



Conclusion of the Civil Society Forum on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

Members of national and international civil society groups put forth their collective voice in Bangkok today to support universal registration of births, deaths and marriages in the region, ahead of the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific in November.



“Reliable vital statistics enable governments, civil society organizations, development organizations and the private sector to understand emerging trends and challenges of society, and to make informed decisions that better respond to the needs of people,” said Mr. Anis Chowdhury, upcoming Director of ESCAP’s Statistics Division.

“More importantly, registration of such events as birth, deaths and marriages is part of the social compact that a citizen has with the country and should be treated as a fundamental citizenship right,” emphasized Mr. Chowdhury. “CRVS has both intrinsic and instrumental values.”

Mr. Haider Yaqub, Plan International’s Deputy Regional Director in Asia said, “To be registered at birth is a fundamental right of all children, so that they can grow up able to prove their age and identity.

“Effective and responsive systems for the recording of all life events - whether births, deaths or marriages - give governments the best source of information about their populations. With this information, they can work to ensure that children’s rights are protected from the day they are born to the day they die,” added Mr. Yaqub.

“The role of the civil society is pivotal, especially in creating awareness among citizens about the importance of registration systems to enable them to establish their legal identity,” said Mr. Patrick Canagasingham, Senior Director for Operations, World Vision International, East Asia Region. “By scaling up best practices and key learning from successful birth registration programs implemented by civil society, we can significantly contribute to address the challenges faced by governments in reaching the 100 per cent target of ensuring birth registration coverage.”

The groups were brought together at a Civil Society Forum this week by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in partnership with Plan International and World Vision International to develop a consolidated civil society statement that will be delivered at the Ministerial Conference, and to agree on joint actions to implement the declaration and regional action framework.

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Information notes on key issues related to CRVS were released this week to support negotiations at the Regional Preparatory Meeting:

- Sources of vital statistics
- Data confidentiality and privacy
- Cause of death data
- CRVS and identity management
- Civil registration, nationality and human rights
- Means of verification for the targets of the Regional Action Framework

Invitations to governments for the Ministerial Conference from 24 to 28 November 2014 have been issued.

Included in the programme are:

- a ministerial roundtable on the role of CRVS and the post-2015 development agenda
- a youth panel on how youth can be mobilized to support the improvement of CRVS systems

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For more information, contact the Ministerial Conference secretariat (Statistics Division, United Nations ESCAP) at stat.unescap@un.org or +66 2288 2593, or visit www.getinthepicture.org

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