**Support tool Impact: Family dwelling capacity evaluation on Mount Elgon**

**Baseline-Interview Questionnaire**

August 2017

Client: Mount Elgon Trust of Kenya

Partner Applicant: Stichting Elimu Mount Elgon.

Location: Chepchoina, at the slopes of Mount Elgon in Western Kenya

Catchment area approximately 5 km around the projects.

Researcher: Ir.-arch. Michiel Smits PhD Candidate

The department of Architecture, Chair of Methods & Analysis

Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology

**RESEARCH INFORMATION**

**Central Research Question:**

What is the current self-reliance level of family’s towards their housing situation?

What is the desired level of the self-reliance of the family towards their housing situation?

**Objective:** Assess and evaluate existing level of self-reliance regarding the housing situation of the family in relation to their community

**Aim:** To determine the self-reliance level of the family in relation to their community within their housing situation. It will be used as a baseline measurement for the *Rural Housing Studio Support Tool*, in order to compare the self-reliance level before and after application of the support tool.

#### QUESTIONNAIRE

#### INTRODUCTION:

You have previously signed a document about the recordings that will be made during the project and how they will be handled (privacy). By signing the audio/video consent form you have agreed that I as leading researcher, the engineer and his student are allowed to make audio/video recordings. In order to confirm authenticity of this questionnaire I would like to make a **video recording**. Do you have any objections for me recording this interview so that I am able to write out the interview later? Do you have any questions before we begin?

#### - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - START VIDEO RECORDING - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

As independent researcher I am an going to conduct an interview with you to get to know your views on your housing situation. You are family.....………………….living in the village of Chepchoina and for the purpose of our research you have been given number ......

This interview is voluntary, will take approximately 1,5 to 2 hours and can be stopped by you at all time. If you have any questions or uncertainties you are welcome to address them during the interview. I have written the questions down and printed them to be precise, I am sorry this might feel impersonal but is essential to take the same interview with the other families.

Your family has applied for the rural housing studio project, which will help you to build a new house for your family. By signing the contract you have committed your family to the project and are you able to abandon the project at all time. This project is a part of my research at the Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands, that aims at helping poor rural families to build houses, which would increase the level of family’s self-reliance (independence). Although we are helping you to construct a new house, we intend to make you independent from external labour and help (NGO’s). In this way you will be able to maintain, extend or replicate your house by yourself. To do so I’ve written a book to instruct the engineer and the student to advise you how to build a house by yourself. The outcomes of this research will directly influence your living situation, however will not directly influence the community. This interview is meant to understand how did you build your house, to what extend did you do it yourself, with the help of the community or with hired labour. We are curious if you will be more self-reliant with regard to your housing situation after the team leaves.

Do you understand the procedure? Do you have any questions about the procedure?

**THE QUESTIONS**

**Questions about current house:**

1. Do you own the house you live in?

If yes:

1. how is it financed?/did you need a loan, did you have savings

If no:

1. how is it financed?rental?
2. Does your house consists of one building or more?
3. What is/are the sizes of buildings? (meters or fet)
4. How many rooms does the house have?
5. Is the house large enough for the whole family?

If yes:

1. can you explain why?

If no:

1. can you explain why not?
2. Do you own the plot?
3. What materials did you use to build the house? (please list material per phase: foundations, floor, walls, roof, finishes)
4. In case the family has iron sheets:
5. How does the iron sheet roof behave when it rains?
6. What is the temperature inside during the midday under the iron sheet roof?
7. How much did the iron sheet roof cost?
8. Was it expensive?

If yes

Are there cheaper alternatives for roof material?

If yes:

1. Which are they?
2. How do they behave when it rains?
3. How do they behave in full sun?
4. Why did you choose the iron sheets?
5. Are those materials locally available (walking distance or by using your own mean of transport)?

If yes:

* 1. Did you have to pay for the materials or are there other ways of collecting/ acquire these materials

If not:

* 1. Did you bring materials yourself or did you hire somebody to do that for you?

If both:

* 1. Please answer a+b

1. Are those materials local natural resources (e.g. mud or straw)or manufactured (e.g. cement, iron sheet)?
2. Are those materials expensive or cheap, please answer using the following scale?

