

Concept Note for a virtual meeting of the Pacific Civil Registrars Network

31 July 2024, 13:00-14:00 Fiji time

Since the proclamation of the Asia and the Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade 2015-2024, countries and territories in the Pacific have made significant progress in improving their CRVS systems. Findings from the midterm review conducted in 2019 revealed good progress by Pacific countries and territories in strengthening their CRVS systems compared to the 2015 baseline review. Nonetheless, the midterm review also highlighted some areas requiring additional attention, particularly the registration of births for children under five, death registration and reporting of cause of death.

The 2025 review of progress in implementing the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific aims to not only assess the effectiveness of actions taken after the midterm review but also measure progress throughout the Asia and the Pacific CRVS Decade. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) secretariat recently launched the questionnaire for the 2025 review with **15 September 2024** as the deadline for members and associate members of ESCAP to return the completed questionnaire to the secretariat.

Established in 2014, the Pacific Civil Registrars Network (PCRN), with support from the Pacific Community (SPC), has played an important role in effectively coordinating CRVS system improvement efforts in the Pacific throughout the CRVS Decade. PCRN members share a vision that by 2024, civil registrars across the Pacific will work together in ways that are flexible to local needs, with a shared approach to legislative change, enabling technology and data exchange. PCRN has facilitated information and experience sharing on good practices and lessons learned, and fostered South-South coordination and collaboration to embrace the mobile nature of Pacific islanders with high migration rates and the associated need to register vital events in different countries.

PCRN, with support from SPC, played an instrumental role in supporting Pacific islanders to successfully complete the midterm review questionnaire in 2019. For the 2025 review, ESCAP secretariat is calling upon PCRN once again to bring Pacific countries and territories together and share experiences on effective approaches to coordinate data collection, validate the data, and complete the questionnaire.

Findings from the 2025 review will be presented at the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, to be held from 24 to 26 June 2025. The review will showcase the outcomes of CRVS improvement initiatives in the Pacific to Ministers in Asia and the Pacific and will also provide crucial insights to measure progress under the Action Plan for Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics 2023-2026.

Objectives of the 2024 virtual meeting of PCRN

A virtual meeting of PCRN will be organized with support from ESCAP and the Pacific Community (SPC) on 31 July 2024 via Microsoft Teams.

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. For ESCAP to share more information on the process and timeline for completing the questionnaire for the 2025 review of progress in implementing the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, including highlighting some frequently asked questions and answers;
2. For PCRN members and SPC to share experiences and lessons learned from completing the 2025 and previous reviews and to ask and/or seek clarification from ESCAP on the questions and required information in the questionnaire;
3. To update PCRN members on preparations for the 2025 Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and call for their support in facilitating optimal engagement from their governments.

Participants

Participants at the meeting will include civil registration professionals, ideally the civil registrar general or deputy and national CRVS focal points (NFPs), from each of the Pacific countries.

Invitations will be sent from the chair of PCRN, with administrative support from ESCAP, to the countries' civil registrar general (or equivalent) asking them to nominate participants to the meeting.

Agenda

Time	Activity	Presenter
13:00 – 13:05	Welcoming and opening remarks	Mr. Jeff Montgomery, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Adviser, Pacific Community Ms. Petra Nahmias, Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP
13:05 – 13:45	<p>Presentation by ESCAP on the 2025 review of progress in implementing the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific: Process, timeline, and FAQs</p> <p>Presentation by Fiji on completing the 2025 review questionnaire</p> <p>Preparations for the 2025 Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific</p>	<p>Mr. Sovannaroth Tey, Associate Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Mr. Meli Nadakuca, Senior Statistician, Fiji Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>Ms. Tanja Sejersen, Statistician and CRVS Lead, Statistics Division, ESCAP</p>
13:45 – 13:55	Q&A	
13:55 – 14:00	Closing remarks	Mr. Jeff Montgomery, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Adviser, Pacific Community