

RHRC CONSORTIUM MONITORING AND EVALUATION TOOLKIT

EXAMPLE: IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

Note This in-depth interview guide was adapted from a guide developed for the **Reproductive Health Literacy (RHL) Project** in Guinea, West Africa. The purpose of this project, run by the American Refugee Committee, was to increase refugee women's literacy skills and knowledge of reproductive health information, and to promote healthy reproductive health behavior.

In an in-depth interview, the interviewer should cover all the theme areas, but does not necessarily follow a particular sequence. She does not need to ask the potential questions – they are listed as a discussion aid. The discussion should flow and some topics will arise without being asked directly by the interviewer. She can introduce a particular theme if it has not arisen during the discussion.

Ideally, an in-depth interview is more like a conversation (but with a purpose) than a quick question-and-answer type "interview."

Purpose of in-depth interview component of RHL study

To gather detailed information from former RHL students in order to understand their perceptions about themselves – their boldness, their potential, their value to themselves, their families and their communities – and also to understand whether they believe their RHL participation changed their self-perceptions.

Respondents

15-20 women who participated in the RHL classes

Interviewer

[Name]

Assistant, transcriber

[Name]

Time and duration

Each interview can take up to 2 hours. At about 3 interviews per day, the interviews should be completed in 5-7 working days.

Method

The in-depth interviews will be carried out in privacy with only the interviewer and respondent present. The interviews will be tape recorded, with the respondent's permission, for later transcription and translation to English for analysis.

Privacy, confidentiality, informed consent

Each woman selected must understand that she is free to participate in or decline the interview. She will receive no material benefit from her participation, nor will she be harmed in any way. All information will be kept strictly confidential, and no woman will ever be identified with any comment she makes. If she agrees to the interview, she will be asked to sign a paper.

In-depth interview themes and potential questions

The interviewer should try to cover all the **themes** listed below, but does not have to ask all the potential questions listed. The potential questions are simply suggestions or how to get the conversation started on the theme, and reflect the kind of information we are interested in.

These themes do not need to be addressed in any particular order.

Theme	Your ideas about being an RHL student
Potential questions	Why did you decide to register for RHL? What did you like best about RHL? Why did you like it? What didn't you like about RHL? Why didn't you like those things? In the RHL classes, if you did not understand something, what did you do? (for example, ask a question in class, ask the teacher afterwards, ask another student, do nothing)
Theme	Your use of RHL information outside the class
Potential questions	Have you talked to other people about RHL? Who have you talked to? What did you discuss? Why did you want to talk about RHL? How do you feel when you tell other people about RHL? Since you completed RHL, have you sometimes looked at your RHL books? Do you ever read anything else? Can you tell me about one thing that you have read recently? Why did you read it? How did you feel when you read it?
Theme	Your communication / relationship with your husband (or boyfriend, or parent)
Potential questions	Was your husband happy or not happy that you did RHL? Why? Do you think anything has changed between you and your husband since you completed RHL? What has changed? Do you sometimes challenge your partner, or talk directly to him? Tell me about one time when you challenged or talked directly to him. How do you feel when you do this? What is his reaction? Before RHL, did you ever challenge or talk directly to him?
Theme	Your participation in community activities
Potential questions	Do you take part in some activities in the community? Which activities? (for example, health clubs, church/mosque groups, community concerts, Kaddah). How does it make you feel to

take part in these activities? Did you also take part before you did RHL?

Theme

Your general ideas about taking part in RHL

Potential questions

Do you think that RHL has helped you and your family? How has it helped? Do you think it has helped you personally? How has it helped?

Theme

Your ideas about “boldness” in women

Potential questions

What does it mean for a woman to be “bold”? Do you admire bold women? Why? Do you think other people in the community admire bold women? Why?

Do you think you are bold? Why? Do you think you are more bold because of RHL? Why?

Do you think other people admire you? Why do you think so? Do you think they see you differently since you completed RHL? Why do you think so?