



LVIF Guidelines for preparing final technical reports

Livestock Vaccine Innovation Fund

Guidelines for Preparing Final Technical Reports



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Capacity building on the Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index (IDRC Project 109268)

| Reporting period | October 4, 2019 – April 4, 2022 |
|---|---|
| Project number | 109268 |
| Research organization involved in the study | International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) |
| Location of study | Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Ghana, Senegal, Nepal |
| Ву | Alessandra Galie |
| Project title | Capacity building on the Women's Empowerment |
| | in Livestock Index |
| Start date | October 4, 2019 |
| Completion date | April 4, 2022 |
| Project budget | \$ 173,500 CAD |
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| | Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 |
| | International Licence. ILRI, 2015 |

Executive summary (2 page max.):

Through this grant, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) supported three projects under the International Development Research Centre's (IDRC) Livestock Vaccine Innovation Fund (LVIF) with implementation of the Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index (WELI) tool in their work. ILRI's work focused on three main areas: 1. Individual support for research team members across the three projects; 2. Support to project WELI teams through group sessions and trainings; and 3. Development of WELI guidelines and analysis files to support researchers.

On 1. Individual support for team members across the three projects. Throughout the duration of this grant, support to individuals was ad hoc, in the sense that support was provided when researchers responsible for implementing the WELI in their projects approached ILRI about a specific issue. Nine individuals were supported on a number of WELI-related issues, mostly associated with data analysis.

On 2. Support to teams through group sessions and trainings. ILRI organized five group trainings on the use of the WELI tool, as well as two trainings and one workshop on data analysis. The institute also contributed to discussions on potential meta-analysis as part of the 2019 annual LVIF meeting. Finally, ILRI supported the University of Florida LVIF research team (IDRC project 109062) in approaches to analysis based on the theoretical underpinnings of empowerment in the WELI, and held virtual discussions with the university LVIF SheVax team (IDRC project 109061) on options for WELI use in the endline survey.

On 3. Development of WELI guidelines and analysis files to support researchers. ILRI finalized the WELI survey tool in English and French, the related manual, and the related Open Data Kit (ODK) version of the tool. The institute also finalized the WELI calculation files and the related calculation overview document. Updated versions of the data preparation files, including Stata versions of files originally developed in R (a statistical programming language), as well as of the indicator and index calculation files were shared through the WELI Slack channel, which was set up to facilitate communication and sharing lessons and problems among the IDRC researchers using the WELI tool. New developments, for example, in regard to determining variation measures of indicator values, are being developed and shared among the teams. Finally, ILRI liaised with IDRC's Cultivate Africa's Future (CultiAF) program, whose projects are using a sister tool, the Project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI) to develop a unified project reporting template on empowerment measures across both the LVIF and CultiAF programs.

This report does not include details on the WELI work done with the LVIF Women Rear team (IDRC project 109064) in Ghana, in which ILRI is involved as a partner.

The research problem (1 page max.):

Women's empowerment in the livestock sector is essential to progress towards gender equity and to fostering livestock development. Livestock provide key opportunities for women's empowerment because they are more easily controlled by women than other high-value assets, especially land. Livestock provide animal source foods that are key for women's traditional role in securing household nutrition. Also, women already represent the majority of livestock keepers, and their empowerment is necessary for the livestock sector to develop further.

Diverse strategies exist to empower women, yet they are difficult to assess or prioritize without a reliable and accepted means to measure 'empowerment'. Combining such a measure with an enhanced understanding of what leads to positive empowerment outcomes supports the prioritization and implementation of empowerment interventions. In 2015, ILRI, in collaboration with Emory University, developed the Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index (WELI) survey tool, based on the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) developed earlier by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), which is typically implemented as a baseline and endline survey for farmers with a focus on crops.

Despite its reliability in certain agricultural contexts, the WEAI requires adaptation in settings where livestock farming is the dominant form of livelihood. The WELI measures women's empowerment in livestock and crop farming, focusing specifically on key decisions of livestock production, such as animal health, breeding and feeding; and on use of livestock products, such as animal-source-food processing and marketing.

