

# Appendix

## SIERRA LEONE POLYGAMY REPORT



### 1. Key information & proposed structure for key informant interview

- Introduction – to cover, consent, purpose of the research and confidentiality.
- Tell me a little about your role and responsibilities.
- **Could you please describe to me what you know about the practice of polygamy in the Port Loko and Kambia areas?** *This is a broad question aimed to cover – frequency, number of wives, religion, living in one compound, and dowry. If these do not come up, follow up with these questions:*
  - Is it more common to particular groupings? (ethnicity, class, religion, age)
  - How many wives are normally concurrently part of the union?
  - Are all the wives and husband living in one compound or in separate dwellings?
  - What is the system of dowry?
- Follow up questions
  - What other forms of polygamy are there in the country? (to cover: where, what types, why different?)
  - What would be the most uncommon form of polygamy?
- Would you say your sources are mainly experience and observation?
- Could you please describe the different roles and responsibilities that husbands and wives undertake in polygamous unions? *To cover: who does what, responsible for what (specifically around household tasks, decisions over money, childcare, agriculture, representation in the community). If these do not come up, use these as follow up questions (if the person has some knowledge):*
  - How are household responsibilities divided?
  - How would decisions about large household expenses be made?
  - Would most polygamous unions (in rural areas) have land for farming? Would this be owned by one member or collectively?
  - Who would normally represent the polygamous union in the community? (Would there be exceptions to this? What if this person was not around?)
- Follow up: What is the hierarchical structure within these unions?
  - How would this situation vary from place to place?
- How would these roles and responsibilities differ from monogamous unions? Is there anything unique about the division of responsibilities in polygamous households?
- Are there particular vulnerabilities that polygamous households are more likely to face?
- **Why do you think is polygamy practiced in these areas?**
- What do you think are the particular reasons why men/women enter into polygamous unions?
- What factors do you think trigger the decision to take on a second/third/fourth wife?
- Have you observed any shifts/ changes in this practice/ its prevalence/ form in recent times?
- **Are there any programmes undertaken by the ministry of children affairs/your NGO/the law which specifically consider the needs of polygamous households?**
  - If 'No': why do you think this is?
  - If 'Yes': could you tell me about this? (When did this programme start, why was it initiated, what have the impacts been, lessons learnt)
- How widely is it considered/ talked about when it comes to planning/law making within the government? Why do you think this is?
- Have you observed any service providers or NGOs taking polygyny into account when designing interventions or implementing project/ programmes?

- **How are polygamous unions generally regarded in the community?**
  - Probe: religious leaders, government officials, different classes
- Do you have views on polygamy that you'd like to share with my about the practice of polygamy or your experience of it?
- For respondents with legal expertise:
  - What is the legal status of polygamy?
  - Do most people officially marry?
  - What are the legal provisions in relation to inheritance, child guardianship, divorce for polygamous unions?
  - (If there is no legal status)- have there been movements to change this?
  - What are the big legal issues related to polygamy?
- Do you come across it in your own work at all? If so how? If not, is it an issue for your work do you think?

## 2. Guide for FGD with community leaders

- Introduction – to cover, consent, purpose of the research and confidentiality.
- **Could you please describe to me what you know about the practice of polygamy in your area?** *Make sure to cover the following (and if not use as probing questions):*
  - So how common is it? Would you say it is more common than monogamous unions?
  - Is this just in this locality or further afield? Is it like this across e.g. Djugu?
  - How many wives might a man have – what is the average number? Is there an average size/ age of wives?
  - How do the unions organise themselves? Does everybody live together under one roof?
- **What changes have there been to the practice of polygamy in your community in recent times?**
  - How is polygyny generally viewed by the society?
  - How would you explain these?
- **What are the difference in practice across places?**
  - Is it very different here to elsewhere do you know? Why do you think this is?
  - Is it more common among particular groups (ethnic, class, religion?)
- **How are resources normally shared within the home?**
  - What are the roles and responsibilities of the different members of the union?
  - Do you have an idea of whether / how the wives relate to one another
- **What are your views on polygamy?**