1-very cheap, 2 - cheap, 3- affordable, 4- expensive, 5- very expensive

1. Did you build your house yourself? (Please explain per construction phase: foundations, floor, walls, roof, finishes)?

If yes:

* 1. Did you have help?
  2. From who?
  3. What did they help you with?
  4. Was it small or substantial help?
  5. Were the community members able to help you with it? (did they have the necessary skills?)
  6. Did the community members help you with it?
     1. In which parts did they assist?
     2. Were these skilled or unskilled tasks
  7. Did they do it for free or were they compensated?

If compensated:

* + 1. In what form were they compensated? (did you help them in return, did you provide the with meals, did you pay them?)

If no:

* 1. Did you hire labour?
  2. Were the workers for all or some of the work?
  3. Why did you hire labour?

If lack of knowledge was the problem:

* + 1. Would you have built the house yourself if you would have known how to do it?

1. To what extend do you have the knowledge to build in this way (with this method)?
2. How and when were you trained to build this way?
3. Could you extend or duplicate the house by yourself?
4. Did you help any other community member constructing their house?

If yes:

* 1. Did you helped the people that helped you?
  2. What did you help with, what did you do?

1. Are you satisfied with your current house?

If yes:

* 1. What do you like about the house?
  2. What makes your house special?

If no:

* 1. What don’t you like about the house?
     1. Why don’t you like it?
     2. What could you change to make it more likeable?

1. What does your house have in common with other houses in the community?
2. Did your house already need repairs?
3. What did you need to repair?
4. How frequently do you need to repair the house?
   1. Which component(s) need a lot of repair?
   2. What type of things/components of the house do you repair yourself?
   3. What type of things/components of the house can’t you repair yourself?
5. Do you know how to repair your house? (walls, floor, roof)

If yes:

* 1. Do you repair your house yourself?
  2. Could you still afford the repairs if you your income got smaller?

If not:

* 1. Do you need to hire somebody to do it for you?
  2. Can you afford that?
  3. Do you do that [hire somebody to repair your house]?
  4. Could you afford it if you would lose your income?

1. How much did the whole house cost?
2. Would you have preferred to build your house differently?
3. What would you have done differently?
4. Why didn’t you build your house like that?

If the answer insufficient fund (or similar)

1. What is the cause of such high price (e.g. materials, method)?
2. Did you have knowledge how to build all the elements of this house yourself?

If yes: explain why you didn’t build this house yes

If no: is there anybody in the community that could teach you that for free? Or is it so complicated you need to hire skilled labour to do it for you?

1. Would you prefer to build a house that you have sufficient building knowledge of?
2. Would you prefer to build the house by yourself (and your community) or to hire labour?

**If by yourself:**

* 1. Do you think that you would need the knowledge/help of the engineer and the student?
  2. For which aspects would you need the knowledge and help of the engineer and the student?

**If hire:**

* 1. Would have enough money to buy materials and hire labour?

1. Would you consider alternative materials that are cheaper, but have similar characteristics as your preferred materials?
2. Would you consider building method that is closer to your building knowledge?
3. Would you be interested to learn how to build with the materials/methods yourself?

If yes:

1. Why?

**Questions about the desired house:**

1. Which parts/elements of the current house would you like to use in the new house?
2. Out of what materials would you like to build your house from? (specify; foundation/floors/walls/roof: mud, brick, concrete, wood, steel sheet, etc.)
   1. Why; explain your arguments
   2. Why?
3. Do you have the knowledge how to build all the elements of this house yourself?

If yes: explain why you didn’t build this house yet

If no:

To what extend do you have the knowledge to build in this way?

Do you think you would be able to learn all those skills within next 3 months?

Is there anybody in the community that could teach you that for free?

Or is it so complicated you need to hire skilled labour to do it for you?

1. Could you extend or duplicate the house by yourself?
2. Would you prefer to build the house by yourself (and your community) or to hire labour?

If by yourself:

Do you think that you would need the knowledge help of the team?

If hire

* 1. Would have enough money to buy materials and hire labour?

1. What materials would you like to build the house from? (please list material of: foundations, floor, walls, roof, finishes)

In case the family chose iron sheets:

1. How does the iron sheet roof behave when it rains?
2. What is the temperature inside during the midday under the iron sheet roof?
3. How much does the iron sheet roof cost?
4. Is it expensive?

