Asking Causes of Death in Censuses and Surveys - Uganda

Abu Dhabi, UAE
Introduction

Uganda like many other low developed countries have a weak civil registration and vital statistics system and thus household surveys are an important source for mortality data. This is mainly collected in the Demographic and Health Surveys. Also censuses are undertaken approximately every 10 years where questions are added about death in households to aid in the computation of mortality.
Surveys since 2000

- Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2001
- Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2006
- Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2011
- Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2016
- Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2022

(Currently undertaking data collection)

Censuses Since 2002

Uganda Population and Housing Census 2002
Uganda Population and Housing Census 2014
Questions asked to compute mortality

- Data used in computation of infant and child mortality is collected using the birth history of the woman and this is done only for surviving women (15-49 years) in DHS.
- For adult and maternal mortality data is collected from the women 15-49 years reporting about their siblings.
- In Census also questions are asked about death in households in the past 12 months including cause of death.
Asking Causes of Death

- Depending on the reference period, respondents sometimes can't recall the cause of death.
- Severally, even when people die in hospitals many times, death certificates are not issued for interviewers to refer.
- Sometimes people don't seek medical attention and die from home, so hard to know the exact cause of death.
Asking Causes of Death

- Depending on the reference period respondents sometimes cannot recall the cause of death.
- Severally even when people die in hospitals many times death certificates are not issued for interviewers to refer.
- Sometimes people don’t seek medical attention and die from home so it is hard to know the exact cause of death.
Asking Causes of Death

- Some respondents breakdown during interviews and interviews take long or are stopped before answering cause of death
- Questions related to death in a household are normally placed at the end and the DHS being a long interview respondents are tired by then.
Conclusion

Stand alone Cause of Death surveys would go a long way in improving these statistics but death being a rare event large samples would be required which are also very costly.
END

THANK YOU