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## CRVS Insight Newsletter

August 2025



Call for abstracts

**2026 CRVS Research Forum**



Deadline for submission:  
**31 August 2025**

### **2026 CRVS Research Forum: Call for abstracts deadline extension**

The deadline to submit abstracts for the 2026 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Research Forum has been extended to **Friday, 31 August 2025**.

Scheduled for 30 March to 1 April 2026 in Bangkok, the forum will bring together researchers and practitioners to share their work on strengthening CRVS systems worldwide. The event, organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), will focus on strategies to improve the registration of births and deaths and the production of vital statistics.

This forum provides an excellent opportunity for contributors from national agencies, academia, and civil society to get inputs and disseminate their research. Please find the submission guidelines on the [CRVS Research Forum webpage](#)

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**Unique Identifiers in Civil Registration: Strengthening Governance and Statistics through Inclusive Identity Systems**

Unique identification numbers (UINs) are often implemented in modern civil registration and identity management systems. They enable accurate identification of individuals across their life course and across administrative systems, supporting efficient service delivery, inclusive governance, and high-quality statistics. This Stats Café will explore the role of UINs in civil registration systems, their applications in governance and statistics, and the principles for designing inclusive and secure identifier systems.

**9 September 2025  
13:00-14:00h (UTC+7)**  
*Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series*

**Opening remarks:** Bhaskar Misra, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF

**Speakers:** Nicola Richards, International Public Health Consultant; Pema Letho, Chief Civil Registration and Census Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bhutan; TBC, National Registration Department, Malaysia

**Moderator:** Jesper Ellemose Skou Jensen, Chief Adviser, Statistics Denmark; Tanja Sejersen, Statistician and CRVS lead, ESCAP

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/USWUWde8dE>

ESCAP STATS CAFE  
Good coffee makes your day, but good data makes your life.

### **Asia-Pacific Stats Café Session on Unique Identifiers in Civil Registration: Strengthening Governance and Statistics through Inclusive Identity Systems**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in partnership with the UN Legal Identity Agenda (UNLIA) Task Force, will host a virtual Stats Café on **9 September 2025** to explore the role of unique identifiers in civil registration systems. The online session, titled “**Unique Identifiers in Civil Registration: Strengthening Governance and Statistics through Inclusive Identity Systems,**” is open to all.

Unique identification numbers (UINs) are increasingly used to link people across administrative systems, which can lead to better services and higher-quality statistics. The event will cover both the benefits and challenges of UINs, including issues of privacy, data protection, and the risk of excluding vulnerable populations.

The Stats Café will feature discussion is based on the new UNICEF/ESCAP report, The Role of Unique Identifiers in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and National Identification Systems. Speakers include:

- Bhaskar Misra, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF,
- Pema Letho, Chief Civil Registration and Census Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bhutan,
- Nicola Richards, International Public Health Consultant, and
- Jesper Ellemose Skou Jensen, Chief Advisor, Statistics Denmark.

More information and registration details are available [here](#).

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## WHO WPRO launches an improved All Cause Mortality and Excess Mortality Calculator

The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific has recently launched an improved [All-Cause Mortality and Excess Mortality \(ACM/EM\) Calculator](#) to support strengthened

evidence-based decision-making. The ACM/EM Calculator enables countries to analyze mortality trends, detect unusual patterns and strengthen preparedness for future health emergencies.

First developed in 2022 with the University of California, Los Angeles to assess pandemic-related excess mortality, the tool has now been significantly upgraded. It features multiple statistical models, customizable event periods, subnational analysis and enhanced visualizations. Crucially, the models now include mortality patterns from pre-, mid-, and post-COVID-19 pandemic. As a digital public good, the ACM/EM Calculator ultimately supports the strengthening of country capacity for multi-source surveillance, risk assessment, and policy dialogue while safeguarding national data sovereignty.

Tested and positively reviewed by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the Japan Institute for Health Security and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the calculator is ready for wider adoption.

For questions or queries, please contact the [Health Information and Digital Health unit](#) at [wprohii@who.int](mailto:wprohii@who.int).