## 3. In-depth Interview guide

### 3.1 IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR WOMEN

Introduction – to cover, consent, purpose of the research and confidentiality
<b>A. PEOPLE</b>
<b>1. Could you describe the members of your household and your relation to them?</b> <i>To cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many members of the household there are?</li><li>• Ages</li><li>• Relations between interviewee and members</li><li>• How many “mates” co-wives there are – which order co-wife the female participant is</li></ul>
<b>2. Tell me about the different characteristics of these members (give examples):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• who is the problem solver, carer etc</li><li>• <i>If there are in-laws/extended family members living in the household:</i> how would you describe your relationship with these members?</li></ul>
<b>3. Tell me about the process of you joining this household</b> <i>To cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The process of the marriage<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Who initiated the marriage request</li><li>◦ Who was involved in organising the marriage e.g. was it an arranged marriage</li><li>◦ How did the negotiations regarding the bride price take place?</li><li>◦ The age of the parties</li><li>◦ Was there an official ceremony?</li><li>◦ Was the marriage legal registered? If not why not?</li></ul></li><li>• <i>If the first wife or second wife in a household with more than 2 wives:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ At the time of marriage did you know that you would end up in a polygamous union?</li><li>◦ How was the decision taken to include bringing a co-wife into the household?</li><li>◦ How did you feel about this decision? Then and now</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>4. What is your relationship with your family of origin?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where are your family of origin? Are they nearby or did you have to move away</li><li>• In what instances do you interact?</li><li>• Do you have liberty to visit them when you want? In what circumstances would you not be able to go and visit them?</li><li>• In what instances would you turn to them for support?</li></ul>
<b>B. ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>5. What are the main economic activities that members of the household engage in?</b> <b>5 (a). If it is mainly agriculture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many farm/field/piece of land is farmed in the family? (acres)</li><li>• Is it owned/rented/community/family land?</li><li>• Is it legally registered? If so under whose name does it come under?</li><li>• What is produced?</li><li>• Who decides what is produced?</li><li>• What are the specific tasks that you undertake?</li><li>• How are decisions made about the field you are responsible for? E.g. which crops to grow, when to harvest?</li><li>• <i>If they say their husband makes them:</i> how do you influence these decisions? What do you have control over?</li><li>• What are the specific tasks that the other members of the family undertake?</li><li>• What is done with the yield?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Who decides?</li><li>◦ Who sells it? (if it is sold)</li><li>◦ Who decides when to sell it?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>If they say my husband decides ask:</i> how are others able to influence this decision?</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• How is the produce for household consumption divided among the household members? <i>To cover:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Who makes that decision?</li><li>◦ What factors influence this decision?</li><li>◦ Why is the produce for household consumption divided in this way?</li></ul></li></ul>

