

ASRH Case Study
Focus Group Discussion Guide with **Adolescents**

Date:

Facilitator:

Note-taker:

Location:

Sex of Participants:

Age Range of Participants:

Number of Participants:

INTRODUCTION: The Women's Refugee Commission and Save the Children are looking at health programs for adolescent girls and boys in humanitarian settings.

- The Women's Refugee Commission is an advocacy organization based in New York, USA. The organization advocates for changes in laws, policies and programs to improve the lives and protect the rights of refugee and displaced women, children and young people.
- Save the Children is an international humanitarian organization that helps people in conflict and crisis. Save the Children works with other international NGOs as well as local youth organizations in almost 25 countries to advocate for and implement programs in health, protection, education and jobs for adolescents.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this group discussion is to hear your thoughts about certain health issues that may affect girls and boys aged 10-19 years of age, and of programs that offer health services to girls and boys your age.

SELECTION: We are conducting group discussions among those who have important things to say about this issue. You have been identified in the group discussion because of _____. We value any thoughts you can offer.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION: Your participation in this group discussion is voluntary. You may decide to participate or not. Although we will greatly value your participation, you will not experience negative consequences by not participating. You may leave the group discussion at any time if you feel uncomfortable.

PROCEDURES: We will ask you a series of questions on your thoughts about health issues affecting girls and boys your age, and experiences with _____'s program. You are encouraged to talk about what girls and boys your age think in general, rather than about your own personal experiences.

I am going to ask you these questions as a group. This group will be different than if I sat with you each individually, because you have the chance to comment on each other's thoughts. Each of you has important ideas that I would hope to hear for each question. Please try to help me along by making sure that your thoughts are heard for each question.

The discussion will last about one hour. You are free to respond to any of the questions asked and provide additional comments. If you do not wish to answer specific questions during the discussion, you do not need to do so. We will take notes to document group members' responses and may ask for clarifications if needed.

We would also like to record the discussion so that we can compare notes for translation. Only the group discussion facilitators, translators and project staff will listen to the recording, and the files/tapes will be destroyed once the notes have been typed for analysis. Please let us know if you approve of our recording this session.

USE OF INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY: The information you share in the group discussion will be used to show the work of _____'s program. The report will help programs serving adolescents in other countries provide better services.

There is no wrong or right answer to the questions, so please do not worry if you are not sure about the answers. All of the individual information I collect will be kept confidential and will not be traced back to you. Your honest response will be very much appreciated. We ask that all participants in this discussion keep each other's comments confidential. This is very important. In other words, we ask you not to talk to people outside of this group about what was said in the group.

RISKS AND BENEFITS: There are no identifiable risks to participating in the group discussion. We will ask you some questions related to your personal life including your thoughts on certain health issues and experiences with _____'s program. We do not think that these questions will be upsetting to you, but if you do not wish to answer certain questions, you do not need to. If you do become upset, we will help you find someone to talk to about it. There is no payment or other material benefit to be gained from participating in this group discussion. The main benefit of your participation is to share your honest opinions and thoughts.

I would like to answer any questions you might have about this exercise and/or your participation. Do you have any questions?

CONSENT: Again, your participation is completely voluntary. You can tell me verbally if you would like to participate or not. If you agree, I will make a note of this. (After answering any questions, use the "Authorization and Release Form" from the Women's Refugee Commission; the interviewer signs that verbal consent has been obtained.)

FURTHER INFORMATION AND SHARING OF RESULTS: In a few months time, we will develop a short report in both English and the local language that summarizes our findings from this exercise. We will give the report to _____ staff so that you will receive it around November 2012. We will also provide you the contact information for the person you can write to for further information about the report and the work more generally: _____.