

DOCUMENTATION GUIDE #17: 2019 HOUSEHOLD LISTING



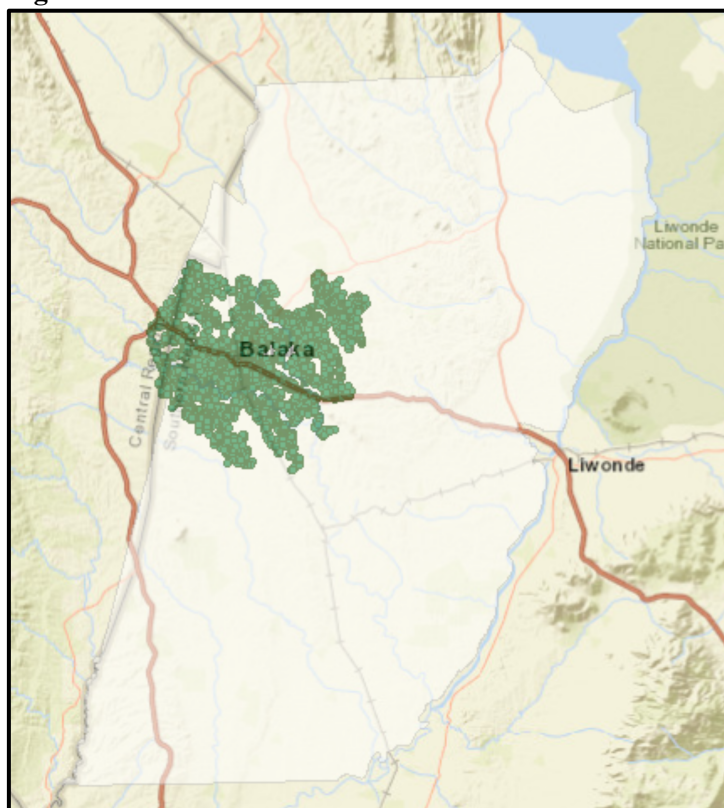
To systematically draw a new, random sample of young women from Balaka in 2019, we needed a high-quality sampling frame. Since no reasonable frame could be found, and the census figures for proportional sampling within clusters were not available, we conducted, newly, a complete census of the original TLT 2009 catchment area in order to re-enumerate the area and draw the refresher sample. This enumeration took place between June 10 and July 9, 2020. In total, we listed 78,433 individuals in 18,672 households living in the catchment area in 2019.

In addition to providing us with a sampling frame, the listing data allows us to establish how the TLT study site changed in the decade between 2009 and 2019 along dimensions like population size, density, and basic household characteristics. As an additional motivation, the enumeration exercise afforded us the opportunity to re-introduce the project to community leaders (i.e., traditional authorities, village chiefs) and residents and to chat with householders across the research site before beginning the 2019 survey round. The listing activity set the stage for TLT-3 by establishing high levels of familiarity with the landscape of each village and re-establishing rapport in the community.

