

Multiple Indicator Survey on Ageing Population in Malawi

Survey Implementation: Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learnt

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Expert Group Meeting on “Review Methodology Developed for
Multi Indicator Survey on Ageing (MISA) in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Outline



- Introduction
- Survey implementation
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Lessons learnt

Introduction

- NSO signed an MOU in February 2017 with United Nations represented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to implement a projected titled “***Data Collection Methodology and Tools for Supporting the Formulation of evidence-based policies in response to the challenges of population ageing in Su-Saharan Africa***”
 - The objective of the collaboration was to implement a survey that sought to getting a better understanding of the social, economic and health conditions of older persons as well as their immediate living conditions.
 - Also, the survey aims to collect this information directly from older persons themselves the gender dimensions of the lives of older persons, since social, economic, health and cultural factors affect older women and men in different ways

Role of NSO

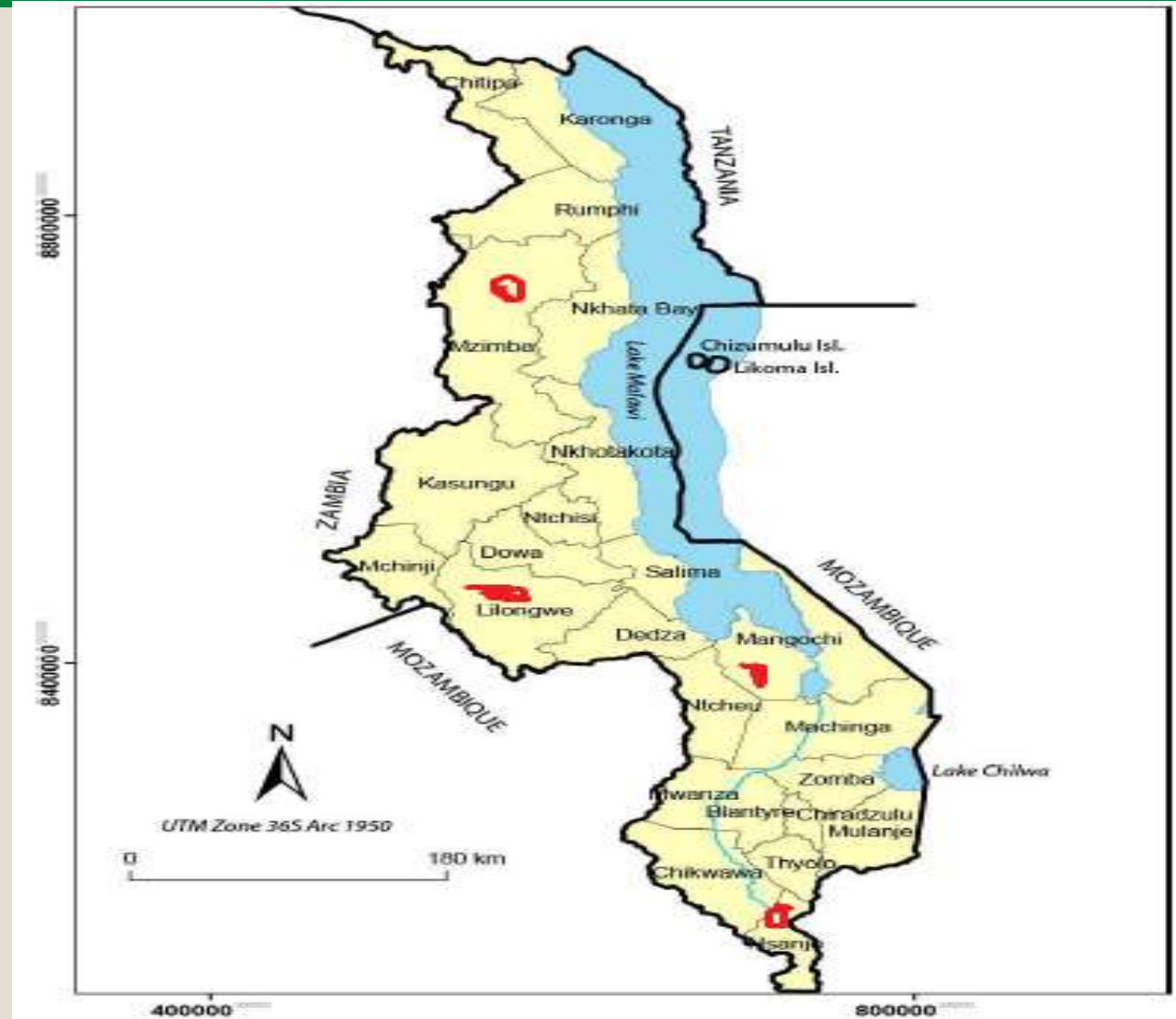
- NSO signed an MOU which sets modalities and responsibilities of each party involved:
 - NSO had the following roles:
 - Establish and maintain the project team
 - Prepare sample frame and survey sample
 - Translate questionnaires into local languages
 - Support development of CAPI
 - Conduct household listing
 - Conduct fieldwork on main data collection
 - Undertake data cleaning and provide final anonymized dataset and related documentation

