FIGURE 1: OPPORTUNITIES AND OPTIONS FOR MEASURING MATERNAL MORTALITY

Empirical measurement

Routine Opportunities

1. Death Registration
   Options:
   1.a Civil Registration**
   1.b Sample Vital Registration***
   1.c Sample Vital Registration, with Verbal Autopsy (SAVVY)*

3. Decennial Census*

4. Surveys*
   Options:
   4.a Population-based survey, asking about deaths in household
   4.b Population-based survey, with Indirect Sisterhood – asking about deaths of sisters, without dates
   4.c Population-based survey, with Direct Sisterhood – asking about deaths of sisters, with dates
   4.d Sampling at Service Sites (SSS) – using direct sisterhood method

5. Surveillance*
   Options:
   5.a Demographic Surveillance Systems
   5.b Active surveillance of reproductive age female deaths

Special Opportunities

Composite approaches – Reproductive Age Mortality Studies: In-depth review of reproductive-age female deaths identified from routine &/or special opportunities, & follow-up investigation of maternal deaths

Analytical

Birth-death linkage: to find maternal deaths

Dual method or capture – recapture: corrects for under-reporting

UN models: estimate levels of maternal mortality using regression

Colour key: Orange = longitudinal & continuous capture of deaths; Pink= cross-sectional capture; Green = mixed approach; Blue= no new capture of deaths

* Deaths actively sought by measurement option ** Deaths passively recorded, as dependent on relatives or health providers to notify death