

DEEP Phase 3: Community Diary

This should record the important happenings and events during the month as reported and evaluated by differently positioned people. These should include (as appropriate to your site and gender) influential elites (elders, kebele officials, respected active citizens), people from different occupations (e.g. farmers, traders, housewives, daily labourers, servants, petty traders, unemployed...), and from different wealth classes, ethnic and religious affiliations and health statuses. Some questions should be asked of particular people (e.g. teacher about school)

Approach

First ask people generally about community events and issues during the last month using its name. Then cover the topics you think appropriate to the respondent – beware of assuming that topics are not relevant which might be (e.g. weather affects some urban activities and experiences as much as rural ones). Ask the respondent what happened` why (if relevant), who did what, and what s/he thinks were the consequences for the community and/or for particular groups or people in it. You can pursue the topics in any order and should take advantage of spare bits of time and/or people met (e.g. in gatherings) as you go about the locality.

In simpler societies where people know everyone and most things that are going on it is easier to have a ‘homogenous’ diary. As societies get more complex so too do diaries. In the urban areas it might be an idea to focus (1) at the kebele level and (2) on each of the four small sites selected for the urban WIDE1 research – producing a diary for each.

Topics

Weather conditions and how they affected people’s lives

Human diseases and the experiences of health service providers (e.g. clinic, traditional practitioners)

Livestock diseases, effects and what was done about them

Crop conditions, diseases, effects and what was done about them

Market prices for inputs/outputs and food and other goods

Availability of water and wood (e.g. distances to get, problems, new supplies..)

Notable events: e.g. (death of an important person, car accidents, important person comes to locality, etc.)

Unfortunate happenings (murder, abduction/rape, theft, disputes and settlement, other scandals etc)

Fortunate happenings (new infrastructure, technology, etc)

Important festivals and occasions (religious, ritual and other)

Government goings-on (e.g. reorganisation), and interventions in the community (e.g. food aid disbursement, assistance to HIV/AIDS orphans, organisation of mengistae buden, community work, lifestyle advice activities of the court etc.)

Social changes (e.g. new rules from government / courts – marriage, divorce, inheritance, land distribution, housing etc.)

NGO activities

Happenings at school, including new buildings, enrolments, attendance, exams passed, and anything interesting including problems.

Graduations and inaugurations

Training activities and meetings

Other?

Please add

As far as possible provide details of when, where, why, what happened and who was involved.

Where the same event, happening was perceived or interpreted differently by different social actors the diary should reflect these differences.

Where a case (e.g. a conflict) unfolds over the month describe the stages or sequence of the events, the protagonists, the factions and outcomes.

Analysis

There should be two outputs using the same data:

- By informant (everything that a particular informant told you together with information about their social status)
- By topic and sub-topic