Overview of the Questionnaire Template

The questionnaire template has been prepared by the COVID-19 questionnaire working group, which consists of experts in questionnaire design in the World Bank’s Development Data Group and the Poverty and Equity Global Practice, with the support from Education, Social Protection and Jobs unit, Agriculture, and Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practices. The COVID-19 Questionnaire working group members include Amparo Palacios-Lopez; Claudia Noumedem Temgoua; Deeksha Kokas; Elizabeth Ann Talbert; Gbemisola Oseni; Giulia Ponzini; John Ilukor; Lokendra Phadera; Nobuo Yoshida; Philip Wollburg; Romeo Gansey; Sarosh Sattar; Victor Sulla, Xiaomeng Chen and support from Dixita Gupta and Xueqi Li.


OBJECTIVE

To better cope with the rapidly escalating spread of COVID-19 and the increase in measures to contain its spread, there is an urgent need for data that can inform evidence-based policies and fill critical knowledge gaps. The World Bank is supporting the roll-out of high-frequency phone surveys to address this challenge. Aiming to help country teams design best-practice questionnaires and monitor a range of globally comparable indicators, a task force at the World Bank has developed a ‘COVID-19 CORE_PLUS Questionnaire’. This questionnaire contains “core modules” and “core questions,” as well as optional modules and optional questions within the core modules. Most of the core questions are recommended to be asked each month to track the social and economic implications and household behavior responses in this evolving crisis, while some of the questions are for the first-round of data collection only. The core questions focus on the key channels, such as employment, access to essential services, sources of income, through which individuals and households are likely to be profoundly affected and in need of government support. The questionnaire will be complemented by additional country specific questions on select topics so that the survey can respond to needs in each country. The questionnaire is a living document and will be updated periodically while additional supplementary modules will continue to be developed in response to requests and feedbacks from users. For detail explanations and country specific modification instructions, see enumerator manual.

CORE and OPTIONAL QUESTIONS

In addition to the core modules/questions, the ‘COVID-19 CORE_PLUS Questionnaire’ proposes questions on government satisfaction, subjective welfare, household coping mechanisms, food security, safety nets and additional questions to the topics covered in the core modules. They are temporarily not highlighted as core due limitations in interview time, or because they require a country-specific design. Country teams are encouraged to adopt these questions if time allows. The core modules/questions are highlighted in green, anything that is not highlighted is considered optional.
CORE QUESTIONNAIRE vs. COUNTRY ADAPTATIONS

Following the wording and structure of the Core Questionnaire is critical for global comparisons and collection of high-quality data. However, it is also important to make sure that the questionnaire reflects the country-specific customs, environment, and socio-economic conditions. If there is any question about modification of the Core Questionnaire, please consult the COVID-19 questionnaire working group or read the Manual which explains more details on each question.

SECTIONS

1. **Basic Information Panel/Basic Information RDD (Random Digit Dialing)**

   ‘Basic Information Panel’ is built on the premise that households’ information has been documented in previous surveys. Only personal information on gender, age, and relationship to the household head will be updated at the beginning of the interview. ‘Basic Information RDD’ is targeted to households for which there is no previous information. The module records respondents’ information in terms of gender, age, relationship, and education level, with basic information on household composition by asking the number of adults, young and school-aged children.

2. **Knowledge**

   The knowledge section is requested only in the first round of the survey to examine households’ awareness of COVID-19, corresponding preventive measures, and government actions. It notifies policymakers if information about the virus and control measures get to residents in time and accurately.

3. **Behavior and Social Distancing**

   This section aims to assess households’ preventive measures to the pandemic and response to social distancing recommendations and policies. The questionnaire recommends three core questions while countries can add specific questions for a comprehensive understanding.

4. **Access to Basic Services**

   This section focuses on households’ access to essential services, particularly markets and health facilities, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The key market access indicators include household’s ability to purchase medicines and various staple foods. For health facilities, it asks about the household’s needs for medical attention as well as challenges the household may face in accessing health facilities.

5. **Employment_long/Employment_short**

   The employment section aims to understand the impact of the COVID-19 in the income generating activities of the households. A short and a long version have been prepared to accommodate for different levels of detail. In the short version, changes in households’ income-generating activities are explored through the loss of wage work, and revenues from family business and farming. The long version goes beyond the short version by providing supplementary information on new jobs in comparison to the jobs performed before the outbreak, identifying the sectors and adding questions for informality.
6. **Income Loss**

This section captures all of the household’s income sources. It assesses the changes in income for each source after the outbreak of COVID-19, as well as the changes in total household income.

7. **Food Security (OPTIONAL)**

This section assesses the household’s food security situation during the 30 days prior to the day of interview. It is meant to capture how well the household can fulfil its food needs. It is based on the FIES methodology of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This whole section is OPTIONAL.

8. **Concerns (OPTIONAL)**

This section is focused on the concerns that the head of household may have regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease). This whole section is OPTIONAL.

9. **Shocks/Coping (OPTIONAL)**

This section seeks to capture events/shocks that may have affected the household since the outbreak of coronavirus and the coping mechanisms used by the household. This whole section is OPTIONAL.

11. **Safety Nets**

This section intends to capture the non-contributory transfers that the household may have received.