
CRVS Insight

October 2024



Extended Deadline for CART 2025 Applications

Are you working with CRVS and have some questions that you want to explore in more depth?

The CRVS Applied Research Training (CART) initiative aims to strengthen CRVS systems by supporting applied research on effective strategies, interventions, and tools. Current researchers in the program are developing cutting-edge solutions to address critical challenges. You can learn more about their profiles and their research projects on [this link](#). Prospective applicants for 2025 have until **November 8** to submit their applications for the next cohort. For further details, visit the [CART website](#).

We encourage any CRVS practitioners in Asia and the Pacific with a research idea to consider applying.



Online birth registration is now available in Japan

Under Japan's family registration law, parents must submit a birth registration document and a doctor-issued birth certificate to their municipal government within 14 days of their child's birth. From the end of August 2024, physical submission of necessary documents to a municipal government is no longer required. Both birth registrations and birth certificates can be submitted online in Japan. By 2026, the government aims to further streamline the process by enabling medical institutions to send birth certificates directly to municipalities as electronic data.

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



CRVS completeness assessment workshop in Cambodia

In collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) of Cambodia, Vital Strategies and ESCAP organised a three-day hands-on training workshop in Phnom Penh from October 7-9, 2024, as part of the CRVS completeness assessment initiative. The workshop focused on using data from the 2024 Cambodia Intercensal Survey (CIPS) to assess the completeness of birth and death registrations at both national and sub-administrative levels. Participants were introduced to small area estimation (SAE) techniques, particularly the Elbow, Lanjouw and Lanjouw (ELL) method, to calculate registration completeness in areas with limited data. Remote mentoring will follow to support the finalisation of the assessment.



New Global Alliance launched for joint action to end statelessness

During the annual Executive Committee meeting of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in Geneva on Monday, 14 October, a new global initiative, the [Global Alliance to End Statelessness](#), was formally launched. The initiative builds on the successes of the #iBelong initiative and the decade-long progress towards ending statelessness. During the meeting, over 30 countries announced their intention to join as members or support the Global Alliance's work.

The Chairman of the State Migration Service of Turkmenistan handed over a note on Turkmenistan's accession to the Global Alliance to End Statelessness to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on Wednesday, 16 October. The UN praised the efforts of the leadership of Turkmenistan to eradicate known cases of statelessness. In September, Turkmenistan granted citizenship to more than 1,000 stateless persons, fulfilling its obligations under the UN #iBelong campaign, making Turkmenistan one of the first countries to successfully achieve the program's goals.

Read more on the launch of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness [here](#).

Read more on Turkmenistan joining the Global Alliance to End Statelessness [here](#).



UNICEF and UNHCR urge urgent action to end childhood statelessness

8 October marks International Birth Registration Day every year. For 2024, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, come together to call for increased awareness of the importance of birth registration, as birth registration is the first legal recognition of every person’s legal identity. Without a birth registration, a child may become stateless, leaving them with higher risk of exploitation and abuse.

In Thailand, both UNICEF and UNHCR have worked closely with the Government to raise awareness and facilitate birth registration to accelerate towards ending childhood statelessness. In April, the Royal Thai Government joined the Global Alliance to End Statelessness in order to reaffirm the country's continued commitment to resolving and preventing statelessness. Thailand has also undertaken considerable legal and policy reform to its nationality and civil registration laws since 2008 to improve a legislative framework that offers pathways for access to nationality.

Throughout October and November, a video series telling stories of children who were born stateless in Thailand will be featured on UNICEF and UNHCR's social media platforms.

Read more on this article [here](#).



Indonesia releases its first Vital Statistics Report

Indonesia's Vital Statistics Report 2019-2023, released in October, is the country's first vital statistics report. The report outlines the progress of vital event registration in Indonesia and presents vital statistics on critical data, like births and deaths, from 2019-2023. The report was developed as a collaborative effort between BPS-Statistics Indonesia, the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), the Ministry of Health (MOH), and the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) with support from Vital Strategies.

Click [here](#) for the report.



