

GUIDELINES FOR FEMALE WEALTH GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE – NRVA 2003

This questionnaire will be asked from the female wealth groups through focus group discussions. You will need to conduct **THREE** wealth group interviews, with representatives of the very poor, poor, and medium groups only.

At this stage in the assessment, we are trying to understand both the situation and what **TYPICAL** households would be doing. The term, or concept, of **TYPICAL** is difficult and tricky, and special care must be taken during this section of the assessment.

So far, at the Shura level interview, you have asked the Shura to divide the community into wealth group stratifications - that is, those households in the community that are perceived to be very poor, poor, medium, or better-off. Although you have been able to conduct the wealth group breakdown, it is unlikely that you will find two households within these wealth groups that will be exactly alike. You will find that land, livestock, and asset ownership will vary, as will labour types, debts, and remittances that these households will have or are likely to get.

Nevertheless, there will be some similarities or commonalities that all of these households will have – that is why they were placed into the wealth group stratifications in the first place. Thus, you have to explore the notion of **TYPICAL**.

What is meant by **TYPICAL**? By typical, we mean what is the most common, or representative ownership, action, or behaviour of a group of individuals. For example, 10 households in the village may be regarded as being better-off, because they may own large pieces of land and can generate a lot of income through their agricultural production. However, of these 10 households, 2 households may be traders and not landowners, though they still are regarded as being better-off because they can generate a lot of income. Thus, the most common, or representative characteristic of this better-off group is large land ownership – so, you can say that the most **TYPICAL** characteristic of the better-off group is that they are large land owners, even though there will be one or two households in this group that do not have land.

Given that there will be differences between households falling in the same wealth groups, one way to collect the information on what is typical is through what is called a **RANGE**. A **RANGE** is two sets of figures that can represent where what is **TYPICAL** lies in. Say that you have two households in a medium group, and one owns 9 sheep and the other owns 11 sheep, then you would say that the **RANGE** of sheep ownership for these two households is 9 to 11. However, say that there are 10 households in the medium group, and 8 families own between 3 to 6 sheep, and the other 2 households own between 9 to 11 sheep, then what would be the most **TYPICAL** sheep ownership of the medium group? It will have to be between 3 to 6 sheep, as that is what the majority, or most typical of the medium group, owns. The two households that own between 9 to 11 sheep are not representative of the sheep ownership of the medium group, and so will be seen as outliers. Thus, it is important to note that when you use a **RANGE**, you are not recording the lowest and the highest number or response, but rather what is the most **TYPICAL** number or response that you are given.

One way to make the concept of typical and ranges easier to understand and record in the field is through a simple plotting exercise. Say that we asked 30 households in a village how many sheep they owned, and tried to understand what the typical ownership of sheep, and the range of sheep owned, was. You could record the household (**X**) against the number of sheep owned on a graph or in a table, like the example below:

			X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																	X
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	25	23	24	25										
Total sheep ownership by 30 households																																		

Thus, when looking at the total sheep owned in the table above, you can see the spread of ownership clearly. Of the 30 households, 2 households own 3 sheep, 1 household owns 4 sheep, and 1 household owns 9 sheep. Then, you will see that most of the households are marked against 10 to 15 sheep, before reducing again.

From this, you will be able to see that most households will own between 10 to 15 sheep. So, you could say that **TYPICALLY**, households will own between a **RANGE** of 10 to 15 sheep, although you know that there will be a few households that could own much more or much less. However, we could not say that a **TYPICAL** household will own between 3 to 25 sheep – that is why a range is **NOT** the highest or lowest number, but rather a reflection of what is the most typical.

So, when conducting the **female** wealth group interview, you have to take special care with the terms typical, and the use of ranges.

Throughout this interview, you will be trying to get a number of information sets that will give an indication of what a typical household in this wealth group will be able to produce through agriculture, through their livestock, through the labour that they do, as well as if they have debts, remittances, and basic expenditures. All this information should allow us to build up a picture of the general situation of people in these wealth groups, and if they need assistance, to understand their preferences and priorities.

The Female Wealth Group questionnaire is divided into 8 sections – from Section A to Section H - and guidance notes will be provided through this document at the start of every section.

SECTION A - COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION

Objective: In Section A, we need to code the questionnaire, so that we can link the entire information for this village in the database for the analysis that will be done later on. It is important that you fill in these numbers clearly, and before leaving the village, the Team Leader must ensure that all the codes on all the questionnaires for this village match up.

Questions must be filled as follows:

A1. Name of the surveyor: Record the name of the surveyor that has conducted this interview.

A2. Date: Record the date of the interview (date/month/year) in the **2003 calendar year**. That is, **do not record** the date in the Afghani year of 1382.

A3. Village name. Use the same village name that is written on the Female Shura questionnaire.

A4. Village code: Use the same village code that is written on the Female Shura questionnaire.

A5. Official District Code: Use the same district code that is written on the Female Shura questionnaire.

A6. Official Province Code: Use the same province code that is written on the Female Shura questionnaire.

A7. Wealth Group: Record the wealth group code so that we know which group this interview is for. For example, if you have interviewed a group from the medium/better-off group, then record code number 1.

