BACKGROUND

A well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system helps ensure that every person has a legal identity, facilitating access to essential benefits and protections of the State. However, in many countries throughout Asia and the Pacific, many people face significant barriers to register a vital event such as a birth or death, often due to the complexity of the process, the time and number of trips needed, distance to the registration facility and the documentation requirements, to name just a few of these barriers.

To support countries in identifying where the bottlenecks are in civil registration processes, some countries in Asia and the Pacific have been utilizing a Business Process Improvement approach to assess, analyse and redesign the underlying processes of their civil registration system. With the end goal of streamlining civil registration processes to alleviate the burden on families reporting vital events. The CRVS Systems Improvement Framework, which was developed under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative in collaboration with other development partners, provides detailed guidance for countries to apply an innovative, multi-sectoral participatory and process-centric approach to examine current CRVS processes, identify gaps and determine areas for improvement. Vital Strategies, ESCAP and WHO-SEARO have been supporting countries in the region to implement Phase 1 of this Framework which includes a detailed process mapping of two selected civil registration processes (usually birth and death registration) and the identification of performance issues and potential improvement policies.

This Stats Café seeks to share experiences of countries in the assessment, analysis and redesign of their CRVS systems using the CRVS System Improvement Framework, including reflections on how the results of this project have informed improvement policies and ongoing system strengthening efforts. The event will begin with an overview of the CRVS Systems Improvement Framework, followed by three countries who will share their experiences and lessons learned from applying this methodology.