

Analysis protocol for potential policy papers using WIDE data

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Introduction

There are a number of policy-relevant topics which could be usefully pursued using the existing WIDE data, some of them in conjunction with a new fieldwork module.

The choice of topic(s) and the need for, and depth of, new fieldwork are a matter of judgment. Key factors are:

- The importance of the topic – for community members as well as government and development partners;
- How much has likely to have changed in relation to the topic since the WIDE3 fieldwork (2010-13);
- How much data there are in existing WIDE research;
- How important it is to get quick answers;
- Who is interested in leading the research and being involved in it;
- The level of funding that is likely.

Potential Series III Discussion Briefs

Potential topics

In earlier discussions the WIDE team identified a number of potential topics for a potential set of Series III discussion briefs using the existing data – and there may be more. They included:

- Taxation and contributions
- Access to justice
- Land issues
- Credit
- Water
- Agricultural developments
- Non-farm own account activities – industrialisation and servicisation
- Non-farm employment

A protocol to aid the ordering of data for the evidence base

It has not been clear how everyone is approaching the task of data interpretation and analysis and a lot of the work done is not retained for others to use. I am in favour of using a protocol through which all workings are recordable and recoverable by others. Appendix 1 contains an example of use of a protocol which emerged during the writing of the Series II policy discussion brief and related book chapter on maternal health and well-being.

Step 1: Design a conceptual framework related to the main broad question

Think imaginatively, creatively and thoroughly. The conceptual framework should identify important broad abstract areas for deconstruction into subsets of empirical variates. In the Appendix example five areas for follow-up were identified/

Step 2: Make a conceptual matrix for each of the areas identified in the framework

Identify the important constituents of each of the areas.

Step 3: Data analysis 1 - use the conceptual matrix to design the data description matrices for the selected areas.

Topics in the columns and communities in the rows.

Steps 1-3 provide the basis for analysing available WIDE3 data and also for designing Data Protocols for a comprehensive focused study in the future.

Step 4: Data analysis 2 – populate the data description matrices using all the available data

Search the interview data and the community reports – summarise what you find as briefly as possible

Step 5: Data analysis 3 - immerse yourself in the data and familiarise yourself with each community narrative

Look across the matrix rows and write short thick descriptions for each of the areas identified for each of the communities

Step 6: Data analysis 4 – identify key points in the data description matrices and look for patterns of similarity and difference among the communities

Look down the matrix columns for commonalities across all **the communities**, for types in relation to each topic column.

Do the same for all **the people** for whom the topic is important –e.g. richer and poorer.

Step 7: Data analysis 5 – in a further search for patterns select key issues to create and explore 20-community truth tables

- For each key issue categorise each community as e.g. high, medium, low
- Construct truth tables – communities in a column and key issues as rows
- Keep re-organising the data rows so that communities with similar patterns are adjacent
- Add possible explanatory variates such as remoteness, customary cultural repertoires, wealth, regional government... to see if they might relate to different types of community

Potential new fieldwork projects

The potential Series III Discussion Brief topics could all be candidates for new fieldwork. The first step should be the use of an interpretation and analysis protocol to establish what seemed to be the case at the time of WIDE3 fieldwork, which would also help to identify gaps. The column rows of the data description matrices described below would be a guide for designing the Module protocols for the new fieldwork.

This analysis would help you to identify which communities to return to for more fieldwork, and whether shorter visits to all would be more useful than more in-depth visits to fewer. Typing the communities would help you to choose one from each type.

The WIDE team discussed another possible topic for new fieldwork, which was the 2015/16 drought. Given the urgency of this problem I would recommend writing a policy discussion paper (not brief) first and use it to design a simple, cheap and rapid fieldwork phase – for example sending seasoned fieldworkers to selected communities ideally with prior WIDE experience of the communities to undertake a lightly protocol-guided rapid anthropological exercise over (say) 10 days.

Appendix 2 starts the process of using an I & A protocol to organise the existing WIDE data.

Appendix 1: Example - maternal and infant health and well-being

This protocol emerged during the writing of the discussion brief and book chapter and was not used thoroughly from the beginning. An important problem in writing the brief was that not much data had been made specifically made with this topic in mind. The

Step 1: Design the abstract conceptual framework

Think imaginatively and creatively about all aspects of the topic

Questions: how did women and infants experience the process of pregnancy, delivery and early infancy? What did other people do to help them? What relevant government interventions were in place?

Common features

1. Pregnancy, birth, and infancy – a time-bound process – idea of the **pregnancy-delivery-infancy cycle**
 - 9 months pregnancy
 - Delivery
 - 6 months infancy = 15 months = 450 days.During this period the health and well-being of mother and infant are highly interdependent – idea of the **mother-baby couple**.
2. Events and experiences **before pregnancy** can affect the quality of the pregnancy-infancy cycle
3. Events and experiences during the pregnancy-infancy cycle can have **consequences** for the longer-run health and well-being of
 - Mother

- Child

Variable features

4. Community context – remoteness, wealth, drought, seasonality effects, drinking water, cultural repertoires, government health services
5. Intra-community differences among women – remoteness, wealth, women’s work

Step 2: Make a [conceptual matrix](#) for each of the five areas identified in the conceptual framework

Identify the important constituents of each of the areas identified in the conceptual framework

1. **Pre-pregnancy** – what events and experiences might be important?

