Verbal autopsy implementation and application

Webinar upon the release of 2022 WHO verbal autopsy instrument

6 April 2022

Daniel Cobos Muñoz – Co-Chair WHO Verbal Autopsy Reference Group - Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
Outline

1. Verbal autopsy in practice
2. Resources for implementation
3. Next steps for the instrument
Verbal autopsy in practice

There are no shortcuts to any place worth going

- Beverly Sills
Verbal autopsy in practice

Moving to routine implementation
Verbal autopsy in practice

1. Community key informant assists the family to notify the death

2. Family informs the local authority

3. The local authority:
   - Registers the death in the system
   - Data entered on table t for transfer to central server
   - Provides a death certificate/burial permit to the family

4. All data are transmitted to a central server and stored in the CRVS database

5. A central server pushes a notification to the health facility to conduct the VA.

6. The health facility receives a notification in the tablet with the contact details prepopulated in the questionnaire.

7. Interviewer collects the data for the VA using a tablet

8. VA results are uploaded to the cloud and linked to the CRVS record.

Information is stored in a central data store and used to influence public health policies and practice.
## Verbal autopsy in practice

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<th>Example</th>
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**Support and managerial processes**

- Supervision
- Maintenance and IT support
- Governance
- M&E
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                             |                              |                          | District scale          |
| **Demonstration** | For systems integration issues | Developing integration with CRVS and HMIS information systems and conducting full costing and sampling strategies. | >1,000's VAs
                                |                              |                          | Regional scale
                                |                              |                          | emulating proposed national scenarios |
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Resources for the WHO 2022 instrument

More than 15 years of development
Resources for the WHO 2022 instrument

More than 15 years of development

ODK FOR VA: A Quick Guide

Questionnaire & XML

ODK version of the questionnaire
Resources for the WHO 2022 questionnaire

More than 15 years of development

Process integration for verbal autopsy

VA costing tool

Integration with OpenVA

VA sampling tool
Next steps
Starting today

Verbal Autopsy Reference Group

• Finalize the translations to Spanish, Portuguese, French and Arabic

• Support a VA community of practice and the online feedback platform in GitHub to collect feedback on the use of the 2022 VA instrument

• Support countries in the integration of verbal autopsy in their mortality information systems

• Update and further develop guidelines, manuals and other resources

• Adapt the 2022 WHO VA instrument to ICD-11

“VA-IT” CoP
Monday, May 16th at 8am ET

VA Implementation CoP
Thursday, May 19th at 8am ET
Next steps
Starting today

Verbal Autopsy Global Community

- Update the VA algorithms to accommodate the changes to the instrument
- Update the probability base for the relationship between symptoms/questions and causes of deaths
- Validate the performance of the new instrument to ascertain causes of death relevant for public health decision making
- Use the 2022 update of the WHO verbal autopsy instrument
Thank you

Link to the VA user engagement survey

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