Following is a response from DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

For an individual child, you know whether the child died or survived. If it died, you know the age at death. If it survived, you know the age at the time of the mother's interview. There is not enough information from one child to calculate the U5MR, which by definition is calculated for a group of children--a large group.

There have been other posts and responses on this topic on the forum. One suggestion is that you focus on neonatal mortality. For an individual child, you calculate a binary outcome that is 1 if the child died in the first month (b7=0) or the first 28 days (b6<=127), and 0 otherwise. Then use logit regression.

This recent article includes some methodological discussion that may help: Subramanian, S.V., Akhil Kumar, Thomas W. Pullum, Mayanka Ambade, Sunil Rajpal, and Rockli Kim. 2024. Early-Neonatal, Late-Neonatal, Postneonatal, and Child Mortality Rates Across India, 1993-2021. JAMA Network Open 7(5):e2410046. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.10046. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2818561