

Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series

Death Registration: Updated Estimates, Gender Dynamics, and Country Perspectives

23 February 2026 at 11.00 am - 12:00 pm, Bangkok time (UTC+7)

Venue: Teams Link

Concept

Death registration remains one of the least complete components of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems globally and regionally. While many countries have made substantial progress in improving birth registration, death registration continues to lag behind. This gap has far-reaching consequences. Missing death records weaken the accuracy of mortality data, distort population estimates, limit access to social protection, and hide true causes of death, including gender-based violence and femicide.

This session of the *Asia-Pacific Stats Café* will:

- Present the latest regional and sub-regional estimates on the completeness of death registration, based on official data submissions to ESCAP;
- Explore gender-related barriers to death registration, highlighting how legal, social, and institutional factors may result in the systematic under-reporting of female deaths;
- Share practical insights and experiences from Bangladesh and India, offering both challenges and good practices that can inform regional efforts to improve the completeness and equity of death registration.

Agenda

Time	Program
10:00 – 10:10 (5 mins)	Welcome Remarks and Introduction



	Tanja Sejersen, Statistics Division, ESCAP
10:10 – 10:20 (10 mins)	Regional Estimates of Death Registration Completeness: 2023 Update, *Ms. Wiraporn Pothisiri, Statistics Division, ESCAP*
10:20 – 10:30 (10 mins)	Barriers to and Facilitators of Female Death Registration in Bangladesh **Atiya Rahman** Assistant Scientist BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh
10:30 – 10:40 (10 mins)	“Completeness of Death Registration in India." *Mr. Chandan Kumar, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai.*
10:40 – 11:00 (20 mins)	Q&A





Chandan Kumar

Doctoral Fellow, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), India | Alumnus, CART Programme, ESCAP

Chandan Kumar is a PhD scholar at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India, and an alumnus of Cohort 1 of the CART Programme (2024-25). His doctoral research title on ***"Civil Registration System in India: Methodological Gaps in Loss Functions and the Revision of Mortality Estimates"***. He has completed a Master of Science (MSc) in Population Studies and served as a Research Officer for the study *"Assessment of the Death Registration System in India: A Mixed-Methods Study"* at the IIPS.

His research aims to assess the completeness of death registration by sex, year, and place of residence, as well as to compare the coverage and quality of mortality reporting within the CRVS system at the national and sub-national levels. It also aims to estimate mortality rates from CVRS by utilizing population projection and adjusting the number of deaths, accounting for age at death inequality, model age at death, acceleration of mortality rates, and sex differentials.





Wiraporn (Toom) Pothisiri is a statistician in the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Trained as a demographer, she has supported the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) initiative, *Get Every One in the Picture*, since 2023. Her work focuses on CRVS inequality assessment and on strengthening national capacity to produce vital statistics from civil registration records. Wiraporn also holds a professorship at the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Her recent research topics include population ageing and health, reproductive health, and family and intergenerational relations, with specific focus on countries in Southeast Asia.





Atiya Rahman
Assistant Scientist, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

Atiya Rahman is an anthropologist and qualitative research expert with over 15 years of experience in public health and humanitarian research in Bangladesh and international settings. She currently serves as Assistant Scientist at the Humanitarian Hub, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University, Bangladesh. Her expertise includes focused ethnography, participatory and visual methods, systematic qualitative inquiry, implementation research across areas such as reproductive and sexual health, maternal and child health, nutrition, civil registration and vital statistics, early childhood development, and socio-emotional learning. She has led and contributed to multidisciplinary research with vulnerable and displaced populations, including Rohingya refugees, urban slum communities, ethnic minorities, and rural contexts. She actively publishes in peer-reviewed journals, mentors' junior researchers, and delivers professional training in qualitative methods.

She holds an MA in Anthropology from the University of Pune, India, supported by an Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship. She also earned an MSS and BSS in Anthropology from Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet, Bangladesh.