

Youth-Led Community Based Research Project Roundtable Discussion Script for Researchers

Good morning/afternoon. My name is ... It's a pleasure to meet you and to have this opportunity to talk together.

This discussion is part of a youth-led community-based research project. The purpose of this project is to bring community members together to determine what causes conflict and violence in their community. We want to do this in order to develop community action plans that will strategically help to address the root causes of the conflict.

We are particularly interested in how you understand conflict in [your community], what the response has been to conflict, and what could be done in the future to address conflict. We are interested in all of your opinions and don't need to come to agreement today.

[Name of the community partner organization] is leading this project in [your community]. It is doing so in partnership with Mercy Corps, and the Centre for Community Based Research. The project is funded by the Government of Canada.

Similar individual and group discussions are taking place with others in [your community] and in three other communities in Haiti. We expect to speak to at least 55 people in each community in the next 2-3 months.

This discussion should take 1-2 hours. [Name of recorder] will take written notes. Only the research team will have access to these notes. We won't include any of your names in these notes or in any other reports or presentations. We ask that you not to tell others about what is spoken in this group. We want you to feel safe to freely talk.

We would also like to record the discussion to make sure that our notes have captured your ideas. Is this OK?

Being a part of this group is voluntary. This means you can leave whenever you want. It also means you can refuse to answer any question you don't want to answer. We won't tell anyone if you choose to participate or not.

Information that we gather from these discussions will be summarized and presented at a community forum likely in September. You are invited to that forum. More information about the forum will follow at a later time.

If talking today upsets you, we can connect you with someone who can help.

Are there any questions that you have about this project or what we are doing today?

Knowing all this, does everyone agree to participate in this discussion?

Introduction

Let's begin with introductions.

1. Please say your name, how long you have lived in this community, and what you like best about living in the community.

Describing conflict in your community

As mentioned before, the focus of this discussion is about conflict in [your community]; what is being done about it and what could be done about it. Conflict in communities can take many forms and can happen for different reasons. Conflict can lead to violence that is easily seen causing relationships to break down or people being harmed in some way. Conflict can also be linked to things that are deeper and harder to see, but that are still very real. For example, when people are denied economic well-being, equality, or the ability to make decisions about things that affect their lives. To start our discussion, we would like to hear how you understand conflict in [your community]. [Note people may talk about more than one conflict, in which case these questions can be explored for each of the main conflicts mentioned.]

2. What kind of conflict have you noticed in this community?
 - What does the conflict look like?
 - Are the different kinds of conflict inter-related? If so, how?
 - How has the conflict changed overtime?
3. Why is there conflict in this community?
 - What are some of the presenting reasons for the conflict?
 - What are some of the underlying reasons for the conflict?
4. What is the impact of the conflict?
 - How have community members been impacted by the conflict (e.g., physically, emotionally, economically, socially, spiritually, psychologically)?
 - How has your community's well-being been impacted by the conflict (e.g., sense of safety, economic security, participation in decision-making, cultural norms)?

Describing the response to conflict

Now let's talk about how people in [your community] are responding to the conflict you described. People can try to deal with conflict in different ways. For example, they might try to address the harm that people have experienced or restore the relationships of people in conflict. Or they might try to address some of the underlying reasons for conflict – the unjust structures in society or cultural practices that perpetuate a conflict. [Note: if multiple conflicts were mentioned above, the questions below can be explored for each of the main conflicts.]

5. What are people in the community already doing to address the conflict?
 - What activities, places or events have been organized?
 - Who is responsible for organizing this response?
 - What is working with what community members are already doing?
 - What is not working with what community members are already doing?
6. What has the role of police been in responding to the conflict?
 - Who is in charge of alerting police to the conflict?
 - Do the police respond to the alerts?
 - Do the police improve or worsen the situation?
 - To what extent is the police response aligned with the response of community members?

Imagining what could be done in the future

Finally, let's talk about what can be done to further address conflict(s) in our community. Obviously, this project can't do everything. But together as community members, we can think strategically about what could happen next. Again, we encourage you to think of what could be done to address both the presenting and underlying sources of conflict. [Note: if multiple conflicts were mentioned above, take some time to prioritize which conflict the project should try to address.]

7. What else could people in our community do to address the conflict?
 - What strategies would most effectively address the reasons for the conflict?
 - Who could lead these strategies?
 - Why haven't community members already implemented these suggestions?

8. If our community could implement a project over the next six months to address the conflict, what would it be?
 - Why should this project be a priority?
 - How best can this project build on what is already being done?

Is there anything else anyone would like to add?

Thank you for taking part in this discussion. We will be in contact about the community forum that we are planning for September.