Module 2: Baseline Assessment

SESSION 2: ENSURING HIGH QUALITY FIELD INFORMATION

FACILITATOR NOTES

Presentation	*Ensuring High Quality Field Information.ppt*
Handouts	• *H2.2 Handout 1 - Power Flower Exercise* • *H2.2 Handout 2 - Minimising Bias and Triangulation* • *H2.2 Handout 3 - Working with Translators* • *H2.2 Handout 4 - Ensuring Representative and Accurate Results* • *H2.2 Handout 5 - Proportional Piling and Community Mapping*
Practitioners Guide Reference	**Chapter 3:** HOW TO GATHER BASELINE INFORMATION: Activity 2, Activity 3, Activity 5 HOW TO ANALYSE AND STORE FIELD INFORMATION: Activity 1
Time	2 hours

Purpose and content

To introduce the concepts of data quality and representativeness, bias and cross-checking, and the field methods and interviewing techniques that can help to ensure a high quality of information.

Objectives

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- Describe the different types of bias that can affect the quality and representativeness of information.
- Describe some of the things we can do when interviewing to ensure information is accurate and representative.
- Begin to use proportional piling and community mapping as a technique in the field.

When to run this session

This is session 2 in the Baseline Assessment Module so it makes sense to introduce it early on in the training. However, given that the concepts here, while essential for carrying out good field work, are not sequentially related to any particular topic in HEA, it could be introduced at any time in the training schedule.

Handouts

- *H2.2 Handout 1 - Power Flower Exercise*
  An exercise to highlight the difference in backgrounds between the researchers and the study population, and to show the potential bias inherent in all of us.

- *H2.2 Handout 2 - Minimising Bias and Triangulation*

This outlines the different types of bias, describes common sources of misunderstanding and gives tips on how to avoid the common pitfalls. It provides a summary of what triangulation means and how it can be done by using team members with different backgrounds, meeting different people and using different tools.

- *H2.2 Handout 3 – Working with Translators*
  This gives ten tips for how to work with translators most effectively, and ways in which you can encourage direct communication with interviewees even if you don't speak their language.

- *H2.2 Handout 4 - Ensuring Representative and Accurate Results*
  This outlines ways we can ensure the information we collect is representative and accurate, through sampling, good interviewing techniques, cross-checking and the use of other field methods.

- *H2.2 Handout 5 – Proportional Piling and Community Mapping*
  A summary of what these two methods are and how they can be useful. Includes a group exercise on each.

Key learning points

- To be of high quality, information has to be **representative** and **accurate**
- In HEA, we make sure results are **representative** through the careful selection or sampling of villages, community key informants and wealth group representatives. We must be aware of, and minimise, the kinds of bias which may creep into this selection.
- In HEA, we make sure results are **accurate** through good interviewing techniques including clear village-level introductions and rigorous cross-checking, and a continual process of review and analysis.

Session plan

Session plan summary		
Activity	*Methodology*	*Timing*
1. The power flower exercise	Individual exercise Discussion in plenary	10 minutes 10 minutes
2. Presentation: Ensuring high quality field information	Presentation	30 minutes
3. Group exercises on proportional piling and community mapping	Small group exercises Discussion in plenary	45 minutes 15 minutes
4. Wrap up	Plenary discussion	10 minutes
	Total	2 hours

ACTIVITY 1: LOOKING AT THE QUESTION OF BIAS (20 MINUTES)

- Ask participants to do the Power Flower exercise as an individual exercise. This aims to show participants the inherent potential bias in all of us by highlighting the difference in our backgrounds from those of our study population. We are urban, they are rural; we are comfortably off and can afford sufficient health care, while they are sometimes hungry and can rarely afford or access basic health care.

- After the exercise, lead a discussion on different types of bias and how they can be overcome. Refer to *H2.2 Handout 2 – Minimising Bias and Triangulation.* Make sure you bring up the issue of triangulation and refer again to the handout, which provides a summary of how it can be done.

- Distribute the handout *H2.3 Working with Translators.* This handout is primarily for reference, but it might be useful to point out two or three key tips from it.

ACTIVITY 2: ENSURING HIGH QUALITY FIELD INFORMATION (30 MINUTES)

- Go through the presentation *Ensuring High Quality Field Information.ppt*. Much of this is summarised in *H2.2 Handout 4 – Ensuring Representative and Accurate Results,* which you should distribute after the presentation. Mention the different tools that can be used in the field such as proportional piling and community mapping. Refer participants to *H2.2 Handout 5 – Proportional Piling and Community Mapping*.

ACTIVITY 3: PROPORTIONAL PILING AND COMMUNITY MAPPING (1 HOUR)

- Break into two groups. Ask participants to look at the group exercises in *H2.2 Handout 5 – Proportional Piling and Community Mapping*. Ask one group to do the proportional piling exercise and the other to do the community mapping exercise.
- Within each group, share experiences and times when it would be useful to use these methods to verify and check information (these are listed in *H2.2 Handout 5 – Proportional Piling and Community Mapping*).
- Bring the two groups together at the end.
    - Ask the proportional piling group how they felt about the exercise and discuss any problems.
    - Ask everyone to take a look at all the community maps that have been constructed.

ACTIVITY 4: WRAP UP (10 MINUTES)

- Bring together the main issues that have been discussed, emphasising the key learning points above.