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## CRVS Insight Newsletter

May 2025

A promotional banner for a masterclass. At the top, logos for ESCAP, Vital Strategies, and the "Get every one in the picture" campaign are displayed. The main title is "MASTERCLASS: Data-Centered Leadership for Senior CRVS Managers". Below the title, the date is given as "09:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m. (UTC+7), Friday 27 June 2025" and the location as "UN Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand". A list of aims for the masterclass is provided, followed by a photograph of several people seated at a conference table. At the bottom, text encourages attendance at the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS, and two QR codes are shown for registration.

Are you attending the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in June?

**Call for Applications:**

**Master Class- Data centered leadership for senior CRVS managers**

Senior managers in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems are invited to participate in an exclusive executive development program, the **Master Class: Data-Centered Leadership for Senior CRVS Managers**. Scheduled for 27 June 2025 as part of the associated events of the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (3MCCRVS), the event will take place at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

The focused program aims to equip senior leaders with the expertise necessary to effectively guide their organizations in a data-driven landscape. This executive development program is designed to empower participants by enhancing personal data management skills and strengthening data use practices.

Interested candidates can submit their applications [here](#). For more information, please visit the event page [here](#).

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Image: Older people in Pakistan struggle with income security due to major gaps in the CRVS system

*Photo credit: FAID*

### **HelpAge global network shares lessons on the importance of CRVS for old-age income security**

HelpAge network members gathered to learn more about CRVS and brainstorm together on the critical role of CRVS for old-age income security. The virtual event took place on 10 April 2025 in the framework of the HelpAge-facilitated income security learning group. Around 30 organisations attended the event, including the Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID, Pakistan), India's Centre of People's Science for Rural Development (GRAVIS) and Resource Integration Centre (RIC) from Bangladesh. Presenters included Dr. Kala Peiries (Sri Lanka Centre for Development), Mr. Muhammad Bilal (FAID) and Dr. Sylvia Szabo (HelpAge International).

Key issues highlighted during the discussion focused on the barriers to strengthening CRVS systems including financial constraints, inadequate policies and legislative frameworks regarding administrative data, and poor physical and/or digital infrastructure. It also reviewed the implications of weak CRVS systems on the income security and wellbeing of older people.

Key negative implications emphasised included the barriers older people face to accessing social protection or a deceased spouse's pension, and to registering Older People's Associations or micro credit/businesses, and accessing inheritance.

Mr. Bilal from FAID said: "Many older Pakistanis remain excluded from essential services due to missing documentation, including birth certificates. Strengthening our CRVS system is critical to accessing social protection programmes and medical services. At FAID, we are committed to a truly inclusive system that upholds the rights and dignity of older people."

Learn more about HelpAge's work to improve [older people's income security](#).



### **SPC–Bloomberg Philanthropies partnership to ensure Pacific Islands births and deaths registered**

In an effort to bolster civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems across the region, the Pacific Community (SPC) has partnered with Bloomberg Philanthropies. This collaboration, supported by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, is dedicated to ensuring that all Pacific Islanders have access to essential services and the opportunity for longer, healthier lives.

Recognizing the profound and long-lasting consequences of underreported births and deaths in the Pacific, this partnership will strategically address these critical gaps. By strengthening CRVS systems, the initiative aims to guarantee that every life is counted and officially recognized, upholding fundamental rights and enabling more accurate population data.

The core objectives of this vital partnership include enhancing data accuracy; increasing accessibility; and promoting sustainable development. This collaborative initiative

underscores the fundamental importance of robust CRVS systems in facilitating equitable access to essential services and safeguarding the fundamental rights of individuals throughout the Pacific Island nations.

Read more on the story [here](#).

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### **Delhi Integrates Birth Certificates with DigiLocker for Enhanced Digital Governance**

In a significant advancement towards enhancing digital governance, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has integrated birth certificates with the DigiLocker platform. This initiative, part of the 'Digital India' mission and the '100 Days Viksit Delhi Programme,' aims to streamline access to essential documents for Delhi residents.

The integration allows Delhi residents to easily download their birth certificates from DigiLocker, eliminating the need for physical copies and visits to government offices. This will simplify processes such as school admissions, passport applications, and Aadhaar registration. This move is expected to not only benefit citizens by reducing the risk of document loss or tampering and speeding up various procedures but also lessen the administrative burden on municipal staff.

Click [here](#) for the news article.

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### **Viet Nam releases the first-ever vital statistics report based on registration records**

Viet Nam has released its first National Report on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, covering the period 2021-2024. The report, compiled by the General Statistics Office with support from Viet Nam's Ministry of Justice, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Viet Nam, Vital Strategies, and the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, provides a comprehensive overview of birth, death, and marriage registration across the country.

The report highlights Viet Nam's progress in developing a robust and transparent data system. Key findings include a steady increase in on-time birth registration, and disparities among ethnic minority groups and regions, where late registration remains prevalent.

The report emphasizes the necessity for ongoing investment in technological upgrades, improved training for local registration officers, and expanded outreach to vulnerable populations. It also advocates for better integration of civil registration data with national databases on population, health, and education to enhance its utility for sustainable development. This initial report represents a crucial milestone in Viet Nam's efforts to refine its civil registration system and utilize vital statistics for informed policymaking and development planning.

Please the news article [here](#).