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*Photo credit: Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)*

## Media Advocacy to advance Civil Registration Reform

Strategic media advocacy is proving to be a powerful catalyst for strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems, according to a recent article by the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA). Civil society groups in Bangladesh, Zambia, and the Philippines are harnessing storytelling, social media, and journalist networks to reframe CRVS as a vital issue of public rights and social equity.

In the Philippines, a viral Facebook campaign reignited Senate interest in a long-stalled CRVS bill. In Bangladesh, media collaborations generated widespread coverage linking CRVS to digital innovation and inclusive development. Meanwhile, in Zambia, a journalist workshop helped spur the formation of a parliamentary caucus focused on securing CRVS funding.

These efforts highlight how media advocacy can reshape public discourse, mobilize political will, and lay the groundwork for lasting policy change.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.



## **Maldives releases decade-long Life Expectancy Series**

The Maldives Bureau of Statistics has released a significant new publication, Life Expectancy Series of Maldives 2010–2020, which provides an in-depth look at mortality trends and demographic changes over the last decade. This publication is a key step in the nation's commitment to using data to inform governance and public health strategies.

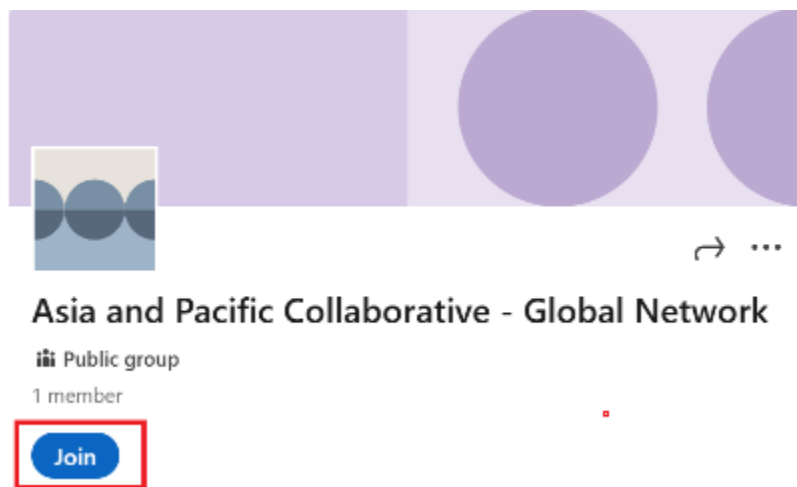
The Life Table created using observed age-specific mortality rates, mid-year population estimates, and standardized life table functions, allows researchers, policymakers, and development partners to analyze shifts in life expectancy and survival rates across all age groups.

This release is part of a broader initiative to strengthen the Maldives' civil registration and vital statistics systems, aligning with global initiatives to improve demographic data for sustainable development.

The Life Table is available [here](#). Please click [here](#) for the Methodology for Constructing the Life Table.

The Maldives Bureau of Statistics has recently begun the quarterly publication of vital statistics. The Quarter 1 edition of the **Maldives Vital Statistics Quarterly Bulletin** has been published [here](#).

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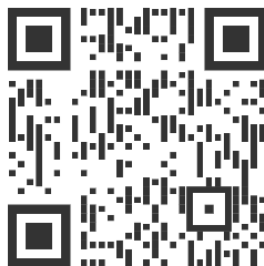
### Asia-Pacific Collaborative Moves to LinkedIn

The Asia and Pacific Collaborative – Global Network has announced its transition from Yammer (Viva Engage) to LinkedIn to improve accessibility and expand its reach. The group welcomes individuals engaged in or committed to advancing data and statistics across the Asia and Pacific region. This includes national statisticians, data officers in government and development agencies, researchers, policymakers, and others dedicated to promoting evidence-based decision-making. The shift to a more widely used platform will allow data and statistics professionals in the region to connect with a broader audience.

The Collaborative has been a key platform for peer engagement, knowledge-sharing, and innovation among statisticians in the Asia and Pacific region. The new LinkedIn group will continue to support this mission by hosting discussions, sharing best practices, and facilitating conversations about data and statistics.

