



Get
every one
in the picture

CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



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BIRTH REGISTRATION IS THE FIRST RIGHT IN LIFE AND THE KEY TO LEGAL IDENTITY

135
MILLION

children under the age of five in Asia and the Pacific have not had their births registered [source: UNICEF]

UNDERSTANDING WHY AND WHERE PEOPLE ARE DYING HELPS FIGHT DISEASE AND INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY

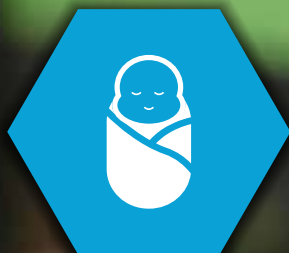
9 **OUT**
OF **10**

people in Asia and the Pacific live in countries with unreliable death statistics [source: WHO]



IT'S TIME TO GET EVERY ONE IN THE PICTURE

Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) is the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal **recording** of the **occurrence** and **characteristics** of vital events of the population in accordance with the law.



Birth



Death



Cause of death



Marriage



Adoption



Divorce



CRVS is **important** for
individuals **and** society.





OFFICIALLY REGISTERING THE **VITAL EVENTS** IN PEOPLE'S **LIVES** IS CENTRAL TO **DEVELOPMENT** AND **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

CRVS is about a person's right to recognition as a person before the law and their formal relationship with the state. It provides individuals with documentary evidence, for example a birth certificate, to prove their legal identity and family relationships, which can be important for accessing essential services such as healthcare, education and social protection. This also has implications for other ensuing rights and empowering activities such as political participation, recourse to justice, nationality, property ownership, formal employment, inheritance, and the use of banking and financial services.

Recording every life event is also an opportunity to produce the most accurate, complete and timely statistics on the health and demographics of the population, and to maintain a national civil registry or population database. Producing vital statistics through sample surveys serves a valuable function of highlighting and drawing attention to the possible scale of the situation. Surveys, however, can be costly and may not cover the most vulnerable segments of the population, nor can they be used for local planning purposes. They are not a long-term substitute for vital statistics derived from a universal CRVS system.

Knowing how many people live in the country and its subdivisions, the leading causes of death, fertility rates and life expectancy, enhances public administration and provides decision-makers with information to better respond to the needs of society through more effective, efficient and directed policies at national and local levels. This data allows the government to identify public health policy priorities and implement Universal Health Coverage.

CRVS systems are crucial for achieving and monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly those related to maternal and infant mortality. By identifying populations at risk, governments can make targeted interventions and other preventative measures.

**A POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON
POVERTY ERADICATION, GOVERNANCE,
ACCOUNTABILITY AND HEALTH MUST HAVE
CRVS AT ITS CORE.**

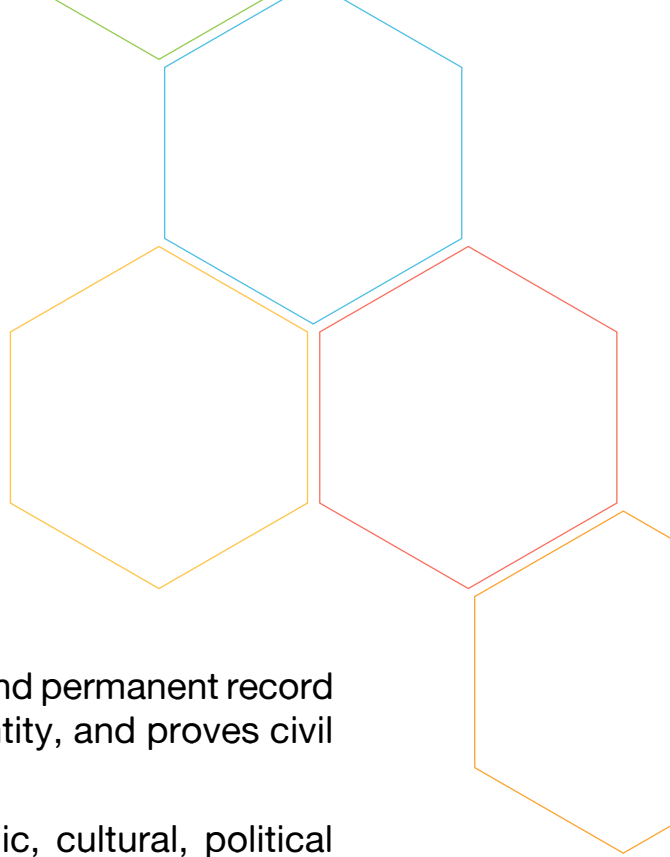




WHY IS CRVS SO IMPORTANT?

