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Measuring Family Wellbeing with The Basic Necessities Survey 2022

What is the BNS?

The BNS (Basic Necessities Survey) is a way to assess family wellbeing. It is based on the premise that some families lack basic necessities, and families themselves are best able to decide what is or is not a basic necessity. By asking communities to define what goods and services are necessary for a family to meet their basic needs, it measures changes in wellbeing in a fast, easy replicable, and most importantly locally meaningful way. The BNS is a credible way to show the influence of conservation and development efforts on people's wellbeing. The survey is designed for and adaptable by users, who can easily collect data using the online survey collection software, KoboToolBox and a mobile phone app. Standard analysis will automatically display results in an online dashboard.



WHY CARE ABOUT WELLBEING?

Conservation organizations should care about the wellbeing of local people because: a) the costs of conservation should not fall unjustly on these least responsible for the loss of biodiversity, and b) local communities should be the primary beneficiaries of sustainable use, because their stewardship helps protect intact ecosystems.

COMMUNITY DEFINED WELLBEING

Rather than assessing poverty solely in monetary terms, that is people living on less than \$1.25 per day, Rick Davies invented the BNS, to determine what goods and services families felt where required to meet their basic needs. The BNS is easy to learn and implement. It enables researchers to identify those who do not have access to all basic goods and services deemed necessary by the community.

BENEFITS OF BNS

The BNS provides credible quantitative results and is a cost-effective approach to assessing the impacts of conservation and development projects. It can be adapted to capture baseline socio-economic information. Thanks to digital data collection and online dashboards of results, regular surveys provide project managers with a holistic understanding of trends in the wellbeing of communities participating in conservation projects.



How can the BNS help you?

A quick survey providing comprehensive socio-economic data

- Gathering BNS data only takes 30 minutes per household, avoiding the fatigue common in many wellbeing surveys.
- Teams can tailor surveys to provide useful information on demographics, livelihoods, natural resource collection, attitudes towards conservation, and prices of market goods.
- It helps setting up a baseline against which you can measure progress over the long term.
- Results can be disaggregated to provide meaningful information for specific socio-economic groups, such as women or indigenous people.

A standard method that can be applied anywhere

- The method is standard, but the list of goods and services is defined by each local community where the survey is done.
- This means the BNS can be used everywhere, and results are always locally relevant.
- The survey form can be easily adapted to include custom questions.

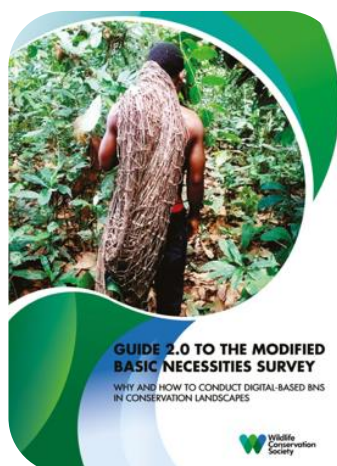
Learn how to increase well-being where you work

- Results of the BNS can inform program design and decision making. Learning what basic goods and services communities need but some don't have access to, can help determine what community projects will have the most impact on improving their well-being.
- Use the BNS to track changes in family wellbeing over time. This will help your project to adapt in ways that ensure positive change.

What do I need to use the BNS?

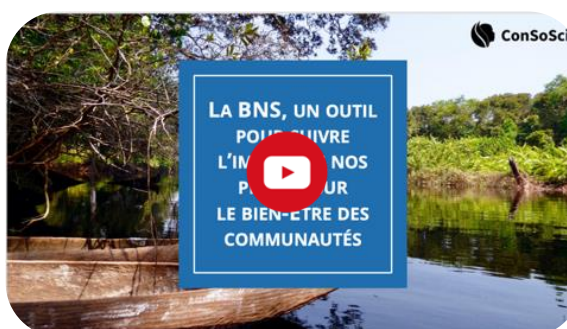
To use the Basic Necessities Survey, you should:

Read the [technical manual](#)

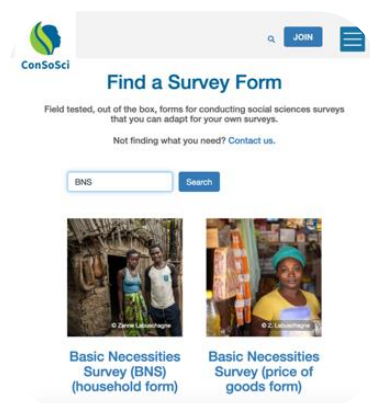


Watch the [training video](#).

If it's not available in the language you need, just ask for it.



Download the [form templates](#) and adapt them



Learn more about the BNS on [Rick Davies Website](#)

Monitoring and Evaluation NEWS

A news service focusing on developments in monitoring and evaluation methods relevant to development programmes with social development objectives. Managed by Rick Davies, since 1997

MENU

The Basic Necessities Survey (BNS)

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