Implementation of the Survey

- After signing the MOU, NSO and UNDSEA organized a workshop whose aim was to present:
 - Project rationale, aims, status
 - Pre-test the survey instrument (questionnaires & CAPI application);
 - Agree on timeline and logistics of survey administration & field-work;
 - Revise and fine-tune CAPI application.

Implementation of the Survey

- Map of Malawi showing District where the survey was implemented



Implementation of the Survey



- During the implementation of the survey there were a number of challenges that NSO faced:
 - Challenges related to preparation of fieldwork
 - Challenges related to fieldwork on data collection
 - Challenges related to older persons

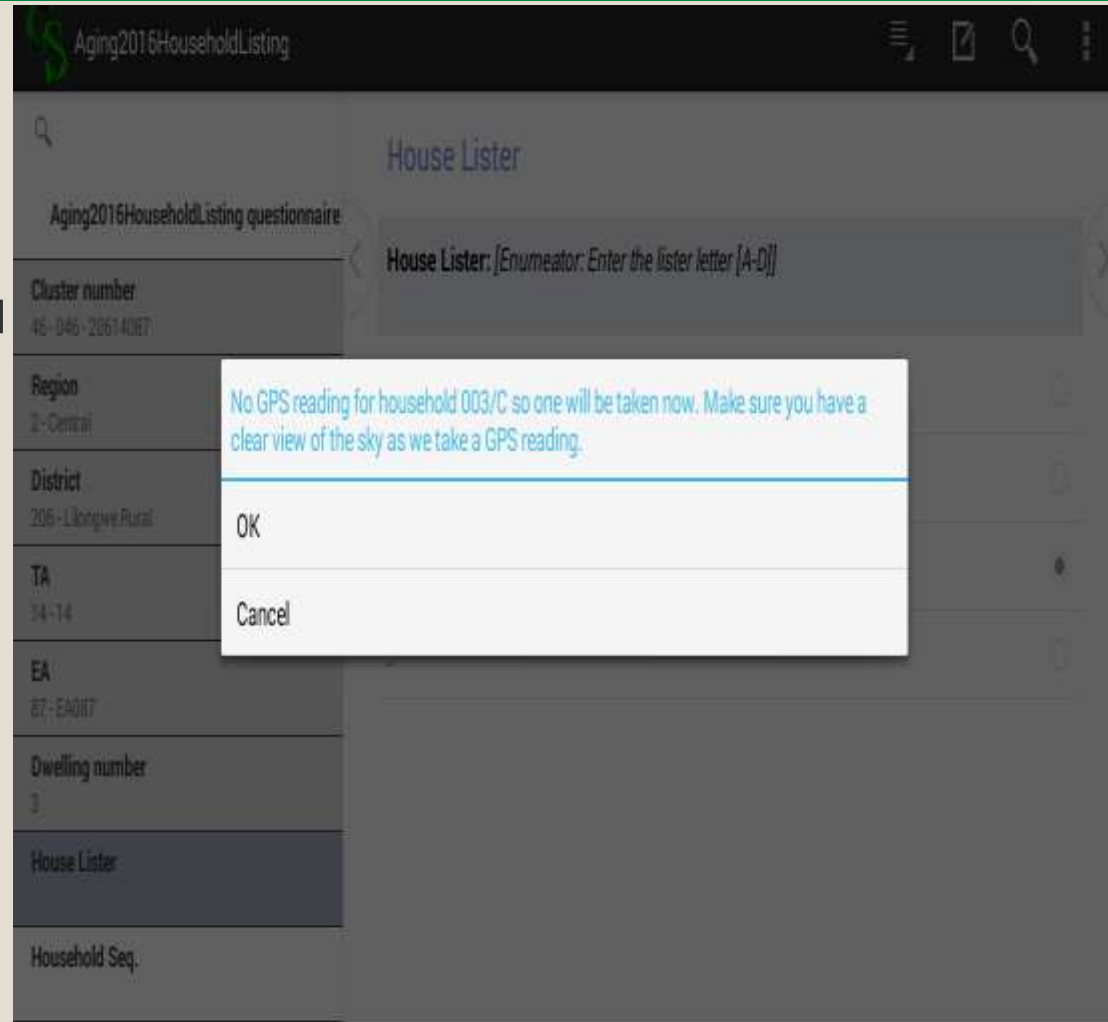
Challenges related to preparation of fieldwork



