"Get Every One in the Picture"

First Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)

Meeting Room A, UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand, 28-30 July 2015

Meeting Objectives

1. Decide on approaches and modalities for providing regional support to the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific,

2. Review the draft guidelines for the implementation of the Regional Action Framework and discuss the development of further tools and research to support the improvement of CRVS

3. Develop the programme of work for the Regional Steering Group for the period 2015-2019

DAY 1: Tuesday, 28 July 2015

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<th>Session</th>
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<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening</td>
<td>ESCAP Secretariat</td>
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<td>Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</td>
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<td>Mr. Jeff Montgomery, Registrar-General and General Manager, Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand on behalf of the Regional Steering Group on CRVS 2013-2014</td>
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| Session 2 | Election of the Chair and Vice Chairs | ESCAP Secretariat |
| 9.15 | Expected outcome: A Chair and Vice Chairs are elected amongst the Regional Steering Group. |

Group photo and Coffee break (in front of Meeting Room H)

| Session 3 | Introductions | Session chair: Chair of the Regional Steering Group |
| 9.50 | Presentation: Overview of the programme, Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP Secretariat |
| | Tour-de-table: Participants briefly introduce themselves to the group and share their expectations for this meeting. |

Expected outcome: Participants become familiar with each other.

| Session 4 | RAF Action Areas: Political commitment | Chair |
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### Session 5
**10.25** The Regional Action framework includes seven Action Areas. The Action Areas facilitate structured reporting on activities and progress by Government and development partners, which will enable enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and the identification of opportunities for collaboration. This session focuses on the Action Area political commitment.

**Presentation:**
- Overview of the Regional Action Framework (RAF) and implementation steps, Ms. Tanja Sejersen, ESCAP Secretariat
- Political commitment in Fiji, H.E. Mr. Jone Usamate, Fiji
- The Philippines CRVS coordination mechanism and Presidential Declaration, Ms. Lisa Bersales, Philippines
- Political commitment in Mongolia, Mr. Davaadorj Radnaased, Mongolia

*Discussion and interventions:* Participants have an opportunity to ask questions about the Regional Action Framework and discuss how to achieve political commitments and how the regional initiative can support country work in this Action Area

*Expected outcome:* Participants have an enhanced and shared understanding of the commitments under the Regional Action Framework

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### Session 5
**11.00** RAF Action Areas: Public engagement
This session focuses on the Action Areas public engagement.

**Presentations:**
- CRVS activities in Malaysia, Mr Zakaria Awi, Malaysia
- Country engagements with Civil Society Organizations, Mr. Abid Gulzar, World Vision

*Discussion:* Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to achieve public engagement and involvement of relevant government stakeholders for the development of comprehensive multisectoral national CRVS strategies and how the regional initiative can support country work in this Action Area

*Expected outcome:* Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Possibly identification of opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and the identification of opportunities for collaboration.

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### Session 6
**14.00** RAF Action Areas: Coordination
Implementation steps for the RAF include multisectoral consultations and the establishment of an effective and sustainable national CRVS coordination mechanism comprising all relevant stakeholders, as well as the appointment of national focal point for CRVS. This session focuses on the Action Area ‘coordination’

**Presentations:**
- Coordination on provision of birth certificate, Ms. Suharti, Indonesia
- Coordination mechanisms in Pakistan, Mr. Zafar, Pakistan

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**Session chair:** Chair of the Regional Steering Group
**Rapporteur:** Ming Viado

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**Session chair:** Chair of the Regional Steering Group
**Rapporteur:** Nicoleta Panta

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**Session chair:** Vice Chair of the RSG
**Rapporteur:** Grace Agcaoili
- **CRVS comprehensive assessments as a tool for coordination**, Dr. Azza Badr, WHO EMRO
- **Coordination in Bhutan**, Dr. Pandum Tshering, Bhutan
- **CRVS Activities in Bangladesh**, Mr. Anir Chowdury, Bangladesh
- **The National CRVS Focal Points**, Ms. Tanja Sejersen, UNESCAP

**Discussion:** Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to improve coordination within countries between national stakeholders as well as donors and development partners. How can the regional initiative support coordination?

