
CRVS Insight

September 2024

The graphic is a blue-themed invitation for a webinar. At the top, it features a circular icon with a gear, a bar chart, and a network diagram. The main title is 'RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEASURING ADULT MORTALITY: FEASIBILITY & OUTLOOK'. Below the title, the date and time are listed: 'Monday, 30 September 2024, 16:00 - 17:30 h (Bangkok), Online'. A link '(Click to verify your time)' is provided. The graphic lists five participants: S.T.C. Gaveshika (Medical Statistics Unit of Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka), Nandita Saikia (International Institute for Population Sciences, India), Ashira Menashe-Oren (Université Catholique de Louvain), Soumaila Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), and Petra Nahmias (Chief of Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP). A QR code is on the left, and a text box on the right describes the webinar as a panel discussion among experts. The ESCAP logo is at the bottom left.

MAM-CoP Webinar - Recommendations for Measuring Adult Mortality: Feasibility & Outlook

Join the Measuring Adult Mortality Community of Practice (MAM-CoP) on Monday 30 September 2024 for a discussion on ideas for improvement and implementation of recommendations in measuring adult mortality. The recommendations include 1) cross-validation of methods, 2) aiming to reach disaggregated mortality estimates, and 3) maintaining comparability over time and across countries.

Title of the webinar: "Recommendations for Measuring Adult Mortality: Feasibility & Outlook"

Date: Monday 30 September 2024

Time: 16:00 - 17:30 h (Bangkok time) ([please click to check your time](#))

Venue: Online via MS Teams ([Click here to join meeting](#))

Registration link: ([Please register here](#))

Sign up for the Measuring Adult Mortality Community of Practice (MAM-CoP) [here](#).

Visit the Measuring Adult Mortality Community of Practice (MAM-CoP) [here](#).



From ideas to impact: Strengthening research capacity for universal civil registration and accurate population data

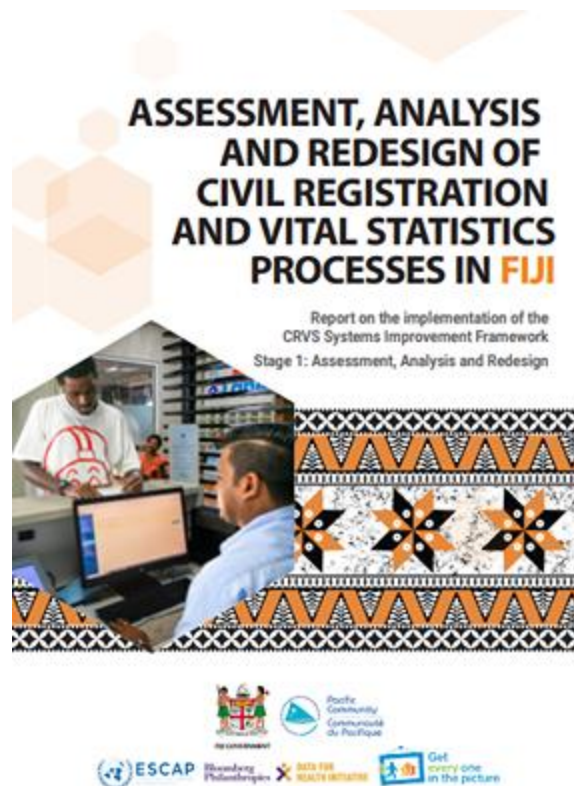
The CRVS Applied Research Training (CART) initiative, launched in March 2024, aims to enhance Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems by supporting applied research on effective strategies, interventions, and tools. This includes designing projects to tackle practical issues, using strong research methodologies, and ensuring that the findings are disseminated and applied in real-world contexts.

Participants in this year-long program engage in online training, attend virtual research skills meetings, and work closely with mentors and supervisors to develop and refine their research projects. Cohort 1 of the CART initiative is made up of 25 dedicated and inspirational Asian and African civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) practitioners. With their proposals in hand, the first cohort of CART participants met face-to-face in Dubai in August 2024 to share their work, attend training seminars, and engage in intensive peer-to-peer learning.

Find full blog post [here](#).

Announcement : Cohort 2 open for applications

The CART initiative is now accepting applications for the second cohort. Any CRVS practitioners in Asia and the Pacific with a research idea are encouraged to consider applying. More details can be found [here](#).