SORTING VILLAGES

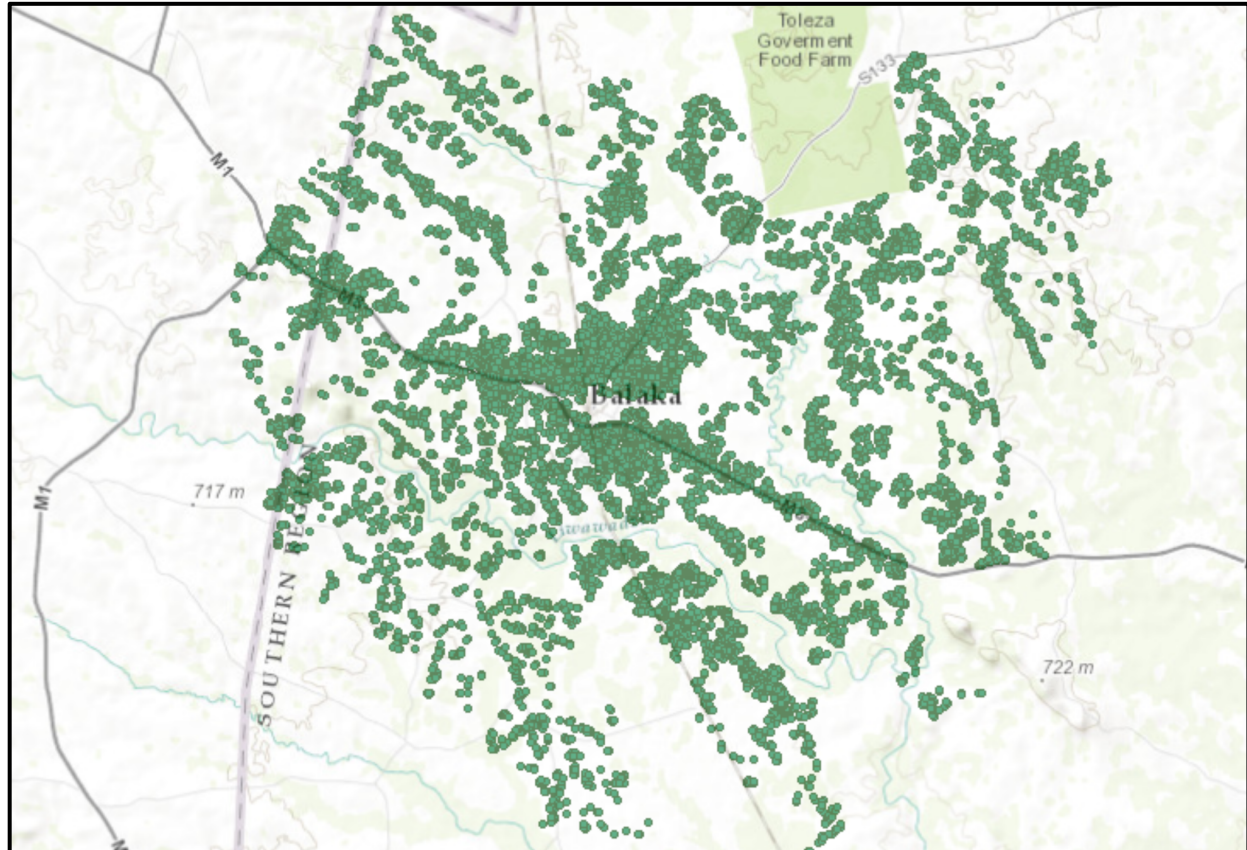
The TLT catchment area includes *all* households in census enumeration areas (EAs) wherein at least half of the EA falls within 7 kilometers of the center of Balaka town. We relied on maps from Malawi's National Statistics Office (NSO) to identify the EAs and villages that fall within the catchment area and used these maps to inform our strategy for enumerating the entire area. The catchment area encompassed approximately 100 villages. Two of the largest villages constitute what is widely recognized as "Balaka town"; the other surrounding 98 villages range in population size from 46 on the smallest end to over 3000 at the larger side. TLT interviewers worked in teams of 4 or 5 to list all households within each village. Their work was organized by team leaders who coordinated interviewers' movements within and around adjacent villages to maximize efficiency.

Figure 1 Balaka District with Household GPS Data



Sources: World Food Programme, 2014; GeoDa, 2006; ESRI; TLT-3 Household Listing, June 2019

Figure 2 Balaka Town with Household GPS Data



Sources: GeoDa, 2006; ESRI; TLT-3 Household Listing, June 2019

INTRODUCTIONS AND INSTRUMENT

In each village, interviewers first received permission from the village headman before beginning to list the households themselves. The listing form was completed by an adult resident, who provided basic information about each usual resident of the household and answered a short series of questions about the structural and financial conditions of the household. The 2019 household listing instrument was based on the instrument used to enumerate households in 2009.¹ Some new questions (e.g. phone ownership, parents' vital status) were added, while questions about livestock ownership were reduced. In cases where no adult household member was home during a visit, the interviewer made an additional same-day attempt prior to departing the village. The household was then visited a minimum of two additional times, with visits scheduled at variable times of the day and days of the week (e.g., Sunday in hopes to capture those working) to increase the chance of inclusion. In total, about 500 households were not listed, either because the structure was vacant or no resident could be found.

