Webinar 4 will take place in February and March 2025.

Webinar 3 (18 February 2025) - Speedily re-establishing missing elements of children's identity in emergency situations: please see information and register [here](#).

Webinar 4 (4 March 2025) - Right to family relations and access to justice and effective remedies: please see information and register [here](#).



## Demography Resources from UNFPA

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) have offered two insightful resources for a better understanding of population dynamics to develop effective policies and programs that address the evolving needs of communities.

[Population Analysis for Policies & Programmes](#): This course primarily focuses on introducing users to the methods employed by demographers to analyze population data, including data sources and collection methodologies. Real-world examples illustrate the types of issues demographers investigate.

[Tools for Demographic Estimation](#): This user-friendly website equips researchers with essential methods to estimate demographic parameters accurately, even in challenging data scenarios.

Visit the [Get in the Picture website](#) to explore free eLearning courses from different providers and register for the ones that align with your professional development goals.

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### NEW RESOURCES

- [CRVS-related eLearning courses](#)
- [Civil Registration and Vital Statistics \(CRVS\) – Priorities and Actions Key actions areas for a strengthened CRVS system in Lao PDR \(2024\)](#)

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### EVENTS

- [Global calendar of statistical events](#)
- [SPC Statistics for Development Division event calendar](#)
- [27 January 2025: Stats Cafe: CRVS inclusivity](#)
- [27 January 2025: CRVS Closing Workshop for Assessing Inequalities in Registration, Bhutan](#)
- [4 - 6 March 2025: Children, Youth and Civil Society Forum](#)
- [16 - 18 June 2025: 4th International Forum on Migration Statistics \(IFMS 2025\), Malmö, Sweden](#)
- [24 - 26 June 2025: Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#)

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### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- [ESCAP: INTERN – STATISTICS DIVISION - Civil Registration and Vital Statistic \(CRVS\)](#)
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