

“Get Every One in the Picture”

First Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand, 28 – 30 July 2015

Meeting Report

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I. Decisions and recommendations

A. Regional Steering Group: Organization of work

1. The Regional Steering Group, reviewing its functions as outlined in its terms of reference¹, and discussing effective ways of organizing its work towards that end, decided to constitute three sub groups with specific responsibility for:
 - i. Communications and Advocacy
 - ii. Research
 - iii. Monitoring and reporting of the Regional Action Framework.
2. It was agreed that each sub group will identify its priorities and formulate a work plan, for review and approval by the Bureau. A lead person, responsible for organizing the work of the sub group, was selected for each sub group.
3. The secretariat would develop the work plan for the Regional Steering Group, a first draft of which was discussed during the meeting, incorporating the specific comments and recommendations made during the plenary discussions. The work plan would in due course be complemented by the fully developed work plans of the three sub groups. See Annex 3.

B. Regional Action Framework: Progress monitoring

4. The Regional Steering Group reviewed draft guidelines for assisting countries in setting targets and monitoring progress towards the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework (RAF). They agreed that the guidelines would constitute the main tool for regional support to RAF progress monitoring and provided the following directions for their finalization and use:
 - (a) The secretariat to revise draft guidelines incorporating inputs and suggestions from the meeting;
 - (b) The Sub group on monitoring and reporting under the leadership of the secretariat would coordinate the finalization of the guidelines and its application in countries;
 - (c) The Sub group on monitoring and reporting would support the secretariat in developing a template to support countries in their reporting;
 - (d) Members of the Regional Steering Group would actively engage with countries to ensure that the majority of countries in the region report their national targets and baseline data, as per the commitments made at the 2014 Ministerial Conference on CRVS.

B. Regional Action Framework: Regional support for implementation

5. The Regional Steering Group:
 - (a) Called for the involved development partners to formalize their partnership to further strengthen coordination and collaboration among development partners,
 - (b) Agreed to work together to ensure support from high level government officials and representatives of international organizations for the continuation of the current

¹ Terms of Reference of the Regional Steering Group endorsed by the ESCAP Commission in May 2015.
http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E71_INF9E.pdf

momentum on CRVS and stimulating further support for advancing CRVS improvements in the region.

- (c) Agreed to work together to ensure that CRVS is placed on the agenda at high level events at national, regional and international levels;
- (d) Agreed to continue advocating for increased investment in CRVS at the national, regional and global level.

II. Proceedings

Session 1: Opening

- 6. Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP secretariat delivered the inaugural remarks for the Regional Steering Group.
- 7. Mr. Jeff Montgomery, Registrar-General and General Manager of the Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand, in his capacity as a member of the previous Regional Steering Group (2013-2014) gave welcoming remarks and provided background on the regional initiative to improve CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

Session 2: Election of the Chair and Vice Chairs

- 8. The Regional Steering Group elected the Chair and Vice Chairs as follows:
 - (a) Chair: H.E. Mr. Jone Usamate, Minister of Health and Medical Services, Fiji;
 - (b) Vice Chair: Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Additional Director-General, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh; (represented at the meeting by Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor, Access to Information Programme, Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh)
 - (c) Vice Chair: Ms. Lisa Grace Bersales, National Statistician and Civil Registrar-General, Philippines Statistics Authority, Philippines.

Session 3: Introductions

- 9. Members of the Regional Steering Group articulated their interest in learning more about the Regional Action Framework and identifying pragmatic and actionable approaches for improving CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. In addition, there was strong interest in using the forum for knowledge- and information-sharing and identifying ways to garner further political support for CRVS activities.
- 10. For the development partners in attendance, the meeting provided an opportunity for gaining greater insight on how they can support national CRVS improvement activities and forging synergies among various CRVS improvement activities, including strengthening coordination and cooperation among partners and with governments.

Session 4: Regional Action Framework Action Areas: Political Commitment

11. Ms. Tanja Sejersen, of the ESCAP secretariat, provided a concise overview of the main aspects of the Regional Action Framework, highlighting in particular the seven action areas that serve as a basis for Governments and development partners to focus and organize efforts towards developing, implementing and supporting comprehensive multisectoral national CRVS strategies. With respect to governance, the instrumental role played by the Regional Steering Group in providing guidance for the implementation of the RAF was underscored.
12. Ms. Lisa Bersales of the Philippines Statistical Authority, presented on the status of national CRVS activities and initiatives, highlighting the Presidential proclamation of the CRVS decade in Philippines, the unveiling of the national slogan “Get Every Pinoy and Pinay in the Picture” and revision of national legislation as some of the achievements under the three respective action areas political commitment, public engagement and legislation and implementation of regulations.
13. In his presentation, Mr. Davaadori Radnaased of the Mongolian General Authority for State Registration reported on the strides made towards developing the national improvement plan through a consultative process involving national stakeholders from several sectors. He highlighted the initiatives undertaken to increase birth registration, including the provision of incentives to citizens and improved legislation. With respect to target setting, it was envisaged that the country will maintain a high upward trend and achieve 99 percent for targets under goals 1 and 2 and 95 per cent for goal 3, by 2024.
14. Minister Jone Usamate of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (Fiji), in his presentation, noted the strong support of the Government of Fiji for the ongoing CRVS initiative, emphasizing in particular, the allocation of funding for CRVS activities, granting of an amnesty for late birth registration, decentralization of services and allocation of additional civil registration centers and implementation of the National Improvement Plan, as some of the core activities that had been undertaken in support of CRVS improvement.
15. The Regional Steering Group stressed the need to secure support from high level entities and placing CRVS on the agenda at high level events, as key to advancing CRVS improvements in the region and stimulating further support for the regional initiative. In addition, the need to advocate for increased investment in CRVS at national, regional and global levels was identified as a major priority.
16. The Regional Steering Group was invited to consider public-private partnerships by the representative of the Philippines, who gave an example of the public-private partnership initiated by the Government of the Philippines for procuring technology and innovative products for improving civil registration.
17. The Regional Steering Group recognized the need for better coordination among government stakeholders and development partners, to maximize resources and avoid duplication. Among development partners, the existing Regional CRVS Partnership was singled out as a mechanism for alignment of partner activities at national and regional levels. In that regard, the Regional Steering Group recommended that consideration be given to the formalization of that structure.

Session 5: Regional Action Framework Action Areas: Public Engagement

18. Mr. Zakaria Awi Deputy Director-General (ICT), National Registration Department of Malaysia highlighted awareness building and outreach programmes used for increasing

registration among population groups in remote, rural areas and hard-to reach areas, and elaborated on the use of the Multi-Purpose Identity Card (MyKad). With respect to implementation of the Regional Action Framework, he noted that all national targets had been set.

