



Get  
every one  
in the picture

ASIAN AND PACIFIC CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS DECADE 2015 - 2024



**United Nations Publication**

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Bangkok, 2015

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## FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I present the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Bangkok in November 2014. As can be seen in the Ministerial Declaration to “Get Every One in the Picture” in Asia and the Pacific, there is a clear commitment by countries in our region to leave no one behind and to place people firmly at the centre of the development agenda beyond 2015.

The present publication forms part of events to celebrate the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015-2024, and is intended as a reference for policymakers, experts and practitioners working at the subnational, national and regional levels to strengthen CRVS and live up to the promises made at the Conference. The Decade builds on tireless country-level efforts to improve CRVS systems, and is aligned with global and subregional initiatives.

CRVS is crucial for individuals as well as for society at large. Civil registration, and the personal documents it provides, give people a formal legal identity, civil status and recognize their key family relationships. Legal identity in turn provides access to a host of services and entitlements, ranging from schooling and banking, to claiming inheritances, a nationality and a passport. A legal identity is a human right, which is why CRVS is fundamental in rights-based inclusive development.

Civil registration records help to deliver public services more effectively and are key in monitoring progress on development goals. Well-functioning CRVS systems will, therefore, be essential in order to achieve the proposed sustainable development goals. Compiling detailed demographic data to properly profile populations is a primary responsibility of all States, and a critical element of good governance. Beyond simply counting every person, more nuanced statistics, disaggregated by

smaller administrative regions, or by age and sex, can facilitate the transformation of societies through targeted policy interventions to reduce inequalities.

It is my hope that, by the end of the Decade, that we will be able to reflect on successful, collaborative efforts and proudly say that in Asia and the Pacific: (a) all key life events are being registered; (b) all people possess legal proof of identity; and (c) registration records are fully utilized to produce and share accurate, complete and timely vital statistics.

We have the best possible starting point to make this happen. Governments of our region are committed to an integrated and holistic approach to improving CRVS systems. The Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Framework contained in this publication are the results of many years of extensive consultations and deliberations.

ESCAP is fully committed to support our members and associate members in their endeavours throughout the Decade. We will leverage our broad mandate and analytical capacities, as well as our regional convening and norm-setting capacities, to ensure the success of the Decade.

Let us work together to get every one in the picture.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shamshad Akhtar', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Shamshad Akhtar**  
**Under-Secretary-General of**  
**the United Nations and**  
**Executive Secretary of ESCAP**

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It's time to...



Get every one in the picture

#getinthepicture

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