- infertility
- contraception
- circumcision
- age of marriage
- rape
- forced abduction

2. **Pregnancy**- what events and experiences might be important? –

Mother

- pregnancy outside marriage
- abortion
- miscarriage
- physical and mental aspects of being pregnant
- diet
- work and rest
- illnesses e.g. malaria, German measles
- stress
- ante-natal care

Infant

- miscarriage, abortion, death in womb
- developmental problems
- malnutrition
- maternal stress
- ante-natal care

3. **Delivery** - what events and experiences might be important?

Relevant to mother and infant

- prematurity
- birth complications
- birth damage
- death – relevant to both mother and infant
- cleanliness of environment – place of delivery
- skill of helpers

4. **First 6 months of infancy** - what events and experiences might be important?

Mother

- Diet and breast-feeding
- PNC
- work and rest

Infant

- Breast-feeding/diet
- PNC
- maternal caring

- hygiene, clothes etc.
- illness and healthcare

5. Possible **longer-run consequences**

Mother

- fistula
- prolapse
- infertility.

Infant

- physical problems
- brain damage

Step 3: Data analysis 1 - use the conceptual matrix to design the [data description matrices](#)

- Topics-columns
- Communities - rows

Step 4: Data analysis 2: populate the data description matrices using the available data

- Record notes on everything you can find on the topic for each community in the community reports/interview data

N.B. Since we are using secondary data that was not designed to cover this issue thoroughly there are considerable gaps in the data.

The conceptual framework and related data analysis matrices described here provide the basis for designing Data Protocols for a comprehensive focused study in the future.

Step 5: Data analysis 3 - data immersion and familiarisation with each [community narrative](#)

- Use the data description matrices to develop a narrative or 'thick description' about women and infants experiences in each of the communities in each of the five stages – pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, delivery, early infancy, longer-term consequences
- Develop a single narrative combining the five narratives

Step 6: Data analysis 4 –use the data description matrices to create [data pattern matrices](#)

- Down the topic columns
 - **commonalities across all communities** – create **commonality matrices** to underpin general conclusions
 - **differences and similarities among the communities** - generate 'types' related to the topic – make a separate matrix for each type - look for other similarities among the communities in each type which might help explain those similarities
 - **commonalities across all women who become mothers**
 - **differences and similarities among women who become mothers** – generate types related to the topic

Step 6: Data analysis 5- select key issues to create and explore 20-community [truth tables](#)

- For each key issue categorise each community as e.g. high, medium, low
- Construct truth tables – communities in a column and key issues as rows
- Keep re-organising the data rows so that communities with similar patterns are adjacent
- Add possible explanatory variates such as remoteness, customary cultural repertoires, wealth, regional government... to see if they might relate to different types of community

Step 7: Identify policy issues for discussion with government and development partners

- Use the commonality data pattern matrices to identify conclusions related to the five areas which apply to all communities

- For each area compare these with relevant (1) government macro policies and (2) their implementation at kebele level
- Identify missing policies, and gaps between policies and implementation
- Use the differences data pattern matrices to identify differences among communities requiring adapted (1) policies or (2) implementation of general policies – suggest what these communities are examples of

Abstract general conceptual framework		Differences in community context with potential impacts							Intra-community differences among women			
Maternal and infant health and well-being: main concepts		Issues & risks	Remote-ness	Wealth	Weather	Season-ality	Drinking water	Cultural repertoires & gender relations	Implementation of government policies	Remoteness	Wealth	Marital status
Delivery	Mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclean environment • Unskilled helpers • Birth complications • Birth damage • Death 										
Delivery	Infant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclean environment • Unskilled helpers • Birth complications • Birth damage • Death 										
Early infancy	Mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet & breast-feeding • PNC • Work & rest 										
Early infancy	Infant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breast-milk/diet • PNC • Maternal caring • Hygiene & clothes • Illnesses & health care 										
Longer-term consequences	Mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fistula • Prolapse 										
Longer-term consequences	Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor physical devt • Brain damage 										

Data description matrices

Pre-pregnancy data matrix

Community	Infertility	Contraception	Circumcision	Age of marriage	Rape	Abduction
Geblen						
Harresaw						
etc						

Pregnancy – data matrix

Community	Unmarried pregnancy	Abortion	Miscarriage	Physical problems	Diet	Work & rest	Illnesses	Stress	Mental problems	ANC
Geblen mother										
Geblen infant										
Harresaw mother										
Harresaw infant										
etc										

Delivery – data matrix

Community	Environment	Helpers	Complications	Damage	Death
Geblen mother					
Geblen infant					
Harresaw mother					
Harresaw infant					
etc					

Early infancy matrix

Community	Diet & breast-feeding	PNC	Work & rest; maternal care	Hygiene & baby clothes	Illnesses & healthcare
Geblen mother					
Geblen infant					
Harresaw mother					
Harresaw infant					
etc					

Longer-term health consequences

Community	Fistula	Prolapse	Infertility	Poor physical development	Brain damage
Geblen mother					
Geblen infant					
Harresaw mother					
Harresaw infant					
etc					

Community narrative outline

Gebien

Community context

- Remote
- Poor
- Drought-prone
- Seasonality
- Drinking water
- Cultural repertoires & gender relations
- Region
- Implementation of government policies

Community context narrative

Pre-pregnancy

- Infertility
- Contraception
- Circumcision
- Age of marriage
- Rape
- Forced abduction

Community pre-pregnancy narrative

Pregnancy

- Pregnancy outside marriage
- Abortion and miscarriage
- Being pregnant
- Diet
- Work and rest
- Illnesses
- Stress
- ANC

Community pregnancy narrative

Delivery

- Prematurity
- Birth complications
- Birth damage
- Death of mother
- Death of infant
- Cleanliness of environment
- Skill of helpers

Community delivery narrative

Early infancy

- Maternal diets, breast-feeding and infant supplementary food
- PNC
- Maternal work, rest and care for infant

- Infant hygiene, clothing etc
- Infant illnesses and healthcare

Early infancy narrative

Longer-term consequences

- Fistula
- Prolapse
- Infertility
- Poor infant physical development
- Brain damage

Longer-term consequences narrative

Harresaw

Etc.

Data pattern matrices

Example Contraception

Community	Low use	Medium use	High use
Community 1	<i>Summarised key points from the data description matrix</i>		
Community 2		<i>Summarised key points from the data description matrix</i>	
etc			<i>Summarised key points from the data description matrix</i>

Truth tables

Example pre-pregnancy issues

Community	Infertility	Contraception	Circumcision	Age of marriage	Rape	Abduction
Geblen	NA	Low	None	Higher	High	None
Harresaw						
etc						

Once complete re-organise in a search for patterns

Do the same for other four stages

Look across the stages in case of cross-stage patterns

Appendix 2: Example - experiences of drought 2015-16

Designing a Module for new fieldwork - informed by data made in 1995, 2003 and 2010-13

Learning from WIDE1-3 data

Question: What did we learn about drought experiences from WIDE2 and WIDE3?

Some quick answers off the top of my head:

- Livestock deaths and sales - debt
- Migration
- Extension programme not effective in 2003 due to droughts
- Drought leads to insufficient income from agricultural production – decline in productivity

- Food aid saved lives; some misuse – directed to kebele official relatives, merchants bought it from recipients at a cheap price and sold it at an expensive price to urban residents
- Pastoralists had to move long distances to get pasture and water for cattle
- Cattle died due to lack of fodder and water
- During drought women in Koro collected and sold firewood
- Women, men and children affected differently by food shortages
- Breast milk can dry up
- Children dropping out of school to go to work as day labourers in nearby town; or because parents unable to cover costs
- Recurrent drought makes people poorer and poorer
- Mutual support among clan members in times of crisis including drought
- Equib not functional
- Crops not drought resistant
- Irrigation lacking
- NGO aid
- Afforestation programme failed
- People given oxen due to drought had to sell them to buy food
- Do'oma – government resettled drought-affected people
- Tax beyond capacity due to drought
- Food shortage made young men too weak for abduction

2003 data paper cross-site comparisons

- Did market-integrated sites suffer less?
- Did sites with *enset* production suffer less?
- Did pastoralist sites suffer more?
- Are coping strategies different in food deficit sites from food surplus sites?
- Many respondents reluctant to simply attribute deaths to 'famine'

Designing a new research project

Step 1: Design the abstract conceptual framework

Think creatively about all aspects of the topic

Question: what is it about the 2015-16 drought that it would be useful for government and development partners to know

Common questions – again off the top of my head

1. What happened –belgs, mehers 2015 2016
2. How it affected production of staples, other rainfed crops, irrigated crops, fodder, water for animals, drinking water
3. Consequences for food consumption and nutrition (especially pregnant women & lactating mothers, infants and children, adolescents)
4. Consequences for agricultural investment, debt, non-farm activity
5. Household coping strategies – rich, middle, poor farmers; rich, middle, poor landless
6. Consequences for community cohesion
7. Government aid – PSNP, EFA, other

Variable features

8. Kind of drought
9. Community context
10. Intra-community differences

Step 2: Make a conceptual matrix for each issue identified in the conceptual framework

There could be ten issues..

Continue with Steps 3 – 7 as described in Appendix 1.

Give the fieldworkers all the data for the community they are going to study.

Use the data description matrix column headings to design the light protocol to guide their anthropological research with them as a team.