Blantyre Institute for Community Ophthalmology (BICO)

Audit & data verification

On 21st and 22nd of December, 2015, MORDOR Malawi data verification team conducted data verification exercise in 4 different villages from the Mangochi zone which was the last zone to be treated in the MORDOR-6 phase of the MORDOR study in Malawi. This is for the Mortality arm of the MORDOR study in Malawi which is being conducted by Blantyre institute for community Ophthalmology (BICO), Malawi College of Medicine (COM) and The London School of hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Aim

The purpose of the Data verification exercise is for data quality assurance (DQA): it was necessary that data in submissions were correct so that panels could make informed assessments on the quality of each submission based on accurate data, providing confidence in the outcomes of the exercise. Therefore, the aim of the audit and data verification process is to give assurance that the data submitted are accurate and reliable. This is so in that the data in submissions was of reliable quality to inform a quality assessment.

Method of data verification exercise

The data verification exercise have 2 main strands:

The following verification procedures are undertaken by the audit/verification team based at MORDOR Malawi study:

- **Sample-based verification:** a sample of randomised villages are visited by the verification team and submitted to be audited.
- **Data comparisons:** the data submitted by the verification team is compared with the data on Salesforce server (same villages data) as submitted by enumerators to insure internal validity of submissions. After submissions have been made we will check for consistency across enumerators submissions (household, guardian, child, dob-date of birth, treatment, gender), and make comparisons with other relevant sources of data to identify potential data discrepancies that may result in targeted verification queries.

The data verification were done in 2 rounds (phases); MORDOR-0 and MORDOR-6, in MORDOR-0, 6 villages were randomly selected in all zones and data verification exercises were conducted in all the 6 villages and data was compared with all what was collected and send on the server by the enumerators. This data is stored on the salesforce server.

Field Process: *DQA Methodology:*

To select a household (in Data verification community) normally; the census verification team would divide the village in 2 equal segments whether using a physical feature that demarcates the village into 2. This could be a road/path or a river etc. as identified by the village chief or village volunteer. Once the village has been divided into 2, a coin would be

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tossed to select a segment where the 8 households for data verification would be selected. Households will be sampled with an interval of 1 in every 3 and would choose to keep one direction as you go round the village i.e. keep left if you started with left turn. However, this would leave out other households from being sampled.

For the teams to sample households anywhere in the village during MORDOR data verification exercises, they simply toss the coin to CHOOSE A DIRECTION to walk along the road from the centre of the village with guide from village volunteer, then take every left turn and visit every third household - you could actually end up sampling households anywhere in the village, you haven't excluded any households At least 8 households had been revisited in each of the sampled households to check if indeed the MDA team had administered the drug and had done the re-census well. The verification team would check if under-fives (5) had taken drugs, been entered correctly- name, gender and mostly age. The corrected data would then be compared with what has been uploaded on the Sales force server.

Picture1: data verification personnel checking health passport at a household

In each village selected for verification, the verification team would move around with a volunteer who knows the village very well.

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