

Annex 5: Qualitative Research Assessment Tool

Theoretical Issues

1. Is a qualitative approach justified by the researcher? Does the research seek to investigate the what and why?

- ☐ The choice of methodology is fully justified in relation to the topic studied
- ☐ The choice of the methodology is explained in part
- ☐ The choice of methodology is not justified

2. Is the purpose of the study adequately described and justified?

- ☐ The purpose of the study is explained and justified with reference to programmatic or policy gaps
- ☐ The purpose of the study is explained but not linked to any programmatic or policy issue
- ☐ The purpose of the study is not explained

Study Design

3. Is the context of the study adequately described?

- ☐ The researcher describes in detail the specificities of the context and its effects on public health and service delivery
- ☐ The researcher describes the general context without reflecting on the effect on public health or service delivery
- ☐ No description of the context

4. Are the research questions clearly defined?

- ☐ The research questions are explicit and correspond to knowledge gaps
- ☐ The research questions are listed but not adequately justified
- ☐ The research questions are too broad or unclear

5. Are the methods appropriate to the research question(s)?

- ☐ The methods are fully adapted to each research question
- ☐ Some of the methods are not adapted to some of the research questions
- ☐ No link is made between the methods with the research questions

Sampling and Data Collection

6. Is the sampling strategy well justified and appropriate? Is the sample sufficient?

- ☐ The research justifies the sampling method and the sample
- ☐ The sample is described without any real justification
- ☐ No sample indicated

7. Are data collection procedures clearly described? Were tools tested? Where was data collected and why?

- ☐ Data collection tools are all explained, validated and justified
- ☐ Data collection tools are described but not justified or tested
- ☐ Data collection tools are not fully explained

8. Are the roles of researchers clearly described? Are the researchers' skills, motives, position in terms of power relation (gender, ethnicity, age, employment) described and discussed?

- ☐ The role of the researcher is explained and contemplated
- ☐ The role of the researcher is explained but not adequately contemplated
- ☐ No description of the role of the researcher

9. Are ethical issues in data collection addressed (processes for consent, maintaining confidentiality, etc.)?

- ☐ All ethical procedures are explained (Review Board, information, consent form, confidentiality, voluntary participation)
- ☐ Ethical processes are partially described
- ☐ No mention of ethical reflection and necessary adaptation

Analysis

10. Is the data analysis explicit? Use of raw data? Analytical framework? Are responses compared to other groups?

- ☐ The analytical framework and analysis plan (method) are fully described
- ☐ The analysis plan is described but sections are vague
- ☐ No description of the analysis plan

11. Is the data analysis reliable? Did more than one person code/analyse the data? Was interpretation compared between coders?

- ☐ The researcher explains how methods used are likely to ensure reliability
- ☐ Reliability is mentioned but without any mention of the method
- ☐ No mention of reliability

12. Is data triangulated to avoid researcher bias? Is there a validation procedure?

- ☐ Several methods are applied to check the validity of data
- ☐ A limited number of methods are used for triangulation
- ☐ No mention of triangulation