

Connecting Vital Events, Registration and Gender Equality

Co-organizers: UNFPA, UN Women and ESCAP

Overview:

Vital statistics derived from civil registration data have the potential to transform people's lives. This warmup session will examine the importance of registering vital events throughout people's lives and will provide an opportunity to further align efforts in strengthening civil registration systems with efforts to improve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls everywhere.

Through interactive discussions, the session will highlight the strategic value of inclusive civil registration and vital statistics systems and the practical role of vital statistics in advancing gender equality and bodily autonomy. Specific country examples will explore how vital statistics can and are being used to advance evidence and action to address important gender-related inequities such as gender-biased sex selection, adolescent fertility, preventable maternal deaths and gender equality within marital unions. The session will also touch on the importance of promoting accurate civil registration and vital statistics in the context of responding to crises, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussions taking place during this warm-up session will help frame those that will follow during sessions 5 and 6 of the Ministerial Conference on: Vital statistics production, dissemination and usage: harnessing civil registration data for decision-making; and on: Implementing gender-sensitive civil registration and vital statistics systems through a life cycle approach.



AGENDA: 18 November 2021

- 08:45–08:50 Introduction and Moderation: Sarah Knibbs, Deputy Regional Director, a.i. UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- 08:50–09:00 Positioning CRVS to accelerate progress towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Romesh Silva, Technical Specialist – Health and Social Inequalities, Population and Development Branch, Technical Division, UNFPA
- 09:00–09:10 Gender-Sensitive Response to Crises using CRVS: A Punjab Case Study: Shagufta Zareen, Programme Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Unit, Health Department of Punjab, Pakistan
- 09:10–09:20 The Generation Equality Forums: Opportunities for Alliances between Vital Statistics and Gender Equality: Sivananthi Thanenthiran, Asia Pacific Research and Resource Center for Women (ARROW), Malaysia
- 09:20–09:30 Discussion