### Poverty and Cognitive Function Protocol (2015-12-14)

At the gate

Start of the session: meet and greet the participants by the gate; identify with fingerprints.

Bring: Netbook with Blaise Identification Program; placecards.

Blaise will output a place number for each participant; hand them the laminated place card with that number. Escort them to the waiting room; let them sit down.

In the waiting room

When all participants have arrived, been identified, and seated in the waiting room:

*Good day! A warm welcome to the Busara Center for Behavioral Economics. I see all participants are present. We’ll soon go to the testing room, where I will give you exact information about the study. You will get paid Ksh 200 for your participation and transport today; in addition, you can earn some extra money in the tasks you will do. This money will be transferred to the phone number you gave us when you registered by MPesa this afternoon.*

*Before we start, I request three things. First, please turn off you mobile phones now, and leave them turned off until the end of the session. This is so you are not distracted from doing the tasks. Second, due to the nature of the study, from now on you are not allowed to talk to other participants. If you talk to other participants, we will have to send you home and you cannot get paid. If you have questions, please raise your hand and one of the researchers will come and talk to you. Third, please do not touch the computers before we tell you to do so.*

*Are everyone’s phones off? Ok. We will now go to the computer room, where I will give you more information about the study. Please find the computer with the number of your placecard, and sit down. Again remember that you are not allowed to speak to each other from now on, and please do not touch the computers until we tell you to do so.*

In the computer room

After all participants are seated at their workstations:

*Welcome again to Busara. You are about to participate in a research study which seeks to understand better how people make economic decisions and other kinds of decisions. In front of you there is a consent form that explains the purpose of this research and your rights. It says that this study is for research purposes only; your responses are strictly confidential and will not be shared along with your name with anyone other than the researchers. You have the right to leave at any time. We would like to ask for your consent to participate by signing at the back of this form. So please look at the form now and sign it at the back. If you have questions please raise your hand and someone will come to assist you.*

Respondents require a pen and two sheets of paper to write on for the first treatment. Respondents also need headsets for the audio component.

**After consent**

*We will now begin with the tasks. At any time, if you don’t understand any of the tasks that you are required to do, please raise your hand and you will be assisted.*

*You all know that you will receive Ksh 200 for coming to the study today (plus a bonus of Ksh 50 if you have arrived on time.)*

**01\_PovertyRevised.ztt**

Respondents need headsets only for this treatment. When running this treatment, you might receive a dialogue “Group without subjects.” Press Ignore to proceed with the experiment.

*“In this first task, you will be presented with two excerpts for 20 seconds each followed by one or more questions. These instructions should also be on the screen before each excerpt. Press the OK button to begin the task.”*

Respondents in the first group will read/listen to the two “easy” primes in a random order for 20 seconds each. Respondents in the second group will read/listen to the two “hard” primes in a random order. The readings are English on the screen and Swahili in audio. Questions for the respondents will follow that need to be answered on the computer or on the form.

Excerpts:

1. “Imagine that the price of food items like cooking oil, flour, and rice suddenly increases to 2 (1.2) times the normal price. For example, items that usually cost KSH 100 would now cost KSH 200 (120).
   1. How would you go about obtaining food under these new circumstances? [Free-form]
   2. “I would be able to support myself and my dependents.” [Likert]
   3. What changes would you need to make to your lifestyle under those new circumstances? [Free-form]
   4. How long do you think you will be able to live with the increased price of food? [Free-form]
2. “Imagine that an unforeseen event requires of you an immediate KSH 15,000 (1,000) expense. Are there ways in which you may be able to come up with that amount of money on a very short notice?
   1. How would you go about getting KSH 15,000 (1,000) on a very short notice? [Free-form]
   2. "Coming up with KSH 15,000 (1,000) on a very short notice would cause me long-lasting financial hardship." [Likert]
   3. What kind of sacrifices would you have to make in order to come up with KSH 15,000 (1,000) on a very short notice? [Free-form]
3. "Imagine that the economy is going through difficult times. Consider a scenario where your family’s income suddenly decreases by 30 (5) percent due to bad economic circumstances.”
   1. "Given my situation, I would be able to maintain roughly the same lifestyle if my household income decreases by 30 (5) percent." [Likert]
   2. What changes would you need to make to your lifestyle under those new circumstances? [Free-form]
   3. "The decrease in my income would strongly impact my daily life." [Likert]

*Questions:*

1. Continue to do audio English/Swahili?
2. Add more excerpts?
3. Make excerpts more context specific?
4. Additional manipulation checks?

**02\_Worry.ztt**

**03\_CantrilVert.ztt**

**04\_Demographics.ztt**

1. Age
2. Gender
3. Marital status
4. Literacy
5. Education level
6. Employment status
7. Household size
8. No. of dependents
9. Assets
10. Lighting, floor, roof, walls, toilet
11. Savings
12. Income

**End of the session**

*“If everyone has seen their transport, we are finished with the session. We thank you very much for having participated, and hope that you will come again when we invite you next time. Remember that the answers you gave are completely confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside the research team in individualized form. Also, please feel free to tell your friends about Busara; we are always looking for new participants.”*

*“Kama kila mtu ameona pesa yake ya usafiri, Sasa tumemaliza utafiti. Tunawashukuru sana kwa kushiriki, na matumaini ya kwamba mtakuja tena wakati tutawalika. Kumbuka ya kwamba majibu wewe ulitoa ni siri kabisa na hayatajulikana na mtu yeyote nje ya timu ya utafiti katika fomu ya mtu mmoja. Pia, tafadhali jisikie huru kuwaambia rafiki yako kuhusu Busara , sisi kwa kawaida utafuta washiriki wapya.”*

*“So please pack up your things now and join me, I will show you the way out. Please give me your placecards, pens, and visitor passes on the way out. Thank you very much!”*

*“Kwa hivyo tafadhali chukua mzigo yako sasa na ujiunge na mimi, nami nitakuonyesha njia ya kutoka nje. Tafadhali nipe placecards yako , kalamu, na pass ya mgeni ukielekea nje. Asante sana!”*