- ❑ Data collection was delayed about a month as we waited for tablets that were used in another survey
- ❑ Household listing CAPI was not ready up to the last day of training of listers/mappers
- ❑ Listers/mapper had short time to practice CAPI listing form
- ❑ Pre-testing of CAPI was done during field practice training and no much time was given to fine tune the geocodes
- ❑ Eligible person to found during fieldwork

Challenges related to preparation to fieldwork

- Collection of GPS points
 - Teams found it difficult for the tablets to acquire the GPS points as it needed a clear sky view and a good terrain.
 - This problem was resolved by bypassing taking GPS points as requirement and proceed with household listing and try to take GPS points at the end.



Challenges related to fieldwork on data collection

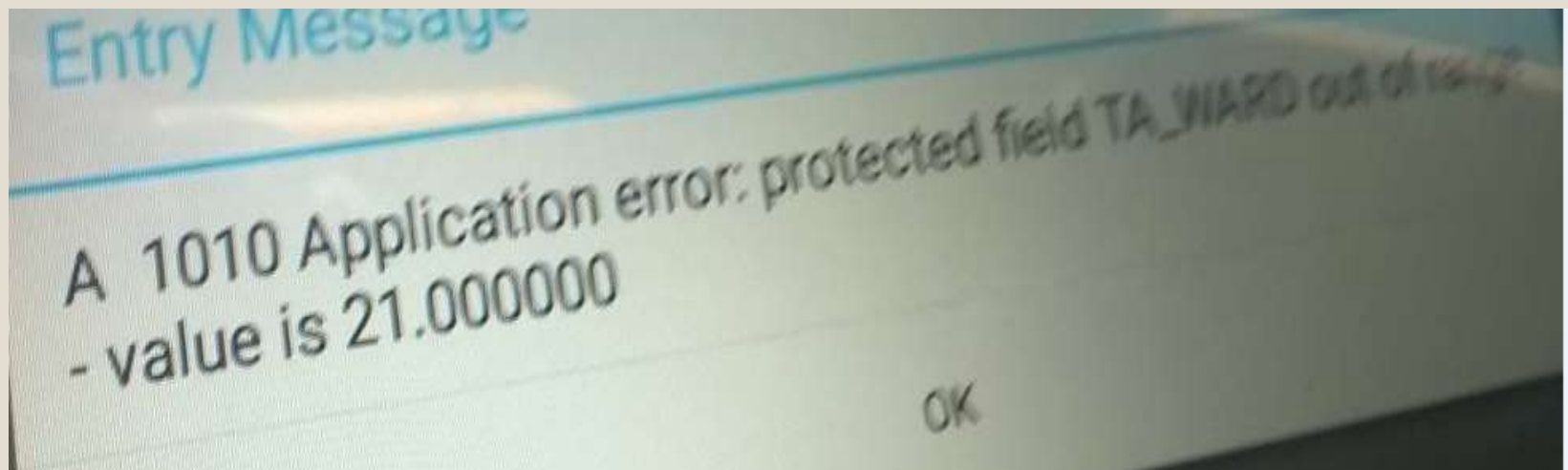
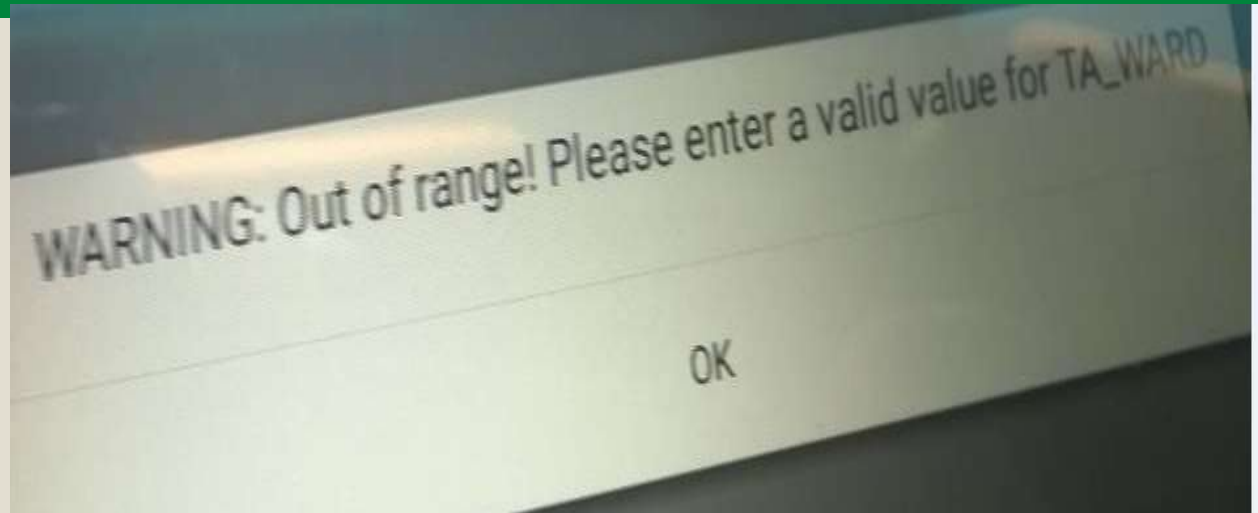
■ Use of CAPI application

- Interviewers were not given much time to practice CAPI application due to short time that was given to CAPI training
- Some teams had problems with CAPI application terminating or stopping working in the middle of the interview. The problem was due to invalid value sets or missing value sets in the CAPI application
 - In general more time is needed to test the CAPI application and survey logistics including data transfer



Challenges related to fieldwork on data collection

- Warning message before CAPI application terminating or stopping working in the middle of the interview.



Challenges related to fieldwork on data collection

- Hard to reach areas
 - Accessibility of some of the selected clusters proved a challenge. Some teams had to hire boats to cross the rivers or reach the other side of a lake which was inaccessible from the land.



Challenges related to fieldwork on data collection

- Hard to reach areas – Teams members walking long distances on foot to get sampled households



Challenges related to fieldwork on data collection

- Crossing Lake Malawi – Using Police hired speed boat to access sampled households



Challenges related to fieldwork on data collection

- Finding eligible respondents for interview
 - There were few cases of not finding the names of the age eligible who were reported during household listing
 - The community thought the exercise is one of the targeted program and influenced cheating on age
 - It is better to combine household listing and the actual data collection to avoid some cases of cheating on age
 - This can be done in a way that listing is done today and data collection the next day.
 - Implication: need a household listing application to sample households for interview while in the field

Challenges related to fieldwork on data collection

- Targeted government programs
 - During household listing, some households indicated to have age eligible persons, and were selected to be part of the sample only to discover that the selected households had no age eligible persons.
 - This was done deliberately by some of the households heads thinking they would get some kind of assistance after wards



