Magu HDSS, Tanzania

Magu HDSS is one of the research components of the Kisesa Open Cohort Study implemented in Kisesa ward Magu District. Since 1994 an observational HIV cohort study has been conducted in Kisesa Ward. This is the second oldest HIV community cohort study in Africa and the only one in Tanzania. The cohort study involves five major research activities: a Demographic Surveillance System [DSS]\(^1\) (responsible for population monitoring); Epidemiological serosurveys (for HIV and sexual behaviour monitoring); antenatal clinic surveillance (Syphilis and HIV monitoring); monitoring of VCT, referrals and uptake of ART and focused qualitative studies (looking at stigma, community perception of ARVs and ART adherence). By the end of 2010, twenty five rounds of DSS had been carried out and six rounds of Epidemiological Sero-Surveys and four rounds of antenatal Clinic Surveillance. The VCT and ART monitoring systems have been in place since 2006. In addition, four qualitative studies were carried out during the period 2005-2010. The qualitative studies addressed four themes; stigma, perception of access to ARVs, Adherence to ART and role of faith leaders in community perception about ARVs.

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\(^1\) Kisesa HDSS started in April, 1994 and it has evolved over time but has kept on collecting information on fertility, mortality and mobility. New modules are introduced as necessary and so far have included: education, marriage, orphan hood, household property ownership, water and sanitation.
ii) Objectives

- To measure child and adult mortality and fertility in the general population and by HIV status
- To lay a reliable foundation for epidemiological surveys by registering people's mobility and mortality
- To assess the leading causes of death through verbal autopsy (and death certificates if possible)
- To assess the potential changes in family structure due to the adult mortality (e.g. orphanhood)
- To provide Vital Data to the Ward and District authorities for planning purposes
- To monitor progression and impact of HIV/AIDS epidemic
- To assess uptake and impact of ARVs in a rural community

Priority Research Areas

- **Demographic surveillance:**
  - Monitoring of the basic demographic variables i.e. Fertility, Mortality and Mobility/migration
  - Orphanhood monitoring
  - Marriage/separation and divorce

- **HIV/AIDS:**
  - Monitoring Progression and Dynamics of HIV/AIDS both in the general population and among antenatal women
  - Assessment of the Impact of HIV/AIDS Epidemic with focus on the child and adult mortality, orphanhood
  - Assessment of the uptake and Impact of ART
  - Assessing capacity of home based care program to meet demands and take-up emerging demands of the service

Priority services areas:

- Supporting Voluntary Counselling and testing (VCT)
- Support Care & Treatment Clinic (CTC)
- Provide treatment to the general population
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TFR per woman (15-49)</td>
<td>6.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRR per woman (15-49)</td>
<td>2.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRR per woman</td>
<td>2.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>GFR per 1000</td>
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<td>Infant mortality per 1000</td>
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<td>Child mortality rate (1-4) per 1000</td>
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<td>Under-five mortality per 1000</td>
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Funding sources
- Global Fund
- Wellcome Trust

Collaborators/partners
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), UK
- Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania

Networking
- INDEPTH Network
- ALPHA Network
Publications


7. Marston M, Slaymaker E, Cremin Í, McGrath, Floyd S, Kasamba I, Nyirenda M, Lutalo T, Ndyanabo A, Mupambireyi Z, Zaba B. Trends and patterns in marriage and time spent single and sexually active in sub-Saharan Africa, a comparative analysis of six community-based cohort studies and nine Demographic and Health Surveys. Sex Transm Infect vol 85 Sup i64-i71


Interview session for research work in the study area

Millet farming in Magu study area