

Side Event of the 55th session of the UN Statistical Commission

Towards achieving target 16.9 and legal identity for all – how far have we come and what's next?

Date and Time:

1 March 2024, 13:15-14.30, Labouisse Hall, UNICEF House and via [Teams](#)

Catering and interpretation (English-French-Spanish) to be provided.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3l2uVr1>

About:

Everyone has the right to be recognized as a person before the law, therefore the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, established a specific target within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Target 16.9 — legal identity for all as well as 17.19 on birth and death registration completeness.

As civil registration provides an official record of the existence of the person and the recognition of that individual before the law, it has been the fundamental means of granting legal identity. Moreover, civil registration is recognized as the ultimate source for production of comprehensive, regular and reliable vital statistics. An inclusive civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system helps to ensure no one is left behind, protects human rights, empowers individuals, and promotes sustainable development.

In recognition of the importance of civil registration and vital statistics, at its fifty-first session, in March 2020, the Statistical Commission endorsed the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda as a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management. The Commission urged Member States to implement the Legal Identity Agenda as a matter of priority. Moreover, the members and associate members of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific declared the period 2015-2024 for CRVS Decades in the respective regions.

Although significant progress has been made throughout the world, universal registration of vital events is yet to be achieved and millions of people are born and die without any legal tender of their existence - the scandal of invisibility.

Increasingly Member States initiate rollout of national ID cards and establishment of digital legal identity system as a part of Digital Public Infrastructure. The linkage between such initiative and CRVS needs to be ensured to develop a comprehensive and interoperable legal identity ecosystem.

This side event, organized by ESCAP, ECA, UNICEF, UNFPA, Vital Strategies, and UNDP under the umbrella of the UN Legal Identity Agenda, provides an opportunity for national statistical offices, international organizations and delegates of Permanent Missions to acquire a more detailed overview of global, regional and national progress towards achieving universal legal identity and target 16.9 on birth registration for children under 5 years. This will include a focus on measuring who is currently left behind. UNICEF will share an overview of global progress on 16.9 highlighting who are on track to achieve universal birth registration by 2030 and who are lagging behind.

The event will provide examples of country progress under the African CRVS Decade and the Asia and the Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024) as well as examples from Latin America. As both these decades are planned to end this year, the side event will also offer participants with insights into the next steps anticipated in the regions.

In the Africa region, the Secretariat of the Africa programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) will seek extension of the Africa CRVS decade at the upcoming conference of ministers responsible for civil registration.

In Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Steering Group for CRVS has agreed to recommend an extension of the CRVS Decade with an increased focus on inclusivity and resilience. The chair of the group, Fiji, will present on their work to move towards universal registration through a business processes overhaul as well as inequality assessments of the current completeness of birth and death registration and the production of vital statistics based on civil registration records.

Senegal and Colombia will share experiences in assessing subnational disparities in under-registration of birth, marriage and death registration completeness in recent population and housing censuses. They will also highlight recent efforts in producing vital statistics from civil registration data. These experiences are intended to guide ongoing efforts to shape international guidance on the statistical assessment of the inclusiveness of civil registration systems across the life course in the upcoming 2030 census round.

Draft Agenda		
Time	Topic	Speaker
13.15-13.20	Welcome remarks	Moderator, Ms. Priscilla Idele, Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA
13.20-13.35	Towards achieving target 16.9 and legal identity for all – how far have we come	Ms. Claudia Cappa, Senior Adviser, Statistics - Child Protection and Development, UNICEF
13.35-13.50	Moving towards the goals of the Asia and Pacific CRVS Decade and what's next -business process mapping, assessing who is left behind and producing vital statistics.	Mr. Kemueli Naiqama, Chief Executive of the Fiji Bureau of Statistics
13.50-14.05	The end of the Africa CRVS Decade and Senegal's assessment of subnational disparities in registration and the production of vital statistics	Mr. M. Aboubacar Sadikh Beye, General Manager, Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD), Senegal
14.05-14.20	Life-course and gender perspectives through the lens of addressing and assessing completeness via census and CRVS data.	Dr. Piedad Urdinola, Director-General, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Colombia
14.20-14.30	Q and A and wrap up	Moderator

Contact person:

Tanja Sejersen, ESCAP/ Gloria Mathenge, ECA/ Bhaskar Mishra, UNICEF / Martin Bratschi, Vital Strategies/ Romesh Silva, UNFPA/ Risa Arai, UNDP