

## TOOL R: Equitable Selection of Research Participants

### Who participates in the research?

Making sure all voices are heard in the research process relies upon a fair process for the recruitment of research participants, including accommodating the needs of vulnerable individuals and groups.

This means there is no unfair burden of participation on any one particular group of people. It also means that there is fair distribution of and access to the benefits of participation in the research.

Two common methods of recruiting participants are **purposeful selection** and **random selection**.

If researchers use **purposeful selection**, it is important to be clear with the appropriate local partner or community leaders about what kinds of research participants are required.

When using this method, remember to pay attention to who is or isn't participating. It may be that important categories of people are being left out, particularly those who are already marginalised voices. Attempts should be actively made to avoid further marginalisation, discrimination and exclusion of under-represented social groups.

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS	Yes	No	Comment
Are the research participants selected equitably?			
Are the participants selected from groups likely to be beneficiaries of subsequent applications of the research?			
Are the participants selected from groups NOT likely to be beneficiaries of subsequent applications of the research?			
Are participants systematically selected from groups for reasons not directly related to the research focus of the study? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection by community leaders/gatekeepers</li> <li>• Easy availability</li> <li>• Language capabilities (ie can speak English)</li> </ul>			
Are participants systematically excluded for reasons of inconvenience, not related to research focus or study?  If so, how does this affect the research?			
Has any consideration been given to non-participants gains or losses?			

**HOW TO USE THIS TOOL:** Consider the questions asked in this tool to determine whether a particular person or group of people have been unintentionally excluded as research participants. Completing this table will assist researchers in ensuring equitable selection of research participants