Global Grants Program selects 13 gender equity projects with five new partner countries

Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative's Global Grants Program (GGP) called for proposals earlier this year for the new round of support for projects focused on gender equity. This round supports projects that will improve the use and dissemination of sex and gender data for decision-making and policy change, focusing on advancing gender equity to promote public health in the core thematic areas of civil registration and vital statistics, data use for decision-making, and population-based cancer registries.

The GGP has selected 13 projects, and this round will expand the Data for Health Initiative to five new partner countries in Asia and the Pacific: Bhutan, Uzbekistan, Samoa, Tonga, and Niue.

Please click [here](#) for more details on the Global Grants Program (GGP).



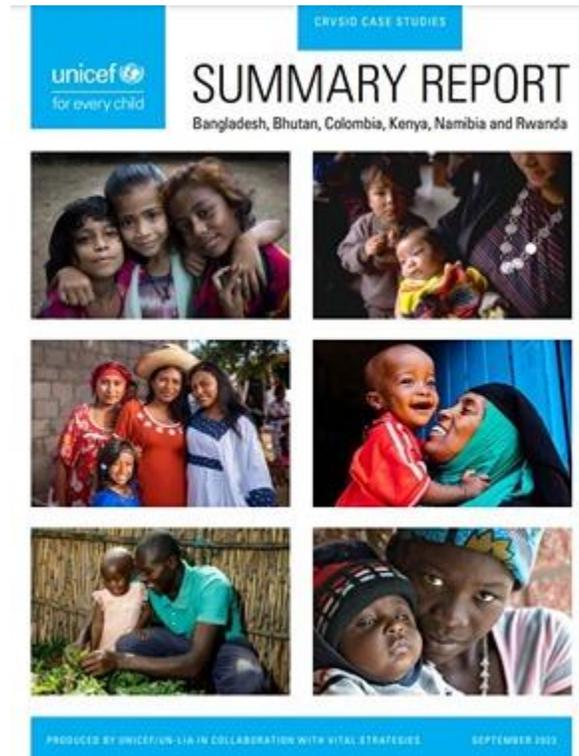
90M Filipinos Now Registered in the National ID System

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) hosted the 3rd Philippine Identity Summit on 16 September 2024. The Summit highlighted the accomplishments of the National ID system, and promoted collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the exploration of technological innovations in e-governance.

The national ID system has shown a transformative impact, providing a secure, reliable and valid proof of identity, enabling access to financial services and social protection programs. The PSA has also collaborated with various institutions to make National ID services, including registration, more convenient and accessible. As of 19 September 2024,

90,017,181 Filipinos had been registered in the National ID System, reaching 97.8% of the 92 million targets for this year.

Read full article [here](#).



Integrating CRVSID: In-depth case studies on six countries

The UN Legal Identity Agenda (UNLIA) actively promotes and assists member states in the initial management and integration of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and National ID systems (CRVSID) systems.

On behalf of the UNLIA Taskforce, UNICEF has conducted detailed case studies on six countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Kenya, Namibia, and Rwanda. The countries have successfully established or are in the process of establishing CRVSID systems. These studies explore key issues such as stock-building, the connections between civil registration and population databases, and the transition to steady-state systems.

The report compares progress, highlights best practices and lessons for governments and partners, and stresses the importance of South-South learning and sharing knowledge to help countries integrate CRVSID systems.

Click [here](#) for the report.



Photo credit: Vital Strategies

Workshop on Developing Capacity to Strengthen Vital Statistics Production Processes in India

Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative and Vital Strategies recently hosted a five-day workshop in New Delhi, India aimed at strengthening vital statistics production processes in over 10 countries across Africa and the Asia-Pacific.

The workshop, which concluded on 4 October 2024, brought together a diverse group of participants, including government officials, experts, UN representatives, and partners. Through a series of interactive sessions and practical exercises, the event focused on equipping attendees with the necessary knowledge, tools, and technical expertise to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems. The workshop also provided a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration among participants.

Read more on the article [here](#).