<p><i>Option 1</i> If they say that the husband gives them the money/produce to divide between the other co-wives ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What influences your decision about distributing?</li> <li>• What would make you give less to your co-wife/wives?</li> </ul>	<p><i>Option 2</i> If they talk about the co-wife getting more than them or the co-wife controlling the distribution – ask them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what circumstances would the husband/co-wife be likely to give you a greater share?</li> </ul>	<p><i>Option 3</i> If only rice is given and she doesn't mention a separate income ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you get other sources of income to provide for your needs?</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 (b). If it is mainly business (family or run by the husband):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who owns the business? How many shops/locations are there?</li> <li>• What are the specific tasks that you undertake?</li> <li>• What are the specific tasks that the other members of the family undertake?</li> <li>• Who decides how the business is managed?</li> <li>• Do you try and influence business management decisions? How?</li> <li>• How are the profits from the business divided among the household members? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Who makes that decision?</li> <li>◦ Why are the profits divided in this way?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>5 (c). If the woman has her own separate income ask:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you use this income for?</li> <li>• Do you divide it with other members of the household? Why/why not? What influences the division of these resources?</li> <li>• <i>If it is a business ask:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ How did you start the business?</li> <li>◦ Where did you get the capital for the business?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p><b>6. What are the communal purchases made for the household on a daily/weekly basis?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who carries out these purchases?</li> <li>• Where does the money come from?</li> <li>• How do you influence these decisions?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7. What are the larger purchases made for the household?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who carries out these purchases?</li> <li>• Where does the money come from?</li> <li>• How do you influence these decisions?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>8. How are decisions made about your children's education?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who pays for their schooling?</li> <li>• How important is the issue of education to you?</li> <li>• Have there been times when your children's education has suffered due to a lack of funds? (tell me about this)</li> </ul>		
<p><b>9. How does your husband split his time between the wives?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is this decision made?</li> <li>• What influences him to spend more time with you?</li> <li>• What (if any) benefits do you get from your husband spending more time with you?</li> <li>• Are there any rules regarding childbirth and sleeping with your husband?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>10. What is your involvement in wider community activities?</b> <i>To cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Participation in different groups e.g. women's groups, farmers associations, church/mosque groups</i></li> <li>• <i>Attendance at community meetings</i></li> <li>• <i>How long they have been engaged in these activities</i></li> <li>• How is your involvement in these activities viewed by other members of your household?</li> <li>• Why do you participate in these different groups?</li> <li>• What is your motivation for this participation?</li> <li>• What do you get out of participating?</li> <li>• What resources do you get from participating?</li> <li>• Has participation changed throughout marriage e.g. decreased/increased due to additional wives?</li> <li>• Who covers your other responsibilities when you are involved in these activities?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>11. Overall what how do you feel about being in a 1st/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> wife?</b></p>		

## 3.2 IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR MEN

Introduction – to cover, consent, purpose of the research and confidentiality.
<b>A. PEOPLE</b>
<b>1. Could you describe the members of your household and your relation to them?</b> <i>To cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many members of the household there are</li><li>• Ages</li><li>• Relations between interviewee and members</li><li>• How many “mates” co-wives there are – which order co-wife the female participant is.</li></ul>
<b>2. Tell me about the different characteristics of these members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• who is the problem solver, carer etc</li><li>• <i>If there are in-laws/extended family members living in the household:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ How would you describe your relationship with these members?</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>3. Tell me about the process of the wives joining the household</b> <i>To cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The process of the marriage<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Who initiated the marriage request</li><li>◦ Who was involved in organising the marriage e.g. was it an arranged marriage</li><li>◦ How did the negotiations regarding the bride price take place?</li></ul></li><li>• The age of the parties</li><li>• Was there an official ceremony?</li><li>• At the time of marriage did you know that you would end up in a polygamous union?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ How was the decision taken to include bring a co-wife into the household?</li><li>◦ How did you feel about this decision now?</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>B. ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>4. What are the main economic activities that members of the household engage in?</b>
<b>4a. If it is mainly agriculture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many farm/field/piece of land is farmed in the family?</li><li>• Is it owned/rented/community/family land?</li><li>• What is produced?</li><li>• Who decides what is produced?</li><li>• What are the specific tasks that you undertake?</li><li>• What are the specific tasks that the other members of the family undertake?</li><li>• What is done with the yield?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Who decides?</li><li>◦ Who sells it? (if it is sold)</li><li>◦ Who decides when to sell it?</li><li>◦ <i>If they say my husband decides ask:</i> how are others able to influence this decision?</li></ul></li><li>• How is the produce for household consumption divided among the household members?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Who makes that decision?</li><li>◦ What factors influence this decision?</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>4b. If it is mainly business (family or run by the husband):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who owns the business? How many shops/locations are there?</li><li>• What are the specific tasks that you undertake?</li><li>• What are the specific tasks that the other members of the family undertake?</li><li>• Who decides how the business is managed? Why?</li><li>• (if they don't manage it) Do you try and influence business management decisions? How?</li><li>• How are the profits from the business divided among the household members?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Who makes that decision?</li><li>◦ What factors influence this decision?</li><li>◦ In what circumstances would you be likely to give you a greater share to different wives?</li></ul></li><li>• <i>If they say they always divide evenly ask:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ What would make you give less to your co-wife/wives?</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>4c. Ask if the wives have their own businesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How are the profits divided between members of the household? What influences the division of these resources?</li><li>• <i>If it is business ask:</i> How did they start the business?</li></ul>