Challenges related to fieldwork on data collection

- Callbacks are inevitable
 - Callbacks were done due to the fact that some eligible individuals were not present during the visit of the interviewers.
 - Most of the callbacks were done the same day as, a vehicle would be sent to pick the individual from the place where he/she had gone if it is within the community.
 - Callback should be factored in during survey planning as the increase operation costs

Challenges experienced by older persons

- Challenges experienced by older persons with substantive questions during the interview
 - Questions that required recall of more than 30 days
 - Interviewing older persons mostly those of age eighty years and older was a challenge. Concerns were on questions that required a recall period of more than 30 days.
 - For example, older person were asked to recall how many times an event occurred or say how many times they went to a market in the last week. Older person could not remember

Challenges experienced by older persons

- Older person not able to remember or recall substantive questions during the interview



Challenges experienced by older persons

■ Difficult sections

- Section 2 children, section 4 mental health, section 5 health care utilization in individual questionnaire and section 4 household income in household questionnaire were a challenge to most respondents to answer.
- For example, to explain clearly in local language some mental issues like stress/anxiety was a challenge.
 - This would require more interviewers training time and practice sessions

Challenges experienced by older persons

- Older person not able to remember or recall substantive questions during the interview



Opportunities



- During implementation of the project, there were a number of opportunities that NSO gained:
 - Capacity building
 - Use of new methodology in sampling
 - Use of CAPI

Capacity building

- Capacity building
 - Two workshops
 - The first workshop attended by experts from African Countries in July 2016 which discussed the survey objectives, questionnaires and manuals -
 - The second workshop which was held in Zomba in February 2017 was on MISA survey implementation and the objectives were:
 - To provide an in-depth briefing of all stakeholders involved in the implementation of MISA in Malawi on the substantive aspects of the survey project;

Capacity building

- Capacity building
 - Received two consultants
 - To assist in survey sampling of older persons in Malawi
 - To assist the development of CAPI application both for household listing operation and main fieldwork
 - Employed 40 temporary staff to work on the MISA survey

Lessons learnt

- Consultation with Stakeholder
 - Consultation with stakeholders is paramount importance in the implementation of Survey on Ageing Population.
 - Malawi conducted two workshops; the first one included experts from several African Countries. This workshop was held in Lilongwe from 19-21 July 2016.
 - The objective of the workshop was to review the draft survey tools in the context of Sub Saharan Africa. The outcome of the workshop was the revised questionnaires and manuals

Lessons learnt

- Need for an updated Sample frame
 - To get a sample of older persons needed an updated sampling frame. The frame for MISA sample was the census in 2008 which was outdated
 - Household listing using CAPI was carried out in order to update the sampling frame.
 - CAPI listing of households has reduced the time it takes to select households for interviews

Lessons learnt

- Meeting local authorities
 - Meeting with local authorities improved survey response and at the same time built a good rapport between interviewers and the community. The interviewers were welcome in the community and were treated well
 - NSO learnt that some Traditional Authorities (TA) needed a letter from the District Commissioner to make sure that the teams had gone through the District Commissioner's office and he has accepted them to work in the sampled areas.

Lessons learnt

- Meeting local authorities to get their support and inform the community about the survey

