



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
for CRVS Systems



Empowering Women, Saving Lives – Strengthening CRVS Systems

Hosts: Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, UNFPA and UNICEF

Date and location: 17-18 October 2022, New York

Background and Overview

The world will reach 8 billion people in November 2022, having doubled in size over the past 50 years. Yet, many people remain excluded and invisible to civil registration systems - 25% of children (under 5 years of age) have not had their births registered (i.e. approximately 237 million children), less than 30% of deaths in low and middle-income countries are registered, and most countries have not compiled data on the completeness of marriage registration.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are integral to achieving the SDGs and especially SDG 5 and SDG 3. Yet, we cannot make everyone count, unless women and girls are also counted. Ensuring legal identity for all, underpinned by access to birth, marriage and death registration across the life course, is a crucial layer of protection for women and children against social exclusion. Further, civil registration are a crucial data source for sex-disaggregated vital statistics and gender responsive vital statistics on reproductive health, maternal health, and nuptiality.

The [Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems](#), hosted at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and UNICEF will host the 3rd CRVS and gender global conference on October 17-18, 2022 in New York at UNFPA headquarters. The aim of the Conference is to engage with key stakeholders on gender and CRVS - including researchers, practitioners, decision makers and policy advocates - in order to ensure that everyone, in particular women and children, is registered, certified and counted by 2030. More specifically, the conference aims to:

- 1) Assess developments on CRVS and gender since 2020 Conference in Ottawa, including the impact of Covid-19
- 2) Highlight the value of CRVS data for tracking gender inequalities at national, regional and global levels
- 3) Showcase and advance practices to strengthen gender-responsive CRVS systems to advance the 2030 agenda, and in particular SDG 3 and SDG5 and commitments "Leave No One Behind"
- 4) Identify research/evidence and practice gaps at the intersection of CRVS and gender that require further prioritization now through to 2030.
- 5) Advance community of practice around gender and CRVS, including nurturing a new generation of CRVS practitioners

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the functioning and strengthening of CRVS systems in many countries. Future CRVS system strengthening also faces major challenges in light of the climate crisis, more frequent humanitarian crises, and protracted mass displacement. This conference will take stock of the current situation, review recent lessons learned, and identify key research, evidence and practice gaps at the intersection of CRVS and gender. It will bring together practitioners, researchers, decision makers and advocates working at the intersection of CRVS and gender. The conference will be a forum to support gender responsive CRVS strengthening efforts, share experiences and insights, and guide future efforts. In particular, this conference will build on the [second CRVS and gender conference held](#)



[in Ottawa, Canada in February, 2020](#). This third conference seeks to ensure CRVS system strengthening efforts are gender responsive and to identify research and practice agenda priorities at the intersection of CRVS and gender.

Online Interaction

We hope that this meeting can be a space for different experiences and opinions to be shared. We especially encourage you to continue your discussions online during and after the conference by connecting with us via Twitter using hashtag: #CRVSGender, #GenreESEC, #CRVS2030 or #ESEC2030.

Agenda

Day 1	
8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 9:00	<p>Moderator: Dr. Rachel Snow (@Rachel_C_Snow), Chief, Population and Development Branch (@PopDevUNFPA), UNFPA (@UNFPA)</p> <p>Opening and welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Diene Keita (@dienekeita), Deputy Executive Director, Programs, UNFPA (@UNFPA) [TBC] • Mr. Cornelius Williams, Director, Child Protection Program, UNICEF (@UNICEF) • Dr. John Dusabe-Richards (@johndusabe), Director, Global Health, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (@IDRC_CRDI) [v] <p>Keynote Address – H.E. Ms. Phonesaly Souksavath, Vice Minister and Head, Lao Statistics Bureau, Lao PDR</p>
09:00 – 10:00	<p>Opening Panel : Developments since 2020; CRVS and gender equality; Opportunities and challenges</p> <p>This panel will review the state of the field and recent developments at the intersection of CRVS and gender. It will highlight the challenges, setbacks and innovations that have developed during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Panelists will draw attention to major strategic, operational and technical issues that require further attention to ensure civil registration systems are gender responsive and vital statistics support gender equality and women’s empowerment.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Francesca Grum (@fgrum), Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, UN Statistics Division (@UNDESA)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Phonesaly Souksavath, Vice Minister and Head, Lao Statistics Bureau, Lao PDR

