

Legal Support for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management System Strengthening

The **Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI)** provides comprehensive technical assistance to governments to review, update and improve countries' legal frameworks for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management (CRVSID) systems.



GHAI's Data for Health team from over 15 countries in Dubai, UAE, 2024

Civil registration is the key source for vital statistics—such as birth and death rates and cause of death information—that inform public health policy and government planning. It is also the principal means of establishing legal identity and the foundation for national identity management systems. Without access to birth registration, people lack legal identity, profoundly impacting their lives.

A strong legal framework is essential for achieving universal civil and identity registration. The legal framework should:

- Strengthen governance and clarify roles and responsibilities
- Specify uniform processes and standards
- Remove barriers, increase incentives and improve marginalized communities' access to civil registration services
- Enable digitalization of the system
- Provide for interoperability and data sharing with other government agencies and systems
- Guarantee data privacy and security of records

Our Work on Legal Review and Reform

GHAI has a diverse cohort of senior lawyers with extensive experience in CRVSID systems and legal frameworks governing those systems.

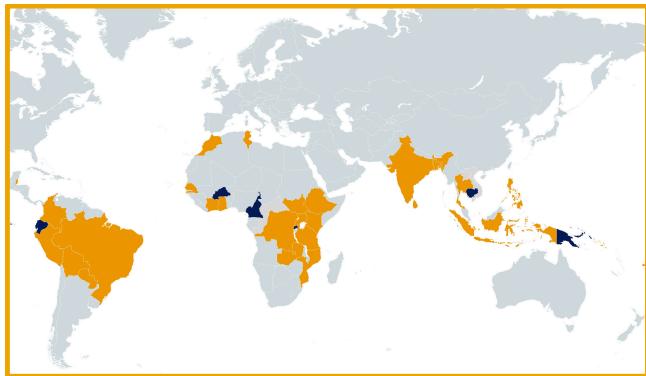
We work closely and collaboratively with government lawyers and officials and in-country legal consultants to provide technical assistance and advice that includes:

- **Comprehensive analysis and review** of the CRVSID legal framework.
- **Multi-stakeholder workshops** to support the review, ensure current practices and procedures are reflected in the law and enable future system improvements.
- **Recommendations** for legal reform.
- **Legislative drafting assistance** for laws, regulations, codes, decrees and other legal instruments.
- **Support for the legislative reform process** through technical reports, public consultation and documentation or other steps required for parliamentary or congressional procedures.

GHAI takes a flexible approach to providing legal assistance that is aligned with government priorities and procedures.

Since 2018, GHAI has supported:

- Over **30 countries** in conducting comprehensive reviews of CRVSID legal frameworks
- **10 countries** with ongoing technical assistance for legal reform
- **6 countries** in adopting new CRVSID laws



Countries where GHAI has provided legal assistance (yellow) and where new laws have been enacted with GHAI assistance (blue).

Country Examples



Cambodia

GHAI provided technical legal support to develop and draft a new CRVSID law that was adopted in July 2023. The comprehensive new law guarantees civil registration to everyone residing in Cambodia, establishes a digital and decentralized system, removes obstacles and fees from the registration process, establishes a universal right to an ID card for citizens and includes privacy protections for personal data. GHAI continues to support the government with drafting the implementing regulations.



Papua New Guinea

GHAI undertook a systematic review of Papua New Guinea's (PNG) CRVS laws, then facilitated workshops to develop and draft a new Civil and Identity Registration Bill and implementing regulations.

In November 2024, PNG's parliament adopted the new law, which will address low registration rates by increasing registration locations, removing fees, linking civil registration with health systems and using schools and religious leaders to assist with registration.

Our Resources

To support governments in analyzing and updating their CRVSID legal frameworks, GHAI has developed the following resources:

- The [**CRVS legal and regulatory review toolkit**](#) with 13 chapters covering all aspects of the CRVSID system, developed in collaboration with other Bloomberg Data for Health initiative partners. It provides a complete, systematic and methodological guide for analyzing all the laws that support and pertain to a country's CRVSID system. The toolkit is based on international guidelines, standards and practices from the United Nations, the World Health Organization and other international bodies.
- [**CRVSlaws.org**](#) - A database of countries' CRVS laws with analysis based on the toolkit metrics.
- An [**interactive e-learning course**](#), available on our [Health Advocacy Training and Collaboration Hub \(HATCH\)](#), enriched with practical examples and resources designed to guide users on how to effectively apply the legal toolkit.

About GHAI



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The Global Health Advocacy Incubator uses the power of advocacy to tackle critical public health challenges across the globe - including food and nutrition policy, injury and overdose prevention and building resilient and equitable health systems. We are an initiative of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which is the leading advocacy organization working to reduce tobacco use and its deadly consequences in the United States and around the world. Our vision is a healthier and more equitable future for all. GHAI is an implementing partner of the Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative.

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