



PRE-RAMOS Formative Assessment of Death

Registration System and Death of Women
of Reproductive Age in Haiti

HAÏTI 2015

PILOT STUDY

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ABOUT DIAGNOSTIC & DEVELOPMENT



Diagnostic & Development Group is a leading consulting firm of Haiti that assist decision-makers from public and private sectors, non-governmental and international organization. Our goal is to offer to the client a unique experience to increase his efficiency by mastering cutting edge best practices and providing accurate data for decisions.

We offer to the client a network of experienced consultants who are at the forefront at their expertise area. Our unique strategy is to join professionals in Haiti to other Haitians professionals working in North-American and European universities and companies. We couple expertise obtained in developed countries with local experiences to respond to the client's needs beyond expectations. DDG has developed a unique collaboration platform that makes this synergy possible through cutting edge technology.

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LISTS OF ABBREVIATIONS

CARICOM	Caribbean Common Market
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DDG	Diagnostic and Development Group
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DSF	Direction Santé Familiale
DSMB	Data Safety and Monitoring Board
EMMUS	Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et Utilisation des Services
HUEH	Hôpital de l'Université d'État d'Haïti
IHSI	Institut Haïtien de Statistique et d'Informatique
MSPP	Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la population
PANCAP	Pan Caribbean Partnership
PEPFAR	President Emergency Plan for Aids Relief
RAMOS	Reproductive Age Mortality Studies
UEP	Unité d'Etudes et de Planification
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
WRA	Women of Reproductive Age

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a formative assessment, conducted to identify an appropriate research methodology for a national Reproductive Age Mortality Study (RAMOS) in Haiti. RAMOS is a methodology used to measure deaths of women in reproductive age and to determine cause of death. This assessment is an evaluation of the process of identifying, recording, and reporting deaths in general, and specifically, deaths of women in reproductive age. Researchers visited national institutions (health facilities, civil registry offices), interviewed key informants, and conducted workshops with potential key informants at the departmental level and metropolitan areas of Port-au-Prince.

Findings showed a discrepancy between normative procedures and administrative management. Haitian civil code requires that civil registration offices be notified of deaths from hospitals and all other public institutions such as prisons, religious institutions, morgues, and funeral homes before burial. We found that civil registration officers did not record all deaths due to lack of geographic coverage and logistic challenges. A second cause of non-registration of death is due to the weak health system coverage. A large portion of the population lives in rural and remote areas. Deaths that occur in rural areas where there is limited access to healthcare are often not formally recorded. According to the “Plan Directeur de Santé 2012-2021”¹ of “Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population” (MSPP), the Haitian health system may guarantee healthcare access to 47% of the population. Yet 786 of the 907 existing health facilities are first aid centers and 121 hospitals, with 45 community referral hospital (hôpital communautaire de référence in French), 10 departmental hospitals, the hospital of the State University, and 65 specialized health centers and private hospitals that provide basic health services.

Another important limitation of healthcare access is the distance between the facilities and area of residence. In remote areas, people may need to walk several hours to reach the nearest health facility. As a consequence many deaths occur outside health facilities, and therefore, go unregistered.

In health institutions in the urban area, the on-call physician or the on-call nurse (with the approval of a physician or the nurse manager) should register deaths immediately and the files should be stored in archives. A death certificate is issued after record. When the health facility is equipped with a morgue (e.g. “Hôpital de l’Université d’État d’Haïti” (HUEH) and “Hôpital de Nos Petits Frères et Soeurs de Damiens”), the medical unit where the death occurred transfers the remains to the morgue and a death certificate is issued at the morgue. The morgue at HUEH is the reference morgue for all hospitals in the urban area of

1 This document sets out MSPP health policy guidelines over 2021 horizon.



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