

## Refugee Reproductive Health Needs Assessment Field Tools Refugee Leader Questions

Date:  
Leader's name:  
Male\_\_\_ Female\_\_\_ (please check)  
Position in the community/title:  
Interviewer's name:

**INTRODUCTION:** I am interested in learning about some of the health needs of people in this camp/village. I would like to ask your permission to interview you and other people in your community about health care and other issues that may be related to health care. I hope the answers to these questions will help my organization to work with UNHCR to improve health services. I'd like to ask you some questions about the community and give you some examples of questions I will be asking people in surveys and group discussions. In addition to getting your permission, I also want to know your opinion about some of these matters as well. I expect our talk to last about \_\_\_\_ minutes.

**First, may I ask you some questions about your community [district,etc.]?**

[NOTE: This section and the next include questions designed to elicit contextual information which has at least indirect bearing on reproductive health practices or needs (e.g., hygiene, protection of women, education of girls); you may already know the answers to some of these and not need to ask them, or you may want to ask them anyway to verify your information and/or to determine the extent to which people have the same information.]

What nationality/ethnic group is your community? What is their religion?

Describe how your camp is organized (administratively, politically)? What is your responsibility as a leader? How were you chosen? How many people do you have in your community? What other kinds of leaders are there in your community?

Who do you have contact/work with from UNHCR or the implementing agencies?  
What is your specific title?

Can you draw a map of where your community is in relationship to the rest of the camp? How close are you to the health clinic? to clean water? to latrines? to schools?

**Now, may I ask you some questions about local conditions and services?**

How do people in your community get or have money? What kinds of jobs or sources of income do men and women have? What do they spend money on in the camp?

What type of contact is there between refugees in your community and the local population?

How is food distributed? What role do women have in food distribution? Do people here have enough to eat? If not, why not?

Where does the water come from? Who gets it for the houses?

Do children go to school? Where is the school? Until what age do they go? Do both boys and girls go?

How many children/adolescents are here without parents? How are they cared for?

What do most women do here during the day? Do any of them have jobs earning money? What do they do?

How many women are here without their husbands/partners/men? Who protects them?

Tell me about the health care services and providers here. Do they speak your language? Are there refugees from your community working in the health system? Are the services free? Are services available 24 hours a day? Do you have to prove you are a refugee to get services? (Do only refugees get services there?)

What kinds of women's groups are there in the camp? Who organizes them?

What kinds of sicknesses do people get here? During the last year, how many people died in your community? Were they young or old? male or female? What were the causes of death?

### **May I ask about marriage customs?**

Have there been changes in marriage customs since the people in your community left their country? What were the customs in your country? What are they now? Was/is there a bride price/dowry that affected marriage practices? How do emigration policies affect marriage practices?

At what age do/did women generally marry? Do women usually wait until after marriage to have sex? What about men? Has this changed since flight? Do men have more than one wife? Is this different from before flight? Are they all treated equally?

### **Now, I'd like your permission to ask questions about women having babies in this camp.**

How do women in this camp take care of themselves when they are pregnant? Are there clinics where they can see health workers? What do the health workers do for them? Do health workers ever visit pregnant women in their homes?

Where do women generally have their babies in this camp? Who stays with them while they are in labor? Do you know women who have died while having a baby? or their babies died? Do you know why they died?

Do men treat women differently -- either better or worse -- during pregnancy? If yes, how?

Do most women here breastfeed their babies? Do they start right after the baby is born? How many months/years do they usually breastfeed? [How old is the child when he/she is weaned?]

If a woman is having a problem when she is having the baby, who decides how to take care of her? Who is called? Where is she taken? What do they do for her?

What do people in the community think about an unmarried women/girl who has a baby?

**Next, I'd like to ask some questions about family planning/child spacing.**

How many children do most couples want? How many children do most couples have?

Has this number changed since refugees arrived here?

What do women and men do to prevent having babies? What are the traditional ways? What are the modern ways? Where do they go to get help for this here? What did they do before they left their home country?

What, if anything, do women do immediately after having unprotected sex to prevent a pregnancy? Where do they get help for this?

Sometimes women who are pregnant don't want to be because they are not married or they don't have enough food to feed their families or they got pregnant when they were raped. What do women do when they think or know they are pregnant but do not want to be?

**Would you mind if we talked about AIDS and STDs for a few minutes?**

Have you heard of AIDS?

Are people in this camp worried about getting AIDS? What do they do to prevent it? What about other diseases you can get from having sex (STDs)?

What do people do when they think they have STDs or AIDS? Can they get tests or get treated here at the camp?

Are there men and women in the camp who have sex who are not married? Do people think this is wrong for men or for women? Do many teenagers have sex outside of marriage? Does this only happen at the camp or did it happen in your home country as well?

Are there men who have sex with men in the camp?

Is there a place to get condoms in this camp? Who uses them? Married couples? Single adults? Adolescents? People who are sick? Commercial sex workers?

Is there a drug problem in your community? Which drugs (IV?)? Alcohol abuse?

**I'd also like to ask some questions about violence against women (sexual and domestic violence).**

Do you know of women in this camp who are forced to have sex when they don't want to? Do you know of women who have sex for money, protection or food? With whom do these women have sex? What do you know and think about this kind of situation?

What do you know about husbands who are violent with their wives (e.g., beat or cut them)? Has this increased or decreased in this camp (compared to your traditional culture)? What is your feeling about husbands who hit their wives?

Where in your home country would women get help if they had been raped or beaten? What would the community have done? What services were available? What happens here now? Do women look for help here when this happens to them? If not, why not?

Have you heard of men being raped here? What happens to the rapist if he is caught? Are there any services for a raped man?

**I'd like to ask you about initiation rites of passage from childhood to adulthood.**

How do children become adults in your community?

What can you tell me about female circumcision in this camp? Male circumcision?

Who is responsible for initiation rites for children who are in the camp without their parents?

**I have just a few more questions to ask about refugee life in general.**

What are the chances of the refugees in your community returning home? Being resettled in another country? How long do most people stay or expect to stay in this camp?

How do you feel the people in your community are different than others in the camp?

To what extent are refugees involved in providing services through UNHCR or NGOs?

[NOTE: Answers to the next two questions may help put concerns about RH services in perspective, given the many difficulties faced by refugees. The interviewees should know, however, that these probably are not issues which can be addressed by the NGO conducting the needs assessment.]

What is the most difficult aspect of refugee life here?

Are there other health services that you need but you do not receive? If so, what are they? Rank/prioritize them.

How do members of your community find strength/joy/satisfaction? [NOTE: This question is designed to help identify positive aspects of life with which to connect program outreach.]

**Thank you for your time. I have learned quite a bit about your reproductive health services, concerns and needs. This information will be helpful when we review health program needs and priorities. Your answers are a contribution to this project.**