If yes

Are there cheaper alternatives for roof material?

If yes:

1. Which are they?
2. How do they behave when it rains?
3. How do they behave in full sun?
   1. Why do you choose the iron sheets?
4. Are those materials locally available (walking distance or using your own mean of transport)?

If yes:

* 1. Would you have to pay for the materials or are there other ways of collecting/ acquire these materials?

If not:

* 1. Would you bring materials yourself or would you hire somebody to do that for you?

If both:

* 1. Please answer a+b

1. Are those materials expensive or cheap, please answer using the following scale?

1-very cheap, 2 - cheap, 3- affordable, 4- expensive, 5- very expensive

1. Would you be able to finance this type of house?

If yes:

* 1. How? (From your savings, By taking a lone?)

1. Would you want to build this house yourself?

If yes:

* 1. Could the community members help you with it? (would they have the necessary skills)
  2. Would the community members help you with it?
  3. Would the friends, family and community members that helped you before help you again?
  4. Would they do it for free or would they be compensated?

If yes: -

If no:

* + 1. In what form (would you help them in return, would you provide the with meals) would you pay them?

If no:

* 1. Would you need to hire for one or some of the jobs?
  2. Would you need to help them as much they helped you?

1. Would this house need a lot of repairing?

If yes:

* 1. Why?
  2. Do you know how to improve the situation?

If no:

* 1. What do you need to know to improve?
  2. Is this important for wanting the new house?

1. How frequently would you need to repair the house?
2. Would you consider materials/methods that are cheaper, but have same characteristics (durability) as your preferred materials and methods have?
3. Would you want to know how to build/maintain the house yourself?

If yes:

* 1. Would you repair your house yourself?
  2. Could you afford the repairs if you would lose your income?

If not:

* 1. Would you need to hire somebody to do it for you?
  2. Could you afford that?
  3. Could you afford it if you would lose your income?

1. Would you want to learn how to build/repair your desired house?

If yes:

* 1. Would you be willing to help construct/repair a house for one of the community members in order to learn?
  2. Would you be willing to help construct/repair a public building (school/hospital/etc.) in order to learn?

1. Do you think that you will need help from an NGO after the project is finished?

**General information:**

1. Please state the names of parent(s)
2. Ages of parent(s)
3. Occupation of parent(s)
4. Pleas state the amount of children
5. Please state the name of children
6. What are ages of the children?
7. What is the occupation of children (please specify: education or work)?
8. Are there any other family members e.g. cousins, living with you?

If yes:

* 1. Please state who they are and their names

1. Do you have an income?
2. How much is your shared income?
3. Is this stable, or does fluctuates?
   1. If the income fluctuates:
   2. Does it fluctuate seasonally or occasionally?
4. If there are fluctuations how often and how much difference do they make?
5. Do you own a mean of transport? (bicycle, motorbike, donkeys)

If yes:

* 1. What type of transport do you own?

1. Do you have a shamba?
2. Do you own this land?
3. Does it generate income?

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##### Questionnaire Consent Form

Research investigator: Ir. Arch. M. Smits PhD candidate

We don’t anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the questionnaire or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be questionnaireed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research undertaken from Dutch institutions require that the questionnaireed explicitly agree to being questionnaireed and how the information contained in their questionnaire will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Please therefore read the information below and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

* the questionnaire will be recorded and a transcript will be produced
* you will be sent the transcript and given the opportunity to correct any factual errors
* the transcript of the questionnaire will be analysed by (Michiel Smits) as research investigator
* access to the questionnaire transcript will be limited to (Michiel Smits) and academic colleagues and researchers with whom he might collaborate as part of the research process
* any summary questionnaire content, or direct quotations from the questionnaire, that are made available through academic publication or other academic outlets will be anonymized so that you cannot be identified, and care will be taken to ensure that other information in the questionnaire that could identify yourself is not revealed
* the actual recording will be kept for valorisation purpose only
* any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval

1. Agreeing to this form I confirm that;
2. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don’t have to take part, and I can stop the questionnaire at any time;
3. The transcribed questionnaire or extracts from it may be used as described above;
4. I have read the Information sheet;
5. I don’t expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
6. I can request a copy of the transcript of my questionnaire and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
7. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact:

Name of researcher: Michiel Smits

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