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tulimeke Munyika, Director, National Population Register, Identification and Production, Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, Namibia (@MHAINamibia) [v] • Mr. Neel Singh, Registrar General, Ministry of Justice, Fiji; Chair, Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific • Dr. Peter Hansen, Head of Results, Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (@theGFF)
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 - 12:00	<p>Technical Session 1: The value of CRVS for gender equality: Recent advances and future prospects</p> <p>The universal, permanent, and continuous registration of vital events are critical in ensuring gender equality and empowering women across the life-course. This session reviews recent experiences in using high quality civil registration data to monitor harmful practices, align civil registration systems with the 2020 census round, link civil registration data with health information systems and identity management systems, and monitor COVID-19 excess mortality by combining death registration data with related data sources.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea (@parwasisa), President of the Executive Council, CHIRAPAQ, Peru (@chirapaqoficial)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring pre-natal sex selection in the Republic of Georgia: The role of civil registration - Mr. Gogita Todradze, Executive Director, GEOSTAT, Georgia (@Geostat100) • Harnessing linkages between the health, civil registration and national identity (Aadhar) systems to sustain the empowerment of women and children in Uttar Pradesh, India - Mr. Alok Kumar (@74_alok), Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh (@UPGovt) • Strengthening CRVS and utilisation of 2021 census data in Nepal - Mr. Tirtha Raj Bhattarai, Director General, Department of NID and Civil Registration, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal • Gender dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic: challenges and innovations in death registration during times of public health crisis - Dr. Hong Anh Chu,

	<p>Technical Officer, Department of Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact, World Health Organization (@WHO)</p> <p>Discussant: Dr. Tara Cookson (@tpcookson), Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia (@UBC) and LadySmith (@Ladysmith)</p>
12:00 - 13:15	<i>Buffet Lunch</i>
13:15- 14.45	<p>Technical Session 2: Social, behavioural and gender norms and access to CRVS systems</p> <p>Inherited traditions and perceptions affect a family's decision-making, including a woman's access to civil registration. In patriarchal societies, men have traditionally been responsible for communicating with authorities, ensuring any legal or official proceedings, and preserving documentation for all family members. Although women are not legally prohibited from registering vital events, many women face a range of structural impediments to register vital events. This session will explore the gender dimensions of these social norms and behavioural factors that undermine progress towards universal legal identity.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Nafisatou Diop (@NafisatouDiop), Chief, Gender and Human Rights Branch, UNFPA (@UNFPA)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRVS System Reform, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Tajikistan's Experience and Achievements. - H.E. Ms. Nigina Alizoda, First Deputy Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice, Tajikistan • Using qualitative research to unpack social norms, behavioural and gender factors associated with under-registration of births, marriages and deaths in Senegal - Mr. Aliou Ousmane Sall, Director of Civil Status, Ministry of Local Authorities, Development and Territorial Planning, Senegal • Unpacking how behavioural factors, social and gender norms shape marriage registrations: field insights and implications for CRVS system scale-up in Benin - Dr. Cyrille Gougbedji, Gestionnaire Mandataire, National Agency for the Identification of Persons, Government of Benin (@gouvbenin) [v] • Gendered barriers to the legal identity system in Pakistan - determinants and responses - Mr. Tariq Malik (@ReplyTariq), Chief Executive Officer, NADRA (@NadraPak) <p>Discussant: Ms. Dorina Andreev (@dorinaandreev), Chief, Social and Behaviour Change Regional Advisor, Regional Office for South Asia, UNICEF (@UNICEFROSA) [v]</p>