Four IDRC LVIF research projects (IDRC projects 109061, 109062, 109063, and 109064) focused on gender inclusive livestock vaccine value chains showed interest in implementing the WELI. One of these four projects involved ILRI as a partner and was therefore not covered by this project that therefore supported the remaining three LVIF projects, only. The four projects are focused on six countries: Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda. It was important to adapt the WELI to capture changes in women's empowerment related to vaccines, and to localize it to the project specificities for the projects to use the tool. Such finalization would also ensure a smoother implementation, a higher comparability of data produced across the set of projects and more reliable data – for LVIF projects and other projects that adopt the tool. The LVIF projects also needed to be trained on the use of the tool. This project was therefore designed to support the LVIF project teams to obtain a vaccine-focused WELI tool, implement the WELI, and analyze and interpret the results.

Provide a synthesized reflection on the overall progress of the project (please include the general objective of the project). Describe the contribution to knowledge that this project represents from a scientific, developmental and/or policy perspective.

Overall, this project has helped achieve a number of the set goals: The WELI tool and related files:

- The WELI tool has been adapted to the 4 LVIF projects, including a vaccine module (see Annex 1).
- The WELI survey and user manual have been translated into French (Annex 3 and 4).
- Analysis files and other related files have been improved or created:
 - The WELI main tool and user manual have been rephrased for better explanation of survey questions and for clearer explanations on utilization (Annex 1 and 2)
 - The analysis file has been improved to remove errors (Annex 5)
 - A document has been created to provide an overview of the approach to analysis (Annex 6)
 - An overview document of the WELI-WEAI comparison has been prepared (Annex 7)
 - The ODK has been streamlined and simplified (Annex 1)
 - o Instruction guides on downloading the ODK have been prepared (Annex 20)
 - Arrangements have been made for data storage on the ILRI server by all teams and a related non-disclosure agreement has been drafted (Annex 21).
- Brief: overview of the WELI tool and how it works (Annex 8).

Capacity development of LVIF teams:

- Four project teams have been trained to implement the WELI.
- Individuals have also been supported in specific aspects of WELI utilization, for example
 - o correcting respondent identification (gender, household position),
 - selecting appropriate livestock species for analysis,
 (including work-around for cases without livestock records for target species),
 - o understanding and addressing missing values,
 - o interpreting low work-time values, and
 - interpreting index results.
- To date, all four projects have utilized the WELI at baseline.
- To date, some projects have analyzed the baseline data with ILRI support in both analysis and data interpretation. Such analyses have already been published by some of the projects and have started to shed light on the link between animal vaccines and women's empowerment.

Looking into the future, ILRI expects that this work will contribute to scientific progress on gender-equitable animal vaccines by shedding light on how each project impacted women's empowerment through animal vaccines (ILRI expects such data will be available after projects implement their endlines in 2023). A future meta-analysis of this data should allow a broader understanding of local meanings of empowerment and also of what approaches are most effective to support women's empowerment through animal vaccines. Such understandings will help improve our development impact in both animal vaccine systems and gender equality, and the data produced can inform the development of gender-responsive animal vaccine systems in each of the respective countries.

Improvements in the WELI tool are contributing to progress in both livestock research and development beyond ILRI and IDRC. Use of the WELI tool by the four projects has allowed the ILRI WELI team to further test the tool's field performance and to finalize files and approaches for data analysis (annexed in this report as research outputs). The improved WELI toolkit (i.e. WELI survey questionnaire (paper and ODK builder file), user manual and analysis files (data review and correction; and three data processing for index calculation files) has since been adopted by a number of international organizations. ILRI has also used the information on field performance to identify the next necessary steps for WELI development. Shortening of the tool has emerged as the most pressing change needed and ILRI has already started this work. Because the WELI is currently a research tool in development, it needs to assess the performance of and relevance to numerous indicators of empowerment and associated questions in livestock communities. As a result, the current WELI tool is lengthy and takes between 1.5 and 3 hours to implement (depending on the number of species kept by the household). ILRI is now working on two shorter versions of the tool: one that only includes questions that are used for the index calculation (length roughly 1 hour; a more accurate timing can be estimated after field testing); and another that is very short (roughly 30 minutes). The data emerging from the four LVIF projects will help to shorten the tool, showing, for example, which survey questions are redundant or less significant for determining indicator values. Overall, these efforts to improve the WELI tool (also part of other financial support provided by IDRC under project 109786, together with the IFPRI WEAI team) can increase the adoption of the empowerment indices within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which ILRI and IFPRI are part of, and beyond, and help build a body of knowledge on women's empowerment through livestock, and animal vaccines in particular.

Progress towards milestones (5 pages max.):

Briefly describe achievement of project milestones (as specified in the Grant Agreement and included below) for the entire reporting period. Provide evidence that milestones were achieved, and refer to the hard evidence in previous reports and/or attached annexes (as needed). If applicable, explain why any were not achieved.

1. Description of all the training workshops, including number and name of participants, agenda, outcomes, and participant evaluation results and feedback.

Trainings and workshop

- a. Training in Kenya. 7–9 October 2019, Nairobi, ILRI Office (35 participants)
 The training included the following components: Introduction to the WELI tool;
 Introduction to the qualitative WELI: research content and best practices to conduct focus group discussions; quantitative WELI; the ODK tool: introduction and practice; data storage (ODK, ILRI server, options for data storage etc); ethics: consent, anonymity and research steps; introducing the manual; next steps; and certificates of attendance. The training allowed adjustments to the program-specific vaccine module of the survey tool to be made. In addition, more notes and comments (also in Swahili) were included in the paper version of the survey to guide enumerators, and several bugs in the ODK file were identified and attended to.
- b. Training in Uganda. 28–31 October 2019, Kampala, ILRI Office (14 participants) The content of this training was the same as the Kenyan training above.
- c. Training in Senegal. Dates: 5–7 Feb 2020, Thies (7 participants)
 As with the other initial WELI trainings (Kenya and Uganda), this one covered the background on women's empowerment index (rationale, dimension, use etc.), and detailed training on each component and use of the ODK. The lessons and challenges from the pre-testing were discussed during the classroom sessions. This training was also an opportunity to finalze the French version of the questionnaire and the manual.
- d. Virtual workshop, LVIF annual project meeting: 5–12 June 2020 (roughly 50 participants)
 This training covered qualitative analysis, quantitative data processing, and index calculation.
- e. Virtual training in Kenya. 20–23 July 2020 (12 participants from the Gender Inclusive Vaccine Ecosystem (GIVE) project)

 The training covered the ODK form of the WELI survey tool for digital data collection and pretesting. It involved new participants from the projects.
- f. Virtual training in Ghana. 9–14 November 2020 (16 participants)
 This was the first training for the Ghanaian team and included content similar to the first Kenyan training above.
- g. Virtual training part of the LVIF Community of Practice (CoP) meeting n. 5: 24
 November 2020 (32 participants)
 This was an overview and discussion of the initial WELI analysis (with examples from the SheVax project).
- h. Virtual training: 8, 10 and 12 February 2021 (31 participants)

The training covered WELI quantitative analysis; integrating quantitative and qualitative analysis; IFPRI experiences on WEAI synthesis and plans for the WEAI tool; and plans for WELI synthesis.

Individuals supported

UoF project (109062): 4 team members; GIVE project (109063): 3 team members; SheVax project (109061): 2 team members.

Nitya Singh (University of Florida project data person); Ken Waweru (GIVE project data person); and Sylvia Onchaga, Jemimah Oduma, Hellen Amuguni and Tess Gannaway (SheVax project team members) were supported at various stages of the WELI, such as downloading and reviewing the raw survey data, understanding the data structure; correcting identification issues (IDs, gender and household position); dealing with missing values (work-time and livestock species); addressing issues with data processing and index calculation; and interpreting WELI results.

The University of Florida project team (Renata Serra, Nargiza Ludgate and Sarah McKune) was supported with data analysis choices based on empowerment theoretical underpinnings.

2. Copy of the WELI English and French training manuals, questionnaires, and key training material.

WELI English questionnaire (Annex 1)

WELI English instructional guide (Annex 2)

WELI French questionnaire (Annex 3)

WELI French instructional guide (Annex 4)

Training material:

Empowerment assumptions and basic constructs (Annex 9); French version (Annex 14)

Introduction to key concepts of the WELI (Annex 10); French version (Annex 15)

Introduction to the WELI (Annex 11); French version (Annex 16)

Data storage options (Annex 12); French version (Annex 18)

Consent and research ethics (Annex 13); French version (Annex 17)

3. Description of the total time to date spent on virtual support to IDRC grantees, including an assessment of type and degree of support, challenges and achievements.

Estimates of time used overall:

- 8 trainings, 8 days each for prep and delivery, 3 people: 192 days
- ODK adjustments: 60 days
- Individual trainings: 9 days
- Calls and emails with various teams: 10 days, 3 people: 30 days
- Other documents: 20 days
- TOTAL 311 days This is above the submitted budget line for this project. The difference
 was supported by the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock. The mismatch between
 initial ILRI estimates and actual time were due to a number of factors: the LVIF teams'
 level of expertise was unknown; the WELI was a new tool and ILRI identified bugs to
 address along the way; IFPRI was initially meant to be in charge of data analysis support.

4. Overall assessment and description of support and capacity built by project teams on measuring women's empowerment in agriculture/livestock research projects and ability to diagnose key areas of disempowerment, design appropriate strategies to address deficiencies, and monitor project outcomes related to women's empowerment for the 4 LVIF projects.

Through the trainings, workshops, and the LVIF community of practice and annual learning meetings, the ILRI WELI team has engaged in discussions with the cohort of projects on the concepts of empowerment, gender equality and livestock development. ILRI has looked at the domains of empowerment and livestock pillars (animal health, genetics, feeds and forages) and their correlation in detail. The institute has also explored the local relevance of these concepts, and discussed the importance and shortcomings of the WELI quantitative and qualitative assessments of impacts on empowerment, as well as the way the two approaches complement one another. Overall, ILRI has engaged in conversations about good practices in quantitative, qualitative and gender analysis, and research ethics, while also engaging in interpretation of baseline data with some teams.

Synthesis of research results and development outcomes (10 pages max.):

The analysis of outcomes should take into account social, gender and environmental dimensions wherever appropriate and possible.

<u>Project General Objectives</u>: To build capacity within three LVIF projects to use the WELI tool to measure impacts of the projects on women's empowerment.

Project Specific Objectives:

- 1. To provide in-person training and implementation support of the WELI for enumerators and project staff.
- 2. To translate the WELI into French and ensure comparability of data.

ILRI has provided in-person trainings to eight people and eight group trainings to a total of 197 participants, including team members, enumerators and consultants engaged in data analysis.

The WELI tool has been translated into French together with other relevant material (Annexes 3, 4, 14-18).

This project has helped strengthen and build capacity among LVIF project teams and enumerators (also based on a needs assessment – see Annex 19) on the use of the WELI and also, more generally, on concepts, measurements and data interpretation related to women's empowerment and livestock interventions with a focus on animal vaccines and on various cultural contexts. ILRI has explored with them the value and complementarity of qualitative and quantitative approaches to assess changes in women's empowerment, as well as best practices in both approaches. The institute has also discussed with enumerators and project staff the complexities of developing an index such as the WELI and the rationale for engaging in such an effort to build a body of knowledge on women's empowerment and livestock development to improve future interventions.

In the process, ILRI has refined the WELI tool and related files, which have been adopted by international organizations. ILRI has also identified the next steps for the improvement of the WELI and started this work already.

For each project research objective:

- Highlight any unexpected, surprising or interesting innovative results that you can draw out of the research.
- Research ethics: Has the project collected corporate or personal information? If so, what are the protocols the project put in place to obtain informed consent and maintain confidentiality?

This project focused on capacity development of three (out of the four) LVIF projects on studying women's empowerment and livestock through the WELI. The overall goal was to help the projects collect data on empowerment systematically and in ways that made data comparable across the projects. Actual results on empowerment are beyond the expected outputs of this project. Still, it is worth mentioning that some innovative results started to emerge from the projects, although the endline results from the WELI are not available yet (anticipated March 2023). Some analysis has shown, for example, an interesting correlation between women's empowerment and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) vaccines (Omondi et al 2022: https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/12/6/717).