19. In his presentation, Mr. Abid Gulzar of World Vision provided an overview of the varied approaches through which his organization facilitated engagement and coordination between civil society and governments, and actively supported birth registration coverage through awareness building, advocacy and innovation.
20. The Regional Steering Group recognized public outreach and community engagement such as the use of mobile unit/buses, and one stop centers are central for bringing the services closer to the people, driving demand and improving coverage of civil registration, particularly among marginalized populations and persons living in remote and hard-to-reach areas.
21. With regard to strategies for incentivizing death registration, the representative of Plan International advanced the use of behaviour change and communications programmes/campaigns as one effective approach, noting its merits especially for community health-based programmes. Such campaigns encompass a range of approaches that go beyond building awareness and knowledge, and instead serve to influence changes in attitudes and behavior. The representative from Plan International invited the Regional Steering Group to consider and explore this approach as an option for increasing death registration coverage and facilitating collection and use of data on cause of death.
22. The Regional Steering Group appreciated that initiatives to improve birth registration are more likely to be sustainable if they are linked to service delivery. However, members stressed the importance of ensuring that such measures help with fulfilling the rights of the child, for example education and health care (vaccination) programmes.

Session 6: Regional Action Framework Action Areas: Coordination

23. Ms. Suharti, Director for Population, Women Empowerment, and Child Protection, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia reported on the ongoing and planned activities aimed at fostering coordination among the main stakeholders involved in CRVS activities in Indonesia, including the establishment of a CRVS National Steering Committee with responsibility for developing a comprehensive CRVS improvement plan aligned with the National Mid-Term Development Plan (2015 – 2019) and the creation of working groups on various aspects of civil registration. With respect to target setting, national target levels were set for birth registration and plans were underway for the implementation of death and cause-of-death registration system by 2024.
24. Mr. Naeem Uz Zafar, Member (Social Sector & Devolution), Planning Commission of Pakistan shared the major findings of a pilot study conducted by the WHO and Columbia University on the promotion of CRVS using new business processes and an open smart registry platform. With respect to coordination, he noted the establishment of a National Steering and Coordination Committee with responsibility for the overall coordination and formulation of the national CRVS improvement plan and national targets.
25. In his presentation, Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor, Access to Information Programme, Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh made a strong case for investment and innovation in CRVS, while highlighting legislation, electronic registration and linking initiatives to service

delivery as some of the key factors that contributed to dramatic improvements in registration of vital events in Bangladesh, in just over one decade. He further underscored the importance of a whole-of-government approach and coordination among key national stakeholders.

26. Mr. Pandup Tshering Director, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Bhutan reported on the planned activities for improving coordination at the national level which included the convening of meetings of all relevant stakeholders for the purposes of streamlining activities, establishing baseline data to measure progress and creating a sustainable and effective national CRVS coordination mechanism.
27. Dr. Azza Badr of WHO-EMRO drew attention to the usefulness of comprehensive CRVS assessments as a tool for fostering intersectoral coordination and alignment among CRVS stakeholders and development partners. She detailed the objectives, structure and benefits of conducting assessments, noting the assessments are neither an end in themselves nor sufficient for obtaining bi-lateral or international development assistance. Instead they need to lead to the development and implementation of a CRVS investment plan and national financial and legal commitment to strengthening CRVS systems.
28. Dr. Karen Carter provided an overview of the Brisbane Accord Group and the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP), highlighting country engagement and ownership as the main drivers of the PVSAP.
29. Ms. Tanja Sejersen, of the ESCAP secretariat updated the meeting on the process for identifying national CRVS focal points, noting that 33 focal points had been designated and highlighting the need for support with identifying the remaining focal points, particularly in the Pacific and North and Central Asian regions.
30. The Regional Steering Group reiterated that CRVS improvement should be country-led, with governments steering the process and supported, in a coordinated way, by development partners. To that end, the Regional Steering Group agreed that countries should drive coordination process and noted the role of the national steering body / committee in championing that process. Further, the meeting appreciated that national needs and priorities differed, thus a “one size fits all” approach could not apply across countries. On those grounds, the Regional Steering Group agreed that countries should develop their respective national CRVS plans and use those plans as the basis/ framework for engaging development partners and determining their specific role in supporting CRVS development

Session 7: Regional Action Framework Action Areas: Policies, legislation and implementation of regulations

31. In her presentation, Ms. Grace Agacaolli of UNICEF underscored the importance of birth registration as a key step to ensuring lifelong protection, framing her presentation around the UNICEF guidebook “A Passport to Protection: A Guide to Birth Registration Programming” which provides technical guidance on interventions for addressing the key aspects of integration of well-functioning birth registration process within the civil registry.
32. Mr. Nick Oakeshott of UNHCR presented on a pilot project to be implemented in 2016, with a focus on addressing inequalities in accessing civil registration for hard-to-reach and marginalized populations including refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.

33. The Regional Steering Group considered various incentives and disincentives monetary and otherwise for encouraging birth registration particularly among marginalized communities. It was also noted that the incentives and disincentives should be set within the framework of the national policy and should not adversely impact the realization of rights of the child, such as access to health and education.
34. The presentations and interventions highlighted the contribution of the Regional Steering Group in:
- (1) Encouraging, supporting and disseminating experiences about working with marginalized communities to improve demand for and access to civil registration
 - (2) Sharing experiences and good practices in revising laws that would potentially result in discriminatory practices, such as legislation limiting birth registration for children of unmarried spouses.
 - (3) Mainstreaming registration of marginalized groups within the national CRVS plans.

Session 8: Regional Action Framework Action Areas: Infrastructure and resources

35. In her presentation, Ms. P A Mini of India highlighted several ongoing initiatives aligned with the targets of the National Action Plan to achieve 100% birth and institutional death coverage by 2020, including: the amendment of legislation; the use of new software and technologies for reporting of vital events; the computerization of the civil registration system and its integration of with population register; and the expansion of Medically Certified Cause of Death Scheme (MCCD) to rural areas.
36. Mr. Heng Sophat, Deputy Director, Department of Civil Registration, Ministry of Interior, Cambodia indicated that Cambodia conducted a CRVS comprehensive assessment and is in the process of developing its national 10-year plan, both of which will form the basis of the comprehensive multi-sectoral national CRVS strategy.
37. The Regional Steering Group noted the value of automation of processes regarding coding of cause of death, however they cautioned about the need to ensure quality assurance and the challenge of high attrition rates and turnover among cause of death coders.
38. The Regional Steering Group welcomed the suggestion to use existing forums/ outlets such as the online mortality forum and mortality reference groups as a means of obtaining additional support for cause-of-death coding.

Session 9: Regional Action Framework Action Areas: Operation procedures, practices and innovation

39. Mr. Jeff Montgomery of New Zealand shared two innovative birth registration practices, namely the Birth Registration Online (BRO) and Better Access to Baby Identity and Information (BABII). He noted that currently, levels of birth and death registration were both set at 100%.
40. Ms. Kendra Gregson of UNICEF highlighted the usefulness of innovations for facilitating birth registration, noting that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) could be incorporated into the different stages of the birth registration process. She examined in more detail some of the issues and questions to be considered and addressed in relation to ICT innovations within the institutional, legal, administrative and technological context.

