

Innovative Protocols and Extensive Local Knowledge: How to Overcome Attrition and Participant Engagement Challenges in Longitudinal Studies

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The Kagera Health and Development Survey

- ❑ Intergenerational study of poverty in rural Tanzanian HHs
 - KHDS R1 - 4 waves between 1991-1994
 - KHDS R2 - 2004
 - KHDS R3 - 2010
- ❑ Tracking of baseline HHs (n=915) and individuals (n=6,353), including those who moved out of the baseline location
- ❑ *KHDS R4 - Pilot ongoing*
 - All children 0-15 in KHDS R1 - 1991-1994 and their children
 - Tracking strategy?
 - Attrition?



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The Kagera Health and Development Survey

KHDS R1 - 1991-1994	KHDS R2 - 2004			KHDS R3 - 2010		
	re-interviewed	deceased	untraced*	re-interviewed	deceased	untraced*
Individuals (n=6,353)	70%	15%	15%	68%	20%	12%

**KHDS R3 - 2010 tracking data for untraced respondents: 53% in Kagera region, 9% in Dar es Salaam, 9% in Mwanza, 10% in another region, 8% in another country, 11% not known*



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Facing attrition - KHDS R2 and KHDS R3

Challenges	Examples of solutions
Reaching locations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scattered locations• Multiple location	Flexibility in the team set-up - Interviewer to work independently to tackle scattered distribution of clusters and reach remote areas Physical and phone tracking
Frequent migration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tanzania• Uganda• International	Collecting secondary information with informants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple positions• Contacts of other informants Flexibility in the field plan - more time in field
Splitting households <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marriage• Work-related	Physical tracking and phone tracking Collecting secondary information with informants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple guesses position• Open ended questions capturing other secondary information

Participant engagement - KHDS R2 and KHDS R3

Challenges	Examples of solutions
Gaining trust	Putting in contact tracked respondents with their baseline HHs
Participant engagement (long run)	Incentives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building engagement for next rounds• HHs, after the interview• 1 USD in R2, 1.5 USD in R3



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KHDS R4 - ongoing pilot

Main challenge	Solutions
Tracking children of KHDS R1 - 1991-1994 and their children <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Migration• Parents died	Using electronic data collection software (better management of information systems - data sharing in field)
	Data information systems of informants
	Collecting tracking information of children and their children in the community of origin - and call them while still in baseline community



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