

Abstract

Early implementation lessons and baseline census results from CRHDSS Akpabuyo, Nigeria

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Background: The Cross River Health and Demographic Surveillance System (CRHDSS) in Akpabuyo Local Government Area Cross River State Nigeria was established in 2010 to generate reliable information to inform health policy and planning, and pilot an initiative to strengthen vital registration and health management information systems. Akpabuyo is populated by 271,395 people of predominantly the *Efik* and *Ibibio* tribes residing in rural farming and fishing communities. The aim of this presentation is to share the early implementation lessons and findings of the baseline census.

Methodology: The set-up process involves collaboration between multi-disciplinary teams at the University of Calabar Nigeria and the team of software developers at the University of Maine USA with support from several INDEPTH HDSS sites. The project receives financial support from the IDRC Canada and the Government of Nigeria.

Findings: Community sensitization, mapping, household listing and training of field personnel preceded the baseline census conducted in 10 rural communities and 20 enumeration areas in February and March 2011. Data was entered and managed in systems running the OpenHDS software. The key findings including population pyramid and socio-economic characteristics will be presented. Challenges and early lessons learnt from the set-up process will be discussed.

Conclusion: Early appraisal of this project indicates that collaboration between multi-disciplinary academic teams from the south and north (University of Calabar, Nigeria and University of Maine USA) with support from well-established INDEPTH HDSS sites is an effective model for setting up new HDSS sites in countries with little or no experience in health and demographic surveillance.