



## Navigating the nexus between disaster related statistics and civil registration and vital statistics systems for risk-informed development

Jointly organized by ESCAP, UNEP and ECE

**Associated event to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics as part of the 4th Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics  
(Venue: UNCC, Conference Room 5)**

**Objective:** To explore the nexus between disaster related statistics and civil registration and vital statistics systems, including the use of civil registration to support the production of disaster-related statistics

**Background:** A well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system helps ensure that every person has a legal identity, facilitating access to the benefits and protections of the State. It is also the preferred data source for many demographic statistics with numerous indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) directly related to mortality and fertility while others rely on population data as the denominator. To know who is being left behind, the relevant disaggregated population data needs to be available.

The Disaster-Related Statistics Framework (DRSF) organizes data and statistics related to disasters into three components, of which two are relevant for CRVS: 1. Event specific statistics encompass summary statistics on disaster occurrences, human impacts, material and economic impacts, as well as impacts to the environment, ecosystems and cultural heritages. 2. Non-event specific statistics, comprising statistics related to exposure, vulnerability and coping capacity, are critical to the assessment of disaster risks at the national and sub-national scale for DRR policy planning and action as well as support risk-informed development. The United Nations Statistical Commission is also developing a common framework for disaster-related statistics. To this end, the Commission has established an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics which is co-led by ESCAP, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Fundamental to disaster-related statistics is baseline information about the country's population that is up-to-date and readily available at different levels of administrative divisions. A civil registration system records vital events such as births, deaths and causes of deaths, adoptions, marriages, and divorces. When utilized for population statistics, the civil registration system is a robust data source for timely and granular data on population and changes to population in a near-real-time basis. Furthermore, a critical step for ensuring consistency in the statistical systems and completeness of data across different applications of mortality statistics, is correctly incorporating the number and causes of deaths resulting from disasters into the broader civil registration system and mortality statistics.

Many countries experience lower civil registration completeness rates among certain marginalized and hard-to-reach population groups or geographic areas. These are often the same populations who are at

heightened risk during disasters. At the same time, the need for CRVS can be heightened during a disaster and in the response. Disasters are often associated with higher mortality and robust CRVS can help inform response and control disease outbreaks which might follow a disaster by providing timely data on mortality and causes of death. Provision of legal identity through CRVS is also essential during a disaster to help with targeting assistance and preventing statelessness, exploitation and trafficking. The use of civil registration data and systems for disaster-related statistics and risk-informed development has not been explored in depth.

During the ninth and tenth meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, consensus was reached on the inclusion of resilience into the work associated with any extension of the CRVS Decade. Members emphasized that resilience is crucial for effectively tackling challenges related to disasters. Civil registration can support the provision of services to victims of disasters, including relief aid and registration services themselves, effectively ensuring access to legal documentation. Data stemming from civil registration systems can offer valuable insights for better planning, monitoring, and response to crises, including as inputs to the production of disaster-related statistics. However, many countries in Asia and the Pacific face challenges for producing statistics from civil registration as registration is not yet universal. This issue can be exacerbated in times of crisis, where registration services are not always considered essential services and can sometimes completely shut down. and the number of vital events, such as deaths, can dramatically increase.

Additionally, the 79th session of the ESCAP commission established that climate change is driving displacement and making life harder for those who have already been forced to flee. This trend is likely to demand more attention in the future, as more people become displaced. The Asia-Pacific region hosts some of the most vulnerable communities, which also have to deal with the compounding risks associated with climate-induced disasters. The impacts of climate change are numerous and are already leading to population displacement and the deterioration of economic conditions and loss of livelihoods. Hazards and disasters resulting from the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, such as abnormally heavy rainfall, prolonged drought, desertification, environmental degradation, sea level rise and cyclones, are further causes of displacement linked to climate change. In addition, climate change can act as a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing tensions and adding to the potential for conflicts and associated displacement. Having resilient civil registration and vital statistics systems is central to supporting efforts aimed at adapting to climate change, at the projected increase in number of social and natural disasters. When they are well-functioning, CRVS systems are the best source of timely and granular data on the population and of statistics that can be used in planning, implementing and monitoring policies, including policies addressing the impacts of natural disasters. Unregistered people are often invisible to the State and, as a result, their deaths, and their level of vulnerability and the limitations they experience in accessing social protection and services can be very difficult to assess, including relief aid in situation of disasters.

Against this backdrop, ESCAP and Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health initiative have collaborated and implemented the project entitled "Getting everyone in the picture: strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems in Asia and the Pacific". The work supports implementation of the Regional

Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and the further commitments made in the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

### Participation:

All participants attending the expert forum and interested participants from the African StatCOM and UN-GGIM: Africa are welcome to attend. The event will be held in English only

### Agenda [Friday 1 November 2024]

Time	Session focus	Speaker and modality
11.00	<p>Opening and setting the scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening</li> <li>• Overview of Disaster-related Statistics</li> <li>• CRVS and disasters in Africa</li> <li>• Overview of CRVS</li> </ul>	<p>Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief of Section, ESCAP</p> <p>William Muhwava, Chief of Section, ECA</p> <p>Tanja Sejersen, Statistician and CRVS lead, ESCAP</p>
11.30	<p>Introduction to the three main research questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can data generated from a civil registration system, including derived vital statistics, be used to produce population statistics including key disaggregation (e.g., age and sex) at the lowest administrative areas to support statistics on population exposure to hazards?</li> <li>2. How can death registration and vital statistics produced by a civil registration system (ie. data on causes of death) support the production of official statistics on number of deaths attributed to disasters (Sendai Framework indicator A-2) that is linked to disaster events causing the mortality?</li> <li>3. What are the conceptual and measurement basis for statistics on (i) evacuated, (ii) relocated, (iii) internally displaced and (iv) internationally displaced population due to disasters?</li> </ol>	<p>Hakan Yazicioglu, Associate Statistician, ESCAP</p> <p>County interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• Philippines</li> <li>• Fiji</li> </ul>
11.45	Group discussions	<p>Led by selected countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armenia</li> <li>• Bhutan</li> <li>• Georgia</li> <li>• Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Nepal</li> <li>• Vanuatu</li> </ul>
13.00	Lunch	

14:00	Reporting back from group discussions	Moderated by Hamish Patten, Consultant, ESCAP
14:50	Closing	