

# Training Interviewers and Managing Field Activities in Harsh Environments

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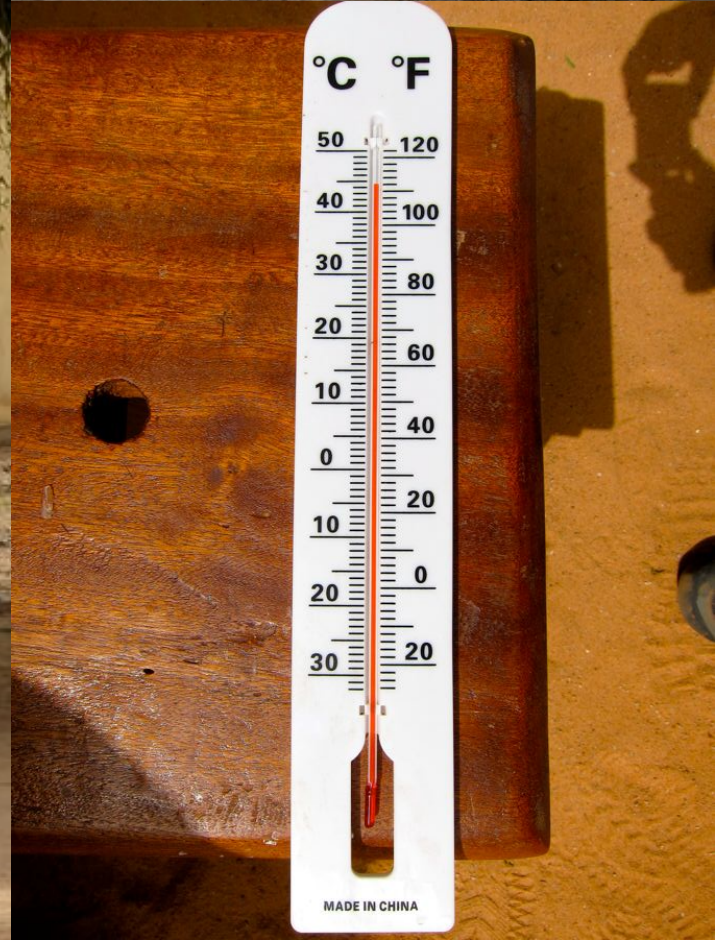
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# Harsh?

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Harsh?



# Brief basic tips

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- Physical safety
- Health preservation
- Personal care



# Brief basic tips

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- **Physical safety**
  - Learn/obsess about your destination
  - US State Department warnings
  - Extraction insurance, or at least have a plan
- Health preservation
- Personal care

# Brief basic tips

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- Physical safety
- **Health preservation**
  - All CDC-recommended immunizations
  - Choose your malaria prophylaxis carefully!
  - Travel doc issued meds: Cipro, albendazole, sleep aid
  - OTC: tylenol, imodium, benadryl, antifungal
- Personal care



# Brief basic tips

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- Safety
- Health preservation
- **Personal care**
  - Sleep
  - Drink
  - Be ready to work
  - Know where to get help

# Avoid misunderstandings...

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...U.S. citizen was arrested and incarcerated in Japan for shipping a three-month supply of **prescription Adderall** from South Korea to Japan. The citizen also ran afoul for **repackaging her prescription from the original container**, in an alleged attempt to maintain privacy and avoid stigmatization from her disorder.

...Drug offense convictions result in the **death penalty** in Turkey, Egypt, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. Malaysia, Singapore, Iran, and Saudi Arabia can impose judicially-sanctioned **caning, flogging, lashing, or whipping** for drug offenses.

...Notably, often Catholic-majority countries have conservative laws regarding **oral contraceptives** and devices, making them either **illegal or very difficult to procure**. In less-developed countries, access to such medications may be more difficult. [Applies to other products important to women]

Source: Overseas Security Advisory Council



# Case studies for obtaining participation

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- Being flexible, within project parameters
- Managing cultural *features* that may affect research
- Working with local professional partners

Being flexible in the field, within project parameters

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Matching training to study parameters and cultural conditions

Gaining access to participants under difficult circumstances





# Example 1

## Interviewer training and sample procurement

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Sheik-driven snowball sample

Interviews start tomorrow



# Field plan...?

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- No access to UNHCR records
- All children 3-5 eligible
- N= ~200





# Consensus meeting

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## Example 2

### Managing cultural *features* that may affect research

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- I worry a lot about crowd control







## Example 2

### Crowd control

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Learn about the venue with data collection in mind

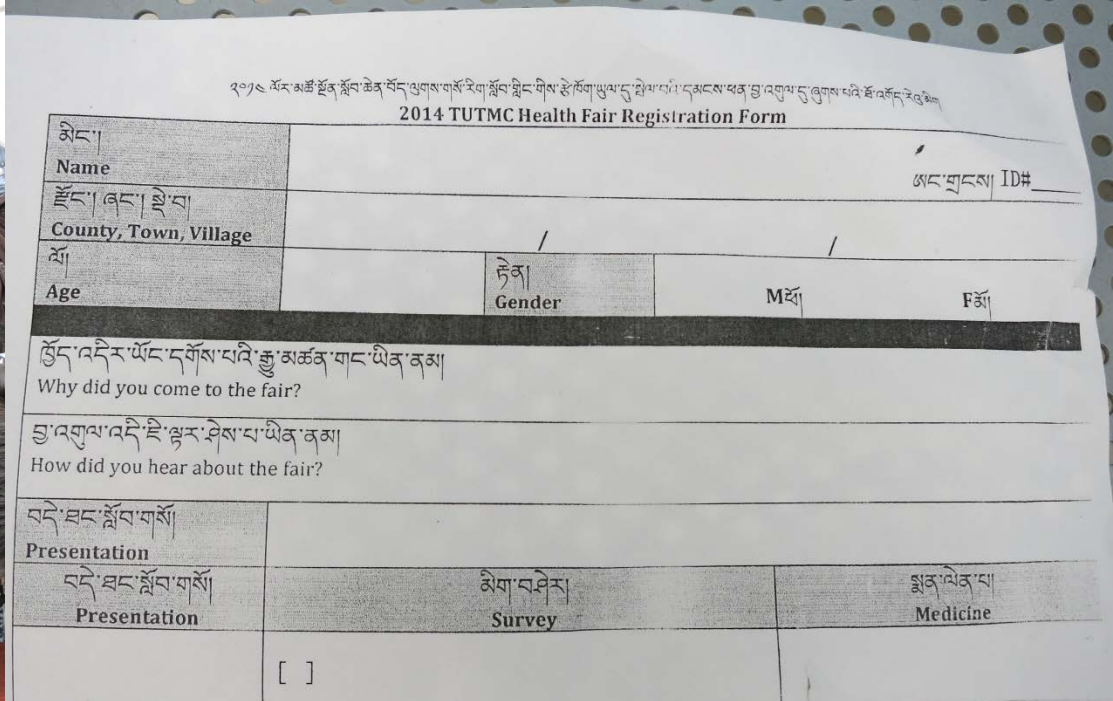
Plan for adequate space to conduct research activities (and adjust expectations to reality)

Discuss options for moving crowds for safety and research











# Crowd control





# Interviews



## Example 3

### Adherence to research goals

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When working with local professionals, make sure you share an understanding of the planned procedures, tests, and other data collection activities







# Audience discussion, other examples?

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