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Resilient Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems for More Effective Climate Change Action

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Background



- CRVS systems have an important role to play to ensure more **effective climate change action**
- Ensuring everyone in Asia-Pacific has a legal identity ensures that the global community upholds its promise to **leave no one behind** including those impacted by climate change
- In 2021 ESCAP Member States endorsed the **Ministerial declaration** on building a more resilient future with inclusive CRVS

The role of CRVS in supporting climate change adaptation



Data

- Well-functioning CRVS systems can provide **timely and accurate data** on population, which is critical for climate change induced disasters preparedness and response
- Longer term demographic changes and population dynamics, (occurring as a result of climate change) can best be monitored using **vital statistics based on civil registration records**
- However, many countries in Asia-Pacific face **challenges in developing disaster information management systems** and appropriate responses due to major gaps in data and analysis

Centralizing vital registration systems in Vanuatu

- Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu in 2015 and affected half of the country's population
- Birth registration system was impacted
- The Government responded by increasing **capacity for registration**, launching **awareness campaigns** and **mobile registration** operations
 - Resulting in 250,000 children and adults being issued a birth certificate (including around 80,000 for the first time)



- A **central civil registration database** adapted to the specific needs of the country was also developed, ensuring accuracy of data and information

The role of CRVS in supporting climate change adaptation



Health

- Climate-induced disasters are estimated to cause **43,000 casualties** on average each year in Asia and the Pacific
- Universal civil registration of births and deaths, together with causes of death, provides information for Governments to identify population health risks and inform the design of **effective public health policies** and resource allocation
- The **International Classification of Diseases (ICD)** can help identify deaths caused by exposure to extreme forces of nature

The role of CRVS in supporting climate change adaptation



Identity management and service delivery

- Identity management, public services and social protection measures can **reduce people's vulnerability** to climate change
- Effectiveness of social protection schemes can be **severely reduced** if the underlying administrative systems are weak

The role of CRVS in supporting climate change adaptation



Displaced populations

- Number of displaced people due to climate change will **sharply increase** as a result of climate change
 - Most people are internally displaced
 - Populations in the Pacific are at high risk
- **Displaced populations are at higher risk** of not being able to prove their identity due to loss of identity documents during disasters
- Displaced populations are **among those most in need** of the social and legal protection underpinned by CRVS systems

Improving access to civil registration services in the Philippines

- 4.1 million were displaced in the Philippines as a result of Typhoon Yolanda (2013)
 - Many people lost their IDs
 - The Government ensured the **civil registration** of undocumented victims
 - **Mobile registration** of vital events among the displaced and affected populations was enabled
 - **Outreach** was conducted to affected communities to identify gaps and assist them in accessing necessary services
- Lessons learned were used to **improve access to CRVS for non-displaced populations** in other contexts



Lessons from COVID-19: system resilience

- The pandemic provided lessons on the **impact of other disasters and health crises** on CRVS systems
 - Many CRVS systems in the region are deficient
 - Civil registration is often not considered an essential service, resulting in significant registration delays and obstacles
- There is a need to move towards **digitization** of CRVS systems
 - Potential to improve the collection of CRVS data
 - Limiting the risk associated with physical archives
- There is a need for **increased collaboration** with the health sector to improve CRVS systems, including through better data integration and timely notification of vital events



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