

# KAGERA HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

## PRICE QUESTIONNAIRE

### General Instructions

You must complete the price questionnaire in the nearest daily market to every cluster of households. A daily market is one that takes place at least six days per week. The price questionnaire should be completed for every cluster, both urban and rural. In most cases there will be a daily market in the village or town being interviewed. If there is no daily market, then the supervisor will find out where the nearest daily market is located and you will visit that market to complete the questionnaire.

The price questionnaire may be completed either during round one or round two. The price questionnaire contains a list of 30 food items, six pharmaceutical products and 13 non-food items. You must collect three prices for each item in the questionnaire. The prices should be obtained from three traders at different locations in the market.

You should begin by explaining to the traders that you do not intend to buy their goods. You are only conducting a survey of prices and the information will not be used for tax purposes. The first price quoted by the trader should be recorded. On no account should there be any bargaining. If you bargain for the price, the trader will be annoyed if you make no purchase.

### Food items

The price of food items is to be measured by weighing each item and recording both the price and the weight on the questionnaire. For this purpose you will be provided with a food scale. The scale must be kept in working order. Before making each measurement, you should "zero" the scale. This means that you should adjust the scale so that it reads "zero grams" when it is empty. If the food to be measured is in a container, the scale must be "zeroed" with the container empty before the food is added. This procedure must be followed for each food item.

The weight of all food items must be recorded in grams. One kilogram is the same as 1000 grams; half a kilogram is 500 grams; one quarter of a kilogram is 250 grams. If a food item weights two kilograms, you must write 2000 grams.

The weight should be recorded to the nearest 50 grams. This means that if a food item weighs 375 grams, the anthropometrist should round up the weight to 400 grams. If the item weights 370 grams, the anthropometrist should round down the weight to 350 grams.

<u>Weight in grams</u>	<u>Weight recorded</u>
25 - 74	50
75 - 124	100
125 - 174	150
175 - 224	200
225 - 274	250
925 - 974	950
975 - 1025	1000

You must always record the weight of food items in grams, unless the questionnaire instructs otherwise. For example, if someone is selling bananas by the piece, you should ask the price of one banana, weigh it, and record the weight in grams. If bananas are sold in bunches, you should ask

the price of a bunch and weigh a bunch. You should not write "1 banana" or "1 bunch" on the questionnaire as this will be entered in the computer as one gram, which is incorrect. If someone is selling potatoes in groups of three, you should ask the price for three potatoes, weigh them and record the price and weight, in grams. You must not write "3 potatoes", as this will be entered in the computer as three grams, which is also incorrect.

Everything written on the questionnaire will be recorded into the computer. The weight should be recorded clearly and without the unit of measurement. For example, 500 grams of sugar at a price of 100 Tshs should be recorded as follows:

		OBSERVATION	
		GRAMS	PRICE
06	Sugar	500	100

Do not write "g" or "gm" after the weight or "Tshs" or /= after the price.

There is only one food item in the price questionnaire that is not measured in grams -- chicken eggs. You must ask the price of one egg. The number 1 is already written in the questionnaire, and it means "one egg" not "one gram". Eggs should not be weighed.

#### Pharmaceutical products

There are six pharmaceutical products in the price questionnaire. These products should not be weighed. The first four items should be measured in tablets. For example, if nivaquine tablets are being sold at two tablets

for 25 Tshs, then it should be recorded as:

		1ST OBSERVATION	
		TABLETS	PRICE
33	Nivaquine	2	25

If aspirin tablets are sold one at a time for two Tshs each, then you should record 1 in the column for tablets and 2 in the column for price.

Two of the items -- liver salts and milk of magnesia -- are not sold in tablet form. You must record the price of one packet of liver salts and one bottle of milk of magnesia. The amount is already written in the questionnaire; the anthropometrist should only copy the price for these two items.

Non-food items

There are 13 non-food items for which prices must be collected. Most of the non-food items do not have to be weighed. The prices should always correspond to the description of the item in the questionnaire. For example, the price recorded for a battery should always be for one battery of 1.5 volts. A price should not be recorded for a 4-volt battery. The price for firewood should be for a bunch about one foot in diameter -- no smaller, no larger.

The last non-food item is charcoal. This is the only non-food item that must be weighed, in grams. The price should be asked for a small amount of charcoal -- not a large sack.

Problems

Sometimes, sellers of food items will not allow their goods to be weighed unless a purchase is made. In this case, you should wait for a customer to make a purchase and record the weight and the price paid.

Occasionally you will have problems finding certain items. For example, smoked fish may not be sold in the markets of mountain villages. When this happens, write "NA" in all of the columns for that item. In this example:

		GRAMS	PRICE	GRAMS	PRICE	GRAMS
25	Smoked Fish	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA means "not available"

You may also find that only one person in the market sells an item. Then you will only be able to get one price. You should record the price from this one vendor, then write in the columns for the second and third prices "NA".

You must make every effort to locate all of the items and to get three prices for each. All cases of "NA" will be examined closely by your supervisor.