

Household and Individual Event Narrative (Semi-structured interview guide)

The purpose of this interview is to identify the shocks the household have experienced during the last ten years (or less) and understand what strategies households adopt to cope with these shocks. In addition we would like to capture why households engage in certain coping behaviors and why particular choices are made in response to the shocks. The broader issues on how the household manages to keep the household safe during other periods will be touched upon. The number of shocks the households have experienced might differ considerably between communities and households. When households have experienced several shocks we want to understand if and how they were linked.

The interview guide is divided into five main sections:

PART 1: Introduction to the household

PART 2: Identifying the experienced shocks (See Annex A for a list of shocks)

PART 3: Actions taken and perceived impact of experienced shocks

PART 4: Risk-sharing and prevention

PART 5: Gender differences

For health related shocks an additional section has been developed to capture the specifics of these types of events. Annex B: Additional section on Health

The main idea in the design of the interview guide is that informants as a first step reconstruct/retell the shocks as they experienced them. We would like to capture the sequencing of the event – actual behavior (requests, actions) and the reasoning behind these actions including the expectations of succeeding, preferred actions and rationale for the final decisions. This part of the interview is truly semi-structured and we want the informant to provide his/her story only guided by follow-up questions when needed. For the informants that freely and with ease retells his/her story - remember to make notes on small comments or side stories to be followed up on after the main story has been told by the informant.

Few informants will be able to cover all aspects of the shocks without direct questions. Questions in boxes are suggestions of probing questions on the main issues we would like to explore.

Instructions to interviewer in [Remember.....]

Suggestions on probing in [*Probe.....*]

Identification

Province

District

Village

Household number

Location: Urban: Semi-urban.....

Rural with road: Rural without road:

Informant's name:

Female: Male:

Household head: yes/no

Number of persons living in household

Ethnic group

What is ethnic background listed in family book? [do not ask this question first. We want to know what ethnic group the respondents feel he/she is a member of. Only thereafter are we interested in knowing if the official ethnic background has been changed] If it has been changed, ask what the respondent if he/she knows the reason for the change.

Spoken languages among females and males in household.

Females:

Males:

Interviewer's name:

Date:

Setting:

Where does the interview take place:

Who participates/are consulted in addition to informant (relationship):

Duration of interview:

Use of interpreter: Yes/no

Challenges during the interview:

PART 1: Introduction to circumstances of the household

1. Who lives in this household? (*Relationships and number of children and adults*)
2. How long have household head and spouse lived here? Where did they live before? Where did they live before they got married? [if applicable]
3. How does the household learn a living?
4. Perceived wealth/poverty: Think about the best off households at one end [1] of this bar [show image] – what do they have? Now think about the poorest households at the other end of the bar [5] – what do they have? Now, finally please tell us where in the bar your household is? (Poorest = 1.....Best off = 5). What are the reasons – what do you have?

PART 2: Identifying the experienced risks and shocks

We are interested in hearing about the changes that have occurred in this household during the last ten years – especially the events that negatively affected your well-being. It can be all kinds of abnormal and unwanted events that affected your everyday life for a shorter or longer period of time related to you, your family, farm, house, job or community. [See Annex A for additional list of shocks]

5. Have you made any larger changes in the way you earn a living during the last years? [*Probe: Starting or ending cash crop cultivation, slash and burn, new crops, set up new business, lost or bought new land or livestock, new or increased costs, migration of household member(s), relocation*]. [*Make sure to cover the last ten years*]. What are the positive changes? What are the negative changes? Has the household earnings increased or decreased during these changes? [If no negative changes are identified ask question 6) and 7) as an alternative way to check if no problems have occurred. If shocks are identified move to question 9). [If one of the shocks is health related go to Annex B].
6. When during the year is the most difficult for this household? What are the reasons? Does your family ever has a day in which there is not enough food to feed everyone? If yes, when does this happen – everyday, or only in the months before harvest?
- 7.

PART 3: Actions taken and perceived impact of experienced shocks.

Ask Question 8 -11 for each shock.

8. What were the negative effects from this change? Please tell me what happened? [Encourage first to a personal narrative about the event. Based upon the response

make follow up questions in order to make sure you have understood what happened. Remember the basic objective is to understand “what did the household do? What were the reasons? Did they have alternatives?” Use the questions below when needed].

9. What did you do first to handle the situation? What was the result? What did you do next? Thereafter?
10. What were the reasons for these decisions? Can you explain what made you [refer to first action taken, then the next etc]?
11. Did you discuss this with anybody else? [*Inside or outside of the household, inside or outside of the community?*] If yes, with who and what advice did you get? If no, what were the reasons?
12. When these events happened in this household – how did you explain they happened? Are they man-made? Are they caused by nature/spirits? Or both?