For **individuals**, CRVS:

- Provides the documentary evidence and permanent record for people to establish their legal identity, and proves civil status and family relationships
- Protects a variety of social, economic, cultural, political and human rights
- Facilitates access to essential services such as healthcare, education and social protection
- Enables political participation, property ownership, recourse to justice, formal employment, inheritance, and the use of banking and financial services
- Offers the basis for identity documents such as a passport or ID card
- Reduces the risk of statelessness, child marriage and human trafficking





The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

Article 7(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child



ગુજરાત સરકાર
નિર્વાહ અધીક્ષક
સામાજિક સેવાઓ

પરિચયપત્ર નં. ૪૭૪/૨૦૨૨/૩૮

સામાજિક સેવાઓ, સર. : સુભાષચંદ્ર બાપટ

નિર્વાહ અધીક્ષક, સર. : સુભાષચંદ્ર બાપટ

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For **society**, CRVS:

- Provides information for better social, economic, infrastructure and health policy decisions and targeted interventions
- Reinforces accountability, transparency and participation for good governance, including ensuring the integrity of electoral lists
- Enables modern public administration, national population databases and efficient resource allocation
- Allows the monitoring of levels and trends in population dynamics, fertility, mortality and causes of death, including *MDG 4: Reduce child mortality* and *MDG 5: Improve maternal health*
- Facilitates the implementation of Universal Health Coverage
- Supports disaster risk reduction and assists with post-disaster recovery

WHO ARE THE ACTORS IN A CRVS SYSTEM?



The public: Individuals and families should notify relevant authorities when a vital event has occurred in order to initiate the process of civil registration.



Civil registrar: Typically in the Ministry of Interior or Justice, and part of the local government, the civil registrar is responsible for officially registering vital events, safely archiving permanent records and maintaining public awareness of the need to register vital events. The civil registrar may also maintain the national population database, electoral lists and national identity card systems.



Ministry of Health: Many births and deaths occur in health facilities and health workers may be involved before, during, or after the vital event has taken place. The health sector therefore plays a crucial role in notifying relevant authorities that a vital event has occurred. Importantly, health workers are responsible for determining the medical causes of death and classifying those according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).



National Statistics Office (NSO): As the central authority for official statistics within a country, the NSO is responsible for ensuring that the CRVS system is designed, developed and maintained in such a way to allow for the efficient and effective production of reliable statistics according to international standards and recommendations. The improvement of CRVS systems should feature in the National Strategy for Statistics Development, if one exists.



Legislative bodies: Parliaments or other institutions that administer the laws of a country have an important function in maintaining the legal framework related to CRVS, ensuring that it is responsive and meets relevant international standards and recommendations.



Development partners: Civil society, non-government organizations, international organizations and the private sector support government efforts to achieve universal and responsive CRVS systems through advocacy, innovation, investment, capacity building and technical assistance.

Kazakhstan



Birth, death and perinatal death data are entered into a unified system that allows the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and State Statistics Committee to manage a common, real-time population registry and produce vital statistics, including daily reports of pregnancies and maternal deaths.

Uzbekistan



The government made the registration of marriages mandatory in 2009 to protect the rights of women and children, and to serve as a means to prevent underage marriages.

Pakistan



Responding to the 2013 earthquake, the National Database and Registration Authority sent mobile registration units to issue free replacement ID cards in affected communities, which aided recovery efforts and allowed people to access temporary financial relief.

Bangladesh



The Bangladesh Registration Information System (BRIS), rolled out to over 5,000 service points with UNICEF support, registered its 100 millionth birth in February 2014, just five years after it was established.



CRVS STORIES FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Mongolia



Data from the CRVS system has revealed urban-rural inequalities in maternal mortality, allowing the government to address these gaps in the Maternal Mortality Reduction Strategy for 2011-2020.

Philippines



Active outreach by the government to remote and underserved communities, particularly during the National Civil Registration Month in February each year has increased public awareness of the importance of CRVS and declaring vital events.

Thailand



The unique 13-digit population identity number system and automated notifications from hospitals to the Bureau of Registration Administration have helped Thailand achieve near universal rates of birth and death registration.

Fiji



Training for doctors on death certification provided by the University of Queensland in 2012 contributed to a dramatic increase in the percentage of deaths with correctly certified causes from 32.5% to 67.5% within a year.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE CRVS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The majority of countries in Asia and the Pacific do not have universal and responsive CRVS systems that meet relevant international standards. This hinders inclusive and sustainable development in the region and progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, such as the MDGs. In response, governments and development partners in the region have come together as part of the **Get every one in the picture** regional initiative.