On research ethics, ILRI provided the 3 LVIF teams with a non-disclosure agreement so that the teams' enumerators could upload their WELI interview data to the ILRI ODK server without compromising data privacy. This server served as a temporary data storage for aggregating the interviews of each LVIF team and then allowing each team to download their survey data sets for review and analysis.

Use of research results

• Describe any potential uptake of project results foreseen within 3 years of the end of the project.

The LVIF teams are all strongly committed to and focused on gender equality and livestock development. ILRI expects the teams to continue engaging with measurements of women's empowerment in livestock utilizing the WELI or future forms of the tool. Some of the teams have already expressed an interest in implementing the short WELI that ILRI is developing for their endlines.

Project outputs (1/2 page)

What were the main outputs of the project? Identify any outputs that were planned, but which have yet to materialize. Specify when these outputs will be completed, including plans for any future publications. Specify how you have met the requirements of IDRC's <u>Open Access Policy</u>. If appropriate, highlight any unique or innovative outputs. If appropriate, explain why outputs were not completed or were of poor quality.

All project outputs have been delivered. Kindly see attachments under section 'Progress towards milestones.'

Problems and challenges (1 page):

Have there been any significant problems or challenges faced by the project? These could include delays, problems amongst stakeholders, with research activities, IP management, vaccine registration/distribution, etc. Highlight any risks that might have emerged in the project, and innovative ways you have found to deal with these risks. Reflect on possible problems and challenges related to ethics.

ILRI experienced the following main challenges when implementing the project:

1. The WELI tool was developed because the scientific community needs to better understand the connections between women's empowerment and livestock development for more equitable and effective livestock development. Therefore, the WELI is a tool in development (as much as the IFPRI led the WEAI). It needs continuous adjustments, revisions and changes as new evidence on women's empowerment and livestock emerges, and across contexts. Also, as a research institute, ILRI – together with partners – developed the WELI as a public good that any organization can utilize, develop further, adapt etc. Yet, one team did not seem to fully appreciate the experimental nature of the WELI tool and the role ILRI took in this project as a 'facilitator' of tool utilization by LVIF projects and ILRI's engagement with the tool's continuous improvement. Rather, it seems that this team expected ILRI to act as a 'service provider' or 'consultant' providing a finished product and undertaking analysis if requested. Consequently, this team experienced frustration in cases where the tool had glitches (issues with work-time calculation, with missing target species and with missing value filters) or when ILRI did not engage in providing direct and timely (vis-à-vis this team's level of expectation) team support where the institute considered this engagement beyond the scope of this project. This support was especially related to the quantitative analysis of the results, starting from the data structure to managing the data and then generating analysis results. It appears that nobody within the partner team had substantive experience with analysing quantitative household-level data. Expectations were clarified with the support of Ms Wendy Manchur from IDRC.

- 2. As a research and experimental tool, the WELI is lengthy (typically between 1.5 and 3 hours). Users of the tool, including ourselves, have found the tool implementation burdensome and time consuming. However, thanks to this project, ILRI now has a basis for effectively shortening the WELI. By gathering large datasets, ILRI can now confidently assess through statistical analysis what parts of the tool are contributing less to the determination of the indicators and the overall index for measuring women's empowerment in livestock.
- 3. The extractive nature of the survey with respondents results in them not seeing direct benefit. This challenge may be lower in some cases where the tool is implemented with project direct beneficiaries vis-a-vis studies that adopt 'control' groups or implement the survey with actors along the value chain that may not benefit directly from the project. Feedback from the tool analysis is meant to be integrated into the project design for better project impact. The short version ILRI is developing can help to partly address this problem. ILRI is also considering a participatory version of the tool. This is work in progress.
- 4. This project was about capacity development of LVIF teams. In-person trainings were our preferred approach to build capacity. However, COVID-19 and restrictions on travel and personal meetings led us to conduct mostly virtual trainings. This had some positive and one negative effect: the virtual trainings were less costly so ILRI could conduct more sessions than originally planned; they allowed time for field testing (which an in-person training does not allow given the travel entailed between the central training site and fieldwork sites); and they put more emphasis on the need to train local expertise. In-person training, on the other hand, facilitates the exchange of experiences and supports stronger relationships amongst collaborators.
- 5. The WELI slack channel that ILRI used to share some of the project outputs and updates was not used much by the teams. Emails and meetings seemed the preferred communication channels.
- 6. The original project scope was that IFPRI would provide support for data analysis for both the IDRC set of projects under the LVIF program as well as the CultiAF set of projects. However, this proved not very efficient and had to be adjusted in Q1 2020. This was primarily because of IFPRI's lack of familiarity with the livestock context and the specificities of the WELI tool as compared to the pro-WEAI tool. A project amendment was thus done for ILRI to provide WELI training as well as support for WELI data analysis. As the four projects have all received a 12-month extension to March 2023 due to COVID-19 impacts, they will extend beyond the life of this support project. It is apparent that the teams will also require WELI support by ILRI with their more relevant endline analysis that have now been shifted to Q1 2023. Thus, ILRI is currently in discussions with IDRC about the institute's support for endline analysis of the three LVIF projects.
- 7. The support needed by external partners varies, and it is difficult to anticipate the extent to which support is required. It is therefore important to build flexibility in the ILRI WELI team; more or fewer people available to support, type of expertise required, etc.

