Household survey on access and use of medicines

A training guide to field work

Purpose of this training

- Provide background on the WHO household survey on access and use of medicines
- Train on data gathering techniques: selecting and approaching households, using the questionnaire
- Field testing (interview and use of questionnaire)
Outline of presentation

- Background
- Indicators & sampling
- Choosing households and respondents
- How to conduct the interview
- Review of questionnaire

Background, rationale and limitation

- Part of WHO activity to assess pharmaceutical situation at countries using systematic, standardized method
- Can be complex and resource demanding- limited resource should not be a barrier
- Careful implementation and interpretation of results fill information gap at household level
Importance of household survey

- To know household situations
  - How they access their medicines
  - Where they get them
  - How much they pay

- To identify barriers to affordability

- To examine access and use of medicines in specific situations of acute and chronic diseases

Description & calculation of indicators

- Access to medicines
  - Indicators and variables
    - Treatment sought
    - Affordability
    - Sources of medicines
    - Reasons for not obtaining all medicines
  - Level of calculations
    - Each household, average of household around reference facility, national average
Description & calculation of indicators

- Use of medicines
  - Indicators and variables
    - Where they go for consultation
    - If they use all the drugs prescribed/recommended at health facilities, private health facility and mission clinics
  - Level of calculations
    - average of household around reference facility, national average

The household sampling scheme

- Select 5 regions in the country
- From each region select 6 public health facilities (30 reference public health facilities)
- In each of reference facility, select 30 households (900 households)
  - Diversity is important with quota sampling to get an aggregate response close to the norm
Options for household unit sampling

- Options in sampling
  - Random sampling from a complete list is the reference method
  - Purposive/ non probability sampling is an option if criteria for controlling selection are established

* 30 households for each reference facility

Random Sampling

- Randomly select 30 households from a complete list of household within the area
- Draw additional sample for replacement (non response, no one available to participate, refused interview)
Purposive/non probability sampling of households (1)

- Select 30 households in the vicinity of each reference facility:
  - 10 within 5 km of the reference facility
  - 10 between 5 and 10 km from the reference facility
  - 10 beyond 10 km from the reference facility

Purposive/non probability sampling of households (2)
Definition of household members

A household member is someone who:

- Usually stays in the household, sleeps and shares meals
- Has that address as primary place of residence
- Spends more than 6 months a year living in that household
- Includes a member who is currently in an institution due to health condition

People who can administer the survey

Data collectors who can be trained

- Local teachers, NGO's, local government employees
- Health care staff can also participate in the survey, however must be aware of possible bias
  - Field practice has shown that 2 people can complete 30 households in 1 day
Skills to acquire in this training*(1)

- How to approach households
  - Get familiar with the habits and norms of people
  - Manner of introduction is important
  - Be patient and sensitive to any situation
  - Be aware of prevailing customs and try to minimize cultural and language barriers by learning them

*Role play at the end of training session, before field practice

Skills to acquire in this training*(2)

- How to ask questions
  - Ask questions as they are written but do not read the answers, except where indicated
  - Verify answers by what, why, where, how

- How to complete survey form
  - Mark answers to questions right away

*Role play at the end of training session, before field practice
What must be done before field work

- Pre mark the questionnaire
  - distance 5 km, 5-10, >10km
- Facility name, region, household number
- Decide on the opposite directions of clusters

Choosing the household

- Households should not be next to each other
- Households should have an economic status representative of the area
- Interviews can be scheduled for a later time in the day
Choosing a respondent who meets at least three of five criteria

- Main health care decision maker
- Most knowledgeable about health of household members
- Most knowledgeable about health expenditures of household
- Most knowledgeable about health utilization by household members
- Designated care giver for sick household members

General guidelines for the interview

- Interviews are face-to-face, in local language, using paper and pencil questionnaires
- Explain reasons for the survey in simple terms
- Participation in the survey is voluntary: each respondent will sign an informed consent form before answering questions
Do's and don'ts during the interview

1. Be discrete but accurate, hence important to know the questionnaire by heart.
2. Read the questions and follow directions in *italic* and **bold** text on the questionnaire.
3. No questions are to be skipped, unless directed by the questionnaire.

Do's and don'ts during the interview

1. Verify accuracy of responses by "what, why, where, how" or by rephrasing the responses.
2. Listen carefully and mark responses on the questionnaire right away.
3. Identify and discuss possible cultural and language barriers.
The household survey questionnaire

- Includes six parts and forty three questions
- If respondent signs an informed consent, the entire questionnaire will be administered
- If the respondent refuses to participate, only the top first page will be filled out, and no questions will be asked.

