***Simplified Variable Elicitation Script for Practice Workshop***

**Purpose:** Identifying variables for building a causal loop diagram in our mock workshop

**Status: N**ot tested, not validated

**Time:** Time allotted for session: 45 minutes

Follow-up time: 15 minutes

**Materials needed:**

1. Markers
2. Paper & tape
3. Chalk/white board

**Outputs:** List of variables driving a particular problem

**Steps:**

1. The wall-builder is equipped with paper, markers, and tape.
2. The facilitator writes the problem variable on the whiteboard and reminds stakeholders

of the purpose of the exercise.

1. Stakeholders are asked to think of problem-related variables.
2. Once a stakeholder brings up a variable, check back with other stakeholders to gather

their input on the variable. It is important to use language for naming the variable that reflects the stakeholder’s perspective and use of language.

1. The wall builder writes each variable on a piece of paper and tapes it to the white board.
2. Clustering variables by broad themes can help the model-building process later on.
3. If you receive suggestions that sound as if they were similar to variables that are already

on the board, ask stakeholders about their meaning. Clarify if they have, indeed, the same meaning and whether both should be consolidated.

1. The facilitator summarizes all variables on the board, discusses with stakeholders the clustering and makes changes to the clustering as necessary. The facilitator asks for clarifications or specifications regarding the session and the output if needed.