

Focus Groups with Residents

1. How was your community formed? When did people settle this area and for what reason? How long has the community been in existence? How long have most residents lived in the community? Have there been new residents since the community's initial formation? Where did they come from and why? How has the community responded?
 - a. What is the legal status of your community? Do you have title to your land? Are you renting? Squatting? What actions have you taken to improve your legal standing now or in the past? How successful were they?
2. What are some of the good things about your community? Probe: Knowing neighbors, mutual support, political representation, businesses, services, sense of shared history?
 - a. How well do neighbors in your community get along with each other?
3. What are some of the challenges faced in your community?
 - a. What do you use for transportation to other parts of the city? How reliable is it? Affordable? Safe? How long does it take you to commute to work, shopping, medical care, schools?
 - b. How adequate is trash collection in the community? How do you dispose of waste when the city does not?
 - c. Where do you go for medical care? How close is it to your communities and are you able to get there in cases of emergencies? How affordable are health care options?
 - d. Do your children receive preventive medicine such as vaccines and well child checks? From whom? Within the community or at clinics? Are these well received?
 - e. How big a problem is violence and crime in your communities? How have you tried to respond to violence and crime? What support have you received from police?
 - f. How do people from other parts of the city perceive you as residents of xxx? Do you think they have prejudices or misperceptions about the people who live here?
 - g. How much political voice do you feel you have in your municipal government? To what extent has political participation led to improvements in your community?
 - h. What are some of the environmental hazards in your community? How often does flooding occur? How do pollutants effect your living conditions? What are the sources of these? Probe: Micro-enterprises, farm animals, dump sites, open sewage...
4. What are your priorities in terms of improving your community?

5. What are the most common health problems faced in your community? What are the most common health problems for children? What do you think the causes of these health problems are? What are their solutions?