Training workshop to enhance understanding and reporting of inequalities in civil registration of births and deaths in Bhutan

Two capacity building workshops were held 24-27 September and 30 September-3 October in Paro, Bhutan. With participants from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bhutan Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Health and Department of Immigration, the workshops provided an opportunity for a large variety of stakeholders to get an in depth understanding on the production of demographic indicators. This included multiple hands-on exercises and analysis of the benefit and downsides of using census and civil registration data for the analysis of population, fertility and mortality estimates.

The workshops were part of ESCAP's support to develop a CRVS inequality assessment in Bhutan as part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data 4 Health initiative. The final report is expected to be finalized in early 2025. Bhutan will be continuing the analysis of CRVS accessibility and completeness with a gender perspective as part of the activities supported by the Global Grants Programme.

Please click [here](#) for event details.

Seventy-ninth session
Item 71 (b) of the provisional agenda^a
Human rights questions, including alternative approaches
for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and
fundamental freedoms

Human rights of migrants

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Gehad Madi, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 52/28.



Report launch: Children are children first and foremost: Protecting child rights in migration contexts

In 2020, a record-high 35.5 million international migrant children were living outside their home countries. These children faced many dangers, including violence, mistreatment, exploitation, and neglect. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Mr. Gehad Madi, wrote a report to the United Nations General Assembly about the issue of children on the move.

The report underscores the comprehensive protection afforded to child rights under international law, a protection that extends to all children irrespective of their migration status. The report delves into the contemporary human rights challenges confronting children within migratory contexts. The analysis calls for global attention on the pressing issues affecting the rights of children in migratory settings and establish a foundation for prioritized action going forward.

Click [here](#) for the report.



Indonesia's national digital population identity progress

At the Identity Week Asia 2024, held in October 2024, Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration (Dukcapil) has outlined a progressive plan to modernize the nation's population and civil registration system. A cornerstone of this evolution is the integration of Digital Population Identity (IKD) as a seamless extension of existing legal identities.

A significant milestone has been achieved with the onboarding of 12.3 million Indonesian citizens and 13 government agencies and banks onto the IKD. It is a step toward modernizing public services and enhancing their accessibility for millions of citizens.

For more details, please click [here](#).

For more information on Identity Week Asia 2024, please click [here](#).



Photo credit: Danish National Archives

Danish National Archives are digitalizing historical medical birth records

An initiative by the Danish National Archives, in partnership with the Center for Clinical Research and Prevention and Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen, is underway to digitize historical medical birth records using AI. Paper records for over four million individuals born between 1926 and the 1970s are being transformed into a digital database.

The project, funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation, is expected to be completed by 2029. Once finalized, the database will be made readily available to researchers under the usual regulations governing access to national data in Denmark.

For more information please click [here](#).



CRVS Champion: Tashi Dorjee

Our community newsletter puts a spotlight on people who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to support CRVS programmes in Asia and the Pacific, raise awareness of CRVS issues or lead CRVS improvement efforts in their home country or in the region. This month, we would like to dedicate this issue of Insight to Tashi Dorjee.

What is your current title and role?

I serve as the Chief of the Social Statistics Division at the National Statistics Bureau in Bhutan. My work involves leading the planning and execution of several key surveys and censuses, including the Population and Housing Census, Bhutan Living Standard Survey, and the Labour Force Survey. I also oversee the analysis of data from the surveys and censuses, as well as the data from the Bhutan Civil Registration System (BCRS), to produce critical reports like the vital statistics report, the census report, living standard survey report, labour force survey report.

Beyond these, I contribute to creating thematic reports of policy relevance. These include reports on poverty analysis including the multidimensional poverty index (MPI), small area estimates of poverty, labor market dynamics, population projections, and rural-urban migration, demographic dividend among others. My role centers on using data to help shape policies that improve the well-being of the people in Bhutan.

Can you please share with us a particular experience which highlighted the importance of CRVS to you?

Working on the Vital Statistics Report has highlighted the ongoing challenge of incomplete birth and death registrations in Bhutan. Achieving completeness in vital event registration is crucial for accurate policy formulation and resource allocation. This realization has

strengthened my commitment to improving registration rates, particularly by collaborating with key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health. Together, we are striving to ensure that every birth and death is captured accurately, leaving no gaps in the data.

