



Table 4-1 Organization and implementation of the questionnaires

An adjunct to the quantitative survey

A short qualitative survey had been initiated by the Tdh field team during summer 2004, and added later on to this survey. It targeted children (N = 65), parents (N = 25) and animators (N = 49) who were interviewed on their perception of the various recreational activities. Permission was given to use the outcome of this qualitative survey and merge it into the quantitative one as deemed fit. The full results of this survey are to be found in the Appendix.

4.2 The methodology

Time frame:

The survey was conducted during three weeks, between December 3 and 17, 2004. This was a very short time span to collect data from the 832 questionnaires distributed. But thanks to the patience and energy of the whole team, this was done very smoothly.

Target and sample population:

The population targeted was an overall figure of 527 children, 281 girls and 246 boys aged from 6 to 18 years, out of a total population of 2387 children attending the recreational activities from the beginning. They were selected at random amongst the 17 existing centres, both the 12 "old" ones and the 5 "new" ones.

In order to operate a comparison, the total targeted group of 527 children was divided into two groups, the basic one and the control group, with approximately equal numbers of children in each. The survey covered all age groups: below 6/ 7-11/ 12-15/ 15-18, divided each into boys and girls, which thus defined 8 sub-age groups. Random choosing of children was done in order to have as equal as possible number in each sub-group for each Centre and the two main groups. Besides the whole group of children, 87 mothers of the below-6 age group were selected at random and interviewed for the Davidson Trauma Scale questionnaire. They were also the same that answered the CBCL parent questionnaire for the below-6 age group.

Translation:

The questionnaires were translated into Farsi (Persian) by an Iranian, then double cross-checked by the supervisors and then by the animators from the team. It should be mentioned that no pre-test has been made, as the two questionnaires, the CBCL and the Davidson Trauma Scale, have been largely validated in Iran.

Training of interviewers:

In order to ensure a maximum efficiency in the survey implementation and a fairly reliable data collecting, with a team that was not a professional one, two 6 hour sessions were given to 60 animators

divided in two groups, together with the 7 supervisors. We first explained the survey in great details, underlining the pitfalls. Then a focus group was held about their own possible post-disaster distressful symptoms and they filled in the Davidson Trauma Scale for themselves which they later would give the mothers. They then role-played the interviews and finally built the protocol to be used in their centre, with the help of their supervisors. It then took one week to have all the 800 questionnaires completed.

The outcome of the training sessions insured a very smooth implementation. Three out of six animators per centre were chosen to monitor the questionnaires. They were chosen by the Supervisors on the basis of academic level, demonstrated competence with the children, personal maturity and morality.

4.3 Procedure and implementation

1. Packages of questionnaires were handed to the animators by the Supervisors, who came every morning and every evening to TdH office to report. Their role was to monitor carefully the whole process within each centre.
2. The filling of the CBCL Animators' questionnaire was easily and quickly done. Supervisors encoded them.
3. Interviews of 87 mothers/parents was well prepared during the training through role plays and went smoothly, including the recording of informed consent.
4. The 15-18 sub-group of 110 individuals was given the CBCL for youth with no major problem. An animator was available for questions from each teenager upon request.
5. Supervisors cross-checked each questionnaire before they were computerized.

4.4 The Statistical Results

Demographics

1. Child population surveyed N = 527
2. Four age groups – boys and girls:

Below 6/Boys-Girls		7to10/Boys-Girls		11to14/Boys-Girls		15to18/Boys-Girls	
50	45	65	87	81	76	55	68

Boys 
Girls 

Total boys N = 251 - Total girls N = 276

3. Orphans (fathers and/or mothers):
total:17.2%; girls: 14%; boys: 21%.
4. Handicaped (eye sight and locomotion): 1.2%
5. Socio economic status of families: