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UNHS IV: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUALITATIVE MODULE

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INTRODUCTION

- ✘ Over time, the complementarity between the quantitative and qualitative approaches in assessing poverty and welfare conditions is increasingly being appreciated and utilised.
- ✘ Quantitative approaches look at the quantifiable and measurable aspects, while the qualitative approaches concentrate on explaining the how and why surrounding the numbers generated in the quantitative approach.
- ✘ Both UNHS III (2006) and UNHS IV (2010) have integrated a qualitative module to complement the quantitative findings.

RESEARCH THEMES INVESTIGATED

The main themes under qualitative were:

- + Community and Household level welfare
- + Community social infrastructure
- + Housing Conditions
- + Water and sanitation
- + Education
- + Health
- + Assets and food security
- + Perceptions on vulnerability

TOOLS USED IN QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

- ✘ The tools used included;
 - + Focus group discussions,
 - + Community Ladder of Life,
 - + Rope scoring scale to measure welfare relatively at household level, Households compare themselves to others the village
 - + Community mapping,
 - + Trend analysis and;
 - + Ranking

WELFARE/ POVERTY ROPE



SCALE-END DEFINITIONS FOR HOUSEHOLD WELFARE/POVERTY ROPE EXERCISE

DIMENSIONS	BOTTOM OF THE ROPE (Scale 1)	TOP OF THE ROPE (Scale 10)
Assets for Production	Do not have any assets	Have all assets they need
Food Security	Struggles to find food for its members	Always has a enough food
Sending Children to School	Cannot afford to send children to school	All children go to school
Access to medical services	Household cannot access medical services	Access the best medical services
Having sufficient income	Household always short of money	Household has enough money to satisfy their basic needs
Many dependants with few resources	Having many dependants in relation to the resources	Household can sustain all its dependants
Powerlessness	Household can not make itself heard in the community	Household has the power to achieve what their members want and it is respected

POVERTY ROPE EXERCISE RESULTS

DIMENSIONS	Qualitative (key points made by FGD participants)	Quantitative (Poverty Rope scores, 1-10) for the rural households
Assets for Production	Land size and quality of soil were most important, followed by agricultural tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66% of the households scored 4 or less
Food Security	Communities valued the capacity to grow one's own food, giving those who depend on buying lower scores.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% of the households scored 4 or less
Sending Children to School	Many children still fail to attend primary school: although there are no tuition fees, parents have to buy materials and uniform and charges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52% of the households scored 4 or less
Access to medical services	Patients still face challenges including unprofessional staff behaviour and irregular attendance; understaffing; and shortage of medicines and equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56% of the households scored 4 or less
Having sufficient income	Having enough money was associated with ownership of assets and salaried employment. The elderly and young people tend to face cash constraints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% of the households scored 4 or less
Many dependants with few resources	Households with strong asset bases scored well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 55% of the households scored 4 or less
Powerlessness	Being disabled, elderly or widowed was associated with powerlessness and exclusion, as was poverty; but many poor people were active in the community owing to their education or personal character.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 55% of the households scored 4 or less

ASSESSING COMMUNITY MOVEMENT

- ✘ Overall, the basis of identifying the position of a community on ladder of prosperity was availability and quality of social infrastructure including, schools, health units, markets, water and electricity
- ✘ Other considerations were; security, employment opportunities, democracy and quality of local leadership, as well as social harmony and food availability

ASSESSING COMMUNITY MOVEMENT

- ✘ Generally, communities reported improved welfare this was mainly attributed to improved access to primary and secondary education, healthcare, safe water sources, government programs such as NAADS, diversified production, microfinance support services, markets, empowerment through access to information, improved housing and infrastructure (electricity, feeder roads, communication network, media)
- ✘ In Northern Uganda improvement in security was an enabling factor to the observed improved welfare.
- ✘ “We now sleep in our own houses without any fear of being attacked by the rebels and the place is very peaceful so I think we have moved from step 2 to step 4 on the ladder.” (FGD WOMAN, Alwit Village, Lira, 20/8/2010)

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

- ✘ The important assets were house, land and livestock.
- ✘ For rural sites, agricultural implements, human labour and perennial crops were critical assets
- ✘ In urban sites, rented houses, vehicles and cycles for passenger transport were mentioned as important.

