Questions for Round Table on Data Gaps:

Introduction: We have 4 great panelists, who have spent considerable amounts of time trying to address some of the emerging data needs and gaps that we just introduced. So, we will hear and learn from their experiences, and we will try to glean some leads, and generate some discussion, about the role that surveys and censuses might play filling those gaps. We will have 3 rounds of questions, focusing on specific areas of needs: data disaggregation, as well as short-term fluctuations and the measurement of old-age mortality. Every presenter gets 3-4 minutes to respond to each question.

Round 1: Disaggregation

- Indonesia: Indonesia is a large and populous country, stretching across many islands. Could you tell us how the BPS generates mortality data that are representative of the different population groups that form the country? Are there groups for which disaggregated data are not available or might be difficult to obtain?

- Saikia: Dr. Saikia, recently, you have investigated socioeconomic differentials in mortality in India, for example between regions or by living arrangement and SES status. What were some of the data-related challenges you encountered in studying these issues? Are there particular differentials that you could not investigate due to data limitations?

- Okiro: Prof. Okiro, you have spearheaded efforts to generate sub-national estimates of health indicators in Kenya. Could you tell us about these efforts? What is the role that surveys and censuses have played in helping you measure health, and particularly child mortality, at the county level in Kenya?

Round 2: Timeliness and Short-term Fluctuations

- Okiro: Prof. Okiro, an immediate follow-up question for you: since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, your work has brought great insights about the true extent of the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in Kenya; you have also documented the impact of the pandemic on healthcare utilization. On the other hand, the true death toll of the pandemic in Kenya, and other countries in Africa, often remains matter of debate. Could you reflect on the data gaps that have led to this uncertainty? In your view, how might they be alleviated in future COVID-19 waves?

- Indonesia: Indonesia has been affected by multiple waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also vulnerable to natural disasters. Could you tell us about the systems of data collection that exist in the country to document the mortality fluctuations created by such crises? What role do surveys and censuses play in this data ecosystem?
• **Garcia**: Dr. Garcia, your recent work has focused on assessing the completeness of various data sets on COVID-related mortality, including in Latin American countries with incomplete civil registration and health information systems. Could you tell us about the gaps and uncertainty you encountered in these data? How, in your view, might surveys and censuses be used to fill some of those gaps?

**Round 3: old-age mortality**

• **Garcia**: Dr. Garcia, a follow-up question for you, as we shift our focus to the measurement of old-age mortality. Throughout the world, the burden of COVID-related mortality has particularly affected the older segments of the population. In measuring excess mortality related to the pandemic, what are some of the estimation challenges that have been created by this steep age gradient in COVID mortality?

• **Indonesia**: In Indonesia, the % of the population in the older age groups has been increasing steadily, and the UN projects that this increase will accelerate in the coming decades. Currently, how does the BPS generate data about old-age mortality? What are some of the difficulties you encounter in collecting and analyzing such data?

• **Saikia**: Dr. Saikia, you have investigated a broad array of the determinants and risk factors of ill-health at older ages in India, including education, disability, or smoking. In doing so, have you encountered specific challenges in linking these determinants and risk factors to mortality outcomes? Are there data innovations that might help improve our understanding of the determinants of old-age mortality?

• **Okiryo**: Prof Okiryo, much of your work has focused on child health and mortality in Kenya. Are there data-related lessons from this work that might help guide the study of old-age mortality in Kenya? Are there particular challenges that you foresee for investigating health and mortality in old-age?