



## 4.3 Life histories

### [Life Histories Resource Pack](#) – Kate Bird

This Resource Pack presents guidance on using life histories for research on chronic poverty in low income developing countries. It is partially based on a Chronic Poverty Research Centre workshop in Senegal in 2006, where life history and biographical methods were discussed. The core materials presented there have been adjusted and used in training and research design workshops by the CPRC and the Overseas Development Institute since then.

### **Example Life History Database, based on Ugandan 'Q2' Research - David Lawson, David Hulme and James Muwonge (May 2006)**

The purpose of the example database is to highlight how following up a quantitative panel data set with life history data collection of the same households can assist in understanding some of the main propagators, maintainers and interrupters of chronic and transitory poverty. Here, life history data collection was based on two wave, nationally representative, Ugandan quantitative panel data.

- [Overview](#)
- [Example of chronically poor household](#)
- [Example of household moving into poverty](#)
- [Example of household moving out of poverty](#)
- [Example of never poor household](#)
- [Sample semi-structured life history questionnaire](#)

### Further References:

- [Report on CPRC Workshop on Panel Surveys and Life History Methods](#) (eds. Baulch and Scott, 2006).
- [Financial Diaries](#), research work undertaken in Bangladesh within the context of *Finance for the Poor and Poorest* research project. The *Financial Diaries* are the result of 42 in-depth case studies undertaken via fortnightly interviews over one year, and incorporate a life history element.
- PANOS [Oral Testimonies Page](#)
- Worthman, C. M. and Brown, R. A. (2005) [Models of the life-course and the youth-to-adult transition: the life trajectory interview.](#)