<p><b>5. What are the communal purchases made for the household on a daily/weekly basis?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who carries out these purchases?</li> <li>• Where does the money come from?</li> <li>• How do you influence these decisions? What influences these decisions?</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. What are the larger purchases made for the household?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who carries out these purchases?</li> <li>• Where does the money come from?</li> <li>• How do you influence these decisions? What influences these decisions?</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Can you describe the daily household chores?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who does these different activities?</li> <li>• Who decides how responsibilities are divided?</li> <li>• Why do you think that these tasks are divided this way?</li> <li>• <i>If they mention about favouritism to their co-wife ask:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ What makes her the favourite wife?</li> <li>◦ What privileges does she get as a result of being the favourite wife?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Can you tell me about any times in the past where these tasks were divided differently? <i>To cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The factors that alter the division of responsibilities</li> <li>◦ Changes within the node</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>8. How are decisions made about your children's education?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who pays for their schooling?</li> <li>• How important is the issue of education to you?</li> <li>• Have there been times when your children's education has suffered due to a lack of funds? (tell me about this)</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. How do you split your time between your wives?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is this decision made?</li> <li>• What influences your decision?</li> <li>• What factors might alter this decision?</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. What is your involvement in wider community activities?</b></p> <p><i>To cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in different groups e.g. women's groups, farmers associations, church/mosque groups</li> <li>• Attendance at community meetings</li> <li>• How long they have been engaged in these activities</li> <li>• How is your involvement in these activities viewed by other members of your household?</li> <li>• Why do you participate in these different groups? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ What is your motivation for this participation?</li> <li>◦ What do you get out of participating?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Make sure they respond covering the specific different members e.g. husband and co-wives</i></li> <li>• Who covers your other responsibilities when you are involved in these activities?</li> </ul>

## 4. Interview guide for extended family member

Introduction – to cover, consent, purpose of the research and confidentiality
Ask their name and their relationship to the polygamous union we interviewed
<b>RESOURCES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are your responsibilities in the household?</li> <li>• How are resources distributed in the household? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Prompts:</i></li> <li>◦ Who decides how much rice to cook? (How many ‘pots’ are used per family)</li> <li>◦ <i>If more than one pot is used per family ask:</i> why do different people eat from different pots? Is there any time when this situation is different?</li> <li>◦ How do you feel about the division of resources? (In relation to education and the provision of food).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Do the wives have their own income? From doing what? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Does this extra income influence dynamics in the household? How?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If one wife was to have more income from her own earnings would that affect the way their husband distributes money? How?</li> </ul>
<b>CONFLICT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What issues normally cause misunderstandings in the household? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ How often would these issues normally come up?</li> <li>◦ Who normally causes the misunderstanding? Why?</li> <li>◦ Could you describe the last time this happened? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who else in the family got involved?</li> <li>- How was this particular issue resolved?</li> <li>- Is this the normal way it would be resolved?</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ How has conflict in the family changed over time?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>a) Extra questions for children:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has the conflict in the house affected your relationship with your step mother and her children?</li> <li>• How has your relationship with your father changed with the introduction of more mates (co-wives)?</li> <li>• What is your role when there is misunderstanding between your father and mother? And between the co-wives? How do you feel about this?</li> </ul>
<p><b>b) Extra questions for sister, father, mother and brother in law:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among the wives who do you think is more responsible? Why?</li> <li>• Among the wives who do you think is listens to you more Why?</li> <li>• How would you describe the relationship between the co-wives? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>If they say lots of conflict, ask:</i> what is the conflict usually about?</li> <li>◦ <i>If they say small things, or something unspecific then ask:</i> can you describe one incident of conflict between the wives to me?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How does their relationship affect you and the others in the family?</li> <li>• What things have happened which have led to an improvement in their relationship? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Can you tell me about a specific time when this happened?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What things have happened to make this relationship worse?</li> <li>• What issues do your daughter in laws/sister in law/mother/stepmother come to you with? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ What advice have you given them about this issue?</li> <li>◦ What happened after you gave the advice?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>INHERITANCE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the husband has passed what will happen to the properties? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Probe:</i> what the wives will get? Why? How is this decided?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 5. Story probe guide