Launch of the Assessment, Analysis & Redesign of Civil Registration & Vital Statistics (CRVS) Processes and the Use of CRVS-Related Evidence to Inform Gender-Sensitive Policies in Fiji

The Government of Fiji in collaboration with the ESCAP, with the ambition of getting everyone in the picture, has completed the analysis and redesign of its CRVS processes. Moreover, CRVS-related data and evidence in Fiji has been analyzed to understand key issues of interest towards gender-sensitive policy recommendations (or Evidence to Action). Two policy areas of interest have been analyzed, firstly the magnitude of disparities in on-time birth registration among population groups in Fiji when financial incentives tied to on-time birth registration were not available; and secondly adolescent pregnancy and the intersectional identities of adolescent mothers. This has led to elucidating how policies and programmes in Fiji could best support population groups likely to be left behind in timely birth registration, specifically children of single, young, adolescent mothers from the iTaukei population, who typically have limited autonomy in decision making and access to resources and services.

The dissemination event held on 20 September in Suva was attended by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Siromi Turaga. Also in attendance were other representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health & Medical Services, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the Ministry of Women, Children & Social Protection as well as other national agencies and development partners. The event disseminated:

1 The [report](#) of the Assessment, Analysis & Redesign of Civil Registration & Vital Statistics (CRVS) Processes in Fiji, conducted in line with the [CRVS Systems Improvement Framework](#).

2 The Evidence-to-Action policy papers on (i) Target Groups for Addressing Disparities in On-Time Birth Registration (ii) An Intersectional Profile of Adolescent Pregnancy and Motherhood in Fiji

Preparations towards the **Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific**, to be held from **24 to 26 June 2025** at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand, were also launched in the presence of the honorable Minister of Justice.

Through a panel discussion the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health & Medical Services, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics and ESCAP highlighted achievements made in improving registration rates and coverage in Fiji during the current Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade, as well as future commitments and support.



ICAO New Technology Working Group (NTWG) meeting discusses critical standards for travel documents and ID technologies

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) hosted a meeting for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) New Technology Working Group (NTWG) in Copenhagen, Denmark during 16 - 20 September 2024.

With over 50 experts from 21 countries and international organizations, participants engaged in dialogues on issues such as critical standards for government-issued travel documents and ID technologies worldwide and improvement for the issuance and acceptance of Convention Travel Documents (CTDs) for refugees.

Please find more information on the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG) [here](#).



From Registration to Resettlement: How the Digital Gateway is empowering refugees in Indonesia

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Indonesia, in partnership with the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, developed a Digital Gateway - an online, multi-lingual self-service portal, allowing refugees and asylum-seekers in Indonesia to create accounts and remotely access, record and update personal information with UNHCR.

The portal provides families with access to legal support from UNHCR and birth certificate referrals to the national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system, giving them the protection and rights under international law.

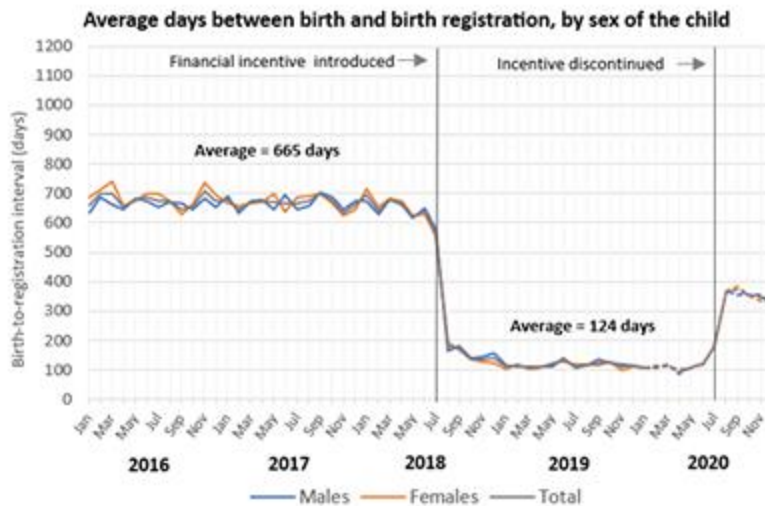
Read the full story [here](#).



Seminar on the issuance of Official Birth or Death Certificates or Notifications in Indonesia

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Indonesia held a seminar in Jakarta on 17 September 2024 to discuss the issuance of Official Birth or Death Certificates or Notifications. Heads of Civil Registry Offices where there is a high number of refugee children populations conferred on the importance of Official Notifications for refugees, particularly for recording the births of refugee children in Indonesia.

The panelists included the Director General of Population Registration and Civil Registration and the Head of the Sub-Directorate of Birth and Death Registration Facilitation. The panelists emphasized the obligation of all Civil Registry Offices to issue Official Notifications for important life events, particularly births and deaths, experienced by refugees in Indonesia.

