



Instructions for Training Presentation – VAST research project

Instructions for measures validated as part of the research project entitled: “Validating screening questionnaires for internalizing and externalizing disorders against clinical interviews in 8-16 year-old Syrian refugee children” (VaST; PI Dr Fiona S. McEwen). This research project was conducted by Queen Mary University of Lebanon, Medecins du Monde – France, and Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care. These measures, and the accompanying training materials, were developed for a research study, but the training materials can also be used to train staff who intend to use the measures for clinical purposes.

The measures have been tested in Syrian refugee children aged 8-17 years and living in informal tented settlements in Lebanon. It is important to remember that the measures may not work the same way in different populations, and if there are significant differences then further testing to ensure the measures are reliable and valid may be required. Further adaptation, such as adding alternative dialect recommendations for different Syrian populations, may be required. The training assumes that the measures will be read out to children / caregivers as part of an interview, rather than being self-completed as a questionnaire.

This presentation covers training for the following measures used to assess mental health problems, and disability due to mental health problems, in children:

1. Screen for Child Anxiety Related Emotional Disorders (SCARED), measuring symptoms of anxiety. This is a self-report measure used with children.
2. Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children (CES-DC), measuring symptoms of depression. This is a self-report measure used with children.
3. Child PTSD Symptom Scale (CPSS), measuring symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. This is a self-report measure used with children.
4. Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ): which includes the following sections, aiming to measure internalizing and externalizing behavior problems as well as conduct and oppositional defiant disorder among children. This is a caregiver-report measure used to gain information about their child’s difficulties.
 - a. Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
 - b. SDQ Impact: Impact of emotional and behavioral problems on daily lifeWe have included a set of items measuring externalizing behaviors that are *not part of the SDQ*, but can be used to gain information about a wider range of externalizing behavior problems than are covered by the SDQ.
5. World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS): measuring functional impairment due to mental health problems. There are both child self-report and caregiver report versions of this measure.

The training presentation is divided into the following sections:

1. **Introduction** about each of the measures: This section is in English and includes:
 - Brief background and purpose about each measure
 - The total number of items in each measure, marked as a blue rectangle on the top right
2. **Instructions:** For each measure, one slide with instructions is then included in Arabic. This introduction is exactly how the authors of the measures have stated it, translated into Arabic with additional statements based on our field experience and if the copyrights allowed. It usually includes:
 - Instructions about how to use the measure and the options available to choose from
 - Details on the reporting period this measure covers
 - Reminder for the interviewer to explain and use the visual aids



3. **List of items:** This sections includes the list of items included in each measure with additional notes, item by item. It is mainly in Arabic with a few notes in English for clarifications. The following are included:
- List of questions, 1 item at a time (aligned on the right as the items are in Arabic)
 - For each item, additional notes are added through an arrow. These notes could include one or more of the following:
 - » Tips for dialect recommendations
 - » Possible synonyms/ alternative wordings, in standard or colloquial Arabic
 - » Tips of possible feedback that participants may give (that are not straight answers) with answer options to be given by the interviewer
 - » Reminders to the interviewer, especially regarding the reporting period
 - » Culturally sensitive tips to take into account
 - » Highlighting words or statements to stress on

Hand-outs

Hand-outs to accompany the presentation are available and a copy should be provided to trainees to keep and refer to after the training.

Practice

It is recommended that trainees practice using the measures through role-play, with the trainer observing and providing feedback, until the trainer deems that the trainee is competent to use it with children and caregivers.

Other training

It is recommended that the training on these measures, and therefore fieldwork, is coupled with training on:

- Recruitment and consenting
- Communication with children
- Research ethics
- Data collection
- Data entry
- Documentation

This should be designed with the particular research project in mind or adapted as necessary for clinical settings.