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### **WHO SEARO workshops to get everyone in the picture**

The WHO South-East Asia Regional Office convened two back-to-back regional workshops in Sri Racha, Chon Buri, Thailand. The first, held on 21–22 April 2025, brought together delegates from 9 countries to validate the results of the second global SCORE assessment and develop country-specific national HIS roadmaps.

This was followed by a second workshop from 23–25 April titled “Getting everyone in the picture: How the health sector accelerated improvements in CRVS (2015–2024)”, aimed

at reviewing national progress in line with the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific.

Together, the workshops renewed momentum and strengthened multi-partner commitment to building resilient and inclusive CRVS systems. Insights from the 2025 review questionnaire were translated into priority actions aligned with the 2014 and 2021 Ministerial Declarations on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. Countries also clearly articulated their technical assistance priorities—such as inequality assessments, ICD-11 implementation, and improved cause-of-death data—and outlined actionable national strategies.

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#### **Inaugural Eurasian Civil registrars' meeting held in Ankara**

The inaugural meeting of a network for countries in Central Asia and beyond was held on 15-17 April in Ankara, Türkiye, co-organized by ESCAP, UNFPA, SESRIC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP and Vital Strategies. The meeting was convened for civil registrars working in Central Asia and beyond to share progress and challenges in CRVS improvement efforts

and identify common challenges, facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration, and to discuss a formal creation of a Eurasian Civil Registrars Network. The meeting provided a professional forum for civil registrars to discuss priority areas of common concern. The meeting was followed by a one-day meeting on marriage registration organized by UNFPA/Centre of Excellence on CRVS with support by ESCAP.

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*Photo credit: IOM Palau*

### **Palau kicks off e-Passport project**

The Government of Palau, in partnership with IOM and with funding from the Government of Japan, has officially launched the “Enhancing Border Management Capacity Through the Introduction of an E-Passport for the Republic of Palau” Project. The USD 4.5 million initiative will modernize Palau’s passport system by introducing electronic, biometric-enabled passports. The three-year project will enhance Palauans’ access to safe travel, streamline service delivery, strengthen national security, and align Palau with international travel standards.



### **CRVS Champion: Maletela Tuoane**

*Our community newsletter puts a spotlight on people who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to support CRVS programmes in Asia and the Pacific, raise awareness of CRVS issues or lead CRVS improvement efforts in their home country or in the region. This month, we would like to dedicate this issue of *Insight* to Maletela Tuoane.*

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Maletela Tuoane, Senior Health Specialist in the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF) at the World Bank. Maletela passed away on April 7, 2025, leaving behind a significant legacy in her tireless work to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems worldwide.

Maletela was Lesotho's first PhD demographer. Joining the World Bank Group in 2016, her work was driven by an unwavering belief that every person deserved the dignity of having their life counted. The systems that Maletela helped build across 22 countries will

continue her vital work, ensuring the fundamental rights are recognized and upheld for years to come.

More than just data, Maletela's work was a profound commitment to dignity, ensuring visibility and care for every individual, especially children. Her visionary approach focused on building sustainable systems that would serve communities far into the future, a goal she pursued with remarkable clarity, deep compassion, and quiet grace.

Within the Identification for Development (ID4D) community and beyond, colleagues remember Maletela for her radiant positivity, genuine warmth, and sharp intellect. A passionate advocate for children's right to legal identity, her generosity and impactful work have left an unforgettable mark on the lives of children worldwide.

On behalf of the CRVS community in Asia and the Pacific, and the broader health and development community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Maletela's family and friends. Her great contributions and determined dedication to ensuring every life counts will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

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## Resources

- [CRVS-related eLearning courses](#)
- [CR8 - 2025 Q2 Meeting of the Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia: Meeting recording](#)
- [GHAI: Uganda Journalists Join Forces to Elevate Awareness on Civil Registration](#)
- [Medical Certificate Cause-of-Death Training in the North Pacific](#)
- [Population projections and estimates in PDH.stat change from 10/04/25](#)

- [ICD guidelines and tools for cause of death recording and reporting](#)

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## Events

- [UNSD: Global calendar of statistical events](#)
- [SPC Statistics for Development Division: Event calendar](#)
- [5 - 7 May 2025: Regional workshop on gender, environment and climate change statistics](#)
- [22 May 2025: 2025 meetings of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific \(Fourth session\)](#)
- [4 - 6 June 2025: Medical Certificate of Cause of Death \(MCCD\) Certification Train-of Trainers](#)

## Training for Samoa

- [16 - 18 June 2025: 4th International Forum on Migration Statistics \(IFMS 2025\), Malmö, Sweden](#)
- [23 June 2025: Associated events: Sub-regional and Sectoral Forums \(the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific\)](#)
- [24 - 26 June 2025: Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific](#)
- [27 June 2025: Conference of donors supporting civil registration and vital statistics improvements in Asia and the Pacific](#)

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## Professional Opportunities

- [ESCAP: Intern-Statistics Division](#)
- [Samoa: Expression of Interest - National Digital Identification System \(NDIDS\) Implementation Support and Technical Advisor Firm](#)

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As we are always looking to improve content, we'd love to hear your feedback and input for articles. CRVS Insight is written for you and your feedback matters to us! If you have a new resource, upcoming event or article you would like highlighted, please send submissions along with an accompanying photo to [crvs@un.org](mailto:crvs@un.org).

Please note by submitting photos you are granting ESCAP Statistics Division permission to publish the photo in the current article and any future articles it deems appropriate.

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