Subject: Re: Further Quest: Days of Neonatal Death Not Matching to DHS Further Analysis Report
Posted by Bridgette-DHS on Mon, 07 Dec 2020 15:08:03 GMT

Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

I am not sure what your question is, but I think it's about whether you should use 28 or 30 days for neonatal deaths. The DHS programs for under-five mortality use b7=0 for neonatal deaths. They do not use b6. If you tabulate b6 for b7=0 and b7=1, you will see that b7=0 for b6=100 through 128 and b7=1 for b6=129 and 130. In other words, "month 0" for b7 is equivalent to "0-28" days on b6. DHS is consistent with WHO.

I would have to go back to old files to see whether b7=0 has always been recoded to extend just to day 28. The fraction of child deaths that are reported on days 29 and 30 is very small, and in terms of measurement error there are many more serious issues of omission and displacement than what happens (or is reported) for those two days.