

Module 2: Baseline Assessment
SESSION 9: BASELINE LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES

FACILITATOR NOTES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Presentation | <i>Baseline Livelihood Strategies.ppt</i> |
| Handouts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>H2.9 Handout 1 Food, Income, Expenditure</i> • <i>H2.9 Handout 2 Livelihood Strategies Exercise</i> |
| Practitioners' Guide Reference | Chapter 3: HOW TO GATHER BASELINE INFORMATION: <u>Activity 5. Conduct Interviews with Household Representatives - <i>Information to Collect</i></u> |
| Guide to HEA Reference | Chapter 2: <u>Section 2.4.3 Analysis of livelihood strategies</u> |
| Time | 50 minutes / 1 hour 30 minutes |

Purpose and content

To introduce livelihood strategies and the 'three pillars' of HEA baseline information: food, income and expenditure, and the basic ways in which this information can be cross-checked to ensure rigour.

Objectives

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- Describe in broad terms what livelihoods information we are seeking in HEA
- Give examples of the kinds of livelihood strategies employed by different wealth groups
- Describe the two basic cross checks in HEA that help ensure the information 'adds up'

When to run this session

This is Session 9 in the Baseline Training Module. It is possible to introduce this session earlier in the training if time is short, but it is important that it comes **before** the Meru Lowland Calculation Exercise (Session 11), because the concepts here need to be absorbed before moving onto calculations.

Useful background information

- *A Guide to HEA*
Chapter 2, Section 2.4.3 Analysis of livelihood strategies
- *Practitioners' Guide to HEA*
Chapter 3, Activity 5 Conduct Interviews with Household Representatives - *Information to Collect*

Handouts

- *H2.9 Handout 1 Food, Income, Expenditure*
This provides a basic introduction to the concepts of food, income and expenditure, listing common sources of food and income, and expenditure items. It explains why these things have to be quantified, and introduces the importance and rationale of the two basic cross-checks: that total food income should equal total kilocalorie expenditure, and that total cash income should equal total cash expenditure.
- *H2.9 Handout 1 Livelihood Strategies Exercise*
This is the handout for an exercise in which participants estimate for their own home area the proportion of food and income coming from different sources, and the proportion of total expenditure spent on different items. This exercise gets them actively thinking about and applying the concepts that you will have introduced.

Key learning points

- In HEA, a distinction is made between how people get their food and what they eat. HEA analysis is interested in exploring HOW people get their food, rather than WHAT they eat. In this regard, HEA pursues an economic study, as opposed to a nutritional profiling.
- In HEA, the analysis of livelihood strategies includes an investigation into how people obtain their food and cash, and what they need to spend their money on.
- Knowing there is a limited set of options for obtaining food and cash makes it possible to construct a holistic picture of households' livelihood strategies.
- The HEA methodology depends on the concept of **accounting** for much of its rigour. The two basic cross-checks are that food income must roughly equate with kilocalorie expenditure, and cash income must equate with cash expenditure.

Session plan

| Session plan summary | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Activity | Methodology | Timing | |
| | | If all plenary | If split into groups |
| Introduction to Baseline Livelihood Strategies | Presentation | 20 minutes | |
| Brainstorming: sources of food and income, and expenditure items | Brainstorming | 20 minutes | 1 hour |
| Wrap up and final discussion | | 10 minutes | |
| Total | | 50 minutes | 1 hour 30 minutes |

ACTIVITY 1: INTRODUCTION TO BASELINE LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES (20 MINUTES)

Go through the presentation. Most of the issues presented are included in the handout *H2.9 Handout 1 Food, Income, Expenditure*.

ACTIVITY 2: SOURCES OF FOOD AND INCOME (20 MINUTES/1 HOUR)

After the presentation you can run the rest of the session in two different ways. Your choice will depend on the amount of time you have – see the table for timings.

- If you have enough time you can split the participants into **groups** and distribute *H2.9 Handout 1 Livelihood Strategies Exercise*. Ask them first to brainstorm examples of food sources and income sources from their own home areas, and to then attach percentages to these according to wealth group. In the same way, participants should be asked to brainstorm typical expenditure items from their own home areas and attach percentages to these for each wealth group.
- If your time is more limited, you can brainstorm in **plenary**, compiling a list of food and income sources as a group, preferably for the area you are about to assess. You then cluster these into typical HEA categories and assign general weightings to each. Discuss which are most important for different wealth groups. Brainstorming and discussion of expenditure patterns can be done in the same way.

ACTIVITY 3: WRAP UP (10 MINUTES)

Clear up any outstanding issues and briefly go through the key learning points.