



DESIGN

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ERROR	EXAMPLE	MITIGATION MEASURES
Coverage error	The nomadic population is not included in the sampling frame	Introduce multiple sample approaches
Sampling error	Enumerators visit houses of acquaintances, instead of selecting randomly as instructed	Review sampling strategies for feasibility, spot-check field sites to monitor quality, consider which groups are likely to be excluded from the survey
Non Response error	During the field visits it turns out that a large part of the intended respondents are not available because they are at work	Send advance notification, Train on refusal aversion, adapt assessment introduction to different groups, increase sample size to ensure sufficient samples are reached

MEASUREMENT

ERROR	EXAMPLE	MITIGATION MEASURES
Specification error	Respondents and analysts interpret the concept 'drought' differently	Include expert review, pre and pilot testing, use previously validated questions
Respondent error	Households exaggerate needs in the hope of receiving more support	State questions in a simple, straightforward manner, do selective re-interviewing
Mode	Interviewers have difficulties navigating the ODK form	Consider the most appropriate mode of data collection, train enumerators on the mode
Item Non response	A significant part of respondents refuse to answer a sensitive question	Rephrase and carefully introduce sensitive questions, oversample to reach sufficient sample
Interviewer	Interviewer uses leading questions and adopts a different interviewing style across respondents	Train enumerators on interviewing techniques, brief and debrief, provide incentives for enumerators
Questionnaire error	Sensitive questions are asked before trust has been established	Include expert review, pre and pilot test, use previously validated questions
Recording error	Respondent incorrectly paraphrases a response to an open question	Add instructions in the questionnaire on how to ask and answer each question, monitor responses

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PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

ERROR	EXAMPLE	MITIGATION MEASURES
Adjustment Error	Outdated population figures are used for weighting of the findings	Expert review, encourage checks and double checks
Processing Error	Inconsistent coding of responses to open questions	Document alterations and additions, comprehensive training and procedures on coding, data entry and analysis
Inferential Error	The conclusions are extrapolated to the whole affected population despite the non-representative sample	Do not go beyond the data, carefully consider the limitations of the assessment design, maintain independence

EXPLAINING ERRORS: Assessments using probability sampling commonly include a confidence interval and margins of error. However, these statistics solely reflect some of the error related to design and thus omit the effects of other errors related to measurement, processing and analysis. Methods to quantify these type of errors are costly, time-consuming and not feasible within a humanitarian setting. Sources of errors and their potential impact on the trustworthiness of the results should therefore be made transparent and explained within the methodology section of the assessment report, using qualitative statements.