ASSESSMENT OF FOOD SECURITY

- ✘ Constraints in producing food in adequate quantities and varieties was the main basis of scoring. Quantity and quality of land, labour and accompanying technology were very important
- ✘ The capacity to afford food from the market was also an important consideration, mainly in the urban sites
- ✘ Food security is still a big challenge. Many communities reported that they were not food secure throughout the year.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

- ✘ In general, people welcome and embrace UPE and USE, but point out some challenges within that need to be addressed.
- ✘ Although there is UPE and USE to cater for tuition, there are other barriers to education, including the value attached to education by parents and pupils and other school requirements that need money to be met.
- ✘ Insecurity and difficult terrain also acts as a barrier to accessing education in some communities, and can even influence the age at

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

- ✘ Government health units more preferred by the communities, largely because of cost considerations and professional expertise there as well as appropriate equipment
- ✘ On health, 14 out of the 31 communities had a government health unit within a radius of 5 km.
- ✘ Malaria also topped the list of commonest diseases, but it was closely followed by HIV and AIDS
- ✘ Distance and welfare level of the household a key factor to access health care

SAFE WATER AND SANITATION

- ✘ The safety of the water sources were based on the extent to which that water sources is protected from contamination. The contamination can either be under ground or on the ground surface. In general perception across all sites was that all the water sources which are free from contamination were considered to be safe for drinking. The sources which were considered to be very safe were piped water, and borehole water
- ✘ The majority of the communities visited expressed views that they have at least one source of safe water, not all the households in these communities were accessing safe water.

COMMON DWELLINGS

- ✘ There are community-specific and region-wide variations
- ✘ In the northern region, the communities visited had grass roofs, mud and pole walls and floor of earth.
- ✘ In the central region the commonest dwelling was iron roof, brick wall (in a few cases un-burnt) and cemented (frequently) or earth floor (seldom).
- ✘ In the eastern region, temporary materials for roofs were common in 4 out of the 8 communities.
- ✘ In western region, only one of the 8 communities had grass thatched roof as the commonest dwelling.

WHY SPECIFIC DWELLINGS ARE MOST COMMON

- ✘ Because the materials are cheap and locally available and construction requires less labour
- ✘ Because iron sheets are not as prone to fires as grass (Pader)
- ✘ Those who had just returned to their villages from IDP camps had a very short time in which to construct shelter, hence used temporary materials available (Pader, Dokolo)

WHY SPECIFIC DWELLINGS ARE MOST COMMON

- ✘ Because the materials are considered durable “such houses would last for ages, even up to the grand children”. (Nakaseke)
- ✘ Because they cannot afford cement, sand and bricks to build better dwellings. “The little family resources are used for meeting the basic necessities, and constructing better houses is really a secondary matter” (Lira)
- ✘ Because landlords do not allow tenants to construct permanent structures (Kitintale in Nakawa)

WHY SPECIFIC DWELLINGS ARE MOST COMMON

- ✘ Because it is their traditional dwelling (Teso)
- ✘ Because the materials they are using can be improved very easily when people become richer (Kasawo, Mukono)
- ✘ Because the materials are durable and affordable, and they have to struggle to build the most modern and decent dwellings in the city (Kawempe)
- ✘ materials are durable, termites cannot destroy the house, and because the grass to thatch the houses is no longer available in the area (Mpigi)¹⁸

VULNERABILITY



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- ✘ Vulnerable population included the widowed, elderly, the neglected children, persistent sick, abused children, children in conflict with the law, children not attending school, and the disabled.
 - ✘ In all the communities the vulnerable people were facing many problems including, limited access to education, not having enough food, persistent sickness, inadequate care for the disabled, early marriages, child labour and land grabbing.

CONCLUSION

- ✘ Poverty is not only monetary, but has other dimensions, often missed by focusing on only numbers
- ✘ There is some mutual re-inforcement between the various dimensions of poverty
- ✘ Policy interventions to tackle poverty need to use a holistic approach
- ✘ What cannot be counted sometimes counts as well.

THANK YOU