One of the biggest challenges lies in death registration, which remains particularly low. It's important to investigate the underlying reasons for this. There is a prevailing notion among data users that one factor contributing to low death registration is the lack of incentive for families to register deaths of children under eight years old. Addressing this issue requires a collaborative effort, as no single agency can tackle it in isolation.

To enhance the completeness of our data, we are working with both ministries to ensure we capture all vital events in the numerator of our statistics. Meanwhile, the denominator, or expected number of events, is derived from different sources. Based on my experience, I believe that achieving a 100% completeness rate may require transitioning from our current system of data collection to a more robust and integrated population register. Such a system would enable us to track vital events more accurately, ensuring that no one is left out and that our data fully supports effective policy-making and resource allocation.

How are you currently involved in CRVS improvements?

I first became involved with CRVS in 2014 when I attended the World Health Organization's Technical Discussions on improving civil registration and vital statistics. That event sparked my interest, and since then, I've been fully committed to advancing CRVS systems in Bhutan.

In 2016, we have collaborated with UNESCAP on a project to produce our country's first vital statistics report. Through continuous capacity-building efforts supported by UNESCAP, we successfully published the first report in 2021. Since then, this has become an annual publication of the National Statistics Bureau.

To ensure there is continuous and smooth data sharing, we have initiated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Civil Registration and Census under the Ministry of Home Affairs who is the data holder. Currently, we are working with UNESCAP on an Inequality Assessment of birth and death registration data using the data from the Bhutan Civil Registration System (BCRS). Additionally, through the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Data for Health Initiative, we are initiating a gender-based assessment of the CRVS system, focusing on improving gender equity in vital registration.

In addition to my work on vital statistics, I have played a key role in the establishment of the CRVS Steering Committee and the CRVS Technical Committee. These committees are crucial for coordinating and advancing the civil registration and vital statistics agenda in Bhutan. I have also been involved in preparing the Multinational Strategic Action Plan of the CRVS, working closely with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Home Affairs. This plan is a collaborative effort to ensure that Bhutan's CRVS system is robust, inclusive, and aligned with international standards.

Which advice would you give to others trying to improve CRVS systems?

Working in silos is no longer effective for improving the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system. Progress requires collaboration among data holders and key stakeholders, sharing insights to address gaps in data collection and system efficiency. A crucial element is establishing a continuous feedback loop, enabling regular evaluation and real-time improvements. Feedback from agencies like NSO, communities, and partners helps refine data quality and address challenges. By fostering open communication, data sharing, and engaging all relevant agencies, we can create a more accurate and inclusive CRVS system that supports effective policy-making and ensures no one is left behind.

NEW RESOURCES

- [Report of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on its Tenth meeting](#)
 - [2024 ESCAP population data sheet](#)
 - [Vital Strategies and UNICEF signed a new partnership agreement to support governments in achieving universal birth and death registration](#)
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Global calendar of statistical events](#)
- [SPC Statistics for Development Division event calendar](#)
- [29 - 30 October 2024: The consultation on CRVS inequality assessment in Indonesia](#)
- [1 November 2024: Associated event to the 4th Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics: Navigating the nexus between disaster related statistics and civil registration and vital statistics systems for risk-informed development](#)
- [25 November 2024: CR8 - 2024 Q4 Meeting of the Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia](#)
- [11 - 13 December 2024: 7th Conference on Technical Cooperation & Capacity Building for Border Management and Identity \(BMIC\)](#)
- [11 - 13 December 2024: The ninth session of the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#)
- [4 - 6 March 2025: Children, Youth and Civil Society Forum](#)

- [16 - 18 June 2025: 4th International Forum on Migration Statistics \(IFMS 2025\), Malmö, Sweden: Call for proposals](#)
 - [24 - 26 June 2025: Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#)
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If you have a new resource, upcoming event or article you would like highlighted, please send submissions along with an accompanying photo to escap-crvs@un.org.

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