

ESCAP/CST/2022/3- Report on the 8th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

Statement provided by:

PHILIPPINES

Philippine Statistics Authority

Undersecretary (Deputy Minister) Claire Dennis S. Mapa, Ph.D.

The Philippines, through the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), commends the Regional Steering Group for coming up with the report.

We have noted the recommended actions of the Group in support of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). The Philippines would like to express points and share practices that may contribute to their operationalization.

On strengthening the capacity to exchange lessons learned, we agree with the recommendation to develop capabilities and forge regional and international collaboration. In fact, the PSA collaborated with Vital Strategies and the University of Melbourne for the Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative (D4HI) Project. The partnership introduced interventions and trainings to improve the quality of birth and death registration in the Philippines. As a result of the successful collaboration, the Philippines strongly encourages more member-states and development partners to exchange expertise by engaging in bilateral/multilateral cooperation.

We also recognize the importance of coordination mechanisms established at multiple levels within each country to strengthen coordination structures and conduct substantive identification and assessment of inequalities. In the Philippines, an Inter-Agency Committee on CRVS (IAC-CRVS) composed of 9 national government agencies was created. It was replicated at the regional levels to oversee the parallel implementation of CRVS programs and strategies and the continuous review of the CRVS policies.

The Philippines concurs with the recommendation to utilize digital technology to streamline civil registration and notification processes. With our local partner, we are transforming and modernizing the CRS through digitization to enhance access and boost the turn-around time of the delivery of birth, marriage, and death papers for different reasons such as employment, benefits claim, and enrollment, among others. Moreover, we have also implemented an online payment scheme with future expansion

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plans to cover other contactless payment methods and digital copy issuances of documents. Our vision is to establish an e-CRVS system that will enable timely delivery of services to every Filipino.

Finally, the Philippines continues its partnership with the country's Embassies in processing civil registration documents and facilitating the registration of unregistered Filipino migrants to legitimize their identities in their desire to maintain their regular employment abroad.

NSOs are, therefore, drivers in the transformation of CRVS to ensure that no one is left behind. With our commitments and efforts, we will be able to achieve the goals set out in the Regional Action Framework. Let us work together to ensure that the recommendations of the Steering Group can be implemented in every country.

Submitted on:

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