

# Malawi - Rapid Mortality Mobile Phone Surveys (RaMMPS)

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## Identification

### SURVEY ID NUMBER

RAMMPS.COVID.2024.V1

### TITLE

Rapid Mortality Mobile Phone Surveys (RAMMPS)

### COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Malawi	MW

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study aimed to assess the effectiveness of Rapid Mortality Mobile Phone Surveys (RAMMPS) as a method for mortality data collection in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

**Data Collection:** The study employed a non-inferiority randomized controlled trial design in Malawi. A total of 20,000 Malawian mobile phone subscribers were recruited, with half receiving a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) survey about recent deaths in their households and the other half serving as the control group.

**Content Characteristics:** The RAMMPS questionnaire focused on deaths within households in the past four weeks, including demographics of the deceased, cause of death (if known), and healthcare utilization.

**Subject Areas:** The primary focus was mortality data collection, encompassing cause of death distribution, trends over time, and potential discrepancies compared to traditional methods.

**Research Questions:** The study investigated the following:

- Can RAMMPS surveys provide mortality data comparable to established methods (e.g., civil registration systems) in LMICs?
- How effective is the RAMMPS approach in reaching diverse populations, particularly women in rural areas?
- What challenges and limitations are associated with using mobile phone surveys for mortality surveillance?

**Major Variables:**

- Household demographics
- Recent deaths in the household (yes/no)
- Demographics of the deceased (age, sex)
- Cause of death (reported cause, if known)
- Healthcare utilization prior to death (yes/no)
- Mobile phone ownership and network coverage

### UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individual and household interviews

## Version

### VERSION DESCRIPTION

RAMMPS.V1.0 Metadata and Dataset for public distribution

## Scope

### TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Mortality	MeSH	<a href="#">Link</a>
Public Health	MeSH	<a href="#">Link</a>
Cause of Death	MeSH	<a href="#">Link</a>

## Coverage

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Country Level: Data is coded by the country of residence of survey participants, allowing for analysis of mortality rates and trends at the national level.

District Level: Malawi is divided into 28 administrative districts

Urban/Rural Classification:

### UNIVERSE

Residence: Individuals residing in LMICs, with a focus on both rural and urban areas.

Nationality: The population consists of citizens or residents of LMICs.

Demographic Characteristics: While not limited to specific demographic characteristics, the universe may include individuals of various ages, sexes, and socioeconomic statuses.

Mobile Phone Subscribers: Specifically, the RAMMPS project targets mobile phone subscribers within the selected LMICs, reflecting the project's reliance on mobile phone technology for data collection.

## Producers and sponsors

### PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
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### PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
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### FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Funding	FUND	Current Funder

### OTHER IDENTIFICATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Institute of Public Opinion and Research	IPOR	Providing Data
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	LSHTM	Providing IT Infrastructure for Data Processing
New York University- Abu Dhabi	NYU-AD	Providing IT Infrastructure for Data Processing
Malawi Epidemiology Intervention Research Unit	MEIRU	Providing IT Infrastructure for Data Processing
University of Malawi	NYU-AD	Providing IT Infrastructure for Data Processing

## Sampling

### SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Stratification by Mobile Network

## Data collection

### DATA COLLECTION MODE

The RAMMPS study utilized Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) as the primary method for data collection.

### Instrumentation Characteristics:

**Mobile Phone Network:** The study relied on the existing mobile phone network infrastructure in Malawi to conduct the surveys.

**Survey Software:** Specialized software likely facilitated the CATI process. This software would manage survey administration, question prompting, data recording, and potentially integrate with IVR for broader outreach.

**Interactive Voice Response (IVR):** While the details are not explicitly stated, the information suggests the study might have employed IVR in conjunction with CATI.

IVR could have been used for initial outreach to a wider pool of mobile phone users within the sampling frame.

It might have served as an automated pre-screening tool to confirm eligibility and interest in participating in the CATI survey.

## Access policy

### CONTACTS

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### CITATION REQUIREMENTS

1.Chasukwa, M., Choko, A. T., Muthema, F., Nkhalamba, M. M., Saikolo, J., Tlhajoane, M., Reniers, G., Dulani, B., & HELLINGER, S. (2022). Collecting mortality data via mobile phone surveys: A non-inferiority randomized trial in Malawi. PLOS Global Public Health. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0000852>

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### COPYRIGHT

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## Metadata production

### DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI.RAMMPS.2024.V1.0

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DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION  
2024-03-13

## Data Dictionary

