

Lessons Learned from MEXA: Reflections on Implementation

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Fieldwork

- Implementing agency: **Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS)**
- Implementation period: April-August 2014
- Use of Android tablets & computer-assisted personal interviewing (**CAPI**) application designed in *Survey Solutions*
 - MEXA CAPI application publically available to *Survey Solutions* users
- 7 mobile field teams
- Arms 4 & 5 interviews attempted to be conducted simultaneously
- Female (male) respondents attempted to be matched with female (male) enumerators

Preparation for fieldwork (1)

- Determining the **appropriate** field team composition
 - ✓ Regional/linguistic background
 - ✓ Gender composition
 - ✓ Gender mismatch between respondents & enumerators still possible even if teams are gender balanced
 - ✓ # of team members to allow for simultaneous interviews
 - ✓ Choose appropriate number of adults to interview
 - ✓ In Uganda, up to 4 adults interviewed based on the average & maximum # of adult household members obtained from the Uganda National Panel Survey (UNPS)

Preparation for fieldwork (2)

- Consider # of days in an EA required for implementation
 - ✓ Fully staffed teams (1 supervisor with 2 male, 2 female enumerators) took 2 days per EA, field teams with less enumerators (and less EAs) took up to 3 days per EA
 - ✓ Repeated pilots/field practice are important
 - ✓ Allow some flexibility for urban households & couple interviews
- Training
 - ✓ Need enough time to cover (i) questionnaire content & interview settings, (ii) approach to households & sensitive interview scenarios & (iii) CAPI
 - ✓ CAPI application to be tested thoroughly prior to training
 - ✓ MEXA training experience: **5 days** – questionnaire, interview settings, respondent sensitization; **5 days** – CAPI; **3 days** – field practice, **2 days** – survey management

Training (1)

- EDGE overview
 - Provide staff with a straightforward/non-technical overview of EDGE; international implications of the experience in Uganda
- Covering full scope of data collection

Type of Ownership/Rights	Individual Disaggregation
<i>Reported Ownership</i>	Within-Household Identification of
<i>Economic Ownership</i>	Individuals (Household Roster) (Up to 4)
<i>Documented Ownership</i>	Outside-Household Identification of
<i>Rights</i>	Individuals (Network Roster) (Up to 2)
- Bequeath	Capacity to Exercise Right
- Sell	Independently
- Rent Out	Identification of Provider of
- Use as Collateral	Consent/Permission, if applicable
- Make Improvements/Invest	
- Use/manage (<i>only for agricultural land & non-farm enterprises</i>)	

Training (2)

- Qualitative training
 - ✓ Full day of (participatory) qualitative training (could have been longer)
 - ✓ Assessing environment & sensitive issues at both macro- & micro-levels
 - ✓ Sensitization of local leaders/guides to nature of questions & interview settings to help in approaching households
- Other questionnaire challenges
 - ✓ Household Roster - properly identifying household members, relationship & residency (usual vs. regular) statuses
 - ✓ Network Roster – how to capture owners OUTSIDE of household

Unique fieldwork scenarios

- Interview both principal couple members even if 1 or both < 18 years
- On-the-spot decision-making:
 - To wait for a possible time when multiple members of household will be found together during time in EA or
 - To move forward with interview
- Interpreters – rare cases of unique local languages:
 - MUST be from outside EA so respondents can feel comfortable sharing complete info on assets
- Prioritize respondent/enumerator gender match for head & spouse
 - More flexible with other members – e.g. possible that a household has 4 female adults but team only has 2

Challenge #1 as observed by teams

- Approaching communities/respondents
 - ✓ “Residents of an EA charged against us on our second day in that EA because of the questions in Module [3b] Dwelling - especially on value & formal ownership.”
 - ✓ “There was some resistance from some respondents especially in Kampala; people are rather paranoid even after introducing the survey very well.”
 - ✓ “In some rural areas misconception about the objective of survey led some respondents to keep away from us on the first day .”
 - ✓ Compensation for guides/local leaders

Challenge #2 as observed by teams

- Getting respondents
 - ✓ “It is hard to find a principle couple at home together. People go to the gardens and other responsibilities.”
 - ✓ “Agriculture season; People busy in the gardens far away from home”
 - ✓ “ID Project; Most people are mobilized away from home.”
 - ✓ “In the city it’s almost impossible to find people at home.” - It was even more difficult to find couples together at home.

Challenge #3 as observed by teams

- Administering specific treatment arms
 - ✓ “It was always difficult to find the principle couple in the households at the same time in the first EAs.”
 - ✓ “Finding all respondents for treatment arms 4 and 5 in the household at the same time also become a challenge.”
 - ✓ “For arms 4 & 5, its rather hard to interview anyone we find at home during weekdays when the principle couple is not around. In fact, it creates bias and some resistance for us when we try to do the call-backs when we think the members of the principle couple are around.”

Challenge #4 as observed by teams

- Asset valuation
 - ✓ “Difficulty in verifying the figures respondents give us (even after explanation and probing), a case in point is when a respondent is asked the size of land in acres of a parcel that is located almost 20 kilometers away, and he or she says he has 20 or even 40 acres, it is very hard to refute or prove what we are told since we cannot physically see this land, so we have to go by what the respondent has told us.”
 - ✓ “Declaration of assets by couples particularly land, bank accounts requires a lot of explanations and probing.”
 - ✓ Sensitization is important: “Some respondents not willing to provide all the information initially but would later provide after more sensitization.”

Strategies employed by teams

- “More sensitization and creation of awareness by NSO to the public should be emphasized.”
 - ✓ This should be done at national and local level.
- Focus on respondents you CAN get
- Plan responsibly with local leader
 - ✓ Contact local leader few days prior to EA visit & upon arrival at EA
 - ✓ Ask where couples reside
 - ✓ Ask who may be around/away
 - ✓ Approach households with many adults first

Other considerations

- Ensuring identical household rosters recorded by multiple interviewers in Treatment Arms 4 & 5
- Listing questionnaire should include screening questionnaire to identify households with principle couples & number of adults by sex

UBoS Perspective

- Definition of a couple
 - Couple does not necessarily mean they are staying together - one partner may be staying away.
- Randomly selecting a member of the principle couple in treatment arm 2
 - Challenges when wife is selected and husband not agreeable to spouse being interviewed
- Need to fix an appointment to have the couple together in treatment arm 3
 - Takes time & increases field days & cost
- The survey requires more time & sensitization - initially planned for two months but extended into the fourth month

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