Probing questions to help the informant recall the actions taken:

- Did you turn to someone for help? If no, what were the reasons? If yes, who? [Relation and location of person such inside, outside the community, abroad]
- Were the persons able to help you? If no, what were the reasons? If yes, what kind of help did they offer? [*Money, food, labor, help with care for children or for other family members, other*]
- How important was the help during and after the episode? [*Beneficial, neutral, detrimental*] Did you have to do something in return for the help?
- Did you turn to the village head authority? Did you turn to government programs or NGOs for help? If no, have you heard of any? If yes, what program/organization? Were they able to help you? If yes, how? How important was the help during and after the event? If no, what were the reasons you were given?

13. I would like to ask more about the ways this event affected yours and the household’s well-being. Did you live any differently after this event than before it? If yes, how? Were some of the household members more affected than others? If yes, how? Did the household as a whole live any differently? If yes, how?

Probing questions on the impact of the event [Ask only these question if not already addressed in question 13.]

- Did your household consume less to cope with the event? Did anyone in the household eat less food? If yes, who? Did anyone spend less on medicine and health care? If yes, who?
- Was there any other way the household reduced consumption? If yes, for how long? If still doing, when do you think you can consume at the same level as before the event? What has been the worst effect of the reduced consumption?
- Did you remove a child from school? If yes, what are the child/children doing now? Will he/she go back to school? If yes, around when? If child is not expected to go back to school, what are the main reasons?
- Did you sell anything? [*Land, cattle, jewelry, other*] If yes, what did you sell? Did you receive full market value for the things you sold? Where could you have received a better value. If you did not sell anything, did you have anything you could have sold? Did other members in the household have something they could have sold?
- Did you borrow money or food and/or equipment to bear with the costs of this event? If no, did you ask anybody for a loan but did not succeed? If yes, from whom did you borrow? What were the reasons why you borrowed from this/these particular bank/person/organization(s)? Who in the household asked for the loan?
- How much did you borrow? What was the interest rate? Were there other conditions attached to the loan? [*Probe: What do you have to do in exchange for this help?*] Whose name is on the loan agreement? What are the reasons?
- Did this loan help you? If yes, in what ways? If no, why not? How much have you paid back of the loan? If not paid all back yet, do you think you will be able to pay the loan? [Remember to follow up on potential loan of food and equipment]
- Did you or someone else in the household take paid employment? And/or take extra work? Where and what kind?
- Did the event result in changed living conditions? If yes, imagine again the five steps bar where on the bottom, the first step, stand the poorest people in the community, and on the highest step, the fifth, stand the rich. Please tell us where in the bars you were before the change. Now, tell us where your household fell to at the worst moment during the event, and finally where your household is now? (Poorest = 1.....Best off = 5)

• Before	• Worst point	• Now
• Lowest.....1	• Lowest.....1	• Lowest.....1
•	•	•

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest.....5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest.....5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest.....5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have talked about many different ways the event affected you and your household. Are there additional ways in which the household have been changed due to the event? • Do you worry more about similar events than before it happened? What are your thoughts on the risk of it happening again? 		

PART 4: Risk-sharing and prevention.

24. After experiencing these types of negative changes, have you or your household done anything to lower the possibility for the same happening again? If yes, what and how? *[Probe depending on which negative change the household experienced: diversify crops, new or increased savings, rotating credit schemes, going to different health facility, using mosquito nets, stopped smoking, use bicycle helmet, changed job, migration, new friends which can help me more, gift giving, increase giving to spirits, contributing to the collections done by the village head, contacting the local government, community based health insurance schemes, other]* If no, what are the reasons? [This question is very important. We want to understand if persons who have experienced severe shocks change behavior (go to different doctor, change diet, change business or type of crops).

25. When was the last time somebody asked you for help? What were they asking for? Were you able to help?

26. In this community, who most often help each other? *[Probe: same families, ethnic group, political ties, same level of earnings, new in community, other]* Do the better off households help the poorer households? If yes how? If no, did they use to?

27. Does the Village Head Authority help households in times of crisis? If yes, how? If no, what are they reasons in your opinion?

28. Are there any government programs, NGOs, religious groups or others that help families in need in this community? If yes, who runs this program? What services are provided? Did you ever seek assistance from one of them? If yes, were you helped and if so in what ways? [Skip if already discussed]

Do you know anybody who has been helped by these programs? Are these programs well run? If no, what are the problems? [*Probe: limited coverage, limited support, corruption, other*]

PART 5: Gender differences

29. In your opinion, when faced with a difficult change, do women ask other people for help than men do? If yes, please explain? Can women ask for a loan for herself or for the household? Can men ask for a loan? If yes, who do men and women prefer to ask?