**Expected outcome:** Discussion on key challenges and opportunities for effective coordination in countries. Clarity on the role of the National CRVS Focal Points. Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area.

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**15.30**

**Coffee break**

**Session 7**

**15.45**

**RAF Action Areas: Policies, legislation and implementation of regulations**

- **Linking Civil Registration and identity management**, Ms. Mia Harbitz, World Bank
- **Passport to protection**, Ms. Grace Agcaoili, UNICEF
- **Assessing inequalities in accessing civil registration for hard-to-reach and marginalized groups — a pilot project**, Mr. Nick Oakeshott, UNHCR

**Discussion:** Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to improve policies, legislation and implementation of regulations and how the regional initiative can support country work in this Action Area.

**Expected outcome:** Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Possibly identification of opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and the identification of opportunities for collaboration.

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**17.00**

**Reception hosted by World Vision**

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**DAY 2: Wednesday, 29 July 2015**

**Session 8**

**9.00**

**Taking stock of Day One**

**Desired outcome:** The Regional Steering Group addresses any issues from the first day, and, if necessary, changes the
remainder of the meeting programme.

**Session 9**  
9.10  
**RAF Action Areas: Infrastructure and resources**  
**Presentations:**  
- **CRVS progress in India**, Ms. P A Mini, India  
- **Cause of death and ICD-mortality shortlist and other existing WHO tools**, Mr. Mark Landry, World Health Organization  

**Discussion:** Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to improve infrastructure and resources and how the regional initiative can support countries within this Action Area  

**Expected outcome:** Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Identification of opportunities for capacity building and training of officials to facilitate the establishment, maintenance and monitoring of CRVS systems.

**Session chair:** Chair of the Regional Steering Group  
**Rapporteur:** Kendra Gregson

10.00  
**Coffee break**

**Session 10**  
10.15  
**RAF Action Areas: Operational procedures, practices and innovation**  
ICT related challenges are related to this Action Area and many countries are involved in improvements using ICT.  

**Presentations:**  
- **"Better Access to Baby Identify and Information Service (BABII)"**, Jeff Montgomery, New Zealand  
- **CRVS activities in Armenia**, Mr. Argam Stepanyan, Armenia  
- **Coordination activities in Cambodia**, Mr. Heng Sophat, Cambodia  
- **Systemic approaches on ICT for birth registration**, Ms. Kendra Gregson, UNICEF  
- **Digital Birth Registration Risk assessment tool**, Ms. Nicoleta Panta, Plan International  
- **Interoperability and Unique IDs and Smart ICT Investments for CRVS**, Ms. Lori Thorell, UNICEF  

**Discussion:** Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on key challenges for the use of ICT in Civil Registration and identification of best approaches for overcoming them.  

**Expected outcome:** Identification of the kind of assistance countries need and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Possibly identification of opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and the identification of opportunities for collaboration.

**Session chair:** Vice Chair of the Regional Steering Group  
**Rapporteur:** Mark Landry

**Session 11**  
11.30  
**RAF Action Areas: Production, dissemination and use of vital statistics**  
**Presentations:**  
- **Experiences from Australia**, Ms. AJ Lanyon, Australia  
- **CRVS improvement activities in Iran**, Mr. Ali Akbar  

**Session chair:** Vice Chair of the Regional Steering Group  
**Rapporteur:** Karen Carter
Improving the collection of vital statistics, Mr. Agidalov, Kazakhstan
- Status Update from Korea, Ms. Yeanok Yoon, Rep. of Korea
- Bloomberg Data for Health, Ms. Carla Abouzahr, CAZ Consulting

Discussion: Questions and answers to the presentations and discussion on how to improve the production, dissemination and use of vital statistics and how the regional initiative can support countries.

Expected outcome: Identification of the kind of assistance countries need in the Action Area and how the work of the Regional Steering Group can assist activities in line with this Action Area. Possibly identification of opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing, regional cooperation and learning, and the identification of opportunities for collaboration.

