What Should We Really Be Asking? Aggregated vs. Disaggregated Responses to Household Livelihood Questionnaires

Pamela Jagger, Marty Luckert,
Abwoli Banana and Joseph Bahati

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Overview

- Background Issues
- Approach
- Results
- Conclusions

Background Issues

- Many different approaches to collecting data from households
- Best method depends on purpose of the data
- For PEN, characterize livelihoods of households and gain insights into behaviour
- Two general approaches
  - Highly aggregated (e.g. PRA)
  - Highly disaggregated (e.g. hh questionnaires)

Background Issues

- Respondents can't necessarily tell you the information you want because:
  - Limited experience (N=small)
  - Limited Memory
  - Limited Cognitive Abilities
    - Completeness
    - Aggregation

Background Issues

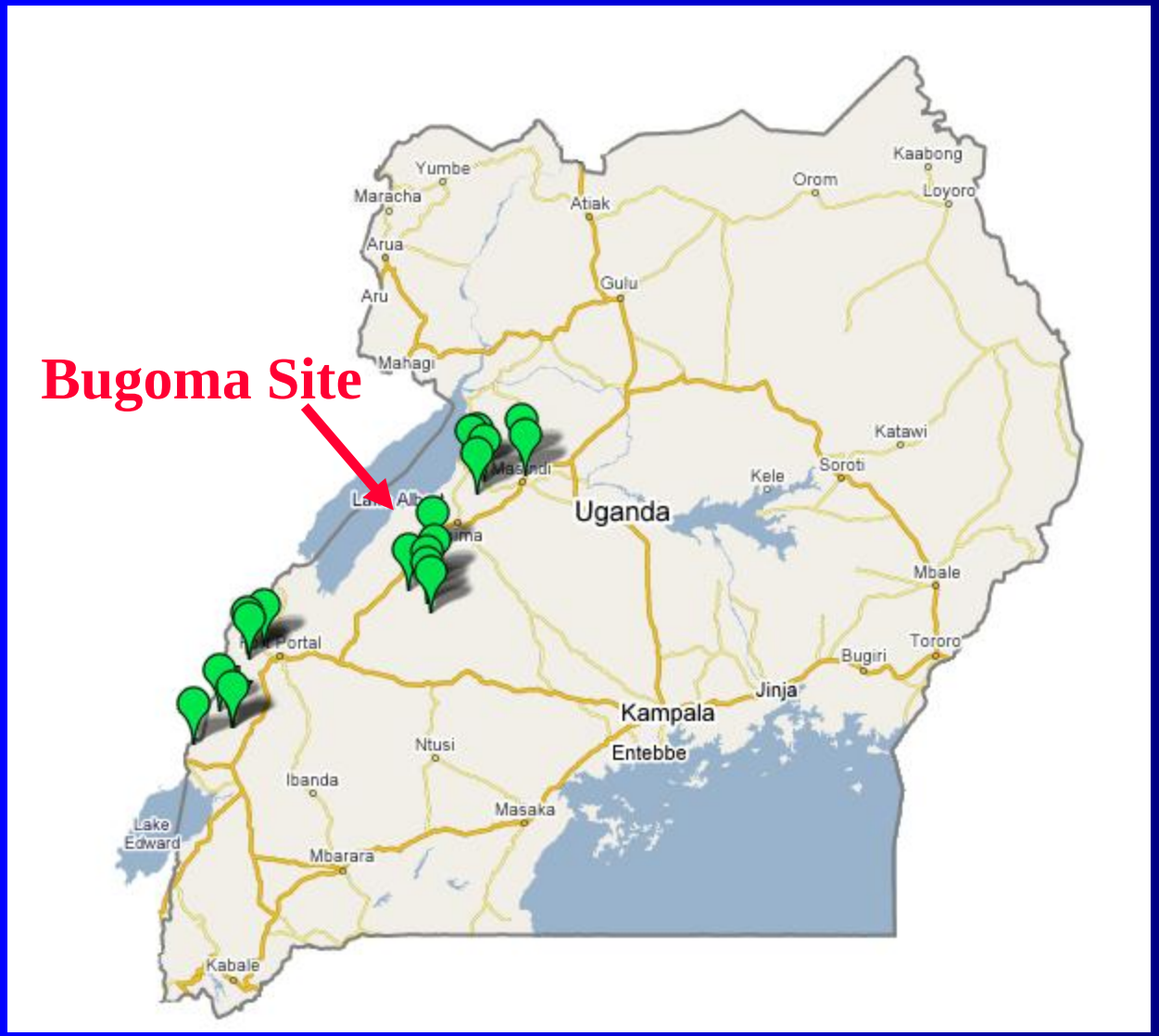
- Limitations result in two potential types of problems:
  - Accuracy: Is the estimate biased?
  - Precision: What is the variance around the estimate?

Background Issues

- Because of these problems, PEN data collection took a somewhat disaggregated approach.
- But was it worth it????
  - Costly data collection
  - Costly data entry/cleaning
  - Costly data analysis

Approach

- Use two different approaches (PRA – disaggregated- and HH surveys -aggregated)
- Survey two sub-samples of the same population
  - Uganda Sample
  - Bolivia Sample (coming)
- Compare results
  - Income portfolios
  - Expenditure portfolios
  - Time use portfolios


Bugoma Site
Yumbe
Maracha
Arua
Aru
Mahagi
Atiak
Gulu
Orom
Kaabong
Loyoro
Katawi
Soroti
Kele
Uganda
Mbale
Tororo
Bugiri
Jinja
Kampala
Entebbe
Portal
Ntusi
Ibanda
Masaka
Mbarara
Lake Edward
Kabale

Site Selection and Sampling

- PEN – 6 villages in Bugoma area that were selected using a random sample of a stratified random sample of all villages in parishes adjacent to Bugoma Central Forest Reserve (N=173)
- IFRI – purposively selected Kyarukooka village (N=86)
  - A bit about the IFRI household survey
    - Background
    - Process (ranking and weighting; IFRI CRC led)

Comparing income

Income category	IFRI %	PEN %
Unprocessed forest products	15	11
Processed forest products	5	2
Fishing	0	0
Wild products	5	10
Wage income	10	7
Business income	6	10
Agriculture	35	50
Livestock	10	5
Livestock and livestock prod.	2	3
Remittances	7	1
Other	4	3

Comparing expenditures

Expenditure category	IFRI %	PEN %
Forest products	8	0
Fish	0	0
Food and food processing	23	19
Livestock and livestock products	6	11
Weddings and funerals	6	1
Medical	24	11
Transportation	3	3
Entertainment/alcohol/tobacco	11	5
School fees and supplies	9	3
Other	10	47

Comparing time use

Time use	IFRI %	PEN %
Forest/wild products (harv/proc)	11	1
Fishing	0	0
Agriculture (prod/proc/market)	30	26
Livestock (tend/proc)	10	1
Formal social gatherings	6	7
Sick or tending to sick	16	4
Traveling	3	0
Socializing/relaxing	13	26
Schooling and training	6	0
Other	6	35

Preliminary findings of note…

- Ranking and weighting sources of income gives a quite different picture of livelihoods then the more intensive PEN method
- PEN categories are reliable for income (not too much “other” income)
- IFRI method leads to underestimation of “other” category for expenditures and time use

Next steps

- Incorporating Bolivia data (Patricia's PEN study and IFRI Bolivia CRC study) – do we see the same patterns in the data?
- Exploring the characteristics of those who estimate most accurately and precisely
- Gender differences in responses
- Seasonality issues
- Cash vs. subsistence income
- The "other" category…
- Other things? – we welcome suggestions!

Implications for PEN