Inclusivity in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Concept notes

Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series, 27 January 2025, 13-14.30 (UTC+7)

Background:

Over the past decade, significant strides have been taken to enhance the registration rates of vital events. A notable achievement in Asia and the Pacific is the successful reduction in the number of children under five whose births were unregistered, declining from 135 million in 2012 to 64 million in 2019. Nonetheless, more efforts and resources are needed to accelerate progress towards the goals of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, and to extend the benefits of CRVS to all, especially the population groups furthest behind.

As part of the proclamation of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade (2015-2024), governments in the region requested that further regional action be taken to support the improvement of CRVS systems. The Regional Action Framework responds to that request as a catalyst for governments and development partners to focus and accelerate their efforts to realize a shared vision and the three CRVS goals outlined in the framework during the Decade. The mid-term review, and accompanying technical report, of progress made by countries in the Asia-Pacific region since the beginning of the Decade was able to demonstrate significant achievements in many countries in the region, yet with identified shortcomings in countries' ability to evaluate the completeness of their civil registration systems, as well as capability and capacity gaps in this sphere.

In 2022 ESCAP produced guidelines on measuring the completeness of CRVS data. Since then, multiple countries in the region have conducted assessments of inequalities in civil registration, using these guidelines or more qualitative approaches.

This Stats Café will look at the experiences of countries in estimating completeness of vital events and highlight some of the qualitative work in this area. CRVS inclusivity is one of the key themes for the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific to be held 24-26 June 2025. Therefore, the issue of inclusivity is included in the 2025 review of CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, and this Stats Café will highlight some of the initial findings on inclusivity from this

review. Further background information on inclusivity in the context of the 2025 review can be found in this information note by the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

Speakers:

"Deficiency in civil registration and vital statistics reporting in remote areas: the case of Sabah, Malaysia", survey, Mohd Sayuti, Shaari, NFP, NRD.

	**Ms Ni Ni Aung,** Freedom Fund on the 'No identity, no protection: How lack of documentation drives modern slavery' report. **Ni Ni Aung (Nini)** currently serves as an independent consultant for the Freedom Fund. Her primary role involves providing technical support to and management of the Freedom Fund's Myanmar Program, with a focus on anti-human trafficking and addressing forced marriage. Additionally, she supports and delivers program learning functions overseen by the Head of Research and Evaluation. Nini is a dedicated professional from Myanmar, specialising in anti-human trafficking and migrant protection. Previously, she devoted over seven years to serving IOM mission in Myanmar and Thailand as a project officer for Counter Human Trafficking and Migrant Assistance and Protection Programs. She provided technical services to IOM in designing and delivering training for frontline officials in Thailand and humanitarian actors in Myanmar on victim identification, referral for assistance, and anti-human trafficking and in delivering policy and partnership projects of the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process. Nini is an Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship (APS) awardee for the year 2019 and holds a master's degree in international law and human rights from the United Nations-mandated University for PEACE (UPEACE). She also

	holds a master's degree in business administration with a major in finance and banking, a master's degree in political science with a major in global politics, and a bachelor's degree in international relations. She is fluent in English, Thai, and Myanmar.
	**Katie Maskiell,** Head of Policy and Advocacy , UNICEF Australia Katie is the Head of Policy and Advocacy at UNICEF Australia. She leads the advocacy on key child rights issues in Australia and internationally, with a focus on climate change and disasters, digital safety, birth registration and humanitarian issues. Prior to UNICEF Australia, Katie worked at Social Ventures Australia for 5 years where she was an Associate Director for Policy and Advocacy and also spent ten years working in public health policy and advisory roles in WA, London, Victoria and NSW. Katie has a broad range of policy experience including in the areas of mental health, family and domestic violence, and maternal and child health.
	**Winida Albertha**, BPS Indonesia, CART participant With a diverse background in various fields of statistics, Winida now serves as a statistician specializing in population and mobility at BPS-Statistics Indonesia. Her research focuses on evaluating Indonesia's progress from 2015 to 2023, as the country nears the conclusion of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024) and the 2019-2024 mid-term development period. A key aspect of her work involves analyzing factors that influence birth certificate ownership among children under five, including regional disparities in registration completeness across Indonesia. By identifying these factors and regional differences, her research contributes to national efforts to strengthen civil registration systems, ensuring all children have access to legal identity, in alignment with global and regional commitments.

	**Moderator: Tanja Brøndsted Sejersen** is a Statistician at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). She leads the Asia- Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) initiative to 'Get Every One in the Picture'. Her work involves capacity building activities and collaboration with partners to support country action to improve national statistical systems. She has academic qualifications in demography, statistics and political science. She has conducted research on citizenship legislation and various aspects of civil registration and vital statistics.

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