

Adapting Unity Study Questionnaires to local contexts – example from KSA

Objectives

- Introduction
- How KSA adapted the anthropological questionnaires to local contexts
- How KSA is planning to raise awareness for the WHO MERS-CoV Unity Study protocols with local investigators

Introduction

The data collected through these protocols will be essential to refine recommendations for case definitions and surveillance, characterize key epidemiological features of MERS-CoV, understand the geographical extent of its circulation in humans and camels, its severity, the spectrum of human disease, and its impact on communities.

The findings will also guide the application of countermeasures such as case isolation and contact tracing.



How KSA adapted the anthropological questionnaires to local contexts

Camel Market Filed Pilot Study

- Camel Owner
- Camel Farm worker
- Camel market worker
- Abattoir Worker
- Abattoir Owner



Camel Market Filed Pilot Study

Purpose of Pilot Study:

Pre-test of the questioner was conducted to enhance reliability and validity.

Place of The Study:

Taif is a city and one of the governorates of Makkah in Saudi Arabia. It is located at an elevation of 1,879 m (6,165 ft) in the slopes of the Hijaz Mountains, part of the Sarat Mountains. The city has a population of 563,282 people in 2022. It was chosen because it is known for its camel farms, camel markets, camel festivals, and camel auctions.

Methodology:

The three questionnaires had similar contents, so we created a table that includes suggested questions based on the questionnaire. Also, face-to-face questionnaires were conducted. A trained Interviewer asked the questions in Arabic and in English. Participants were chosen based on their willingness (convenient sampling).

Number of participants were 23.



Camel Market Filed Pilot Study

Title of the Questionnaire	Question Number	Question	Issue	Suggested question
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Market Worker Questionnaire Abattoir Worker Questionnaire 	B5	Do you hold other jobs aside from working at the market/ slaughterhouse?	This is a sensitive question as some participants work in the health sector, which provides the most significant responses	<p>Add more choices: Such as "Prefer not to say" Or add more specific answers such as "In health sector"</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Worker Questionnaire 	E1.4	Do you regularly eat raw camel meat?	This is a sensitive question because the behavior discussed is not commonly accepted, and most participants thought it was disgusting, except for the liver.	Have you ever eaten raw camel meat, such as liver in the last 6 months?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Worker Questionnaire 	D4	Have you had any livestock kept in or around your home in the last six months?	In Saudi Arabia, the law prohibits keeping livestock in homes, so most participants denied doing so. Many of them asked for clarification, saying, 'Do you mean on my farm?'	<p>Would you like to have livestock in your home if it were possible?</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Have you kept any livestock in or around your home, including on your farm, in the last six months?</p> <p>Or</p> <p>If you have livestock, where do you prefer to keep it?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Woker Questionnaire 	D4	Number of animals	Usually, the number of animals exceeds 10, so most answers indicated figures like 50, 100, or even 1,000	We suggest increasing the number to 50 or organizing them into groups such as '10 to 100,' and so on.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Worker Questionnaire 	D4	What they are used animal for? (circle one)	Usually they used the animals for more than one purpose. Moreover, "work" is not clear, as they considered all the choices as work.	<p>Circle the possible answers</p> <p>Delete: work, and add "Festivals" and "Auctions"</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Worker Questionnaire 	D5	In the last six months, did you have any contact with any carcasses, body fluids, secretions, urine, or excrement of camels in or around your home?	We recommend deleting 'home' and replacing it with 'farm' instead or Keeping them both	In the last six months, did you have any contact with any carcasses, body fluids, secretions, urine or excrement of camels in or around your farm or home?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Worker Questionnaire 	D6	In the last six months, did you have any contact with any camel bedding, stray of feed in or around your home?		In the last six months, did you have any contact with any camel bedding, stray of feed in or around your farm or home?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Worker Questionnaire 	D7	At your home, in the last six months did you do any of the following activities:		At your farm or home, in the last six months did you do any of the following activities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Worker Questionnaire 	E2	Do you believe that camels or camel products have medicinal or therapeutic properties?	This question is sensitive as it prompts participants to answer based on their religious beliefs, and most participants respond with 'Yes, for sure, as we are Muslim!'	Which camel products do you use, believing that camels or their products have medicinal or therapeutic properties? Urine, meat, milk, liver, none (choose all possible answers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Worker Questionnaire 	G5	Where do you hospitalized during the course of your illness?	People usually forget, most of the participants said "difficult to remember"	Where you hospitalized during the course of your illness in last 6 months?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camel Farm/barn/ranch Worker Questionnaire Animal Market Worker Questionnaire 	F2	Have you attended any recent mass gatherings (e.g., weddings, festivals or religious pilgrimages) outside of your regions country where there were large numbers of people together?	Replace (religious pilgrimages) with (Hajj or Umarah) and you can add (camel auctions)	Have you attended any recent mass gatherings (e.g., weddings, festivals, Hajj or Umarah, Auctions) outside of your country or nationally outside your regions, where there were large numbers of people together?



Factors could influence the responses to the questionnaire

Several factors could influence the responses to a questionnaire about workers with camels in relation to MERS-CoV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus) in a country like Saudi Arabia (KSA) compared to other cultures

1.Cultural Context:

- KSA has a deep-rooted cultural relationship with camels, including their use in traditional practices, which may influence perceptions and knowledge about zoonotic diseases.

2.Familiarity with MERS-CoV:

- In KSA, MERS-CoV is more prominent due to its origins and prevalence in the region. Workers here may have a heightened awareness due to local outbreaks.

3. Healthcare Access:

- Availability and accessibility of healthcare services can affect attitudes toward disease prevention.



Factors could influence the responses to the questionnaire

4. Regulatory Environment:

- Government policies, regulations regarding animal health, and public health campaigns may play a role in shaping responses.

5. Religious Beliefs:

- In KSA, the cultural and religious significance of camels might lead to differing practices and beliefs regarding health and disease, impacting how risk is perceived and managed compared to other cultures.

6. Personal Experiences:

- Individual experiences with MERS-CoV, whether through exposure, knowledge of outbreaks, or personal health experiences, could significantly influence how people respond to questionnaires in any context.



How KSA is planning to raise awareness for the WHO MERS-CoV Unity Study protocols with local investigators

- Raising awareness for the WHO MERS-CoV Unity Study protocols among local investigators in Saudi Arabia involves a multifaceted approach that may include the following strategies:
 - 1. Organizing workshops and training sessions**
 - for local investigators to educate them about the MERS-CoV Unity Study protocols, their significance, and proper implementation.
 - 2. Collaborations with Key Stakeholders:**
 - Engaging with local health authorities, universities, and research institutions to promote the Unity Study.
 - can help leverage existing networks to disseminate information more widely.



How KSA is planning to raise awareness for the WHO MERS-CoV Unity Study protocols with local investigators

3. Information Dissemination:

- Utilizing various communication channels, such as webinars, newsletters, and social media, to provide updates and information about the study protocols.

4. Incentivizing Participation:

- Offering incentives for local investigators to participate in the study, such as funding for research projects, access to data, or acknowledgment in published findings.



How KSA is planning to raise awareness for the WHO MERS-CoV Unity Study protocols with local investigators

5. Continuous Engagement:

- Maintaining ongoing communication and support for local investigators throughout the study.

6. Building Research Capacity:

- Investing in building research capacity within local institutions through training and resources, enabling them to better understand and implement MERS-CoV study protocols.

7. Showcasing Success Stories:

- Highlighting successful collaborations or outcomes from the study to encourage further participation and demonstrate the value of the Unity Study for public health.

