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**Baseline Assessment - Stakeholders’ Interview**

This tool targets key players in the governance of mortality data systems and use of these data in [COUNTRY], including Directors and Managers of health planning and Monitoring and health information system at the Ministry of Health, Managers of CRVS, National Statistical Office, National Institute of Health, development partners, and civil society organizations, and other organizations directly involved in mortality data generation, financing and use.

It seeks to collect information on the utility, vision, and priority for improving use of mortality statistics for public health decision making, including through mortality and causes of death surveillance. The tool focuses on the definition and scope, priority content, financing, human resource need and use of digital solutions to support mortality surveillance processes. A prior list of known stakeholders will be established through a desk review by the country institution in charge of the scoping review. Further snowball technique will be used to identify additional relevant stakeholders to interview.

The questions in this tool are mostly qualitative and open-ended. The interviewer must request permission to audio-record the interview as well as take notes. The preferred mode of interview is face to face but as needed and feasible phone or Zoom interviews may be also be scheduled.

Good morning/afternoon

My name is [YOUR NAME]. I am working with the [INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE INSTITUTION]. We are conducting a review of the available mortality data systems in [COUNTRY]. As a key player in the planning, production, monitoring, or use of mortality data, including cause of death data, we are interested in your knowledge of such system in [COUNTRY]. We would like to discuss your vision, understanding and priority for a mortality and cause of death surveillance system in [COUNTRY]. The information you provide will help design a national system for mortality surveillance as well as strengthen existing systems. The interview will take about XX minutes, and we request your permission to audio-record the discussions to ensure your statements were properly captured

May I proceed?

*[Data collector: if the respondent is not available at this time, please schedule another time for the interview or obtain a referral to another person that is also appropriate to respond to the questions.]*

| **#** | **QUESTIONS** | **ANSWERS** |
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| **I IDENTIFICATION AND INSTITUTION OF THE RESPONDENT** | | |
| 1.1 | Date of interview |  |
| 1.2 | Full name of the respondent |  |
| 1.3 | Name of the institution |  |
| 1.4 | Type of organization | 1. Gov. Department/Ministry 2. Gov. Research Institute / National Statistical Institute 3. Academic/Research 4. Bilateral/ multilateral agency 5. NGO 6. Other (specify) |
| 1.5 | Institutional contact:   1. Complete physical address 2. Website 3. Email address 4. Phone |  |
| 1.6 | What is your current position/title in the institution? |  |
| 1.7 | How many years have you been in the current position? |  |
| **II ROLE OF THE INSTITUTION** | | |
| 2.1 | Can you please tell me what are the systems or initiatives in [COUNTRY] that collect mortality and/or cause of death data?  *They could be national, subnational, collecting all- cause or cause specific mortality.* | 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 2.2 | What role does your institution play in the production, financing or use of mortality and cause of death data?  *(List all roles)*  **MULTIPLE RESPONSES POSSIBLE** | 1. Collects mortality data at national level 2. Collect mortality data at subnational level (region/province or district) 3. Collect causes of death data 4. Does not collect primary data but accesses, analyses and disseminate mortality and/or cause of death data 5. Funds collection/analysis of mortality and cause of death data 6. Provides technical assistance/support for collection/analysis of mortality and cause of death data |
| 2.3 | If the institution collects mortality data, ask:  What approach does your institution use to collect mortality and/or cause of death data?  *(List all data sources)*  **MULTIPLE RESPONSES POSSIBLE** | 1. Civil registration 2. Census 3. Survey 4. Health information system/routine data 5. Surveillance system 6. Audit of deaths 7. Other (specify) |

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| **III Priorities and opportunities for mortality surveillance system in** **[COUNTRY]** | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | Do you think mortality and cause of death surveillance should be a priority for [COUNTRY]? Why?  *Probe: How can this priority be expressed?* | |  | | | | | |
| 3.2 | What are the opportunities in the country for establishing a national mortality and cause of death surveillance? | |  | | | | | |
| 3.3 | How can [COUNTRY] integrate the existing various mortality systems or initiatives into a national mortality surveillance program? | |  | | | | | |
| 3.4 | According to you, who are the main stakeholders for mortality data in the country? | |  | | | | | |
| 3.5 | What institutions in [COUNTRY] lead national mortality surveillance activities? | |  | | | | | |
| 3.6 | Have you ever heard about sample registration systems for mortality monitoring? What would be the utility of such a system for the country? | |  | | | | | |
| 3.7 | What role should the global community (funders, technical partners, UN agencies) play in supporting a mortality system in [COUNTRY]?  *Probe: We want to learn more about whether the role of the global community should focus on tools (development, adaptability, or compatibility), data collection, analysis and dissemination, policy and legal issues, etc..…* | |  | | | | | |
| 3.8 | What are the constraints for establishing or expanding a national mortality surveillance in [COUNTRY]?  *Probe: discuss in term of capacity, technology, infrastructure, network availability, human resources, financials, costs, others* | |  | | | | | |
| 3.9 | Are there digital tools or solutions that would be most appropriate for the countries to adopt for mortality surveillance? | |  | | | | | |
| 3.10 | What technical infrastructures and support may be needed to implement a mortality surveillance system in [COUNTRY]? | |  | | | | | |
| **IV DATA DISSEMINATION AND USE** | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 | How do we promote data sharing and open access of mortality surveillance system in [COUNTRY]? | |  | | | | | |
| 4.2 | How to promote the use and analysis of mortality surveillance system data in [COUNTRY]? | |  | | | | | |
| 4.3 | How can a national mortality surveillance system be funded in a sustainable way in [COUNTRY]? | |  | | | | | |
| **V POLICY AND LAW REGARDING MORTALITY DATA COLLECTION** | | | | | | | |
| **Legal and policy changes required to support and facilitate mortality data systems and processes, including accessibility and usability** | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 | Are you aware of any law or regulations for the development and use of tools (paper or digital) for mortality surveillance?  Are there national policies or legal frameworks guiding the mortality system/mortality surveillance system?   * Are there any laws or other texts regulating the operation of the mortality system? If yes, since when are these laws/texts in force? | | 1. No 2. Yes | | | If No 🡺 5.2 | |
| 5.1a | What are the laws (or regulations)? | |  | | |  | |
| 5.1b | Since when are these laws/texts exist (year)? | | |\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|\_\_| | | |  | |
| 5.2 | Are there legal challenges or constraints to the use of tools for mortality surveillance in the country, particularly digital tools? | | 1. No 2. Yes | | | If No 🡺 5.3 | |
| 5.2a | What are the legal challenges or constraints? | |  | | |  | |
| 5.3 | What are the legal and policy changes required to support and facilitate a mortality surveillance system? | |  | | |  | |
| **VI GOVERNANE AND SUSTAINABILITY** | | | | | | | |
| 6.1 | **GOVERNANCE**:  Is mortality surveillance prioritized at a national level through dedicated bodies/mechanisms for governance? | 1. No coordinating bodies exist nationally for mortality surveillance 2. Governance structures for mortality surveillance are formally constituted | | |  | | |
| 6.2 | **GOVERNANCE**:  Is mortality surveillance included and budgeted for in the national health or other national strategies? | 1. Mortality surveillance is not included in the national health strategy. It may be implemented in an ad hoc fashion in health programs 2. A mortality surveillance strategy exists or is part of the national health strategy | | |  | | |
| 6.3 | **SUSTAINABILITY**:  What is your view of the government's interest and the country's capacity to own and sustain such a national mortality surveillance system? | | |  | | |  |
| 6.4 | **SUSTAINABILITY:**  What concrete strategies could be developed to ensure the sustainability of such a system? | | |  | | |  |
| 6.5 | **SUSTAINABILITY:**  What do you see as the main challenges and opportunities for the implementation of this monitoring system? | | |  | | |  |
| 6.6 | Do you have any other suggestions or observations regarding the implementation of such a system? | | |  | | |  |
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| 6.7 | What institutions/persons would you recommend to also interview on mortality surveillance matters in the country? | |  | | | | | |
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