

THE PACIFIC VITAL STATISTICS ACTION PLAN (PVSAP)

The **Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP)** was created in 2011 as a coordination mechanism between development partners of the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG), which works to support governments of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to improve their civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems. The principal aims of BAG are to improve the quality and availability of birth, death and cause of death data at both national and regional levels, support universal birth and death registration, and improve investment outcomes through better coordination between technical partners.

By agreement of the partners, the plan sits under the **Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) (2011–2020)**, which provides the overarching framework for this activity, and highlights CRVS as a regional priority. The plan is a working document that is updated regularly (at least on an annual basis); a major revision was undertaken in 2015 at the conclusion of phase 1 of TYPSS.



Objectives of the current plan:

1. Establish **mechanisms for the coordination** of development partners and country stakeholders to work with countries on a comprehensive, prioritised and achievable country strategy for improving vital statistics.
2. Encourage and assist all countries to undertake (and update periodically) an **assessment of their CRVS systems** by involving key stakeholders across the sectors of health, registry, planning and statistics in order to identify weaknesses and priorities for strengthening the two systems using the World Health Organisation (WHO)–University of Queensland’s Health Information Systems (HIS) Hub Assessment Framework.
3. **Support countries to develop strategic plans** that can be carried out within the framework of the TYPSS by drawing on the technical and financial resources of BAG.
4. **Promote both community awareness and government commitment** to improve CRVS systems through improved legislation, capacity and resourcing.
5. **Advocate for the importance of vital statistics**, and the collaboration between all offices and agencies involved in registering vital events and producing vital statistics.
6. **Strengthen the capacity of personnel** involved in civil registration and production of vital statistics through training, mentoring, support, etc.
7. **Improve technical capacity of countries** to record, process and analyse information on vital events.
8. **Promote the use of registry data products, and the use and dissemination of vital statistics.**
9. **Encourage universal registration of births and deaths** in line with the Regional Action Framework (RAF) for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific region.
10. **Support countries to implement their national CRVS improvement plans.** Establish mechanisms for regularly reviewing progress on the development of CRVS.
11. Identify common issues across countries and investigate and **support regional solutions** as appropriate.
12. **Encourage the sharing of experiences** and lessons learnt between countries and territories across the region and beyond, and build regional capacity in CRVS through support of south–south collaborations as countries become more advanced in their own work and are able to engage in this work.
13. **Encourage countries to make appropriate budget allocations** in sustainable, robust national CRVS systems.
14. Support PICTs in **taking advantage of changing technology to improve accessibility and coverage as appropriate.**

Objectives 1–8 are continued from phase 1 (2011–2014), while the remainder were added in 2015.

SUPPORTED BY THE **BRISBANE ACCORD GROUP (BAG)**

Approach

The basic approach of the PVSAP is to work with countries in the undertaking of an assessment of their collection and reporting systems for births, deaths and causes of death. Information is then used by countries to develop a country-specific vital statistics improvement plan. This enables the partner agencies to coordinate their support in order to meet country needs including technical assistance.



The PVSAP broader context – **international and regional initiatives**. These initiatives provide important opportunities for PICTs, and allow both countries and BAG partners to reach out to a broader pool of resources and expertise. Notable among these initiatives is the RAF on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific region, which was endorsed by all Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) member states in 2014. This commits countries to essentially the same process as outlined in the PVSAP – to establish national coordination mechanisms, complete an assessment and develop a national CRVS improvement plan; but goes one step further and requires countries to set and report their progress towards national targets under three key goals around universal registration, the provision of legal documents, and quality and accessible vital statistics that are generated from the system.

The plan includes the following:

Regional priorities and activities – including the development of regional best practice guidelines and support to countries to subsequently implement these in areas such as legislation, data sharing, and IT systems for CRVS; regional capacity building such as coding of causes of death in alignment to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD); the creation of tools and materials such as training tools for analysis and regional reporting platforms; and opportunities for sharing experiences.

Operational research priorities – based on common issues identified through country assessments and regional sectoral engagement (including the Pacific Civil Registrars Network, Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) and Pacific Health Information Network).

Activities by country and country group – that are loosely grouped by characteristics such as political system, population size and system performance, with activities drawn as much as possible from formal plans (or informal communications where plans have not been formalised).

Partners are subsequently able to better coordinate their activities and collaborate to ensure effective investment in areas highlighted by member states.

Steps in developing a national plan

(as supported through the PVSAP)



Where can I get more information?

Check out the other fact sheets at: www.pacific-crvs.org and www.getinthepicture.org or contact the **Statistics for Development Division** at SPC at crvs@spc.int.