Overall assessment and recommendations (1/2 page):

This section is not about research recommendations, but administrative recommendations for IDRC. What would you do differently as a result of this experience, and what general and useful lessons can be derived for improving future projects?

Overall, the IDRC team has been very supportive. Ms Manchur has facilitated interaction with other teams and clarification of expectations. She has looked for opportunities to capitalize the capacity development efforts of this project, and offered a space to discuss problems and identify practical solutions to address difficulties. ILRI very much appreciates this collaboration.

Because WELI was developed by ILRI for its use without expectation of the (very welcome) adoption by other organizations, the institute needed to create a team of staff dedicated to the WELI and related trainings to be able to quickly respond to requests for support. However, because of the smaller grant that was initially assigned to this project and its short time span, ILRI found it difficult to hire new staff fully dedicated to the WELI under this project. This situation was compounded by funding uncertainty from the CGIAR and the consequent need for our team to be cautious with new hires. Eventually, ILRI did manage to hire a consultant in the course of this project using other funds. Still, ILRI is aware of the fact that while preparing this project, the level of support needed by the teams was unclear, as well as the materials ILRI needed to develop for users. Also, this project relied on IFPRI's involvement, which did not materialize. Moreover, the original expectation was that ILRI would implement the WELI baseline in its Ghana project before the other projects' baselines and would thereby fix the tool glitches first then provide the other three projects with a more refined tool. However, delays in the implementation of the Ghana project meant that the other three teams implemented the WELI before the Ghana project – and also experienced the glitches first – making the entire process of ILRI supporting the LVIF projects more difficult. Finally, COVID-19 changed the time span of the projects - an unpredictable change when the contract was first stipulated. Ideally, given that IDRC continues to support the WELI (now through the Gender Platform also), ILRI and IDRC would have discussed a longer-term plan to support the WELI work – within the LVIF program or possibly outside of it – early on. Awareness of this longer-term commitment would have allowed ILRI to hire a larger and dedicated WELI team.

ANNEXES

1. WELI questionnaire with vaccine module in English



2. WELI instructional guide in English



3. WELI survey in French



4. WELI instructional guide in French



5. Analysis files



WELI_dataprocessin g_2021.zip

6. Overview of the approach to analysis



7. Overview of WEAI-WELI comparison



8. Brief: overview of WELI and how it works



9. Training material: Empowerment assumptions and basic constructs



10. Training material: Introduction to key concepts for the WELI



11. Training material: Introduction to the WELI



Introduction to the Womens Empowern

12. Training material: Data storage options



Data storage Options for LVIF prc

13. Training material: Consent form and ethics



Consent-Research Ethics-Research Ster

14. Training material in French: Empowerment assumptions and basic constructs



qualitative WELI an intro FR_REV.pdf

15. Training material in French: Introduction to key concepts for the WELI



Introduction to Key Concepts for the WI

16. Training material in French: Introduction to the WELI



Introduction to the Womens Empowern

17. Training material in French: Consent and research ethics



18. Training material in French: Data storage options



19. WELI needs assessment



20. Instructions on downloading ODK files



21. Non-disclosure agreement