Get every one in the picture aims to accelerate and focus efforts to improve CRVS systems in the region by forging political commitment, regional cooperation and accountability, facilitating exchange of knowledge and technical assistance, raising awareness, developing of innovations and making tools and resources available.

A Regional Steering Group established by member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), comprising high-level representatives of governments and development partners, provides strategic guidance and advice for the regional initiative.

Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP)

The Brisbane Accord Group (BAG), a consortium of Pacific development partners*, developed the PVSAP to promote country ownership over CRVS improvement, and to improve coordination between partner agencies. Supported by strong government commitment, it has achieved tangible results since 2011, including helping to lift birth registration coverage in 2013 from 40% to 52% in Vanuatu and 68% to 82% in Kiribati, and assessments of CRVS conducted in almost every Pacific island country.

* Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Pacific Health Information Network, University of New South Wales, Australian Bureau of Statistics, University of Queensland, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, and Queensland University of Technology.

STEPS TO IMPROVE CRVS SYSTEMS

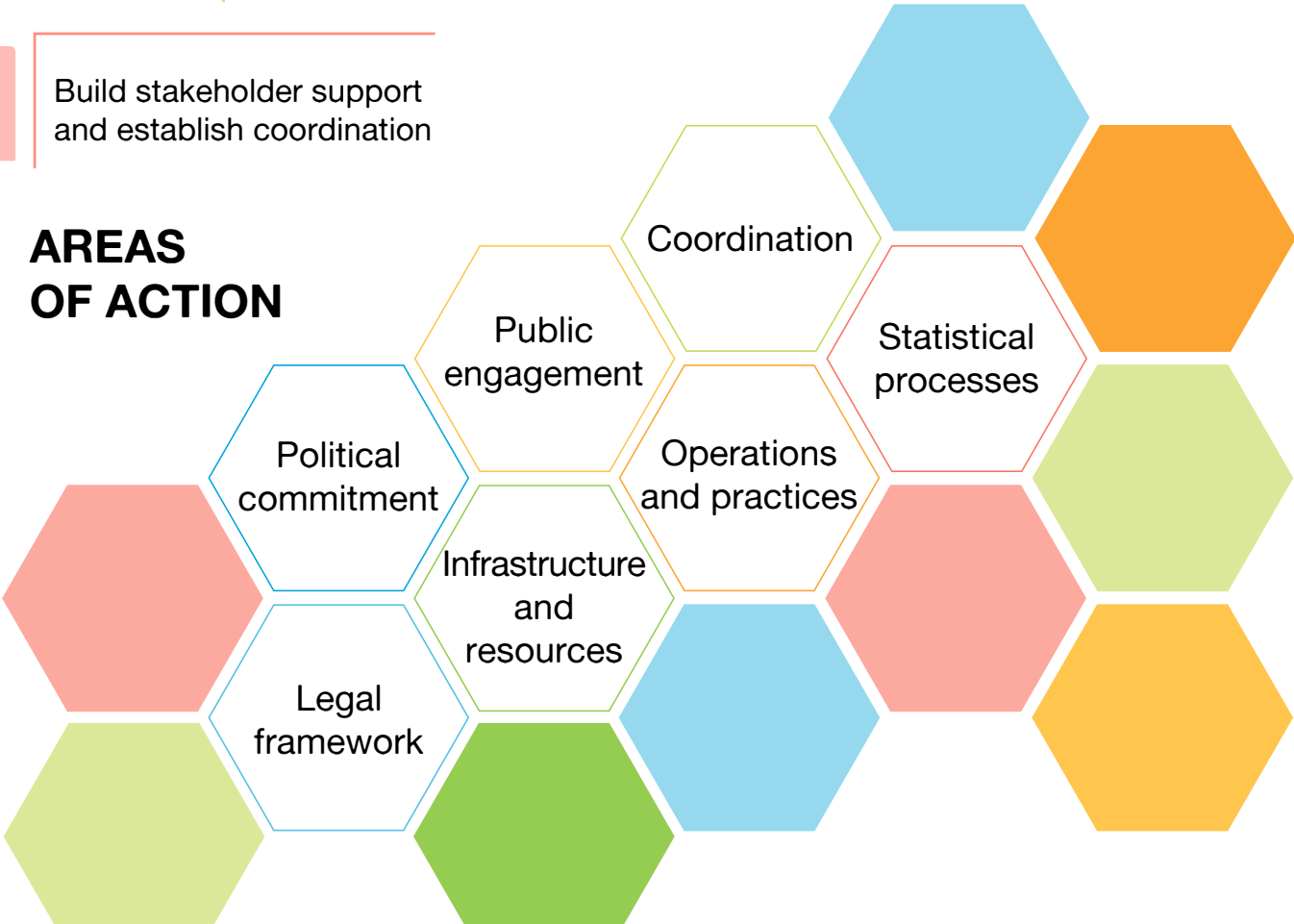
1 Build stakeholder support and establish coordination

