

Field research in humanitarian crisis: ethics and risks

Rachel Hastie, Oxfam



Design methodology and ethics approval

Literature Review

ID Field study locations



Change in practice

Dissemination & Research Uptake

Data analysis & Report writing

Baseline:
Observation,
digital survey,
KIIs, FGDs



Implement lighting solution

- NIGERIA: solar lanterns
- IRAQ: Fixed solar lights
- UGANDA: solar lamp posts



Endline:
Observation,
digital survey,
KIIs, FGDs

Risk & Ethics Matrix

Quick and Simple Risk & Ethics Matrix: Sanitation Lighting and GBV in Omugo (Rhino Extension) Uganda

Last Updated: 11 Nov 2017 Next Review: (implementation stage – date tbc)

Proposed action/activity	Anticipated benefits (immediate and longer-term)	Possible risks to Oxfam, staff, partners, beneficiaries, (immediate and longer-term) ¹	How might the risks and ethical considerations be mitigated or managed	Adaptations and decisions made by management/research team
<p>A: BASELINE DATA COLLECTION SURVEY 4-9 November 2017 including approaching 250-375 camp residents on a random basis to fill in the survey as well as asking for recommendations of others fitting specific profiles eg. elderly women, mobility impaired disabled person.</p> <p>FGDs: on 8-13 Nov 2017 with women and men from different age groups, PSNs, host and refugee</p> <p>KIIs: with Ugandan Police, OPM, agency staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fills a much-needed global evidence gap as to whether/how sanitation lighting reduced real and perceived risks of GBV in camps; will enable humanitarians to implement better, safer sanitation facilities in camps research will improve understanding of the potential for lighting interventions in Uganda amongst humanitarian actors and camp management 	<p>Risks to Community:</p> <p>A. Children are traumatised and vulnerable, many UAMs</p> <p>B: 16-19 year olds may be vulnerable, especially child headed households</p> <p>C Disclosure of incidents/exposure of victims or survivors' identities</p> <p>D: research inadvertently omits difficult to reach groups</p> <p>E: crowds, people listening in</p>	<p>A: We will not interview under 16s.</p> <p>B: If appropriate, ask permission from guardian, parent. Have a chaperone, offer a friend to sit in. Limit interviews as information can be gathered from focus groups. Provide information on available services. Respect confidentiality. Do not promise a direct response. Empathise but do not council</p> <p>C: Don't take names or expose IDs. Liaise with IRC, have PSS and referral info</p> <p>Update 1:Referral info too unwieldy to give out, no summary.</p>	<p>ACTIONS</p> <p>A: Add a question at start of survey that skips to close if interviewee is under 16</p> <p>B: We will not seek out 16/17 year olds, but will not exclude them either. No enumerator should be alone with a child at any point. Interviews in public places only. Should enumerators have any concerns about the child's wellbeing they should cease IV and refer to IRC as necessary. Add this into SOPs</p> <p>C: Add into SOPs, ensure enumerators have referral info</p>

Anticipated Risks Actual Risks

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minors • Safeguarding • Disclosures • Confidentiality • Expectations • Aggression • Rains/flooding • Snakes & Scorpions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of confidentiality • Disclosures and referral information • Distress of enumerators • Snakes & Scorpions |
|--|--|





Standard Operational Procedures
Sanitation Lighting Research, Uganda
 November 2017

As members of the research team for this project we have jointly agreed to observe the following behavior and principles in our work:

1. Confidentiality

We will ensure the confidentiality of information collected from individuals during the survey by keeping all answers anonymous. Although we cannot guarantee that those taking part in focus group discussions will keep other people's contributions confidential, we will ask that they do so. We will not ourselves take down full names or other identifying information from focus group discussion. Strictly no photographs will be taken or interviewees during the survey or focus group discussions either using Oxfam or enumerator's personal equipment.

2. Respect for each other & Spirit of Teamwork

We will show respect for other members of the research team, and support each other in our work and as a team. We will take care of the equipment we are using. All members of the research team will try to show good time-keeping and in case of delays or being unable to fulfil their commitments will promptly inform the coordinators.

3. Do not make promises or create expectations

We are carrying out research amongst people who have many needs. As a research team, we cannot make any promises or guarantees of aid for any individual. We can pass on messages to the Oxfam team, however.

Focus Group Discussion scenarios

Martha has just arrived in the camp with her two adolescent daughters. What advice would you give her about being safe in the camp?

Sarah is worried about 'being seen' going to the latrine? Why is she worried about that? What might happen is she is 'seen'? Is she right to be worried?

Surina is unwell and has to run to the latrine in the night. Is it safe for her to go? What might happen to her? Do women usually go to the latrine alone after dark?

Research vs. meeting immediate needs

“ We want lights at the water points because the water trucks come very late and it’s so dark there.”

“No amount of lighting will make a poorly designed, badly-maintained latrine safe”

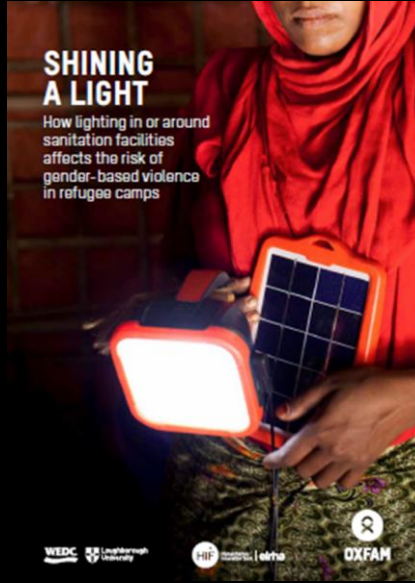


Putting ethical guidelines into practice

- **Data minimisation** – do you really need to ask all those questions?
- **Confidentiality & PRIVACY** – be realistic, non-identification inc. photos
- **ONGOING RISK MANAGEMENT: expect the unexpected!**
- **power differentials** - acknowledge & reduce, role of ‘voice’
- **INFORMED CONSENT** – understanding the digital world
- **DATA ANALYSIS** – whose information do you value, who creates knowledge, who defines the narrative, what gets excluded?
- **Participation** – where possible and ethical
- **Do no harm** – managing risk including by and to ourselves



Three field research reports



www.oxfam.org.uk/lighting

8 Lighting Case Studies



Literature Review

