

**FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS TRADITIONAL/CLAN LEADERS - GUIDELINES**

**DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL**

**FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE PROGRAM 'DIALOGUE IN SOMALIA THROUGH  
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION'**

**Time Started:**

**Time Ended:**

**Code:**

**Initial Consent:**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I work on behalf of the Danish Refugee Council, an international humanitarian NGO. We are conducting a study on community development in your district. We are conducting focus group discussions with different members of your community to understand better the different public services offered in your community and how these are financed. We want to understand what services are offered in your community, what types of community development projects can be found in your community, how these types of services are financed, and your experience with these topics.

We have invited all of you here, because as respected community leaders, we would like to discuss these issues with you. We are not working with the government, any political party, clan affiliation, or company. If you consent to participate in this study, we would like to interview you and discuss your opinions in this group setting. There are no right answers we are looking for. This research will be used to help us understand what is the reality and challenges of development in Somalia. Therefore, we want to hear the voices and opinions of ordinary people such as yourself. Thus, please answer each question as truthfully as possible. The discussion will take approximately 1 hour of your time.

It is your choice if you want to participate in this focus group. You can choose to not respond to any question if you do not want to. If you feel uncomfortable at any point in the focus group, you can choose to leave and stop participating. If you choose to participate in this group discussion, you will contribute to helping us understand the challenges of community development in Somalia, so we can better our community development programs.

We will protect your confidentiality and privacy throughout the interview. Your name will not be recorded, and we will not record any personal identification details. Your answers will be kept confidential and will be combined with all of the other people we are talking too. It will be impossible to pick you out from what you say, so please feel like you can speak freely. Please note that why we will not identify you in any way in our research, we cannot guarantee the actions of the other members here in this group with us today. Therefore, we would like at this time to ask all members in this group to ensure that what is discussed today is not discussed after the discussion has ended, or discussed with other members of the community, and that all information is treated as private. Although your identity may be

known in town (since we came to visit you), it will not be associated with the study data. If you are at any point worried about confidentiality or privacy, please let me know.

If you have any questions throughout the discussion process, please stop me and ask. If you have any questions or complaints after we have completed the focus group discussion, you can contact [insert contact]. Does anyone have any questions? Are you willing to participate?

## **Part 1**

To start the interview, I would like to ask you some questions about what sort of public services are offered in your community and how these are financed. Please remember that if you do not feel comfortable, you can choose to not answer some questions or end the interview.

1. What key public services are provided in your community?
  - a. Who is involved in these public services?
  - b. How does the community finance them?

Prompts for researchers: These could be things such as who provides water, electricity, healthcare, security, etc. Could be provided by private sources, public sources, or the community at large. Please record the name, description, who is involved and how it is financed.

2. Are there any community development projects that exist in your community?
  - a. Who is involved in these projects?
  - b. How does the community finance them?

Prompt for researchers: Ask about projects where just the community has inputs, and also ask about projects jointly run by the community and the government. For example, a community-only project could be a community center built and run by citizens with no government help. A joint project could be where provides labour and gravel to build a road, and the government contributes the machinery.

3. Do you collect any fees or payments from citizens, for public services, development projects, or security?
- What fees/payments are collected?
  - Who actually collects these fees?
  - What is the value of these fees?
  - How often are they collected?
  - What are these fees/payments used for?

Prompt for Researchers: In the collector column, record who collects payment. In the value column, record the amount of each payment. In the frequency column, record how often this payment is collected.

**Use the chart below to record this information.**

No.	Name	Collector	Value	Frequency	Description of payment/fee


4. Do you face any challenges collecting these fees or payments? If so, please describe.

Prompt: For example, low revenue potential, taxpayer's inability to pay, lack of skilled tax collectors, security issues, or others. We want to understand the difficulties they have in collecting the above payments and fees.

5. Do you know of other members or groups in the community who collect fees or payments from community members?

Prompt: Such as other clan leaders, other traditional leaders, civil society groups, other associations or groups. We just want to know who they KNOW collects other fees and payments, not who else they work with.

## **Part 2**

Thank you for your answers. Now that we have talked about what services and projects exist in your community, I would like to ask you more questions on who is in charge of these services and who plays a leadership role in this area.

6. What groups, associations and networks exist in your community?

Prompt: Probe for social, economic, and political entities that may exist in the community, using the categories listed below.



No.	Group/Network	Name	Activities	Leadership - Decisions in the community
1	Religious/spiritual group			
2	Clan			
3	Local government administration or authorities			
4	Trade unions			
5	Market associations			
7	Cultural groups			

8	Finance/savings/credit associations			
9	Civil society			
10	Women's groups			
11	Youth groups			
12	Other			

7. As a respected community leader, you have an important role in the community. Can you describe to me what sorts of decisions you are in charge of?

Prompt: This could include decisions on service delivery, community projects, administrative elements, security, or others. We want to understand their decision-making role in the community. Prompt for what sorts of activities and decisions they are in charge of.

8. Do you play a role in providing public services? Please describe.

Prompt: We want to know if they are involved in public services. For example, maybe they play a role in providing water to the community. Probe for different answers.

9. Do you play a role in community development projects? Please describe.

Prompt: We want to know if they are involved in any community development projects. For example, maybe they have a women's empowerment project, or are working to rebuild the hospital. Probe for different answers.