30. Do women own some of the household assets/valuables [tools, livestock, savings]? If yes, which? If no, who owns them? If family owns land, whose name is on the land title? What are the reasons? [Prompt: was the land inherited? If yes, from who?]

31. If you think back on the different actions you ended up taking [in the course of these negative changes], did you consider alternative actions? If so, which? Did your spouse prefer to do something else? If yes, how did you settle these differences? Were they discussed outside the household? Is there anything you would have done differently today? [Did you feel you had a choice?]

If yes, what would you have done differently? What are the reasons?

If no, what were the most important things you learned during this event?

The end.

Thank you VERY for your time and willingness to share your experiences.

ANNEX A. – Defining shocks

Box 1. Introduction to shocks/misfortunes.

We are trying to understand what type of misfortunes individuals and households are facing. It can be misfortunes that affect the material well-being of the household, the health status of the family members, sense of safety in the household and the community, lack of control over earnings and investments, concerns about the future.

It can include but is not limited to:

Shocks in the household:

Serious illness, injury in traffic or in water or other injury, or death

Divorce, abandonment, or internal or extended family disputes

Fire

Violence against women or men

Natural and biological hazards:

Drought

Flooding, mudslide, storms

Frost, extreme cold, extreme heat

Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunami

Loss of livestock

Pest infestation, crop diseases

Economic shocks:

Unexpected decline in prices or demand for commodities that you sell

Unexpected increase in prices or shortages of key inputs/services you use

Unexpected increase in prices of food/other essential commodities consumed

Unexpected job loss

Involuntary reduction in the number of hours worked

Non-payment or delay in payment of income

Socio-political shocks:

Crime (robbery, theft)

Ethnic or religious conflict

Political conflict

Confiscation of property

Forced resettlement

Box 2. Alternatively to Box 1 - Probing questions to assure all shocks have been identified

The recall period is ten years [To be piloted]

1. Has anyone in the household passed away during the last ten years? If yes, who?
2. Has any women been pregnant? Are all children alive?
3. Has anyone in the household suffered a long-term illness or disabling injury?
4. Has the household suffered any loss of earnings or savings, such as through crop

failure, loss of livestock, job loss or other problems?

5. Has any of the children stopped going to school? What grade did they complete?

6. Has the household experienced an increase in costs of commodities or services?

7. Have you or other household members been involved in a court case?

8. Have you or a family member [man or woman] ever suffered from violence or been a victim of a crime?

9. Have there been any serious disputes in the household that lead to divorce or abandonment?

10. Has the household been relocated?

11. Is there anything else that has led you into poverty?

ANNEX B: Additional section on health related shocks

Health Seeking Behavior

1. What were the symptoms when [name of person] his/her health started deteriorating?
2. Did [person] take drugs or traditional medicine before seeing any practitioner [self medication]? What problem did you initially think [persons] suffered from?
3. Did [name of person] consult anybody for the symptoms? How many days after your first symptoms? Who was contacted first? Second and thereafter? [*We are interested in all types of health personnel at health clinics, traditional healer, community health worker, traditional birth attendant*] [It is important not to pass any judgment on who were consulted. We want to learn what the household did, why they decided to go to specific providers and why not to others, and the outcome. It is important to identify all visits to health practitioners no matter if the patient improved or not or received help or not].
4. Where are the practitioners located? Who took [name of person] to the practitioner?
5. What were you told were the causes of the illness at the [refer to the different practitioners that were consulted]. To what extent did you agree with the diagnosis received?
6. Who in the household made the decisions on how to respond to the illness? Were there instances where members in the household did not agree? How were these differences settled? Was the decision discussed with somebody outside the household? If yes, who?

Costs related to the episode

7. Since your health started deteriorating, how much have you spent out of your pocket on traditional practitioners?
8. And on consultations at health facilities?
9. And on drugs purchased from pharmacy or drug vendor?
10. And on transportation costs to and from health facilities/practitioners?
11. Were high medical costs a reason for not receiving a particular treatment or purchasing a particular medicine?

Health insurance

12. Do you have health insurance? [There are most likely four types of insurance available in a few communities: a) Civil service medical insurance; b) Social insurance scheme; c) Community based health insurance; d) Project based scheme via NGO).] If yes, who are covered in the household? If no, have you heard of health insurance? If so, what have you heard?
13. Did you seek assistance from the insurance? If no, why not? If yes, did the insurance cover some of the costs? If yes, how much did you receive? If you did not receive anything, what were the reasons provided?

Continue the interview from PART 3 question 13.