41. In her presentation, Ms. Nicoleta Panta of Plan International recognized the value of digital technology for improving the registration of vital events, but drew attention to the various risks and threats that must be addressed, making specific reference to the toolkit developed by Plan International (“Identifying and addressing risks to children in digitized birth registration systems”).
42. Ms. Lori Thorell of UNICEF addressed the interoperability of unique IDs, focusing on a multi-country assessment being undertaken in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Her presentation also touched on smart investment in ICT for CRVS, reiterating several of the initiatives for mitigating risks and capitalizing on opportunities for using ICT to strengthen CRVS.
43. Mr. Argam Stepanyan of Armenia highlighted the progress with implementing an e-register system in local and central offices, which is integrated with the state population register. He identified the amendment of local legislation on Civil Status Acts as a key precursor to the introduction of this new technology.
44. Mr. Simil Johnson of Vanuatu highlighted several of the country initiatives that had been undertaken to improve CRVS coverage, including registration of children through schools as part of their initial enrollment processes; registering new births at hospital before discharge; and designating “catch up days” in remote areas that are cut out from regular contact with government.
45. The Regional Steering Group welcomed the varied innovative ICT-based initiatives being implemented/ applied by several countries to facilitate birth notification and increase registration. The meeting was invited by Dr Azza Badr, WHO to consider how similar technology and innovation can be adapted and applied for improving notification, registration and certification of deaths and recording cause of death.
46. The Regional Steering Group appreciated the opportunities that ICTs can offer for closing the remaining gaps in civil registration. Notwithstanding that, it was noted that while taking advantage of such technology, due care must be taken to ensure that the digital divide does not further disenfranchise marginalized communities or populations who may not have access to such technologies.
47. The discussions and interventions emphasized that the development and application of IT based innovations should be preceded by a well-structured and thorough situational analysis and assessment, the outcomes of which would then inform the most appropriate approach that should be adopted by the country. In addition, to be effective, the introduction of such technology and innovation needs to be framed around sound legislative and institutional frameworks and accompanied by the development of appropriate operational procedures.
48. The Regional Steering Group recognized both the strengths and limitations of ICT technology, but strongly emphasized the need to assess the ICT risks before using the technology for the civil registration process. Strengths include the potential to lower costs and ensure data is transferred more quickly. Specific reference was made to digitizing birth registration through the use of mobile technology, and the need to consider issues such as validation and authentication of information and data confidentiality, as well as legal frameworks for ICT among others.

Session 10: Regional Action Framework Action Areas: Production, dissemination and use of vital statistics

49. Ms. AJ Lanyon of Australia recognized the immense value of the regional collaboration through the Brisbane Accord Group, universities and development partners for the production and review of vital statistics, but stressed the need to move beyond civil registration to addressing the quality and dissemination of vital statistics, as well as estimation of registration coverage. With regard to national coordination, she noted the establishment of the National Civil Registration and Statistics Improvement Committee (NCR SIC) headed by the Australia Bureau of Statistics.
50. Mr. Ali Akbar Mahzoon of Iran (Islamic Republic) noted the development of a national CRVS plan containing 12 goals and targets, the main priority being the improvement of birth and death statistics. He highlighted several of the vital statistics products and outputs produced by the office and the initiatives to improve the completeness, timelines and use of vital statistics.
51. In his presentation, Mr. Agidalov of Kazakhstan provided an overview of the objectives and activities of the National Committee of Statistics, emphasizing the role of the integrated Statistical Population Register information system which links data from all national administrative sources, thus allowing for the collection and storage of all national socio-demographic data in one centralized location.
52. In her presentation, Ms. Yeanok Yoon of Republic of Korea outlined the structure and function of the national vital statistics system, noting some of the key principles related to the production, dissemination and use of vital statistics including the co-operation and sharing of information between public agencies, the dissemination of a range of statistical products both monthly and annually, and the focus on provision of timely accurate and relevant statistics for policy- and decision-making.
53. In her overview presentation on the goals and objectives of the Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative, Ms. Carla AbouZahr, highlighted the production of accurate and reliable public health information (particularly data on mortality and non-communicable diseases) and strategic use of data for policymaking as main underpinning issues of the Initiative.
54. The Regional Steering Group noted that the production and use of vital statistics should be country led and built in as an element of the national strategy for the development of statistics and sustainable development plans. Notwithstanding that, the Regional Steering Group also took note of the critical role of broader partnerships involving universities, development partners and academic institutions in supporting data analysis and collection.
55. The Regional Steering Group discussed the issues related to the completeness of registration coverage, noting in particular, the concerns raised regarding the feasibility of attaining 100 per cent coverage, especially among marginalized and hard-to-reach populations.
56. The Regional Steering Group discussed how to improve vital statistics by augmenting CRVS data using data from other complementary sources such as the population and housing census, for statistical purposes such as identifying discrepancies in registration data.

Session 11: Implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS: Review of the draft guidelines for setting and monitoring the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework

57. Ms. Jessica Gardner, an expert engaged by the ESCAP secretariat, provided an overview of the draft monitoring guidelines intended to provide guidance to countries on setting their respective national targets and monitoring progress towards achieving the goals of the Regional Action Framework. Members of the Regional Steering Group were split into three breakout groups for focused discussions on the draft guidelines. Each group discussed and provided recommendations on the overall contents of the guidelines and the specific goals, suggestions for implementing guidelines and issues to be covered in baseline report. Following the breakout session, the conclusions of each group were reported and discussed in plenary.
58. The collated suggestions from the plenary to to be further reviewed by the Regional Steering Group were as follows:
- (a) Review the definitions contained in the guidelines to ensure all concepts (e.g. health provider) are consistently covered in text and attached glossary. In addition, definitions should be included for: digital-related definitions, the concept of certificates and “ill-defined causes” to match ICD-10;
 - (b) Develop a complimentary standardized template and / or a common table of contents for use by countries for the baseline report in 2015;
 - (c) Include additional information to guide countries in setting targets for other vital events such as marriage, adoption and divorce;
 - (d) Enhance the existing list of resources annexed to the document by including a mapping of those resources to each of the goals and targets;
 - (e) Include a series of worked examples for each target (where applicable) that could be used by countries for calculating indicators and setting national target values;
 - (f) Identify a list of process indicators as well as small examples of best practices for inclusion with the targets;

Session 12: Special Session: Further initiatives to support the implementation of the Regional Action Framework

59. Mr. Jeff Montgomery provided an update on the activities of the Pacific Civil Registrars Network (PCRN) which had been established as a forum for civil registrars to provide inputs on the implementation of the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan and the Regional Action Framework. Among the priorities, going forward were the development of PCRN’s draft vision by 2024 and short- and long-term work plans, legislation to support cross-border information sharing, and identification of an IT platform for use across countries and the provision of support to other sub-regions with establishing functioning networks.
60. In his presentation, Mr. Sam Notzon gave an overview of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) CRVS programme which seeks to assist countries with developing improved and sustainable CRVS systems through varied technical assistance projects and activities including electronic cause of death reporting and coding.
61. The Regional Steering Group applauded the establishment of the PCRN and welcomed the development of similar networks in other subregions such as South and South-east Asia.