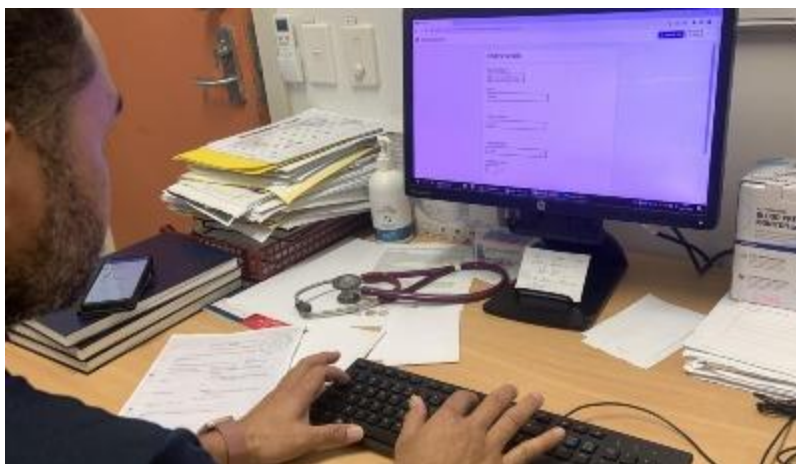


New research article highlights effectiveness of a financial incentive tied to on-time birth registration in Fiji

A recently published research article documents the sharp improvement in on-time birth registration nationally in Fiji from 58% prior to the incentive to 93% during the incentive. For the two-years the incentive was available (August 2018 - July 2020) it was most effective at improving the timeliness of birth registration among the iTaukei ethnicity, young mothers, and single mothers. After it was discontinued, the timeliness of birth registration deteriorated sharply, highlighting the need to consider reinstatement of incentives tied to on-time birth registration in Fiji. Even small economic incentives, or coupons to exchange for items required to care for a newborn, are likely to have a positive impact on birth registration and exploration of these options is recommended.

This article was a collaboration between UNSW Sydney, Fiji Civil Registry, Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Vital Strategies and ESCAP.

For more information, please click [here](#).



Stats Brief: Understanding and Improving Adult Mortality Measurement in a Changing Demographic Landscape

ESCAP's Statistics Division has released a Stats Brief on Understanding and Improving Adult Mortality Measurement in a Changing Demographic Landscape, as part of ESCAP's work on civil registration and vital statistics funded under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative (D4H) Project.

Demographic landscape has been shifting with rising in adult deaths and declining child mortality and lower fertility rate. Understanding adult mortality is important for effective public health investment and decision-making. This Stats Brief explores the different ways of estimating adult mortality and how this can be improved.

Read more [here](#).



NO IDENTITY, NO PROTECTION

How lack of documentation drives modern slavery

September 2024

Authored by: Heaven Crawley, Anita Ghemsi, Louis Henri Mancini, Linda Ouchi and Angahrad Smith



No identity, no protection: How lack of identity documents drives exploitation and modern slavery

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Target 16.9 focuses on providing legal identity for all, including birth registration. The United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR), together with the Freedom Fund have examined modern slavery risks among individuals lacking documentation in their recent report, No Identity, No Protection.

Without official documentation, the risk of modern slavery increases as people, such as migrants, stateless minorities and those affected by discriminatory nationality laws, struggle to access basic essential services and are often driven into informal, dangerous and exploitative work. The report urges for government action, community engagement and international cooperation to address this issue.

Click [here](#) for the No Identity, No Protection report.



International standard for biometric bias measurement unanimously approved

A new international standard for how to test for equitability and bias in biometric systems has been approved. The ISO/IEC 19795-10 is expected to be published soon.

Part 10: Quantifying biometric system performance variation across demographic groups, is expected to be incorporated into various system requirements and other standards, including a new ICAO biometric passport standard, to increase the fairness of the biometric systems.

For more information, see the full article [here](#).