A8. Typical household size: Record the **TYPICAL** household size for this wealth group.

SECTION B - LABOUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Objective: In Section I, you need to complete two tables to understand what labour opportunities are available for women from this wealth group both in and out of the village, and what they have been earning and what they think they will be able to earn. To do this, you have to first ask about what they did last year, and what they think they could do in the coming year, against all the listed labour types.

Questions must be filled as follows:

It is important that you ask about each labour type one at a time, and complete all the questions from I1 to I10 before moving to the next labour type – thus, move across the table from right to left.

B1. Number of months labour last year: Record the number of months that women were typically able to do this labour type last year.

B2. Number of days each month of labour last year: Record the number of days each month that women were typically able to do this labour type last year.

B3. Payment in cash: Write down – in **AFGHANIS** – the typical daily wage rate for this labour type.

B4. Payment in kind: Write down the typical amount of daily food payment - as **KG'S WHEAT** - for this labour type.

B5. Expected change next year: Write down how availability of this labour type may change in the coming year.

Note: if NO CHANGE is expected, do not complete questions B6 to B10, but go to the next labour type on the list.

B6. Expected reason for change: Write down the reason why the availability of this labour type may change next year.

B7. Number of months labour next year: Record the number of months that women think they will typically be able to do of this labour type next year.

B8. Number of days each month of labour next year: Record the number of days each month that women think they may typically be able to do of this labour type next year.

B9. Payment in cash: Write down – in **AFGHANIS** – the typical daily wage rate for this labour type expected in the coming year.

B10. Payment in kind: Write down the typical amount of daily food payment - as **KG'S WHEAT** - for this labour type expected in the coming year.

SECTION C – HOUSEHOLD BUDGET

Objective: In Section C, we want to know what the roles of women from the **TYPICAL** households in this wealth group are in the decision-making processes on the use of the household's budget. You must handle these questions with sensitivity.

Questions must be filled as follows:

C1 to C4: Record the number that corresponds with the answer to all the 4 questions you have asked.

SECTION D – HEALTH AND FAMILY

Objective: In Section D, we want to know about the role of women from the **TYPICAL** households in this wealth group are in the decision-making processes in the household. You must handle these questions with sensitivity.

Questions must be filled as follows:

D1 to D4: Record the number that corresponds with the answer to all the 4 questions you have asked.

SECTION E – COPING STRATEGIES

Objective: In Section E, we are trying to understand what coping strategies have been used in the last year to make ends meet, if they had to. You need to be very sensitive here as this question can be upsetting for people. It is also quite difficult to record this at a wealth group level, as what could be a coping strategy for one household could be a normal livelihood pattern for another. You are likely to find a large diversity here as people will have used a variety of different coping strategies, and are likely to try and tell you what they have done as individuals.

One-way to ask this question is to start with the sentence: "What did people in this wealth group typically do to cope through the hard times last year?"

Questions must be filled as follows:

E1: Coping strategies: Record the 5 most **TYPICAL** and common coping strategies used by people in this wealth group.

Note: *If NO coping strategies were used, then proceed to SECTION F without completing the table in this section.*

E2: Ranking of coping strategies: Once you have identified what the 5 most typical coping strategies were, rank them from 1 to 5 in order of the most typically used coping strategy, with 1 being the most typically used, 2 the next most used, and so on.

Example: under 01, you may have listed coping strategies 3 - 17 - 11 - 15 - 2. However, you may have found that 17 was used first, so you would write 1 next to that. Maybe 3 was used next, so you would write 2 next that. Then 15 could have been used third, so you would write 3 next to that, and so on.

E3: Use of coping strategies in the coming year: After having recorded the 5 most typical coping strategies in 01, ask whether people would be able to use these coping strategies again – yes or no – in the coming year **only** if they had to.

SECTION F – LIVELIHOOD CONSTRAINTS

Objective: In Section F, we want to know what women from the **TYPICAL** households in this wealth group feel are the constraints to improving their livelihoods, and we are trying to understand their decision making roles in the community. You must handle these questions with sensitivity.

Questions must be filled as follows:

F1: Determine what the 3 main constraints to livelihoods for women are, and then record them down in the spaces provided. Make sure that when you record these, you write the **most important constraint next to number 1**, the second most important priority next to number 2, and the third next important priority next to number 3.

F2 to F4: Record the number that corresponds with the answer to all the 3 questions you have asked.

SECTION G – INTERVENTION PREFERENCES

Objective: In Section G, we want to know what intervention preference women from the wealth group would prefer if relief assistance is required, and in what seasons. We also need to know the reason for this preference. Be **VERY CAREFUL** here not to raise expectations, and handle this question with care.

Questions must be filled as follows:

G1: Preferences: Record the intervention preference next to each season.

G2: Reason for preferences: Record the **MAIN** reason for this intervention preference next to each season.

SECTION H – PRIORITIES

Objective: In Section H, we want to know what the main priorities are for the women of this wealth group that they would like the Government to address.

Questions must be filled as follows:

H1: Priorities: Once you have identified what the three main priorities are for this group, write them down in the spaces provided. Make sure that when you record these, you write the **most important priority next to number 1**, the second most important priority next to number 2, and the third next important priority next to number 3.