62. Noting the diverse development levels of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the Regional Steering Group welcomed the suggestion to form smaller subregional groupings (such as cooperation on civil registration) among countries facing similar CRVS challenges as a mechanism for advancing CRVS improvement. The Regional Steering Group also recognized the importance of leveraging existing cooperation networks and platforms and in that regard, proposed exploring partnerships with existing subregional organizations such as Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Greater Mekong Commission as well as the subregional offices of ESCAP. Alternatively, such cooperation can be forged on the basis of common interest, by convening forums to address specific research topics/ needs and issues of special concern or research areas and using that medium to facilitate exchanges and dialogue among interested experts.
63. The secretariat was encouraged to explore opportunities to showcase and build awareness about the Asia-Pacific CRVS initiative, such as the Social Goods Summit held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. Suggestions included a side event on the Data Revolution at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly, or other ICT related fora.

Session 13: Special Session: Research to support implementation of the Regional Action Framework

64. Mr. Mark Landry of World Health Organization provided an update on the most recent cause of death and International Classification of Disease (ICD) including the simple mortality list, verbal autopsy standards and CRVS guidelines developed by the World Health Organization. He highlighted the link between those resources and goal 3 of the Regional Action Framework. He recommended development of a repository of resources that are mapped to the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework, and accessible to countries for supporting their implementation of Regional Action Framework.
65. Ms. Carla AbouZahr, an advisor to the ESCAP secretariat, presented on the key role of research in supporting the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Asia and the Pacific, noting that research findings are not an end in themselves, but should be documented, disseminated and interpreted, so they can be used by policymakers for evidence-based interventions and decision making. She highlighted the ongoing research initiatives being lead by development partners and identified various opportunities to further support the implementation of the research agenda formulated by ESCAP, including incorporating research priorities in national CRVS plans, collaborating with regional academic institutions and country researchers and contributing to conferences on CRVS research such as the International Union of Scientific Studies of Populations (IUSSP).
66. Mr. James Knowles, a representative of Data2X outlined the goals and activities of the programme, highlighting that partnerships for CRVS and gender as key elements of the work of the organization.
67. With respect to research, the Regional Steering Group emphasized the need to conduct action research early on that was relevant for policy and should ideally be country-lead to ensure that there is clarity on what works and what does not.
68. The Regional Steering Group recognized the role of research in advancing the implementation of the Regional Action Framework and proposed the creation of a sub-group that would focus in on identifying and conducting relevant research within the framework of the ESCAP research agenda.

Session 14: Regional Support for the Regional Action Framework implementation

69. Ms. Claudine Henry-Anguna of the Cook Islands highlighted several of the activities that had been undertaken to facilitate coordination at the national level, including public engagement through mass media, provision of incentives for birth registration and data exchanges (death information) between Cook Islands and New Zealand.
70. The secretariat delivered a presentation on the Terms of Reference for the Regional Steering Group which was endorsed by the Commission during its seventy-first session in May 2015.
71. The secretariat presented its proposal for a new CRVS website that would serve as a knowledge hub for the Asian-Pacific CRVS Decade, which included an outline of the proposed content and structure of the website. Members of the Regional steering Group were invited to provide their comments and suggestions.
72. The Regional Steering Group supported the development of the new CRVS website, noting its value as a medium for promoting work of group, capacity building and knowledge and information exchange.
73. The Regional Steering Group advanced a number of additional suggestions and encouraged the secretariat to consider the following:
 - (a) Develop of a set of design principles for the website;
 - (b) The website should serve as a repository for the wide range of tools and resources that could be used for improving CRVS systems. To facilitate ease of retrieval, the resources should therefore be organized thematically;
 - (c) Website should create a sense of community for both members of the Regional Steering Group and the broader CRVS community through discussion forums, blogs etc. Members of the Regional Steering Group agree to actively contribute information to ensure information featured on the website remained current and agreed to assist with the preparation and submission of regular blogs
 - (d) Usability testing should be conducted to verify ease of use and navigation through website by the target audience;
 - (e) Include social media channels that could help with promoting the CRVS initiative and increase level of advocacy;
 - (f) Efforts should be made to reduce duplication and instead enable linkages across other websites;
 - (g) Identify ways to drive more traffic to the website, in addition to including the link to website on websites of member States, partners etc.;
 - (h) Data dashboards with analytical information and summaries of country progress for varied target audiences including policymakers, media and should be included to the website.

Session 15: Work Programme for the Regional Steering Group in 2015 – 2019

74. The Chair introduced the draft work programme of the Regional Steering Group. Members were invited to flesh out its details through small group discussions and the groups' inputs collated during a plenary session.
75. The Regional Steering Group agreed that establishment of sub groups with specific responsibilities for various aspects of the work programme would complement the work of the broader Group and advanced it as the best approach/ modality for delivering on its objectives and functions. The sub groups would have responsibility for collaborating with the secretariat and the membership of the Regional Steering Group on drafting work plans for their respective areas and ensuring alignment with the priorities identified in the broader work programme of the Regional Steering Group.
76. With respect to the composition, it was agreed that the sub groups should comprise the widest possible representation across the region, and in that regard, membership was extended national focal points and other interested country representatives.
77. Based on the foregoing, the following sub groups were constituted:
- (a) Monitoring and reporting: Australia, BAG, Data2X, Pakistan, Plan International, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, ESCAP secretariat (lead).
 - (b) Communications and Advocacy: Armenia, BAG, Bangladesh (lead), Fiji, Plan International and World Vision.
 - (c) Research BAG, Bangladesh, Pakistan, World Vision and WHO (lead).

Session 16: Roles and responsibilities of the Regional Steering Group (closed session)

78. The Regional Steering Group discussed areas and modalities of work moving forward. Guidance was provided to the secretariat to further develop a work programme in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs for subsequent review by the broader membership of the Regional Steering Group.
79. The Regional Steering Group considered the existing vacancies in the group and endorsed the membership of Cambodia and Uzbekistan as part of the Regional Steering Group.

Session 17: Closing

80. Closing remarks were delivered by Mr. Jone Usamate, Chair of the Regional Steering Group and Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen of the ESCAP secretariat.

Appendix A



FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

30 July 2015

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

First Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

28-30 July 2015

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Appendix B - Programme



FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING GROUP FOR CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (CRVS)



Meeting Room A
UN Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand
28-30 July 2015

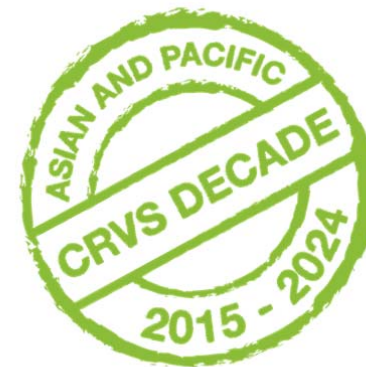
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MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Decide on approaches and modalities for providing regional support to the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.
2. Review the draft guidelines for implementation of the Regional Action Framework and discuss the development of further tools and research to support the improvement of CRVS
3. Develop the programme of work for the Regional Steering Group for the period 2015-2019

