

SAMPLE SEMI-STRUCTURED LIFE HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE
– UGANDA 1992-1999 Q2 RESEARCH –
DAVID LAWSON AND DAVID HULME
FOR REFERENCE ONLY

**OPTION 1:
OPEN ENDED INTERVIEW FOCUSED ON 1992-99 AND 1999-2005**

Introduction

We want to understand how life in Uganda has been going since 1992 when you were interviewed by UBOS. That was around the time of the first national census if you can remember that. Can we ask you about your household – you may remember that UBOS visited this household in 1992 and 1997 to find out what was happening?

Short Questionnaire (prepare a form for this)

Name of head of household

Names of other household members (sleep under same roof/compound and eat from common pot/kitchen)

Establish that this is the same household (need to work out a protocol)

For each household member

- Age, place of birth, sex, highest educational level
- What do they do? (List up to three activities in order of economic significance. For children and non-workers ask if they do any work).

Does the household get money or food or other support from anyone else (remittances, charity, pensions/grants, NGO handouts)?

Inventory of main assets (land, cows, shoats, chickens, donkeys, equipment, transport, TV/radio, toilet, drinking water, quality of house, no. of rooms...full list)

Have there been any big changes or events in the household in last few years (maybe not here)?

Is anyone in this household an LC member or public servant or running a community organisation?

Does anyone have a savings or loan account with a Bank or MFI or NGO?

Open-ended interview on 2000 -2005

We would like you to think about the recent period, since we last interviewed you in 1999 or just before the 2001 elections (if they have children relate this to birth/age of achild).

- How many people lived in this household then? (If they get this different than the form should we prompt them)?
- Thinking back to that time, have things got better or worse or are they the same for the people in this household?
- In what ways have things got better/worse (choose depending on their response)? Keep asking until they run out of responses.
- But did some good/bad (choose the opposite of what they have focussed on) things happen also?
- Can I just check I have got this right (short summary of our understanding of what we have been told)?
- Where there any other major things that happened?

Now we move on to WHY these changes occurred between 2000-2005?

- What were the main reasons why things got better/worse/stayed the same in your lives?
- Why did that happen (this may need to be asked several times)?

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- What did you do to make things better OR what did you do with the extra income/assets?
- Did that work?
- Which people or organisations helped you try to make things better? Did anyone make things worse?
- Can I just check I have got the story right (reprise)?

Open-ended interview for 1992-1999

This may be a bit harder. We would like you to think about the period 1992-1999. That's from the first national census to before the 2001 election.

- How many people lived in this household in 1992? (If they get it different from the dataset should we prompt them?)
- Thinking back to that time, did things get better or worse or did they stay the same for the people in this household over 1992 to 1999?
- In what ways did things get better/worse (choose depending on their response)? Keep asking until they run out of responses.
- But did some good/bad (choose the opposite of what they have focussed on) things happen also?
- Can I just check I have got this right (short reprise)?
- Where there any other major things that happened?

Now we move on to **WHY?**

- What were the main reasons why things got better/worse/stayed the same in your lives at that time?
- Why did that happen?
- What did you do to make things better OR what did you do with the extra income/assets?
- Did that work?
- Which people or organisations tried to help you make things better? Was anyone responsible for making things worse?
- Can I just check I have got the story right (reprise)?

The Origins

- Where was the head of household born?
- What did his/her father and mother do? Did they have land/major assets?
- In what ways has his/her life been better than their parents? In what ways has his/her life been worse than their parents?

The Future

- What is your plan/strategy for the future?
- Are you trying to make things better or just keep them steady?
- What things are you doing to achieve this plan/strategy?
- Which people or organisations are helping you with your plan/strategy?
- What are the main difficulties you face with this plan/strategy?

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- What do you think your children's lives will be like? Will they be similar, better or worse than yours? Why?

Conclusion

- So, if I understand you correctly... **timeline** going up and down with things getting better/worse.
- Thank you for answering all our questions. Are there any questions you would like to ask us?

Recording the Information

The information collected in field-book during the interview should be electronically recorded on the same day/in the evening with a standard format.

Name of household head

Code

Pattern of poverty dynamics

Location

Interviewer(s) and date

Summary box – 100 to 300 words describing the main dynamics and the understanding of why these occurred. Whenever possible try to develop 'identifiable' labels for similar households eg a mature family which has become a solo widow; a young household struck by HIV/AIDS downward spiral; a hard working couple who had a family and prospered through effort and savings.

Matrix Key data from the 1992 and 1999 surveys and 2005 interview.

The story A qualitative write-up of the poverty dynamics of this household and the reasons why these occurred starting with a little pre-1992 history and then chronological. Most information should be from the 1992, 1999 surveys or this interview. When you have something to add eg [they said income went up because of hard work but this was the coffee boom and they were coffee growers so most likely this is a windfall from coffee boom] or think they were lying/inaccurate eg [this does not triangulate with the 1999 survey] put these comments in square brackets.

Other information A comment on the quality and conditions of the interview and any other details.