12.30 Lunch

Session 12
13.30 Implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS: Review of the draft guidelines for setting and monitoring the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework (breakout and plenary)

Sub-groups:
- Group A: Goal 1 - Universal civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events
- Group B: Goal 2 - All individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events, as necessary to claim identity, civil status and ensuing rights;
- Group C: Goal 3 - Accurate, complete and timely vital statistics (including on causes of death) are produced based on registration records and are disseminated

Rapporteur: Each sub-group will select a rapporteur who will present a summary of the discussions and recommendations in the subsequent plenary session.

Expected outcomes: Subgroups will discuss the guidelines and provide feedback and specific recommendations on these as well as considerations of how they can be used by countries for the monitoring and implementation of the Regional Action Framework.

15.00 Coffee break

Session 13
15.15 Reporting on previous session
Groups report back on their discussions

Session 14
16.15 Special Session: Further initiatives to support implementation of the Regional Action Framework

Rapporteur: Nicholas
Presentations:
- Update on the activities of the Pacific Civil Registrars Network, Mr. Jeff Montgomery
- CDC CRVS activities, Mr. Sam Notzon, CDC

Discussion: Questions and answers to the presentations

Expected outcome: The Regional Steering Group provides proposal for further assistance needed to implementation of the Regional Action Framework.

DAY 3: Thursday, 30 July 2015

Session 15  
9.00  
Taking stock of Day Two

Desired outcome: The Regional Steering Group addresses any issues from the second day, and, if necessary, changes the remainder of the meeting programme.

Session chair: Chair of the Regional Steering Group

Session 16  
9.15  
Special Session: Research to support implementation of the Regional Action Framework

Presentations:
- Research Agenda for CRVS, Ms. Carla Abouzahr, CAZ Consulting
- Research on CRVS and Gender, Mr. James Knowles, UN Foundation

Discussion: Q & A

Expected outcome: The Regional Steering Group provides ideas and feedback on potential research projects, advocacy and fundraising activities that should be developed to support the improvement of CRVS in the region.

Session chair: Vice Chair of the Regional Steering Group

Rapporteur: Mariko Tomiyama

10.00  
Coffee break

Session 17  
10.15  
Regional support for RAF implementation

Presentation:
- The terms of references of the Regional Steering Group, Ms. Tanja Sejersen, UNESCAP
- Regional CRVS knowledge sharing website, Ms. Sinovia Moonie, ESCAP

Panel Discussion: Panel discussion revisiting objective one on deciding on approaches and modalities for providing regional support to the implementation of the Regional Action framework

Expected outcome: Agreement on approaches and modalities for providing regional support to the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

Session chair: Vice Chair of the Regional Steering Group

Session 18  
12.30  
Work programme for the Regional Steering Group in 2015 – 2019

Session chair: Chair of the Regional Steering Group
13.30

- Taking stock of the sessions of the morning
- Tour-de-table: Participants will be asked to provide their own perspective on expectations for programme of work for the RSG including important issues which should be covered in the baseline report for the CRVS Decade.

Discussion: Lessons learned from the first Regional Steering Group on CRVS. Ideas for the work programme (Chair of the Regional Steering Group)

Expected outcome: The Regional Steering Group agrees on a work programme through to the end of 2019, building on the discussions during the first 2.5 day of the Regional Steering Group meeting.

15.00

Coffee break

Session 19

15.15 Roles and responsibilities of the Regional Steering Group (CLOSED, only for RSG members)

Presentation:

- Nominations received for the Regional Steering Group, Ms. Tanja Sejersen, UNESCAP

Discussion: Discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the Regional Steering group, communication, sub-groups, procedural and management matters.

Expected outcome: Shared understanding of the role of the Regional Steering Group and its means and modes of communication as well as timelines, responsibilities, sub-groups, membership and frequency and modality of Regional Steering Group meetings.

Session chair: Chair of the Regional Steering Group

Session 20

16.30 Closing

- Chair of the Regional Steering Group