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**Behavioral Survey Protocols**

### Household Survey Method

If the time and resources are available, a household survey should be completed because it is the most representative type of survey. In the target neighborhood, choose households randomly. Ask to speak to an adult who manages water in the household. If the person is not available, then move to the next household. Introduce the SaniPath team and explain the purpose of the rapid assessment. Let them know the process will take about 30 minutes. A suggested introduction is below:

*My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and my teammate’s name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for agreeing to help us with our exposure assessment of fecal contamination in your neighborhood. We are doing this assessment in 4 other neighborhoods around the city. The results will be shared with CEDT and WaterAid. The results of this assessment will be used to make improvements around the city so it’s in your best interest to answer the questions honestly. Please answer the questions as best as you can. We will not record your name with the results. We may take down the location of your house, but it will not be used outside of this project. The process will take about 30 minutes. We know that some of these questions are sensitive, but we encourage you to be honest.*

*Before we begin the survey, we would like to talk with you about your participation and will ask whether you agree to participate. We will now go over the informed consent with you before beginning the survey.*

If it is possible to collect GPS points at each house, these should be recorded on each household survey.

### School Survey Method

We recommend that the team select fourth grade classes to interview for the school group survey method. Students in fourth grade are typically 10-12 years old, which is old enough to understand the questions but not old enough to be inhibited about sensitive questions about sanitation and hygiene practices. If resources allow, we recommend that the exposure assessment team visit all of the fourth grade classes in the target neighborhood. If resources are limited, the team should interview at least one class per target neighborhood. When planning visits, the team should consider school schedules and public holidays. Informed consent should be obtained from school authorities prior to the survey (a community leader or CBO should assist with this).

The school survey method is a rapid way to obtain behavioral information for a large number of households in the target neighborhood. To avoid the children answering solely according to their peers and to help them feel less inhibited about answering some sensitive questions, the facilitator should ask the students to put their heads down on their desks during the survey. This way, the students are discouraged from seeing how the other students are answering. The facilitator will ask each question and give the possible options for answers. Then the facilitator will ask the students to raise their hands for the relevant answer. While the mobile application can be used to conduct the school survey, the enumerators may prefer to record responses on a printed paper form and input the data into the mobile device after the survey. The facilitator should have an assistant to count and record the number of hands raised for each answer on the printed form or into the mobile device. If it is appropriate, the team should plan to bring light refreshments to the class.

If students are getting easily confused or raising their hand for more than one answer per question, the SaniPath team can pass out marbles to each student before each question. By having to hand over their marble when they vote “yes,” students will only be able to vote for one answer choice per question.

### Community Survey Method

## Staff

* **Facilitator** asks the questions and explains protocols to the participants
* **Counter** counts each vote and enters data into a mobile device or records on paper to enter later
* **Vote Collector** goes around to collect marbles/tokens from participants
* **Bag Filler** “restocks” alternate set of bags

## Supplies

* 45 small, opaque bags
* 180 marbles (for “No” answers)
* 50 tokens (for “Yes” answers)
* Marble receptacle
* 5 Token receptacles (labeled, one for each answer choice)

In addition to school surveys, community surveys can be used. The exposure assessment team should work with CEDT to identify potential community groups within each target neighborhood to survey. Ideally, you would ask to be allowed to survey a group that already meets regularly, such as a parent-teacher association or at a church or mosque.  Please refer to the main portion of the manual for further guidance on selecting community groups to survey.

If the exposure assessment team is planning to do the survey as part of a regularly scheduled meeting it should be made clear to the organizer and participants when the survey will be done – before or after the meeting – and how long it will take. Otherwise, the team should work with CEDT or local leader who can help get people to come to a separate meeting. The former method is ideal because the team will not have to find a meeting location.

To encourage participation, CEDT should tell participants about the topic of the meeting (assessing health risks due to fecal contamination in your neighborhood) and let them know that their contribution of time can help improve their family’s health. If available, monetary incentives can be offered for the hours spent in the community survey. This may encourage participants to attend and stay for the length of the survey.

The number of community meetings the SaniPath assessment team is able to conduct will depend on the time and resources available. One to two community meetings per target neighborhood should be conducted. The team should assemble at least 15 community members. A smaller group will not be representative so in the event of a low turnout, the team should postpone or cancel the meeting until more participants can be located. Because of the time involved in passing out tokens for the voting method, 20 participants should be the maximum.

