Rapid Mortality Surveillance in Bangladesh

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Objective

- Counting of all deaths, and comparing this to historically expected mortality, to create a picture of excess death in Bangladesh, capturing both
  - the direct burden of the epidemic; and
  - its indirect mortality burden, caused by disruptions to the access, use and provision of health-care services

- Useful in the emergency response of the country to the Covid-19 pandemic
Establishing Rapid Mortality Surveillance

- Define country objectives
  - Confirm country government buy-in
  - Engage relevant Ministries, partners, and other stakeholders
  - Identify scope
    - Facility-based data, community-based, or both?
    - Urban, semi-urban, rural?
    - How many sites/facilities/cities/districts?
    - High-risk populations?
  - Identify desired indicators

- Differentiate between short-term and long-term goals and solutions
  - Short-term: e.g. rapid total/excess mortality
  - Long-term: e.g. comprehensive CRVS/unified mortality surveillance
Establishing Rapid Mortality Surveillance

• Assess the existing mortality information landscape (and pandemic-specific systems)
  • Where is data available? Assess coverage, completeness, quality, etc.
  • Where is baseline data available?

• Identify opportunities to adapt and strengthen existing systems
  • Where can simple modifications of existing systems lead to rapid data
  • Where may existing electronic systems be leveraged?

• Consider implementation requirements/feasibility
  • What human, financial, and technical resources will be required?
  • Assess whether any proposals will require additional protective measures for surveillance workers, e.g. PPE?
Sources of Mortality Data from Bangladesh

- **Community Deaths**
  - [Temporary] real-time data collected in 13 sub-districts by Health Assistants and baseline data from BDRIS (May – October 2020)
  - [Long-term] death registration data from BDRIS from 13 sub-districts

- **Facility Deaths**
  - Utilizing data collected from hospitals routinely through DHIS2
    - Aggregated reporting module
    - Event capture module
    - Linkage with hospital dashboards

- **Burial Sites**
  - Data from burial sites and crematoriums will commence in 2 Dhaka City Corporations and 1 Sylhet City Corporation shortly through a collaboration with National Heart Foundation

- **HDSS Sites**
  - In collaboration with icddr,b using present-day and historical data from HDSS sites
Excess Mortality Calculator