<p>14:45-15:30</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break & Poster Session</i></p> <p>Poster Session for early-career practitioners and researchers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application of the capture-recapture technique: Disaggregated estimates of Vital Statistics in Brazil on a gender perspective - Dr. Barbara Cobo, Researcher, Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, Brazil (@ibgecomunica) 2. The socio-demographic determinants of marriage registration and the well-being of women in Maroua, Cameroon - Dr. Nanche Billa Robert, Senior Lecturer, University of Maroua, Cameroon 3. Technical assessment of the completeness and quality of cause-of-death certification in Tunisia, 2013-2020 - Ms. Soumaya Taibi (@soumaya_taibi), Population Data Fellow, Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, UNFPA (@PopDevUNFPA) 4. Exploring strategies to enhance awareness, knowledge and access to birth registration systems in Southeast Nigeria - Dr. Chiemezie Atama (@AtamaChiemezie), Population, Gender and Development Studies, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. 5. Counting stillbirths in India and other LMICs for women's well-being - Ms. Payal Hathi (@payalhathi), Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Demography, University of California, Berkeley (@UCBerkeley)
<p>15.30-17:00</p>	<p>Technical Session 3: Marriage and marriage registration: from cultural practices to protection through the life-course</p> <p>This session will begin with an overview of the state of the field and literature on marriage and divorce registration - noting that marriage and divorce registration are central to a gender responsive and life-course approach to CRVS system strengthening, yet often neglected. The session will then review recent efforts in Indonesia and Uganda to strengthen the legal framework, policy agenda and operational processes associated with the official registration of marriages. Cross-cutting challenges associated with recognition of customary marriages and the prevention of child marriage will be explored.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Satvika Chalasani (@satvikac), Technical Specialist: Lead on ending child marriage, Gender and Human Rights Branch, UNFPA (@UNFPA)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of marriage registration: where are we? and where to from here? - Dr. Romesh Silva (@Romesh_Silva), Technical Specialist and Dr. Sandile

	<p>Simelane, Technical Specialist, Population and Development Branch (@PopDevUNFPA), UNFPA (@UNFPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition and registration of customary marriages - legal reforms and operational efforts in Uganda – Mr. Charles Benjamin Nsimbi-Kabugujjo, Manager, Uganda Registration Services Bureau, Uganda (@URSBHQ) • Breaking the cycle of invisibility: barriers to marriage registration and their gendered dimensions in Indonesia - Dr. Santi Kusumaningrum (@SKningrum), Director and Principal Investigator, PUSKAPA Indonesia (@puskapa) <p>Discussant: Ms. Shaida Badiee (@ShaidaBadiee), Managing Director, Open Data Watch (@opendatawatch) [v]</p>
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Day 2	
8:30 – 10:00	<p>Technical Session 4: Integrating CRVS systems and the health sector</p> <p>CRVS systems underpin a broad array of contemporary health information needs. In well-functioning CRVS systems, the health sector is not only a beneficiary of complete and reliable CRVS systems, but is also a substantial contributor to the recording of vital events, specifically births and deaths, including medically-certified causes of death. This session provides an opportunity to share recent developments at global and country levels in harnessing the health system to support gender responsive CRVS system strengthening.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Maletela Tuoane, Senior Health Specialist, Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (@theGFF)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment between the health system and national registration bureau in Malawi - lessons learned, priorities for further scale-up and optimization with RMNCH programs - Mr. Mphatso Sambo, Principal Secretary, National Registration Bureau, Malawi • Integration of birth and death registration with the health sector - insights from Rwanda - Ms. Josephine Mukesha, Director General, National Identification Agency, Rwanda (@NidaRwanda) [v] • Integration of birth and death registration with the health information system in Pakistan – Mr. Dawood Muhammad Bareach, Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Pakistan (@PlanComPakistan)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From a simplified birth and death registration to a gender responsive system: a case study from Tanzania - Ms. Patricia Mpuya, Manager, Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA), Tanzania <p>Discussant: Mr. Bhaskar Mishra, CRVS and legal identity specialist, UNICEF (@UNICEF)</p>
10.00-10:30	Coffee break
10:30-12:00	<p>Technical Session 5: A system’s approach to CRVS and gender equality in disaster preparedness, conflict and fragile contexts</p> <p>Crises and emergencies put additional strains on CRVS systems. Crises and emergencies due to conflict and climate change are on the rise. Despite the hardships, life in conflict, emergency, and fragile situations continues – people are born, marry, divorce, and die. Civil registration and identity management systems are particularly important in these contexts. Without functioning CRVS systems, people can be prevented from accessing basic rights (right to an identity) and services that they deserve (health, humanitarian aid, education). This session reviews current efforts in strengthening and maintaining resilient CRVS systems in humanitarian and fragile contexts - spanning protracted humanitarian crisis situations, small island states and disaster preparedness efforts, and refugee settings.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Alexandra Robinson, Senior Technical Advisor, Gender and Human Rights Branch, UNFPA (@UNFPA)</p> <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender responsive CRVS system scale-up and resilience in times of conflict, fragility and displacement, TBD, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Security, Burkina Faso Alignment of health, CRVS and disaster preparedness systems in an era of climate-related disaster and displacement: recent advances in Fiji - Mr. Neel Singh, Registrar General, Ministry of Justice, Fiji; Chair, Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific Gender perspectives on Identity management and civil registration for displaced persons and refugees in Afghanistan - Ms. Rebecca Leabeater, Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Specialist, Co-Lead, Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Taskforce Afghanistan, Norwegian Refugee Council (@NRC_Norway) <p>Discussant: Mr. Charles Benjamin Nsimbi-Kabugujjo, Manager, Uganda Registration Services Bureau, Uganda (@URSBHQ)</p>
12.00 - 13.15	Buffet Lunch

