Background

- Child Health Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) is implementing Minimally Invasive Tissue Sampling (MITS) to track the causes of death (CoD) in children under-five (US) and this requires to identify deaths within 24 hours after its occurrence.
- At local level, CHAMPS uses community and research centre’s platforms for community death notifications (CDN) namely: Demographic surveillance field workers, community leaders (heads of 10 houses, heads of 60 houses, neighborhood chiefs);
- A qualitative rapid assessment to describe current CHAMPS’s processes of CDN, barriers encountered, and further optimization was conduced in Manhiça District, southern Mozambique.

Methods

Data Collection

- Qualitative Rapid Assessment
- February to March, 2020

Data Collection Tools

- 11 Semi structured interviews
- 1 Focus Group Discussion
- 1 Informal Conversation

Target group

- 7 CDN who never reported community death (CD)
- 6 CDN who have reported CD within 24 hours
- 2 Chief of blocks who had never reported an CD
- 2 Deceased family member whose MITS were performed
- 1 Head of 10 houses who had never reported an CD

Data Analysis

Content & Framework analysis

Results

- CD notifications to CHAMPS are centralized by the neighborhood chiefs (NCs), as shown on figure 1
- Local leaders and influential persons in the community as matrons, heads of 10 and 60 houses, heads of land, religious leaders and the female organization leaders were indicated by participants as the appropriate persons to report deaths to CHAMPS.
- But there is some reluctance from the part of the CDNs, who are concerned about breach of hierarchical communication:

Barriers encountered for CD notifications

- The US deceased children’s families sometimes inform directly to the CDNs when they are near to them.

Before reporting the death to CHAMPS, local leaders use to go to the deceased’s home to:

- Confirm that the death occurred; learn about the death circumstances
- Get information about the characteristics of the deceased (i.e. age, sex)
- Ask permission to notify the death to CHAMPS
- To explain to the families about the possibility of MITS being performed on the deceased.

Conclusions

- There is a hierarchical pattern of death notification that must be obeyed within the community.
- The most used means for report CD to the CHAMPS was a telephone, it was indicated as the most appropriate, quick and easiest.
- Some practical barriers to notification were identified.
- There are potential death notifiers that the community trusts which had not been included as former CHAMPS notifiers
- Key recommendations for improving death notifications included a decentralized death notification system, involving different community members without jeopardizing community structures of power relations, community sensitization on the importance of reporting deaths, and using a toll-free call centre service.