

Surveys Summary Sheet



Definition

A medium-term appraisal, usually conducted following a rapid assessment in an emergency, using a representative sample population and survey instrument to provide a quantitative, cross-sectional snapshot of affected populations.

What do I need to know?

- A sample should be representative of the population, of interest
- The sample size should be sufficient keeping in mind there is always a trade-off between rapidity and accuracy in emergency situations
- A standard method should be chosen and used throughout
- It is equally important to establish surveillance system at intervals so as to keep abreast of the changing situation. If this is not possible additional surveys should be planned

What are my usual objectives?

- The objective of the survey will be dependant – on the program focus, the population affected, the information need (what do you need to prioritize response, allocate resource , to monitor program)
- Estimate prevalence (e.g. acute malnutrition)
- Determine mortality
- Prioritize interventions
- Collect baseline data for program planning
- Evaluate program success
- Advocate for intervention

When do I conduct a survey?

- After the initial emergency phase has passed
- After basic needs for survival have been met
- When major population movement has stopped (may need to do anyway)
- When you are in a position to take action on results
- After preparatory information has been collected
- When security allows

What information is usually included in a survey?

- Demographics
- Household Characteristics
- Child Nutrition
- Mortality (increasingly)
- Water and sanitation information
- Household Assets
- Income Sources and Expenditure
- Food security
- Health Interventions
- Sanitation
- Education

How do I achieve my goals and objectives?

Define the objectives clearly, considering:

- What population do you want to extrapolate your results to? (What population is or will be the target of your intervention?)
- For each estimate, do you want one overall result or do you want separate estimates for geographic areas or sub populations?
- .Will geographic access or security be an issue for the survey?

Define the basic sampling unit:

- In a cluster survey, it is usually occupied households.

Sampling:

- How large a sample is necessary and/or practical?
- In cluster surveys what method will I use to select households?
- Am I satisfied that the sample will be representative?

The interview/questionnaire:

- Keep the questionnaire as short as possible
- Only collect information that will be used
- Develop simple, unambiguous questions (yes/no)
- Translate and back translate
- Pilot