Eliciting acceptable investments in surveillance of parasitic Neglected Tropical Diseases

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Background

Accuracy and reliability of information is important when considering whether to invest or disinvest into a disease surveillance programme [1]. An economic perspective would suggest that the willingness to pay (WTP) would be the same when it comes to the monetary value they require to receive in order to forgo (or sell) the same service or product. Contrary to this, studies have shown that often people expect higher compensation when it comes to giving up goods.

This divide between willingness to accept (WTA) and WTP is important to understanding decision making. Very few studies have investigated this from a societal perspective [2].

Objectives

We plan to elicit:

• The WTA and WTP values of stakeholders (Decision-makers or researchers of zoonotic diseases) in relation to different contact tracing sensitivity levels.

• How respondents' WTP and WTA values change when faced with varying levels of uncertainty.

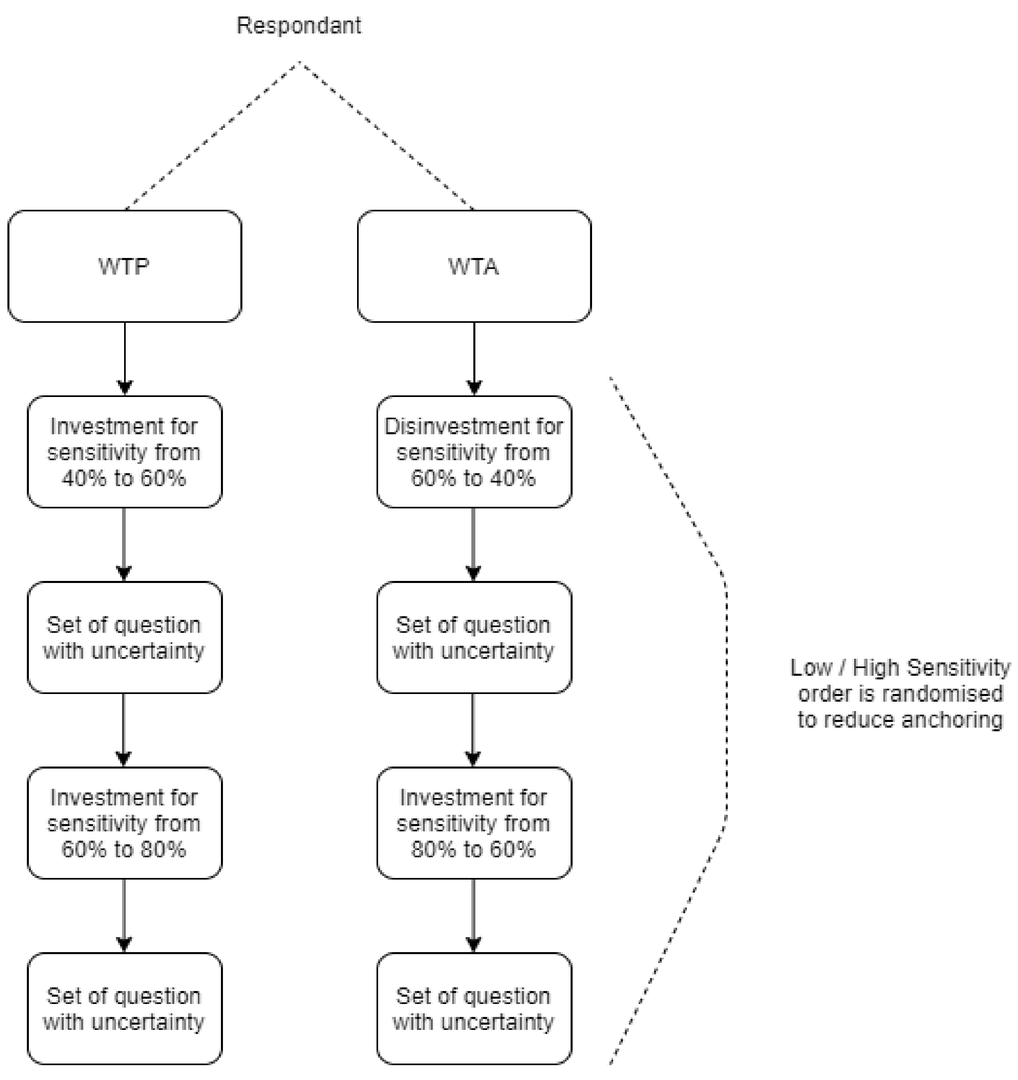

Fig 1. Flow of Questionnaire highlighting the sets of questions provided.

Methods

An online contingent valuation survey will be used to elicit WTP and WTA values. The respondent will be placed into the role of a decision maker as part of the local health authority tasked with overseeing disease surveillance. Within the questionnaire, each respondent is randomly allocated to WTP or WTA questions.

Then the questionnaire is split into 2 sections:

1. **A question eliciting how much respondents are willing to invest for an increase in sensitivity.**
2. **Several questions asking how much they would invest if there was a level of uncertainty (risk losing your investment in WTP and risk losing sensitivity in WTA).**

These sections are shown in Figure 1. These two sections are repeated with A different starting levels of sensitivity

Results

We expect to collect and analyse the following results:

- **A distribution of the WTP and WTA values will be created for each increase/decrease in sensitivity.**
- **How uncertainty affects stakeholder attitude to invest/disinvest.**

This will inform a cost effectiveness threshold which describes the maximum amount decision makers are willing to invest into surveillance programmes.

Impact and outcomes

The aim is to be able to further understand the investment preferences of decisionmaker for disease surveillance.

Our study act can as a benchmark to inform cost-effective analysis of decision making by policymakers.

References

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