<p>13.15-14:30</p>	<p>Closing panel – Looking forward: Challenges, opportunities and priorities</p> <p>This session will discuss</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a draft CRVS and gender improvement framework and its potential engagement through regional consultation processes on CRVS system strengthening 2. key research, evidence and practice gaps that need urgent attention, 3. promising areas of research and practice that warrant further scale-up and support, and 4. opportunities for further alignment of CRVS scale-up and efforts to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment - locally, regionally and globally. <p>Moderators: Dr. Rachel Snow (@Rachel_C_Snow), Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA (@PopDevUNFPA) and Mr. Cornelius Williams, Deputy Director, Programme Division, UNICEF (@UNICEF)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mphatso Sambo, Principal Secretary, National Registration Bureau, Malawi • Dr. Santi Kusumaningrum (@SKningrum), Director and Principal Investigator, PUSKAPA, Indonesia (@puskapa) • H.E. Ms. Nigina Alizoda, First Deputy Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice, Tajikistan [TBC] • Dr. Johannes Jutting (@Jo_Jutting), Executive Head, Paris21 (@contactPARIS21), OECD (@OECD) [v]
<p>14:30 - 14:45</p>	<p>Conclusion of the event</p>
<p>14:45 - 15:15</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
<p>15:15 - 17:00</p>	<p>Side Event: Parallel Interactive Lab Workshops (In-person participants only)</p> <p><u>Lab Workshop 1:</u> Exploring the determinants of under registration of births and marriages and the potential implications for ending child marriage Facilitators: Dr. Satvika Chalasani (@satvikac), Dr. Romesh Silva (@Romesh_Silva), Dr. Santi Kusumaningrum (@SKningrum) co-host: UNFPA (@UNFPA), (@PopDevUNFPA) PUSKAPA Indonesia (@puskapa)</p> <p><u>Lab workshop 2 [v]:</u> Gender responsive death registration during COVID19: what have we learnt and what are the implications for future epidemics? Facilitators: Dr. Maletela Tuoane, Dr. Anju Malhotra and Ms. Irina Dincu (@IrinaDincu) co-host: The Global Financing Facility (@theGFF), UNFPA (@UNFPA), (@PopDevUNFPA)</p> <p><u>Lab Workshop 3:</u></p>



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	<p>Vital Statistics in the service of gender equality Facilitators: H.E. Mme Phonesaly Souksavath and Ms. Mariam Khan co-host: Lao Statistics Bureau, UNFPA (@UNFPA)</p>
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