

Qualitative Research progress report: Preliminary impression Addis Ababa University

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Introduction

The qualitative research is planned and undertaken to understand the current challenges faced by women in selected informal settlements/ slum.

The qualitative research followed a case study design to grasp the full situation of women fully.



Methods/ tools

- Interview guides were prepared for 8 thematic areas and two team members reviewed it.
- The interview guides were pretested on some respondents and minor edition was done on some questions.
- Data collection was done for a duration of two weeks, on a total of 4 days for 6 thematic areas.
- Food and tenure security is planned to be undertaken after this workshop





Major challenges faced by women

- The vast majority of the women are
- still ill-fed,
- Food insecurity (because of high inflation on basic goods, they are unable to feed themselves and their children)
- They do not feed for their family
- ill-clothed,
- ill-housed and
- Ill health
- Housing problem (uncertainty on where to go the next day as a result of the existing house demolishing in the area)
- Housing
- Lack of credit and saving services
- lack of work and seed money
- Poor sanitation and hygiene
- No assets/properties
- low participation in social organizations such as iddirs, iqubs, maheber, women associations mainly due to lack of minimum payment for being membership
- ill-educated and
- absolute poor.
- They do not have a source of income, job
- They are trapped in the vicious circle of poverty which is characterized by
- large-scale unemployment and underemployment,
- Unemployment (often this is also a challenge for their mature children who have graduated from universities or colleges)
- low level of income,
- low productivity,
- weak technological base,
- market imperfections and
- lack of skill





Challenges faced during the interview

- On the topic of willingness to participate in interviews, slum dwellers displayed a remarkable readiness to share their experiences without hesitation or shame, showcasing their openness to communicate their challenges to concerned individuals.
- As an interviewer, witnessing the living conditions of families exceeding four members in congested dwellings lacking basic amenities like sanitation materials evoked a sense of sorrow.
- Noteworthy challenges in the area include pervasive foul odors, overcrowded living spaces, and the scarcity of land, with households residing in diminutive, densely packed rooms susceptible to potential risks like landslides along the riverbanks.
- The narratives revealed a profound reliance on faith among many women, indicating their resilience in the face of adversities.
- Key informants expressed expectations of incentives, while some exhibited reluctance, possibly anticipating minimal outcomes from the assessment.
- Severe sanitation issues in the locality contributed to the interviewer contracting common cold symptoms.
- Engagement with the community posed challenges, as the residents viewed the interviewer as a potential problem solver, pouring out their emotional struggles and displaying eagerness for assistance during the interviews.
- The emotional intensity was palpable, with some individuals breaking down in tears while recounting the dire circumstances they faced.
- Obtaining essential documents like Kebele ID cards proved arduous for residents constrained by cramped living spaces rented from landlords, underscoring the complexities they encounter in accessing basic services and official identification.





Overall positive and negative impressions about the site

- The absence of essential amenities in the slums is evident, with inadequate water supply, sanitation challenges, and unmanaged solid waste posing significant issues for residents. Although electricity is relatively available, certain areas face issues of inconsistent supply and frequent outages.
- During interviews, respondents mocked questions regarding access to credit, trade facilities, skill training, and assistance, indicating gaps in their awareness and resources.
- Furthermore, there is a lack of knowledge on family planning among dwellers, emphasizing the need for reproductive health education and services.
- Notably, there is a severe housing shortage, particularly affecting women in slums and informal settlements, amidst a densely populated and socially challenging environment.
- The substandard living conditions in low-income areas contribute to various social, health, and environmental concerns, underscoring the urgency for improved infrastructure and services.
- Despite the hardships, a strong sense of community cohesion was observed, manifesting in mutual support and resilience within the neighborhood.
- However, there was noticeable hesitancy among key informants to allow access to their homes, emphasizing privacy concerns and perhaps financial constraints.
- Amidst these challenges, residents expressed gratitude towards faith, expressing hope for positive transformations in their circumstances.
- Faced with financial dependence on spouses and limited education opportunities, residents exhibit a strong willingness to work and improve their livelihoods if provided with employment opportunities and initial financial support.
- They have vision to work and change improve their lives provided that they get working places and seedmoney supports





Thematic areas: overlap and nexus

- The social network was highlighted as a positive aspect by the interviewee. They mentioned that during times of disasters such as fires, food scarcity, family losses, floods, and theft, the community demonstrated strong organization, although it may not serve as a long-term solution.
- While inquiring about social capital or relationships, the interviewees predominantly focused on their livelihood. It was observed that their primary concerns revolved around basic necessities, particularly food and shelter.
- Despite their shock absorber capacity, they reside in low-quality living conditions. They exhibit the ability to effectively manage their assets and resources to address their problems.



Next steps



Finalizing the translation and transcription of the interviews

Prepare a code book and start the analysis

Prepare a draft report for all thematic areas

Present the result in an online session to be arranged

Draft the manuscript for publication

Link to urban transformation in terms of drivers and possible pathways of change for the TD