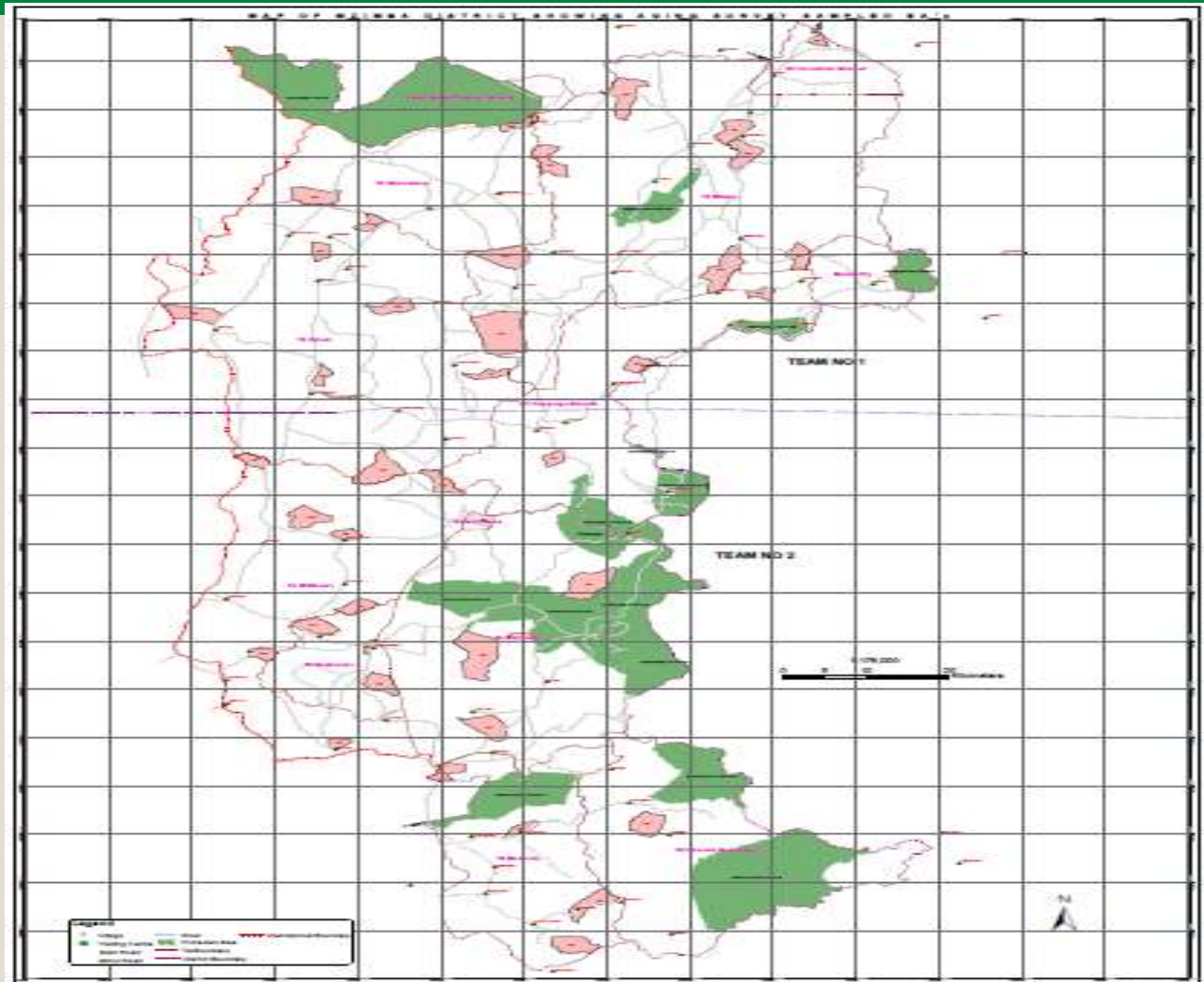


Lessons learnt

- Use of field movement plan – based on base maps
 - Use of base maps assisted teams in locating selected clusters. A base map printed on a large A0 size paper shows clearly all land marks, road, tracks, footpaths and other features on the map. All selected Traditional Authorities had a base map.
 - By using base maps field movement plan was developed which assisted teams to move from one cluster to another. The aim was to reduced cost on transport, easy field supervision locating selected clusters.
 - Filed movement plan helped teams to completed fieldwork on time.