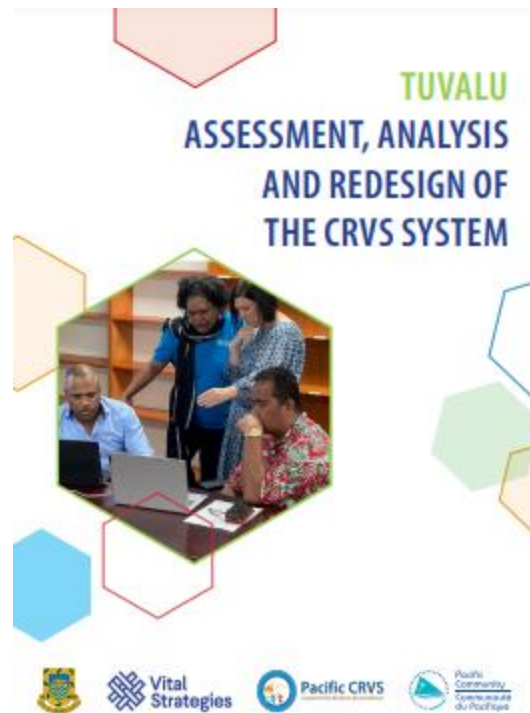


Lack of formal ID for women poses barrier to the digital world: report

A report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) reveals an imminent gender gap in digital access, resulting in challenges for women, especially in low- and middle-income countries, that limit their ability to engage fully in the digital economy.

Without a formal identification from birth, women are often unable to register mobile sim cards, access digital services, or open bank accounts. The lack of identity documents, along with cultural constraints, often restrict women's mobility and access to administrative services.

Please visit the article [here](#).



Births to bereavements: Tuvalu civil registration and vital statistics plan put forward in SPC report

The Pacific Community (SPC) released a report on Assessment, Analysis and Redesign of the CRVS System in Tuvalu. The report explored civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in the country, from the recording of births, adoptions, marriages, name changes, divorces and deaths, and their flow-on use in official statistics for planning at the population level.

Life event records lead to accurate, complete and timely vital statistics. The national CRVS systems need to be robust and capable of supplying the necessary information for individual, administrative and statistical use. The report is pushing for advocating both short-term improvements and a long-term shift to an electronic civil registration and vital statistics system.

Read the report [here](#).



CRVS Champion: Meli Nadakuca

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 Meli Nadakuca.

What is your current title and role?

Presently, I am the Senior Statistician, Vital Statistics, Demography & GIS section of the Social Statistics Division at the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS). My key role is to manage the production of demographic indicators and its dissemination and provide support to socio-economic policy formulation.

I have been a member of the Fiji CRVS Committee since 2018, which is when the National CRVS Action Plan was developed to outline priority actions that need to be achieved in order to address the CRVS system weaknesses in Fiji. The development of this action plan, highlighted to me, the importance of improving the CRVS system in Fiji, especially to achieve the goals and targets outlined in the Regional Action Framework for CRVS Asia and the Pacific.

Can you please share with us a particular experience which highlighted the importance of CRVS to you?

A particular experience which underscored the importance of CRVS to me was when Fiji conducted an inequality assessment of civil registration which shed light on the

completeness of civil registration in Fiji. The assessment highlighted particular population groups in Fiji who were less likely to have their births or deaths registered. To be more specific, the inequality assessment highlighted that ethnicity had the largest impact on both birth and death registration in Fiji and provided evidence to inform policy specific recommendations, to ensure that every Fijian is registered.

I would like to thank God Almighty for bringing me this far, "Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." Secondly, I would like to thank the FBoS management for the opportunity and support given to represent the department in various CRVS activities at national and regional level.

How are you currently involved in CRVS improvements?

As a Senior Statistician at FBoS, I have been involved in various projects which aim to improve CRVS in Fiji, supported by ESCAP and other development partners. I was the project manager for the CRVS Inequality assessment, the assessment analysis and redesign of CRVS business processes in Fiji and the project on putting data and evidence into action.

Which advice would you give to others trying to improve CRVS systems?

As the saying goes, teamwork makes the dream work, and similarly, to improve the CRVS system, it is important to have close collaboration with core stakeholders, via forming an active CRVS committee to oversee the implementation and smooth running of all activities. Given our experience in conducting a civil registration inequality assessment and the assessment, analysis and redesign of CRVS business processes, we would encourage other countries to undertake other such activities, to ensure that we can truly 'Get Every One in the Picture'.

NEW RESOURCES

- [Q&As on questionnaire completion for 2025 review of progress in implementing the RAF](#)
- [Arab Declaration on Belonging and Legal Identity](#)
- [UNICEF Report: Certify Hope - Rights from the start: Achieving universal birth registration in Australia](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Global calendar of statistical events](#)
- [SPC Statistics for Development Division event calendar](#)

- [1 November 2024: Associated event to the 4th Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics: Navigating the nexus between disaster related statistics and civil registration and vital statistics systems for risk-informed development](#)
- [11 - 13 December 2024: 7th Conference on Technical Cooperation & Capacity Building for Border Management and Identity \(BMIC\)](#)
- [11 - 13 December 2024: The ninth session of the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#)

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- [INTERN – STATISTICS DIVISION - Civil Registration and Vital Statistic \(CRVS\)](#)



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 escap-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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