Depending on the size of the household and the respondents' knowledgeability of the other residents' socio-demographic traits, the listing took between 10 and 30 minutes to complete. In most cases, informants were able to recall the year of birth and pertinent information about each household member with ease; when the reporting household member struggled to recall birth dates, the interviewer asked for national ID cards or health passports and used these documents to complete the listing. When interviewers

¹ See Documentation Guide #1 on the TLT website <https://tsogololathanzi.uchicago.edu/>

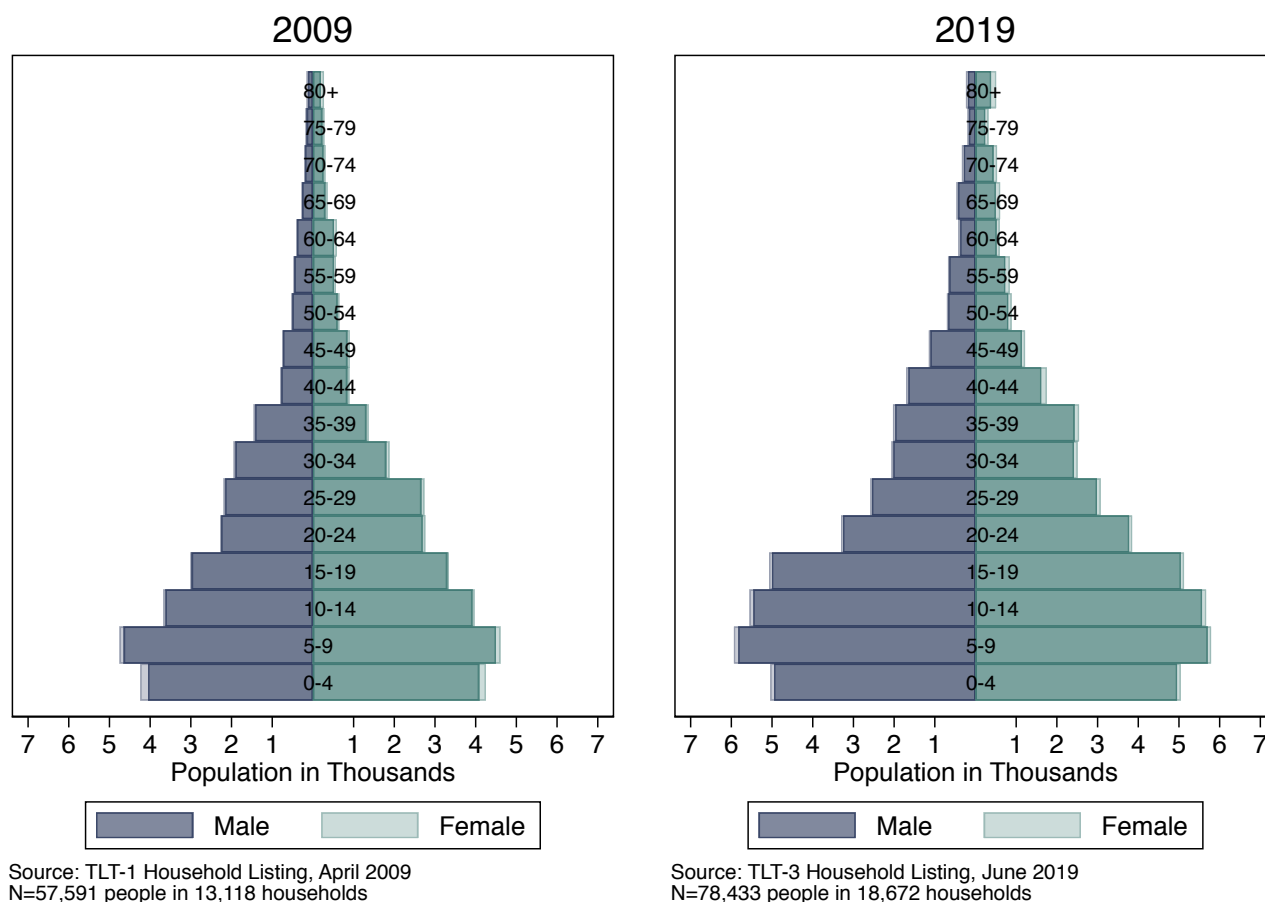
had to probe extensively to complete the questionnaire, they used milestone political and global events to benchmark the ages of household members and indicated this on the listing form in the “Notes” section.