Lessons learnt

- Use of field movement plan – based on base maps
- Mzimba District, sampled clusters



Lessons learnt

- Supervisors using field movement plan to locate survey team



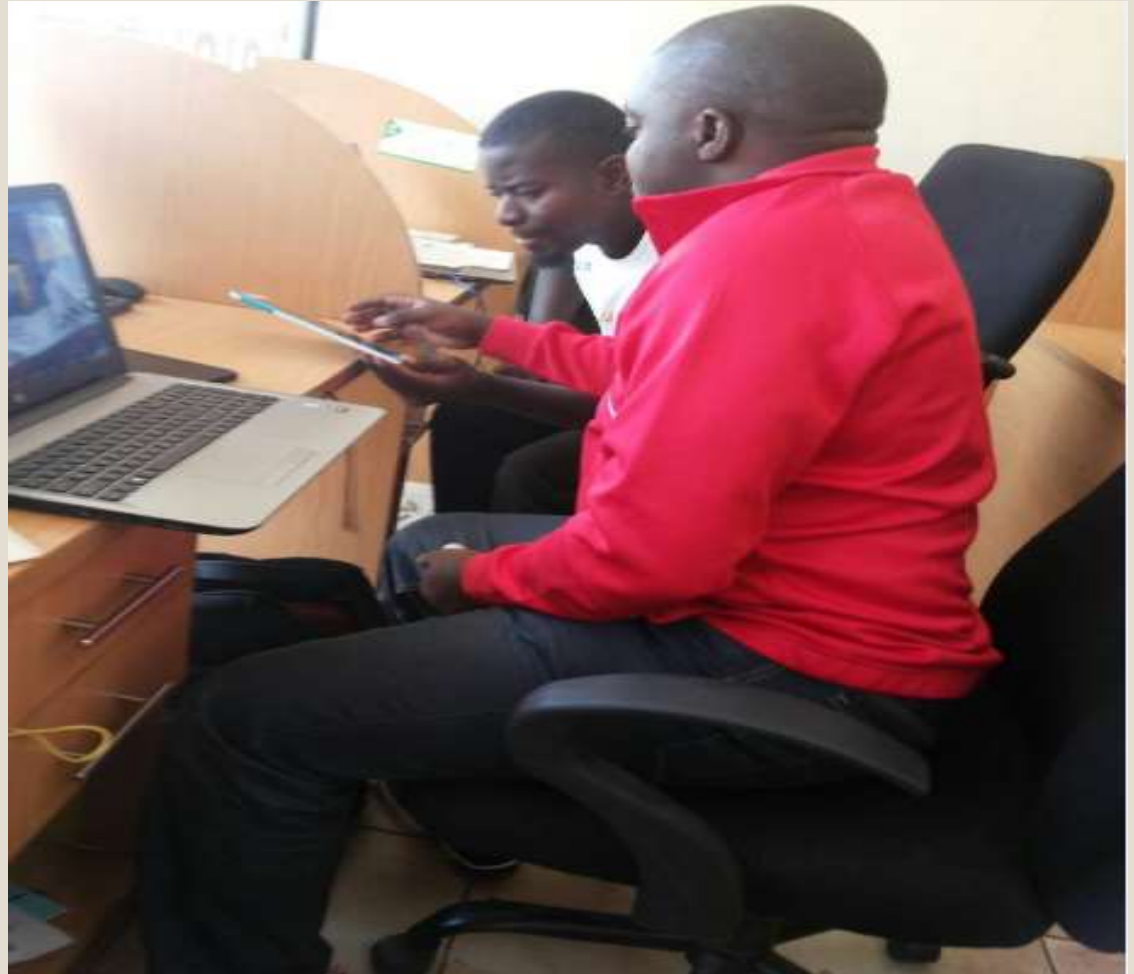
Lessons learnt

- Supervisors using field movement plan to locate survey team
- And sit in and listen to interview



Lessons learnt

- Use CAPI
 - ▣ Testing and loading CAPI questionnaire ready for field practice



Lessons learnt

- Use CAPI
 - There is also need for comprehensive testing of CAPI application before the launch of field work.
 - Easy update of application if there are errors or system updates- changes to questionnaire or instruction
 - Using CAPI application minimized secondary editing
 - Improved data quality as data checks are embedded in the application.



Lessons learnt

- Number of interviews per interviewer per days
 - Use of CAPI improved completion of household and individual interviews
 - During fieldwork; on average each interviewer managed to interview 3 households and 4 individual interviews on average.
 - It took an interviewer 3 hours on average to finish all interviews per household, that include household survey and individual survey.



- A team ready to go home after completing their fieldwork





Thank you