The meetings should be conducted in the relevant local language. The facilitator of the meeting should be supported by at least one other team member who can record the answers on the score sheets and help with refreshments. Efforts should be made to ensure the poorer or female community members participate equally. In some contexts, the implementers should consider holding separate meetings for men and women if they feel that participation is hampered by presence of the opposite sex.

The voting method has been developed based on community participatory assessment. It should work well with various types of participants even if they are not literate or well educated. Using visual aids will enhance the process. Since the questions in the survey cover personal hygiene, participants might consider them sensitive. The greater privacy offered by this method can ensure more honest answers (Dayal).

Once the participants arrive, the first step for the community meeting is to formally introduce the exposure assessment team and explain the purpose of the assessment. Let them know the process will take about 1.5 hours. Ask the community members to introduce themselves as well, ideally in the format of a quick, culturally appropriate introductory exercise. A suggested introduction is below:

*My name is X and my teammates here are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for agreeing to help us with our exposure assessment of fecal contamination in your neighborhood. We are doing this assessment in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ other neighborhoods around the city. The results will be shared with CEDT and WaterAid. The results of this assessment will be used to make improvements around the city [or other use; explain] so it’s in your best interest to answer the questions candidly. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability. The process will take about 1.5 hours today. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns throughout this process.*

*We know that some of these questions are sensitive, but we encourage you to be honest. The enumerators will not know how you vote because all of the tokens look the same. Your votes will be anonymous with the method we are using.*

*Before we begin the survey, we would like to talk with you about your participation and will ask whether you agree to participate. We will now go over the informed consent with you before beginning the survey.*

## General Procedure

Before the survey begins the team should explain how the anonymous voting will occur.

Before questioning begins, there should be two sets of participant bags, each with 4 marbles and 1 token. This will allow for one set of bags to be in use while the **Bag Filler** restocks the alternate set of bags.

For questions, the **Facilitator** should read and explain the question, and then read and explain each answer choice. This will be followed by 5 rounds of *voting* where each participant votes for their answer by depositing their token into a bag that corresponds with that answer. For all other answers they should deposit a marble. For example:

**Facilitator:** <reads and explains question>

**Facilitator:** *We will now vote. After I read each answer choice, my assistant will come around with a bag. If this is your answer, reach into your bag, grab your token, and deposit the token into my assistant’s bag. If this is not your answer, reach into your bag, grab a marble, and deposit the marble into my assistant’s bag to indicate that this is not your answer. Remember not to let anyone else see what object you have taken in your bag to deposit in my assistant’s bag.*

Repeat 5 times, where # is 1-5:

**Facilitator** <reads Answer Choice #>

**Vote Collector** <goes to each member of the group to collect their *vote*>

**Vote Collector** <brings bag to **Counter**>

**Counter** <removes all marbles and deposits in a receptacle for marbles>

**Counter** <removes tokens and deposits in appropriate token receptacle, then enters the total number for each answer choice into app or writes on paper for Answer Choice #>

When the question is complete, the **Vote Collector** should collect all remaining bags and bring them to the **Bag Filler**, who will then begin refilling the bags (using the marbles and tokens in the “counted” receptacles) so that each one has 4 marbles and 1 token. The **Vote Collector** should take then pass out the alternate bags to the new participants.

***Note: For binary questions, the above protocol should be adapted for each bag to have just one marble and one token.***

***Note: For questions where respondents can choose multiple answers, the above protocol should be adapted for each bag to have enough marbles and tokens to vote either “yes” or “no” to all answer choices.***

If there is time, the results could be tallied and shared with the whole group to promote transparency and as a way of verifying that the participants understood the voting process and that they answered honestly. For example, the participants might say that they do know that open defecation happens in their neighborhood even though no one voted for the open defecation answer.

The user will have the option of printing a paper survey form from the SaniPath website for use while conducting the survey. Data can then be entered into the mobile device directly after survey is conducted. The user may alternately choose to enter data directly into the mobile device as survey is conducted. It is important to carefully count the number of respondents to each question (using the scoring sheet provided) because these will be used to extrapolate the exposed population in the neighborhood. In addition, there will be an opportunity to record if a person has left the room for that question (user will be prompted to count number of missing people for each response).