This move represents more than just a change in platform; it signals the Collaborative's commitment to deeper engagement and a wider impact. In addition to the LinkedIn transition, the Collaborative will maintain its key programming through DASH Teams, the Stats Café series, and thematic webinars, reinforcing its commitment to a connected and forward-thinking statistical community.

Members are encouraged to join the new group at Asia and Pacific Collaborative – Global Network by this [link](#) or this QR code.







*Photo credit: UNHCR*

### **Research: Land ownership is key to gender gap in death registration in Bangladesh**

A new study in Bangladesh reveals that women's lack of land ownership is a major factor behind low female death registration rates. Conducted by James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University; Johns Hopkins University; and Vital Strategies, the research shows only 32% of deaths registered in Rangpur Division (2023–2024) were female.

Families often skip registering women's deaths unless tied to property or inheritance issues. Respondents cited reasons like “no land-related matters” or “no inheritance issues.” The study also highlights systemic barriers such as low awareness, bureaucratic complexity, and poor inter-agency coordination.

Experts urge reforms including gender-sensitive awareness campaigns, simplified registration processes, and linking death certificates to essential services to ensure women are not excluded from official records.

Click [here](#) to read full article.

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## CRVS Research Spotlight



### Enhancing Birth Registration in Indonesia: Addressing Disparities and Strengthening Vital Statistics Systems - Winida Albertha

With a diverse background in various fields of statistics, Winida now serves as a statistician specializing in population and mobility at BPS-Statistics Indonesia. [Through the first cohort of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Applied Research Training \(CART\)](#), Winida developed her own research project evaluating Indonesia's progress from 2015 to 2023. Her study analyzes the factors influencing birth certificate ownership among children under five, with particular attention to regional disparities in registration completeness across the country. Winida presented [her findings at the International Population Conference \(IPC\) 2025](#) in Brisbane (13–18 July 2025). Drawing on nationally

representative data from 2015 to 2024, the research provides new insights into birth certificate ownership among children aged 0–4 years in Indonesia.

Birth certificate ownership among Indonesian children under five increased from 73% in 2015 to 85% in 2024, an average growth of 1.25 percentage points per year. Although this reflects steady improvement, this pace remains insufficient. If current trend continues, completeness is projected to reach only 93% by 2030, falling short of the universal legal identity target set under SDG 16.9.

Winida's study shows that younger children are still less likely to be registered, with many births only recorded at school age. Maternal education strongly influences outcomes, and children living with their biological mother are twice as likely to be registered. Moreover, children whose mothers are in registered marriages are four to six times more likely to be registered than those whose mothers are not. Access to health facilities at childbirth is another key factor, while social assistance programs, once a barrier, have become a driver of registration over the past decade.

However, children in rural areas and eastern provinces remain less likely to have their births registered than those in urban and western regions, highlighting persistent regional gaps that need to be addressed.

These findings underscore the urgent need to accelerate progress through targeted interventions, including early registration campaigns, broader outreach, and stronger links between civil registration, health, and social protection services, are essential. Coordinated action across relevant agencies can help close the remaining gaps, ensuring that every child in Indonesia is recognized and protected from birth.

Congratulations to Winida for this important contribution!

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## Events:

[UNSD: Global calendar of statistical events](#)

[25 - 29 August 2025: First face-to-face workshop of the CART, Cohort 2](#)

[9 September 2025: Asia-Pacific Stats Café Session on Unique Identifiers in Civil Registration: Strengthening Governance and Statistics through Inclusive Identity Systems](#)

[15 September 2025: Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series: Asia and the Pacific Regional Trends on Forced Displacement and Statelessness](#)

[23 September - 2 October 2025: Technical Support for CRVS System Strengthening in Kiribati](#)

[15 - 17 October 2025: 4th Global CRVS and Gender Symposium](#)

[30 March - 1 April 2026: 2026 CRVS Research Forum](#)

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## Resources

[Progress Made on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific After a Decade of Getting Every One in the Picture: 2025 Review Report](#)

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## Professional Opportunities

[ESCAP: Intern-Statistics Division](#)

UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO): Consultant – Demographic Trends Analysis and Policy Implications for UNICEF in EAP Region (Bangkok, Thailand)

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