



Inclusive, Resilient, and Digital Civil Registration: A Foundation for Trusted Digital Identity and Digital Public Infrastructure

Date: Monday, June 23, 2025 – 14:00 to 17:00

Organisers: Vital Strategies, UNDP, World Bank, UNICEF and UNHCR

Background:

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems play a critical role in recording the occurrence and characteristics of vital events, such as births and deaths, in a continuous, permanent, compulsory, universal, and confidential manner. As such, these systems serve significant legal, administrative, and statistical purposes.

As part of the legal and administrative function, civil registration underpins access to many public and private sector services by providing individuals with a foundational legal identity. This means that certificates issued by the civil registration authority enable access to other physical and digital credentials in the identity ecosystem which are needed to access services and to exercise civil and political rights (e.g., the right to vote and the right to run for office). Establishing an inclusive, resilient, and digitized civil registration strengthens the identity ecosystem in various ways:

- **Legal recognition:** By basing identity credentials on civil registration records, the identity system can issue (digital) credentials containing the legally valid characteristics of individuals.
- **Seamless data continuity:** CRVS systems continuously capture birth and death, ensuring a continuous flow of up-to-date data from a single source of truth.
- **Inclusiveness and equity:** Proactive and universal civil registration processes promote inclusivity, especially benefiting marginalized groups, and ensuring that no one is left behind.
- **Efficiency:** Digitalized CRVS system enable interoperability and efficient data sharing for the provision of public and private sector services where data is collected once and used several times.
- **Trust:** By leveraging data from reliable sources (e.g., the health sector), CRVS systems ensure the accuracy and verification of identity data, enhancing trust, integrity, and robustness of the identity ecosystem.
- **Fraud prevention:** Death registration in the CRVS system helps to prevent fraud in the identity systems by enabling the retirement of deceased identities.

As governments in Asia and the Pacific implement digital transformations, robust and trusted (digital) identity credentials are indispensable. Further, identity systems are now recognized as a cornerstone of a country's digital public infrastructure (DPI). By being linked to CRVS systems, identity systems can bolster inclusiveness, trust, and security within the DPI.

Purpose:

The Civil Registration Sectoral Forum of the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, will discuss the critical characteristics of CRVS systems to enable their full potential for all-of society progress. CRVS systems significantly contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by providing crucial, reliable data on births, deaths, and population



demographics, which acts as a fundamental basis for monitoring and measuring progress across various SDG targets, particularly those related to health, poverty, and social inclusion. The sharing of country experiences and consultations on regional and global guidance will illustrate how digital civil registration systems can effectively interoperate with identity systems and form a part of the DPI, while maintaining data protection.

Specifically, the Forum will discuss:

- Inclusive and proactive civil registration business processes: results-oriented and people-as well as process-centric approach can build proactive and robust civil registration processes which capture vital events close to the source (e.g., by collaborating with the health sector).
- Civil registration digitalization and interoperability with the ID system: opportunities and challenges for the digitalization of efficient civil registration processes and benefits of interlinkage with the (digital) identity system for the in- (at birth) and out-flow (at death) of identities, while ensuring data privacy and protection.
- Practical solutions for the late registration problem: the existence of a significant number of individuals not registered during the legal period at birth and after death presents a substantial barrier for universal civil registration and access to (digital) identity credentials. The late registration process is often overly bureaucratic and costly for the population. It is essential to define practical approaches to overcome this issue, as its impact is systemic. If not addressed, parents without proper documentation face significant challenges in registering the births of their children, leading to the risk of perpetuating the cycle of under-registration.
- Inclusive and efficient service delivery: the critical role of identity systems that are rooted in the records generated by civil registration and provide a foundational function of the DPI, to enhance good governance, enable inclusive access to public and private sector services, enable the exercise of civil and political rights and build societal trust.

Overall, the Sectoral Forum will be a vital opportunity to showcase and discuss the value of CRVS systems in the building of inclusive and robust DPI for enhanced service delivery, while incorporating international best practices and principles.

Expected Outcomes:

- Formal recognition of the essential role of CRVS as a central component of DPI.
- Actionable and adaptable insights, based on country experiences and global guidance, for the positioning of digitalized civil registration business processes in a country's identity ecosystem.
- An opportunity to discuss guidelines and recommendations on ensuring data privacy and security in digital CRVS implementation.
- A 'Call to Action' by the participating countries to link CRVS systems to (digital) identity systems and thereby increase inclusiveness and efficiency of service delivery.

Participants:

This session will bring together government representatives, policymakers, civil registration practitioners, data privacy experts, and stakeholders from international organizations and civil society organisations engaged in CRVS improvement and the building of DPI.



Session Format:

Time		Agenda Item	Modality
Setting the stage			
14:00	14:30	Opening remarks with overview of global guidance interlinking civil registration with identity systems as a core function of DPI	Panel of Organizers
Inclusive, digitalized, resilient, and proactive civil registration business processes			
14:30	14:45	Process-centric CRVS system strengthening	Presentations from two countries
14:45	15:20	Opportunities and challenges of strengthening the health-civil registration link, digitalization of civil registration, and interlinkage with identity systems	Moderated panel discussion of several countries with Q & A
15:20	15:35	Break	
Role of civil registration in DPI to enhance service delivery			
15:35	15:50	Civil registration in DPI	Presentations from two countries
15:50	16:45	Current and potential role of civil registration in DPI to enhance service delivery	World café dialogue
16:45	16:55	Highlights from the World café dialogue	
Closing			
16:55	17:00	Closing Remarks and way forward	Organizers