

FACTSHEET #2: COLLECTING DATA IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION USING THE WASHINGTON GROUP QUESTIONS AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

The Washington Group Questions (WGQ) are designed to be administered at the individual level. However, in humanitarian action data is often collected at the household level as opposed to (or in addition to) at the individual level.



When collecting data at household level, the preference of the scenarios below should be considered in the order displayed. The methodology used should always be stated in reports as changes to the WGQ affect the data collected.

Scenario 1: Asking the questions to all members of the household individually

PROS: Ensures quality and reliable data is collected for all member of the household

CONS: Takes time - especially when the size the household is big

Not all household level data collection tools can be adapted to collect individual level information



Head of Household:

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
 No, no difficulties Yes, some difficulties
 Yes, a lot of difficulties Cannot do it at all

Household member number 1

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
 No, no difficulties Yes, some difficulties
 Yes, a lot of difficulties Cannot do it at all

Household member number 2

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
 No, no difficulties Yes, some difficulties
 Yes, a lot of difficulties Cannot do it at all

Head of Household:

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
 No, no difficulties Yes, some difficulties
 Yes, a lot of difficulties Cannot do it at all

Rest of Household

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
 No, no difficulties Yes, some difficulties
 Yes, a lot of difficulties Cannot do it at all

If a lot of difficulties or cannot do it at all:
 Name/Age/Sex

OR Entire Household

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
 No, no difficulties Yes, some difficulties
 Yes, a lot of difficulties Cannot do it at all

If a lot of difficulties or cannot do it at all:
 Name/Age/Sex

Scenario 2: Ask the head of household for her/himself (if possible) and then for the rest of the household OR

Ask the head of household and household members at the same time

PROS: Saves time and still provides reliable data for the head of household

CONS: Bias in the data collected for the rest of the household

Attention point: This scenario requires identification of household members who respond either a lot of difficulties or cannot do it at all (to avoid double counting).



Scenario 3: Ask only the head of household for him/herself only

PROS: Saves time and still provides reliable data for the head of household

CONS: Does not provide information on other household members who might also be beneficiaries



Head of Household only:

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
 No, no difficulties Yes, some difficulties
 Yes, a lot of difficulties Cannot do it at all

NEVER ASK THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD A FILTER QUESTION (e.g. Do you have people with disabilities/medical conditions in your household?) to determine household members who need to be asked the WGQ – the data collected will be unreliable.