*Refer to the questionnaire during discussion

Structure of the questionnaire

- Household information and health services access
- Acute illness
- Chronic illness
- Information on medicines in the household
- Perceptions about medicines
- Household information
Part 1: Household information & health services access

- Q1 & Q2 - Number of household members
  - Fill out every box: if six persons live in household on a usual day, write 6

- Q3 - Distance from health care facilities
  - Read responses and expand on definitions if need be
  - If no facility from one category in the area, answer > 1 hr
  - If more than two facilities of the same category in the area, answer shortest time to travel

Part 2: Acute Illness (1)

- Q4 & Q5 - Identify persons with acute illness
  - Explain the meaning of "acute"
  - Keep the time window within the past two weeks
  - Verify whether several persons have been sick

- Q6 & Q7 - Identify the youngest person who had an acute illness over the past two weeks
  - Age: choose and document appropriate unit for age
  - Sex
Part 2 - Acute Illness

- Q8 & Q9 - Information on acute illness
  - Symptoms, as recalled by the respondent
    - Important to recall the sickness episode and what was done
    - Symptoms grouped by organ system, do not read them
    - If respondent can't recall symptoms, can still proceed
    - Option to tick don't know or other
  - Severity
    - As recalled by respondent

- Q10 & Q11 - Identify type of care received for acute illness
  - Actions taken or not taken by caregiver
  - Can be validated by questions such as "where the facility or store is located", "where is the person now"

- Q12 - Identify whether medicines were prescribed

- Q13 - Table on prescribed medicines
Part 2 - Acute Illness

- **Q13** - Table on prescribed medicines *during acute illness*
  - Vital part of questionnaire (need time and probing)
  - Aid to refresh memory and recall
  - Needs verification for accuracy
  - Get all information on medications, one row at a time
  - Answer codes are different in each column

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**Example:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine 1</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abcd</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 2 - Acute Illness

- Q14 - Information on total cost of medicines obtained to treat acute illness
- Q15 - Information on medicine insurance coverage
- Q16 - Information on medicines taken or not taken
  - Notice the ‘Yes’ skip pattern
- Q17 - Information on reasons for not taking medicines
  - All statements are read and answered, one at a time
  - Respondent decides whether (s)he agrees or disagrees with each one of them in relation to the acute illness

Part 3 - Chronic Illness

- Q18 & Q19 - Identify persons with chronic illness
  - Explain the meaning of “chronic”
  - Verify whether several persons are chronically ill
- Q20 & Q21 - Identify the oldest person with chronic illness
- Q22 - Information on chronic illness(es) of this person
  - Read list of chronic diseases, expand on definitions if need be
  - If respondent can't recall disease, can still proceed
  - Option to tick don't know and other
Part 3 - Chronic Illness (2)

- **Q23** - Identify if the sick person has been told to take medicines for chronic disease(s)

- **Q24** - Table on prescribed medicines for chronic illness
  - Vital part of questionnaire (need time and probing)
  - Aid to refresh memory and recall
  - Needs verification for accuracy
  - Get all information on medications, one row at a time
  - Answer codes are different in each column

Part 3 - Chronic Illness (3)

- **Q24** - Table on prescribed medicines for chronic illness
  - A - Name of medicine as accurate as possible
  - B – Condition for which medicine was recommended
  - C – Number of days of supply usually purchased
  - D – Usual cost / month less any amount paid by third party
  - E - Any amount covered by insurance

- Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wxyz</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 3 - Chronic Illness (4)

- **Q25** - Information on medicines taken or not taken
  - Notice the ‘Yes’ skip pattern

- **Q26** - Information on reasons for not taking medicines
  - Statements are identical to those in Q17
  - All statements are read and answered one at a time
  - Respondent decides whether (s)he agrees or disagrees with each one of them in relation to the chronic illness

Part 4 - Information on medicines in the household (1)

- **Q27** – Identify whether medicines are kept at home

- **Q28** - Table on medicines kept at home
  - Vital part of questionnaire (need time and probing)
  - Aid to refresh memory and recall
  - Needs verification for accuracy
  - Get all information on medicines, one row at a time
  - Answer codes are different in each column
Part 4 - Information on medicines in the household

- Q28 - Table on medicines kept at home
  - A - Name of medicine
  - B - Obtained from
  - C - In home because
  - D - Label OK
  - E - Primary package OK

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine 6</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For body ache</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part 5 – Perceptions about medicines

- Q29 - Q31 are a succession of opinions about
  - Access to care and medicines
  - Affordability of medicines
  - Quality of care and medicines

For each statement, respondent indicates whether (s)he agrees, or disagrees.

- Do not offer the option “Do not know”. Use it only if respondent does not want to answer or is unable to choose between “agree” and “disagree”.

- Responses are documented, each statement at a time
Part 6 – Household information

- **Q32 to Q35** - Identify household assets
  - Important preamble: questions may not apply, responses will be kept confidential.
  - Assets to discriminate people of different social status are country-specific.
- **Q36 to Q39** - Identify expenditures over past 4 weeks
  - All amounts are reported in local currency
  - Numbers are written down as given: without checking if they add up
  - Ranges of total household expenditures are country- and household- specific; they are provided in a separate table.

The questionnaire concludes with:
- **Q40** - age range of respondent
- **Q41** - level of education of respondent
  - tick only one answer corresponding to the most appropriate level of education
- **Q42** - information on household main source of revenue
- **Q43** - information on professional activity of the main household earner
Thank you !!!