

## Introduction

We aim to describe the challenges and opportunities reported by the Community Surveillance Agents (CSAs), provincial verbal autopsy (VA) interviewers and the central level supervisors during the implementation Countrywide Mortality Surveillance for Action (COMSA), consisting of a nationwide sample registration system to record events (pregnancies, births and deaths) and cause of death in 700 geographic communities randomly distributed across all 11 provinces of Mozambique.

## Methods

Since March 2018, trained CSAs based in each community are listing households and reporting pregnancies, pregnancy outcomes and deaths. Provincial teams are following-up the reported deaths to conduct the death interview using verbal autopsy tools. Both CSAs and VA interviewers are being regularly supervised by a central team from the National Institute of Statistics and by the National Institute of Health.

## Results

To date, about 162,000 households have been enrolled in the system. CSA have continuously reported 8,421 pregnancies, 5824 births and 2,457 deaths (including stillbirths) and VA interviews have conducted 1,562 interviews (64% of deaths).

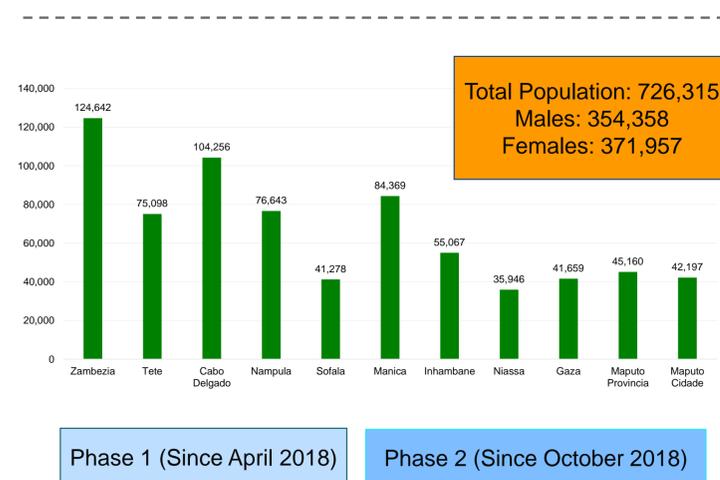


Fig 1. Population enrolled in COMSA per province



Fig 2. Total number of events reported by CSAs and VAs performed by interviewers

## Results (cont.)

### Challenges:



Engagement of community representatives to support the CSA in the identification of events



Accessibility to the households during rainy season and in areas with political instability



Availability of respondents during plantation season in rural areas and during the week in urban areas



Availability of an eligible witness during consent process for an illiterate respondent

Fig 3. Main challenges reported by CSAs, VA interviewers and central supervisors during COMSA implementation

## Results (cont.)

### Opportunities:

Working with community health worker (APEs) proved to be an opportunity to facilitate COMSA community engagement and to the identification of events.

## Conclusion

Relaying on two national institutions well established at the community level to implement the program is seen as an opportunity for the success of COMSA in Mozambique.

Although several challenges are being faced in the field during COMSA implementation, this platform is accepted by the communities and can be used for future epidemiological field work in Mozambique

## Acknowledgments

To the community leaders and to the CSAs for their hard work. To the households for accepting to be part of COMSA system. To all COMSA collaborators for being resilient.