- Introduction – to cover, consent, purpose of the research and confidentiality.
- Today we want to share a story with you and hear your reactions and experiences. This story is about a woman and her relationship with her mate and husband.

Aminata Bangura lives in Masorie community and she is the first of two wives. She received 700,000 le grant from SABA-BU NGO which she used to start petty trading. She sells palm oil by (batter), groundnuts by bag. The business was very successful. She manages and controls her business and money. She know has enough money to buy slippers, lapaz, jewelry, her children are well dressed, they eat well and she has enrolled them to school. She became highly respected in the community. She attends community meetings, people come to her for loans, she organizes her own osusu groups. She was appointed the mami queen in the community. Her in laws expect her to contribute to the welfare of the general household.

She has to travel a lot to buy and sell goods. She travels to Guniea, Freetown, and the local lumors etc. This has made her spend less time with her husband.

Yebu also lives in Masorie community she is the second of the two wives and she was not fortunate to have a grant to do petty trading. She is now getting more support from her husband, though this is little to take care of her needs. Because of this she is not respected in the community and even her in-laws. Sometimes Yebu and her co-wife Aminata do have little conflict and then they resolve it between themselves. Recently there has been conflict between themselves as there is jealousy over the business. Now they have separate pots. Aminata has more money but is jealous of Yebu's relationship with their husband. When I say money you say man.

Later their husband decides to marry a third wife, as Aminata is always busy with her business and not around. As a result of this Yebu and Aminata became close friends as they are both against the idea of a 3<sup>rd</sup> wife. Aminata decides to give Yebu part of her business, as the husband tries to cause conflict between them.

Thank you for listening to the story. I would now like to ask you a few questions about it.

- Which part of the story would happen in your community? Which parts caught your attention? Can you think of some similar examples?
- *From their reactions check that they understood the story. If not read it again.*
- Does this kind of thing happen commonly among polygamous households? Why?
- What are the differences between your experiences and the experiences in the story?
- Why do you think there was conflict between:
  - 1) Aminata and Yebu
  - 2) Aminata and her husband?
- Is it common for women to control money from their own businesses? When would they not control it? Would the husband often take a cut from the profits?
- In the story Yebu gets more money from their husband as Aminata has her own business would this be common? Why?
- In the story Yebu was not respected by her in-laws would the opinion of in-laws affect the relationship between co-wives? How?
- Is it common that NGOs will support only one of the co-wives? How does this affect household relations?
- Would the story have ended differently if Aminata was a 2<sup>nd</sup> wife – why?
- Would you rather be Aminata who has more money, and can look after her children, but has less time with her husband and has conflict with him or Yebu who has more time and love with her husband but no money?
- Do you think that Aminata's husband got upset because she was spending too much time away or because she controls her own money?
- How are women like Aminata perceived in the community by men? How are they perceived by women?
- Why do you think Aminata and Yebu ganged up against the 3<sup>rd</sup> wife? Would this be common in your community? What would have done in their situation?
- Why do you think that the husband wanted to create conflict between the wives? Is this a common occurrence?