2 Assess the CRVS system

3 Develop a multi-sectoral national strategy

4 Implement the national strategy and monitor progress

AREAS OF ACTION





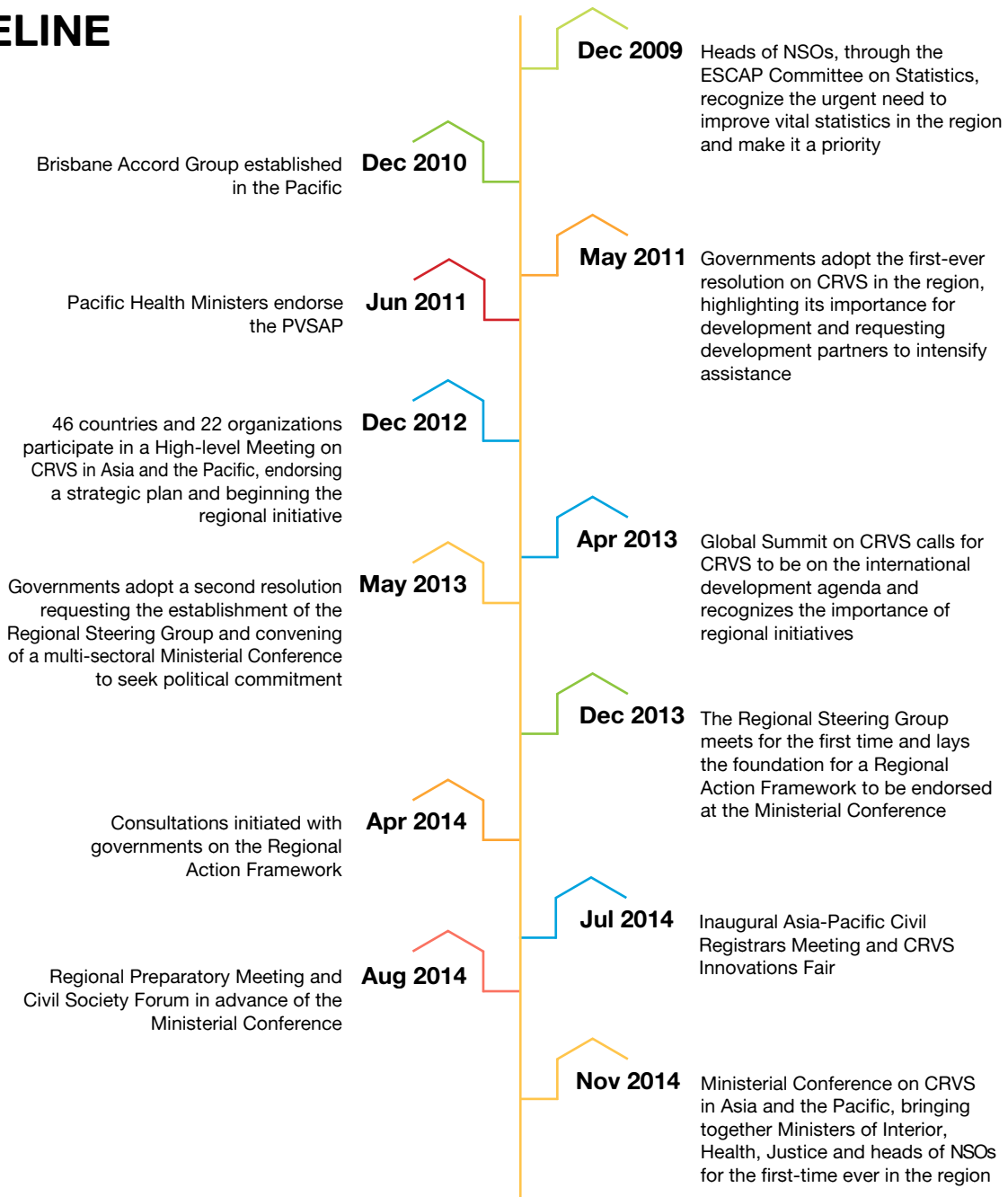
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Our region is on a journey of great consequence. CRVS systems help governments uphold their responsibility to base decisions on hard evidence and are fundamental to fulfilling the transformative shift towards inclusive and people-centered development beyond 2015.

”

Dr. Neil Sharma, Minister of Health, Fiji,
and inaugural Chair of the Regional Steering
Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

TIMELINE





**For more information, please visit
www.getinthepicture.org or contact:**

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