

# CONFIDENTIAL

Interviewer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS ASSOCIATIONS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT BURUNDI

### FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Respondent must be a member of the Village Savings and Loans Association

Respondent ID/Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Household Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ M / F M/S/W \_\_\_\_\_  
Commune: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ VSLA: \_\_\_\_\_ Discussion Group Participant? Yes No

Date	Start Time	Completion Time	Primary Language of Interview (Circle one)
			Kirundi    French    English

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Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Date Entered \_\_\_\_\_ Completed by (please write name/ID legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

## Interview Questions

### 1. Understand Decision Making (1/2 hour- 45 minutes)

We would like to ask you some questions about how decisions are made in your household and in Burundi in general. If anything seems unclear, please ask me to clarify. There is no right or wrong answer, we are just interested in what typically happens and understanding how decisions are often made. Your answers here won't be told to anyone else and will only be used anonymously. If you have any concerns, feel free to talk to any of us at any time.

#### (1) Example-daily shopping

Walk me through the process—you want to go shopping on market day

How do you decide what to buy?

How do you decide how much to spend?

What happens if your husband/wife disagrees? What happens if your husband gets angry?

#### (2) Is this the same for a big purchase? What about recurring costs, like school fees?

How do you decide what to buy?

How do you decide how much to spend?

How do you decide if you can afford it?

#### (3) Is this the same for things only men do, like going to the bar

For WOMEN

What about things only your husband does? Like going to the bar? Can you talk to him about how much he spends? What happens when he comes home from the bar? What happens if your husband gets angry?

For MEN

What about things only you do like going to the bar? How would you feel if your wife told you not to go to the bar? What would you do if you got angry at her? What about after you came home from the bar?

#### (4) Joint Decision making

Some couples decide things jointly—what does that mean?

How do decisions get made jointly?

Can you give me an example?

How do you think most families in Burundi make decisions? Is it jointly in this same way? Can you describe how you think husbands and wives usually talk to each other to decide?

## **2. Understanding Attitudes towards Women (45 min – 1 hour)**

We'd now like to talk about attitudes towards women and women's rights and responsibilities. Remember that everything you say is confidential and no one else will know about it. Also, you don't have to tell us about your family in particular but about any experiences you've seen or heard about directly.

### **(1) General Attitudes about Capability**

Do you think Burundian men feel that women are capable of making decisions? Do you think they feel that women have better, worse or an equal capacity to do this?

For example, can women manage money as well as men?

Can they decide when their husbands are spending too much money?

Can women decide whether or not to go to the doctor?

Do men listen to what women say? Why or why not?

### **(2) Generational Differences**

What do you think older women think about the way younger women today behave? Are there different attitudes about the responsibilities of women by the younger women, or are they the same? Why do you think attitudes have changed?

Do you think that younger husbands treat younger wives differently than or the same as their parents did? Can you give me an example?

Do you think the conflict has affected the way husbands treat their wives? Do you think it affects attitudes towards women? What about attitudes of women towards other women?

### **(2) General Attitudes about Responsibilities**

Do you think men and women in Burundi have different responsibilities at home and to work?

Do you think that women have more work or less work than most people realize? What is wrong about the impression people have?

What are a woman's responsibilities towards her husband? Is the number of children to have part of those responsibilities? What about agreeing or disagreeing with her husband? Are women responsible for taking care of the husbands as well? What does that involve? How does that relate to having children? How does that relate to agreeing or disagreeing with what her husband wants?

### **(4) Sexual and Reproductive Health**

Do women decide whether or not to have sex with their husbands? What do you think about this? What do you think most Burundian women feel about this? What about the ones who feel differently? What about the men, how do they feel?

Is having many children more important to men or women? Why, or why not? Why would some people not want to have many children?

How do you think men would react if their wives had access to birth control? What if she took birth control without his knowledge or permission? Why?

### 3. Understanding Violence (45 min -1 hour)

We'd like to talk to you about how disputes are often resolved. It can be difficult to talk about what happens when your husband or any one else's get angry. I would like to remind you that your responses to all questions are completely voluntary and everything you tell me is confidential and no one else will know what you have said.

#### (1) Defining violence

What do husbands do when they are angry? Sometimes husbands act out physically when they are angry. It can be hard to define what types of actions count as "violence" against a wife. What do you think that means? What actions would a husband have to take to physically hurt his wife? Can you give me examples of what would count? Can you give me examples of what would not count?

Not everything causes physical injury. What are other actions that husbands take that hurt wives? Can you give me an example?

#### (2) Frequency and Acceptability

Do you think husband frequently hit their wives? How often is that? How often would be too much? How often would be reasonable?

What if it was bad times—bad harvest for example? Do you think husbands might hit their wives more or less during those times?

What if his wife disobeyed him? What sort of thing would she do that counts as disobeying? What if his wife didn't consult him before making a decision? What kind of decision can a wife not make without consulting her husband? Do you think husband would hit more frequently then? Is it justified? What do you think? What do you think is the common belief in Burundi?

#### (3) Response by Community

How would family act if they found out that a husband beat his wife? Would the wife's family react differently than the husband's family? What would they do? Can you think of any specific examples?

How would friends or neighbors act? What would be thought about the husband? What about the wife? What would anyone say to the couple?

If a wife felt in danger from her husband, what could she do? Can you think of an example? If someone came to you to ask what they should do, what would you say?