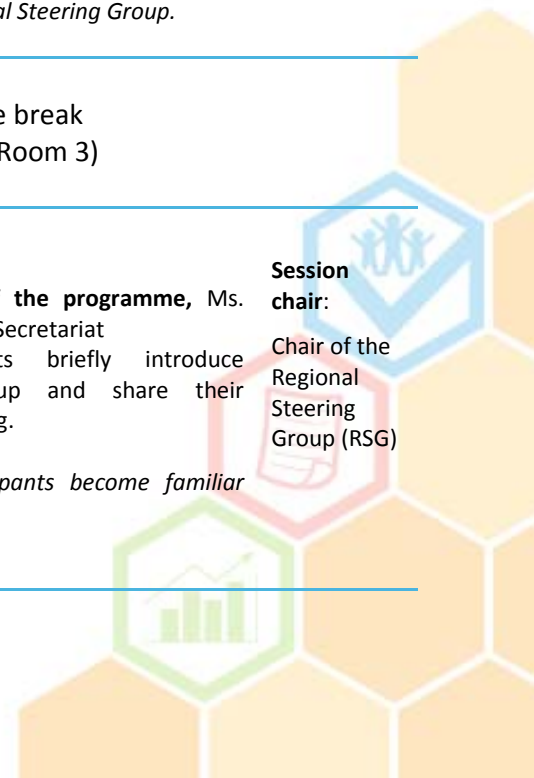




Nr.19	Roles and responsibilities of the Regional Steering Group	Session chair: Chair of the Regional Steering Group
15.15	(CLOSED, only for RSG members) Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nominations received for the Regional Steering Group, Ms. Tanja Sejersen, UNESCAP <p><i>Discussion:</i> Discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the Regional Steering group, communication, sub-groups, procedural and management matters.</p> <p><i>Expected outcome:</i> Shared understanding of the role of the Regional Steering Group and its means and modes of communication as well as timelines, responsibilities, sub-groups, membership and frequency and modality of Regional Steering Group meetings.</p>	
Nr.20	Closing	
16.30	- Chair of the Regional Steering Group	

DAY 1: Tuesday, 28 July 2015

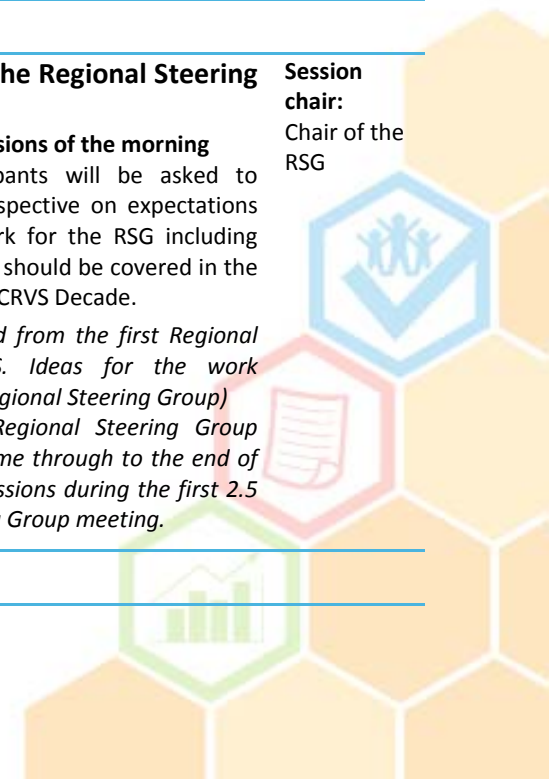
Session	Description	Chair / rapporteur
Nr. 1 9.00	Welcome and Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP ▪ Mr. Jeff Montgomery, Registrar-General and General Manager, Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand on behalf of the Regional Steering Group on CRVS 2013-2014 	ESCAP Secretariat
Nr. 2 9.15	Election of the Chair and Vice Chairs <i>Expected outcome:</i> A Chair and Vice Chairs are elected amongst the Regional Steering Group.	ESCAP Secretariat
Group photo and Coffee break (in front of Conference Room 3)		
Nr. 3 9.50	Introductions Presentation: Overview of the programme , Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP Secretariat Tour-de-table: Participants briefly introduce themselves to the group and share their expectations for this meeting. <i>Expected outcome:</i> Participants become familiar with each other.	Session chair: Chair of the Regional Steering Group (RSG)





Nr. 4	RAF Action Areas: Political commitment	Session chair:
10.25	<p>The Regional Action Framework includes seven Action Areas.</p> <p>The Action Areas facilitate structured reporting on activities and progress by Governments and development partners, which will enable enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and the identification of opportunities for collaboration. This session focuses on the Action Area: political commitment.</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overview of the Regional Action Framework (RAF) and implementation steps, Ms. Tanja Sejersen, ESCAP Secretariat- The Philippines CRVS coordination mechanism and Presidential Declaration, Ms. Lisa Bersales, Philippines- Political commitment in Mongolia, Mr. Davaadorj Radnaased, Mongolia <p><i>Discussion and interventions: Participants have an opportunity to ask questions about the Regional Action Framework and discuss how to achieve political commitments and how the regional initiative can support country work in this Action Area</i></p> <p><i>Expected outcome: Participants have an enhanced and shared understanding of the commitments under the Regional Action Framework</i></p>	<p>Chair of the RSG</p> <p>Rapporteur: Ming Viado</p>

10.00	Coffee break	
Nr.17	Regional support for RAF implementation	Session chair:
10.15	<p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The terms of references of the Regional Steering Group, Ms. Tanja Sejersen, UNESCAP- Regional CRVS knowledge sharing website, Ms. Sinovia Moonie, ESCAP <p><i>Panel Discussion: Panel discussion revisiting objective one on deciding on approaches and modalities for providing regional support to the implementation of the Regional Action framework</i></p> <p><i>Expected outcome: Agreement on approaches and modalities for providing regional support to the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific</i></p>	<p>Vice Chair of the RSG</p>
12.30	Lunch	
Nr.18	Work programme for the Regional Steering Group in 2015 – 2019	Session chair:
13.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Taking stock of the sessions of the morning▪ Tour-de-table: Participants will be asked to provide their own perspective on expectations for programme of work for the RSG including important issues which should be covered in the baseline report for the CRVS Decade. <p><i>Discussion: Lessons learned from the first Regional Steering Group on CRVS. Ideas for the work programme (Chair of the Regional Steering Group)</i></p> <p><i>Expected outcome: The Regional Steering Group agrees on a work programme through to the end of 2019, building on the discussions during the first 2.5 day of the Regional Steering Group meeting.</i></p>	<p>Chair of the RSG</p>
15.00	Coffee break	