Upon having completed the listing form, the interviewer marked that household in chalk with “TLT” followed by a 6-digit code identifying the interviewer and the consecutive order of households he or she had surveyed. Interviewers also took a single photograph of the household structure with the tablet and collected GPS data on the location of each household. If the GPS took longer than 3 minutes to process, this step was skipped. These steps – chalked number, photograph of structure, and GPS coordinates – facilitated the recruitment of the respondents we sampled and enrolled based on this listing.

A FEW FINDINGS

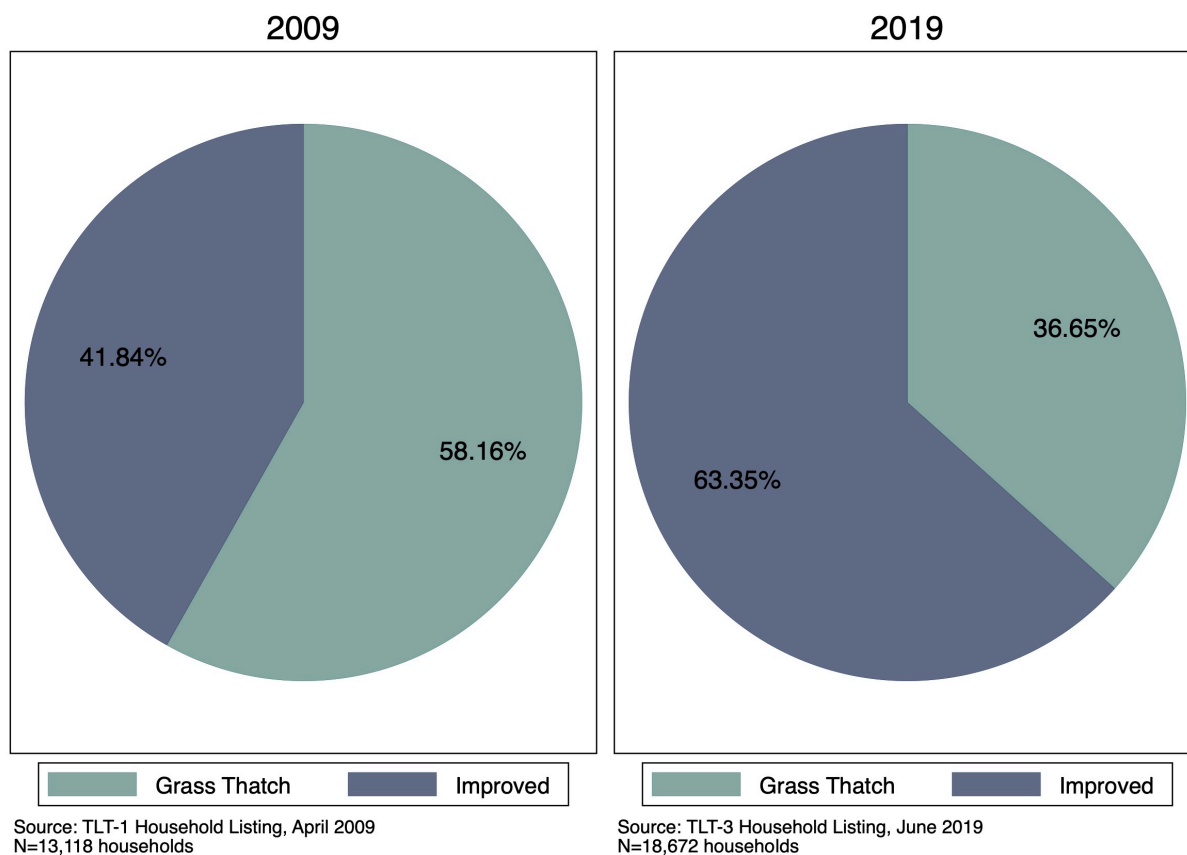
The population of the catchment area grew from 57,591 in 2009 to 78,433 in 2019, while the age structure of the area remained remarkably consistent. At the time of the survey, 3.3% of residents were ill, 13.5% of whom were severely ill.

Figure 3 Age and Sex Structure of the Balaka Catchment Area



The average household size across the catchment area was 5.6 members per household in 2009 and 4.2 members per household in 2019. The most common roofing material for households in Balaka are grass thatch (36.6%) and iron sheets (62.8%). The prevalence of iron roofs increased sharply from 2009, when they covered barely 40% of households.

Figure 4 Roof Material of Households in Balaka Catchment Area



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