

RESEARCH PEARLS | FEDU PEARL #3

In our series “Research Pearls” we are providing first-hand insights into our dynamic and powerful diaries research. Despite the many challenges the researchers were facing during sample selection, the baseline interviews went quite smoothly. In this edition we will provide an insight into the implementation of the baseline study.

Baseline implementation

The number of interviews conducted per researcher per day varies depending on factors such as weather conditions and willingness to participate by the respondent. Most researchers were interviewing five to seven respondents per day, with a few doing less than that – two to four per day.

Some researchers have already reached the aim of 110 total respondents, while some are still on their way.

As of September 9th, we have about 2500 respondents.



Researchers during their work with baseline respondents

Quality control

One researcher had to be dismissed as his interviews took only about 6 to 7 minutes. One interview should not be able to take less than 15 minutes, if rushed. Henceforth, all interviews taking less than 15 minutes will be discarded.

Furthermore, any interviews taking between 15 to 25 minutes will be checked by the supervisors. They are assigned a verification survey, which includes between 10 – 15 questions from the baseline interview. Also, researchers are given the numbers of the respondents and should interview them using this survey.

Snapshots from the field: baseline interviews



Through Viber, our researchers send us pictures on a daily basis along with descriptions of the pictures and their daily events.



The supervisor from Mbale region, far Eastern Uganda, commented on the right photo “Those are g-nuts that grow on big trees, but has many seeds in it like those of a mango, so the outer part is opened to get the inner part, which is pounded and cooked for meals. Eric will tell us how it is called in the local language of tororo”. Then researcher Eric explained: “It’s called mulekula in my language” and researcher Caroline added “even in lugisu it is called mulekule”. Through the Viber discussions and the photos the researchers keep each other informed and give mutual support.

Visuals for explaining the questions

The researchers used photos to show them the exact names of all types of cook stoves. This also provided for quite lively exchange between the respondents and the researchers.



Respondent going through cook stoves with researcher Fred

Being part of day-to-day life

The researchers were facing a number of challenges to get respondents to participate. People did not want to provide their time or they felt the interview was a one-sided process. The researchers overcame some of that resistance by helping the respondents with their tasks.



Researchers giving respondents a hand with housework

Timeline

With some adjustments to the time-line, the following are the new upcoming dates:

- Friday, September 9th 2016: end of baseline
- Monday, 12th to Friday, 16th September: interlude, mapping shops, services, financial service providers and airtime providers
- Tuesday, September 20th to Saturday, September 24th: training of researchers
- Monday, September 26th: start of the first biweekly