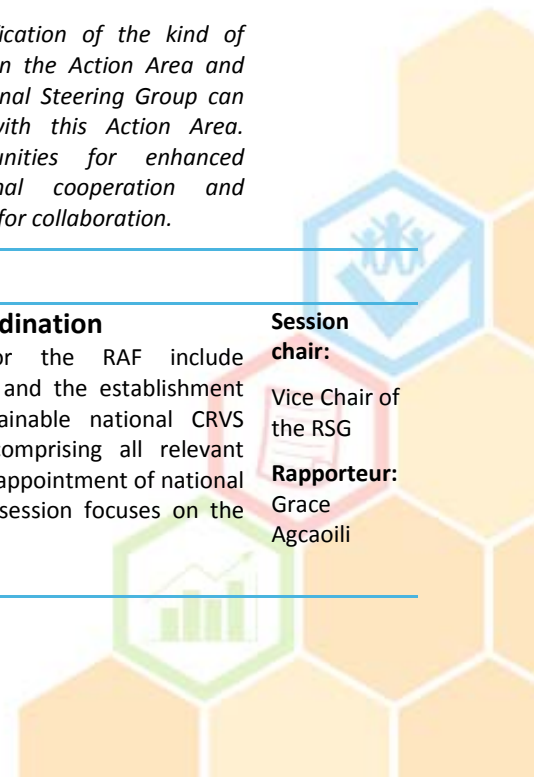


Nr.14 16.15	Special Session: Further initiatives to support implementation of the Regional Action Framework Presentations: - Update on the activities of the Pacific Civil Registrars Network , Mr. Jeff Montgomery - CDC CRVS activities , Mr. Sam Notzon, CDC Discussion: Questions and answers to the presentations <i>Expected outcome: The Regional Steering Group provides proposal for further assistance needed to implementation of the Regional Action Framework.</i>	Session chair: Vice Chair of the RSG Rapporteur: Nicholas Oakeshott
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DAY 3: Thursday, 30 July 2015

Nr.15 9.00	Taking stock of Day Two <i>Desired outcome: The Regional Steering Group addresses any issues from the second day, and, if necessary, changes the remainder of the meeting programme.</i>	Session chair: Chair of the RSG
Nr.16 9.15	Special Session: Research to support implementation of the Regional Action Framework Presentations: - Research Agenda for CRVS , Ms. Carla Abouzahr, CAZ Consulting - Research on CRVS and Gender , Mr. James Knowles, UN Foundation Discussion: Q & A <i>Expected outcome: The Regional Steering Group provides ideas and feedback on potential research projects, advocacy and fundraising activities that should be developed to support the improvement of CRVS in the region.</i>	Session chair: Vice Chair of the Regional Steering Group Rapporteur: Mariko Tomiyama

Nr. 5 11.00	RAF Action Areas: Public engagement This session focuses on the Action Area: public engagement. Presentations: - CRVS activities in Malaysia , Mr. Zakaria Awi, Malaysia - Country engagements with Civil Society Organizations , Mr. Abid Gulzar, World Vision <i>Discussion: Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to achieve public engagement and involvement of relevant government stakeholders for the development of comprehensive multisectoral national CRVS strategies and how the regional initiative can support country work in this Action Area</i> <i>Expected outcome: Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Identification of opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and opportunities for collaboration.</i>	Session chair: Chair of the RSG Rapporteur: Nicoleta Panta
12.00	Lunch 2 hours	
Nr. 6 14.00	RAF Action Areas: Coordination Implementation steps for the RAF include multisectoral consultations and the establishment of an effective and sustainable national CRVS coordination mechanism comprising all relevant stakeholders, as well as the appointment of national focal point for CRVS. This session focuses on the Action Area: 'coordination'	Session chair: Vice Chair of the RSG Rapporteur: Grace Agcaoli



Presentations:

- **Political commitment in Fiji**, H.E. Mr. Jone Usamate, Fiji Coordination on provision of birth certificate, Ms. Suharti, Indonesia
- **Coordination mechanisms in Pakistan**, Mr. Zafar, Pakistan
- **Coordination in Bhutan**, Dr. Pandum Tshering, Bhutan
- **CRVS Activities in Bangladesh**, Mr. Anir Chowdury, Bangladesh
- **CRVS comprehensive assessments as a tool for coordination**, Dr. Azza Badr, WHO EMRO
- **Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan**, Dr. Karen Carter, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
- **The National CRVS Focal Points**, Ms. Tanja Sejersen, UNESCAP

Discussion: *Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to improve coordination within countries between national stakeholders as well as donors and development partners. How can the regional initiative support coordination?*

Expected outcome: *Discussion on key challenges and opportunities for effective coordination in countries. Clarity on the role of the National CRVS Focal Points. Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area.*

15.30 Coffee break

Nr.12 **Implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS: Review of the draft guidelines for setting and monitoring the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework (breakout and plenary)**

13.30

Sub-groups:

Group A: Goal 1 - Universal civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events

Group B: Goal 2 - All individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events, as necessary to claim identity, civil status and ensuing rights;

Group C: Goal 3 - Accurate, complete and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death) are produced based on registration records and are disseminated

Rapporteur: Each sub-group will select a rapporteur who will present a summary of the discussions and recommendations in the subsequent plenary session.

Expected outcomes: *Subgroups will discuss the guidelines and provide feedback and specific recommendations on these as well as considerations of how they can be used by countries for the monitoring and implementation of the Regional Action Framework.*

Session chair:

Vice Chair of the RSG

Introduction and plenum discussions facilitated by Jessica Gardner, Independent Consultant

15.00 Coffee break

Nr.13 **Reporting on previous session**

15.15

Groups report back on their discussions

Session chair:

Vice Chair of the RSG



Nr.11 **RAF Action Areas: Production, dissemination and use of vital statistics** 11.30

Session chair:
Vice Chair of the RSG

Presentations:

- **Experiences from Australia**, Ms. AJ Lanyon, Australia
- **CRVS improvement activities in Iran**, Mr. Ali Akbar Mahzoon, Iran
- **Improving the collection of vital statistics**, Mr. Agidalov, Kazakhstan
- **Status Update from Korea**, Ms. Yeanok Yoon, Rep. of Korea
- **Bloomberg Data for Health**, Ms. Carla Abouzahr, CAZ Consulting

Rapporteur:
Karen Carter

Discussion: Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to improve the production, dissemination and use of vital statistics and how the regional initiative can support countries.

Expected outcome: Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Possibly identification of opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and opportunities for collaboration.

12.30 Lunch

Nr. 7 **RAF Action Areas: Policies, legislation and implementation of regulations** 15.45

Session chair:
Vice Chair of the RSG

- **Linking Civil Registration and identity management:** Ms. Mia Harbitz, World Bank
- **Passport to protection**, Ms. Grace Agcaoili, UNICEF
- **Assessing inequalities in accessing civil registration for hard-to-reach and marginalized groups – a pilot project:** Mr. Nick Oakeshott, UNHCR

Rapporteur:
Carla Abouzahr

Discussion: Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to improve policies, legislation and implementation of regulations and how the regional initiative can support country work in this Action Area

Expected outcome: Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Possibly identification of opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and opportunities for collaboration.

