

Options in Designing a QuIP Study: quick checklist

When designing a QuIP study there are a number of different elements that can be altered in the methodology to help you meet the specific requirements of the project being assessed. The first question to answer is **why do you need a QuIP study?** The QuIP can be used to provide evidence ranging from contribution, to estimates of the magnitude of impact. Deciding at an early stage why you want a QuIP study and how you will use the data with other monitoring data is important as this will determine which other survey tools you need to have in place, how the timing and sampling strategies will overlap, and who will be involved in each stage. Once you have a clear objective for the QuIP the following checklist can help you work through important questions which will determine how to tailor your study:

1. When should you carry out a QuIP?

Deciding when to schedule a QuIP depends in part what you expect to get out of the data.

- a. It can be useful early on in the project design phase, as a diagnostic tool for identifying drivers of change.
- b. Used early on or mid-way through a project it can be used in order to identify positive deviants from whom others may be able to learn.
- c. Used at the end of a project it also has the potential to inform evaluation even when there isn't a baseline for comparison.

2. How should you select your sample?

The following section provides further guidance on sampling strategy, but answers to the first question will also help to inform this.

- a. Are you looking for data across the range of your project interventions, or are you seeking more details from pre-selected positive deviant villages or households?
- b. Do you want QuIP data to overlap with the sample selection for existing monitoring or survey data, or is it important to avoid survey fatigue in those sample areas?
- c. Do you want information from non-beneficiary households in the data set?

3. To what extent will the field researchers need to be blindfolded?

The blindfolding process is one of the tools which can help to avoid pro-project bias, but the extent to which the field researchers are blindfolded will depend on your aims and the context of the study.

- a. If you are concerned that your data should remain rigorous and entirely impartial you will need to use a third party to recruit the field researchers to ensure they are totally blindfolded.
- b. You may feel that you can use a trusted team of researchers already known to you to carry out the QuIP study, knowing who they are recruited by, but with no information given to them about the project being assessed.
- c. If you believe that the researchers will get more relevant information for you if they know what you are looking for, you may wish to brief them on the project, relying on their training and expertise to remain impartial and not prompt respondents.

4. Who will be involved in carrying out the QuIP study?

Deciding who will be involved at each stage of the QuIP study depends in part on the answers to the questions above. If you are concerned about blindfolding but wish to keep the process in-house, there may be an option to delegate recruitment and even analysis of the data to staff from another project, or even another country. Once the data has been analysed you then need to decide how far to involve the field researchers and project staff in the feedback process.