Supplementary material

Semi-structured interview core questions relevant to this study

| SSI questions |
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| How many mules do you own / work with? |
| How many handlers work for you? How many mules are they each responsible for? |
| How many mules are they each responsible for? |
| How long have you owned / worked with mules? |
| Why did you start owning / working with mules? |
| What did you do before you owned / worked with mules to make an income? |
| What impact would it have on your family if you didn't own / work with mules? |
| What are your mules currently used for? |
| If the mules are used to transport goods, what type of goods do they transport? |
| What are the main risks to the mules during these journeys? |
| Why are mules used for this job (i.e. what are the alternatives?) |
| What role do mules have in your community? |
| Where do you get your mules from? |
| Are they already trained for work before you buy them? |
| Do you know what work they were previously doing? |
| How do you train your mules for work here? |
| What age do you purchase them? |
| How much do they cost? |
| How long do you keep each mule? or how long have you owned the mule/s you have now? |
| What are the main risks to mules on the routes? |
| What do you do to reduce these risks? |