17.00 **Reception hosted by World Vision**

World Vision



DAY 2: Wednesday, 29 July 2015

Nr. 8	Taking stock of Day One	Session chair:
9.00	<i>Desired outcome: The Regional Steering Group addresses any issues from the first day, and, if necessary, changes the remainder of the meeting programme.</i>	Chair of the RSG
Nr. 9	RAF Action Areas: Infrastructure and resources	Session chair:
9.10	Presentations:	Chair of the RSG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CRVS progress in India, Ms. P A Mini, India- Cause of death and ICD-mortality shortlist and other existing WHO tools, Mr. Mark Landry, World Health Organization	Rapporteur: Kendra Gregson
	<i>Discussion: Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to improve infrastructure and resources and how the regional initiative can support countries within this Action Area</i>	
	<i>Expected outcome: Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Identification of opportunities for capacity building and training of officials to facilitate the establishment, maintenance and monitoring of CRVS systems.</i>	
10.00	Coffee break	

Nr.10	RAF Action Areas: Operational procedures, practices and innovation	Session chair:
10.15	ICT related challenges are related to this Action Area and many countries are involved in improvements using ICT.	Vice Chair of the RSG
	Presentations:	Rapporteur: Mark Landry
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Better Access to Baby Identify and Information Service (BABII)", Mr. Jeff Montgomery, New Zealand- CRVS activities in Armenia, Mr. Argam Stepanyan, Armenia- Coordination activities in Cambodia, Mr. Heng Sophat, Cambodia- Systemic approaches on ICT for birth registration Ms. Kendra Gregson, UNICEF- Digital Birth Registration Risk assessment tool, Ms. Nicoleta Panta, Plan International- Interoperability and Unique IDs and Smart ICT Investments for CRVS, Ms. Lori Thorell, UNICEF	
	<i>Discussion: Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on key challenges for the use of ICT in Civil Registration and identification of best approaches for overcoming them.</i>	
	<i>Expected outcome: Identification of the kind of assistance countries need and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Possibly identification of opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and opportunities for collaboration.</i>	

Appendix C

Proposed Work Plan for the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific (2015 – 2019)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK:

- The work of the Regional Steering Group will be supported by the sub groups on: (i) Monitoring and reporting of the Regional Action Framework; (ii) Communications and Advocacy; and (iii) Research
- Meetings of the sub groups will be convened by the respective lead institutional partners/ countries and will be held electronically by WebEx or Skype. Where necessary, the Secretariat will assist with organizing the meetings and provide the WebEx facilities to host or support the conduct of the meetings. The sub group will communicate to the broader membership of the Regional Steering Group, any outcomes and decisions that require their involvement or inputs.

FUNCTIONS OF RSG	RELATED ACTIVITIES	MODALITIES, STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	SECRETARIAT TASKS	TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
<p>(a) Provide regional oversight and strategic guidance for the implementation of the Regional Action Framework, including, among other things, by providing support for carrying out regional reviews and requests for status reports from Governments</p>	<p>(i) Provide expert advice and support the development of indicators for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Regional Action Framework</p> <p>(ii) Develop and review the reporting templates to be used by countries for preparing status reports (baseline and midterm reports)</p> <p>(iii) Establish milestones and detailed timelines for the reporting and regional reviews (as set out in the RAF) to build momentum and facilitate reliable monitoring of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework</p> <p>(iv) Provide substantive inputs and support the Secretariat with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub group on monitoring and reporting of Regional Action Framework will provide guidance on the activities related to functions (a) and (b) and will be under the leadership of ESCAP Secretariat. Members of RSG will (on voluntary basis) contribute to the work of the subgroup. Volunteers from RSG include: Australia, BAG, Data2X, WHO, UNICEF, Plan, UNHCR, Pakistan. <i>Participation in the sub group is open to national focal points and other representatives</i> • Members of the Subgroup on Monitoring and reporting of the Regional Action Framework will provide comments and inputs on draft monitoring and reporting 	<p>Secretariat will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as convener of the sub group on monitoring and reporting of Regional Action Framework, and provide leadership to its activities related to monitoring, target setting, baseline data, developing guidelines and reporting templates. <i>(high priority)</i> • Develop template for collecting national target values for each target of the RAF and baseline data of the monitoring and reporting template for scheduled reviews and reports, including the baseline report and mid-point review, while respecting differing national circumstances and ensuring flexibility in the reporting requirements and contents. <i>(high</i> 	<p>17 August 2015: First draft of the baseline reporting template for initial review by subgroup on monitoring and reporting</p> <p>31 August 2015: Revised draft for review by all RSG members</p> <p>September: Pilot reporting template by selected RSG members to assess usability</p> <p>1 October – 1 December 2015: Members and associate members prepare and submit</p>

FUNCTIONS OF RSG	RELATED ACTIVITIES	MODALITIES, STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	SECRETARIAT TASKS	TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
	<p>monitoring, reporting and reviewing progress towards implementation of the Regional Action Framework and achievement of the nationally set targets (baseline and mid-term reports)</p> <p>(v) Identify the short- and long-term priorities for implementation of the Regional Action Framework over the 5-year period (priorities should be aligned with the implementation steps of the RAF)</p> <p>(vi) Provide substantive inputs to the preparation of the report on the progress made towards the implementation of the resolution 71/14 to the Commission at its seventy-second in 2016 and liaise with national focal points to solicit monitoring inputs</p>	<p>template and guide the Secretariat in finalizing the template. The sub group will support the Secretariat in the efforts to monitor progress under the Regional Action Framework. <i>The modalities for collating inputs from RSG members are to be determined.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National focal points will provide inputs, where necessary and can volunteer to participate in the assigned sub groups 	<p><i>priority)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with national focal points to countries in need of support, assess and identify priority areas and on that basis determine strategy for providing support that would make optimal use of its existing resources (<i>medium priority)</i> • Develop a data dashboard to show progress achieved by countries with respect to RAF (<i>medium priority)</i> 	<p>baseline report to the Secretariat using prescribed template</p> <p>January 2016: Preparation of regional synthesis report and baseline report</p> <p>February 2016: RSG members review report and provide inputs before submission to Commission</p> <p>2019: Members and associate members submit midterm report to the Secretariat</p>
<p>(b) Advise Governments on implementation of the Regional Action Framework, including, among other things, developing and making available relevant definitions and guidelines for the collection and processing of monitoring information</p>	<p>(i) Review Guidelines for setting and monitoring the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics for Asia and the Pacific and provide feedback for its finalization</p> <p>(ii) Assist with identifying countries who can provide country examples such as best practices that could be included in guidelines</p> <p>(iii) Provide expert advice and liaise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given close alignment of activities (i) – (v) with activities under function (a), the Regional Steering Group should support those activities by channelling their expert support and guidance through the designated sub group on monitoring and reporting of Regional Action Framework (see function (a) above). • Sub group on Communications and Advocacy will provide 	<p>Secretariat to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the finalization and dissemination of the draft monitoring guidelines (<i>high priority)</i> • Identify additional guidelines and toolkits for use by countries for implementation of the Regional Action Framework • With support of sub group, identify countries where the monitoring guidelines can be applied for 	<p><u>Monitoring Guidelines:</u></p> <p>21 - 31 August 2015: Secretariat reviews V3 of draft monitoring guidelines</p> <p>September – October 2015: Countries pilot or use guidelines for setting respective national targets and provide feedback on usability of the resource; and identify</p>

FUNCTIONS OF RSG	RELATED ACTIVITIES	MODALITIES, STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	SECRETARIAT TASKS	TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
	<p>with national focal points to operationalize the guidelines</p> <p>(iv) Provide technical support and advice on the development of additional tools and resources for use by national stakeholders for consultations with government officials</p> <p>(v) Ensuring the midterm review ‘capture the journey’ – monitoring how countries have strengthened their CRVS systems</p> <p>(vi) Mobilize support/ commitment for the implementation of the Regional Action Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify and advise on additional advocacy material needed to support a broader understanding of the goals of the Regional Action Framework ○ Disseminate advocacy materials, including the CRVS decade document and poster to build/ increase awareness of the Regional Action Framework and of the “Get every one in the picture” initiative and Asian-Pacific CRVS decade (2015-2024) at the national, regional and global level ○ Contribute to the 	<p>guidance for activities listed under (vi) (e.g. blogs, website, newsletter, champions etc.) and will be led by Bangladesh. Members of RSG will (on voluntary basis) contribute to the work of the subgroup. Volunteers from RSG include: BAG, Plan International, Bangladesh (Anir), Armenia, World Vision, Fiji</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Participation in the Sub group is open to national focal points and other representatives. National focal points</i> will ensure the Asia-Pacific CRVS website is kept current by compiling news, updates, resources for upload to the website and submitting those to the Secretariat through the established channels on regular basis (at least monthly) 	<p>collecting data on the implementation of the Regional Action Framework (<i>high priority</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop and maintain knowledge sharing website/ platform (<i>high priority</i>) ● Support and participate in the meetings of the sub group on Communications and Advocacy (<i>medium priority</i>) 	<p>any supplementary information to improve it</p> <p><u>Communication and Advocacy:</u></p> <p>September – November 2015: Develop concise communications strategy for use within first five years of the CRVS Decade</p> <p>July – October 2015: Development of the Asia-Pacific CRVS knowledge hub</p> <p>2018-2019: Evaluation of the communications / advocacy strategy</p> <p>2019: Evaluation of the communications / advocacy strategy</p>

FUNCTIONS OF RSG	RELATED ACTIVITIES	MODALITIES, STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	SECRETARIAT TASKS	TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
	<p>maintenance and updating of the knowledge platform developed by the Secretariat for knowledge sharing, e.g. preparing blogs for the website, providing regular updates for the RSG page etc.</p>			
<p>(c) Foster coordination and integration of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework with other global, regional and subregional civil registration and vital statistics initiatives, in order to maximize synergies, share the benefits of the momentum generated and facilitate consistent expert advice for greater impact at national and regional levels</p>	<p>(i) Facilitate synergies between the Regional Action Framework and other ongoing initiatives to improve CRVS systems in Asia and the Pacific, including continuing coordination through the Brisbane Accord Group and the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (2011-2014)</p> <p>(ii) Identify a strategy to facilitate information sharing and coordination among partners and stakeholders involved in implementing regional and subregional initiatives, including the Pacific Civil Registrars' networks, the Brisbane Accord Group</p> <p>(iii) Liaise with national focal points to ensure that all country reports become publically available [assessments (rapid and in-depth); national plans, etc.]</p> <p>(iv) Information sharing: commitment by countries to inform Secretariat about in-country activities, by</p>	<p>• Sub group on Research will have oversight for activities listed under (iv) and will be led by World Health Organization. Members of Regional Steering Group will (on voluntary basis) contribute to the work of the sub group. Volunteers from the RSG include: World Vision, Pakistan, BAG, Bangladesh, WHO.</p> <p><i>Participation in the Sub group is open to national focal points and other representatives.</i></p> <p>• Development Partners to support information sharing and coordination at a regional level through established Regional CRVS Partnership, convened by the ESCAP secretariat.</p> <p>• National focal points to facilitate knowledge and information flows between the countries and the ESCAP Secretariat</p> <p>• Selected CRVS Champions to play an advocacy role at the political level (facilitating dialogue with</p>	<p>Secretariat to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure continued engagement with the Brisbane Accord Group to ensure coordination between the implementation of the Regional Action Framework and the Pacific Vital Statistics Plan • Identify resources to assist countries – through provision of in-country support for coordination/facilitation to allow people to step back from their current roles and take on the broader coordination tasks 	<p>Ongoing 2015 -2019</p>

FUNCTIONS OF RSG	RELATED ACTIVITIES	MODALITIES, STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	SECRETARIAT TASKS	TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
	<p>organizations on events that include more than one country, everyone on normative/analytical work, research agenda, etc.</p>	<p>Heads of Government at level high level fora e.g. the ESCAP Commission) to highlight the importance of developing and strengthening CRVS systems</p>		
<p>(d) Ensure adherence to the six key principles of the Regional Action Framework, as agreed by countries and development partners, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Countries take the lead; (ii) A stepwise approach; (iii) Flexibility and responsiveness; (iv) Building on local expertise; (v) Consistency with international human rights and legal principles, and national law; (vi) Coordination and alignment; 	<p>(i) Disseminate/ share information among national and regional counterparts regarding the 6 key principles contained in the Regional Action Framework and advocate for its integration in <u>all</u> activities</p>			<p>Throughout the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade</p>
<p>(e) As appropriate, make recommendations on establishing a regional support office for civil registration and vital statistics, including on its structure, functions, funding requirements and hosting arrangements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make recommendations (as appropriate) for the establishment of a regional office for CRVS • Provide inputs on the formulation of terms of reference, structure and functions of the regional office • Provide support for resource mobilization for the regional support office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau of the Regional Steering Group will assist with reviewing funding possibilities for the support office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to facilitate the identification of funding possibilities and applying for these. 	<p>2015 – 2019</p>

FUNCTIONS OF RSG	RELATED ACTIVITIES	MODALITIES, STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	SECRETARIAT TASKS	TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
GOVERNANCE				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on how to fill the existing vacancies within RSG • Assist Secretariat with identifying national CRVS focal points for all countries (where missing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau of the Regional Steering Group will provide guidance to the process and will submit a proposal to the general membership of the Regional Steering Group during its first meeting in July 2015. • All members of Regional Steering Group will vote on the selection process for filling existing vacancies during the first meeting • Institutional partners will support the secretariat with the identification of national focal points in countries where they have operate 	<p>Secretariat will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the process for determining how to fill the two existing vacancies within the RSG • Communicate the decision of the Regional Steering Group regarding membership to the selected countries • Identify countries with no designated national CRVS focal points and where specific support is needed 	<p>28 – 30 July 2015: Fill vacancies within the Regional Steering Group</p> <p>July – September 2015: Identify all national CRVS focal points</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate and assist in organizing electronic and face-to-face meetings of the RSG 	<p>The Bureau of the Regional Steering Group coordinates and guides the conduct and delivery of the activities and facilitates decision-making processes by convening regular meetings and consultations. A schedule of agreed consultations and meetings will be drawn up and agreed to and will be held via WebEx or teleconference.</p> <p>The Bureau will also convene regular meetings in between annual Regional Steering Group Meetings.</p>	<p>Secretariat will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide secretariat support to the meetings of the Bureau and Regional Steering Group in general 	<p>2015 - 2019</p>