10. Do you play a role in security? Please describe

Prompt: We want to know if they are involved in any security for the community. This could include providing reports on the security situation, or advice to citizens. Probe for different answers.

11. Do you currently work with other groups to implement public services, development projects or security? If so, please describe?

Prompt: For example, do you work with other members or groups to maintain roads or to provide security, etc.? We want to know if they work with OTHER groups on public services or projects or security. Record the group and details of how they work together.

12. Do you work with any of these groups to collect revenue for public services, development projects or security? If so, please describe?

Prompt: For example, do you work with other members or groups to raise revenue for maintaining roads or to provide security, etc.? We want to know if they raise revenue with OTHER groups for public services or community development projects. Record the group and details of how they work together.

### **Part 3**

Thank you for all of your answers. Now I would like to move into the next part of the discussion. I would like to ask you some deeper questions about the networks and groups in your community. We want to understand who works together on services, development projects, and security in the community, and what kind of roles they play. If you feel uncomfortable at any point, please let me know. You can choose not to answer any question, or leave the discussion if you want.

13. How would you describe your effectiveness to collect payments and fees from citizens in your community? For example, such as the Qaaraan?

Prompt: We want to understand what they think of their ability to collect fees and payments from citizens. This could be positive (they think they are able to do this well), or it could be negative (they wish they were able to collect more fees).

14. How would you describe the effectiveness of the local administration in collecting taxes in this community?

Prompt: We want to understand what they think about the ability of the local administration to collect taxes. Do they think they are very effective (can collect fees well) and why, or do they think they are not effective (they can't really collect fees) and why?

15. Who do you think would be the most trustworthy to implement a development project?

Prompt: For example, would the government be the most trustworthy? Clan leaders? Civil society?

16. A development organization gives the local administration funds to build a new road. What is the likelihood they misuse these funds?

Prompt: Very likely? Unlikely? Probe for why they think this.

17. Do you know of any projects or activities where your community has worked with another village or district? Describe.

Prompt: We want to understand if there are any projects in which this community has worked with others, either in another district or village. This includes projects that happened in the past, or current projects. Describe the project, who worked on it, and when it occurred.

18. Do you know of any projects or activities where your community has worked with different clan groups? Describe.

Prompt: We want to understand if there are any projects in which multiple clan groups work together. This includes projects that happened in the past, or current projects. Describe the project, who worked on it, and when it occurred.

#### **Part 4**

I am now going to ask you some questions on what you would think about different community development programs. As I mentioned, I work with the Danish Refugee Council. The Danish Refugee Council works with many communities across Somalia, where we work together with communities on development projects. The Danish Refugee Council is designing a new program, which would work alongside the community on different development projects. We would like to ask some questions in regards to this idea. This does not mean that the project is going to happen, we just want to get your ideas and opinions about what would work in your community. As I mentioned before, all of your answers will be kept confidential and private. You may choose not to answer any questions that you do not feel like answering.

19. Do you consider strengthening your ability to collect fees and payments a priority?  
Why or why not?

Prompt: We want to understand if increasing their ability to collect fees and payments for services, activities, projects or security is important to them. For example, maybe currently they are restricted in access to the population and can't access Qaaraan contributions; they then want to strengthen their ability to collect revenue. Or for example they already have a very strong revenue collection system, and they don't think this is a very important priority for them. Describe why or why not.

20. Do you have suggestions for addressing any challenges you face in collecting payments and fees from the community?

Prompt: If they have challenges collecting fees or payments, what would make this easier for them to do?

21. Your local administration official approaches you and tells you about a new project that is being started in the community, where they are establishing a community fund to finance different development projects. He says that the community will choose a project to benefit citizens, and then collect some of their income to finance this project. He tells you that the local administration will be working with different community groups such as civil society organizations. They ask you if you want to work together on this. How willing are you to manage this project together, and why?

Prompt: We want to understand here if they would be willing to work with the local administration to manage a development fund and project.



22. You get approached by a group of leaders from a different clan. They have heard of a new program where if they can raise funds from local citizens, an outside organization will match the money they raise and give them a grant. The combined funds will be used for a community development project. They ask you if you want to work together on this. How willing are you to manage this project together, and why?

Prompt: We want to understand here if they would be willing to work with different clan leaders to manage a development fund and project.

23. You get approached by an international NGO. They are starting a new program, where if the community can raise local funds for development projects, they will give a grant to match the amount raised. They want to work with you and give you this grant. However, they say that the local administration has to let them (the NGO) manage the money, along with other community members. How willing are you to work on this project together, and why?

Prompt: We want to understand if they would be willing to work with an international NGO to manage a development fund and project, that includes the local administration and community.

24. Your community has decided to start up a common collection of funds to be used for development projects in your area. The government and local community leaders will be involved in managing this fund, but there will also a council of elders, who will monitor how they use the money. Do you think that the funds will be used effectively?

Prompt: We want to understand here how people think money will be for development projects if this is managed by a council of elders.

25. Your community wants to start a common fund to finance development projects. The project will be managed by local community leaders and the local administration, and your village will receive a grant depending on how many payments your community contributes. It is suggested that the project should also work with the surrounding communities, including different clan groups. Would you be willing to contribute to this project? Why/why not?

Prompt: We want to understand if people would be willing to work on a development project if they had to work with different clan groups.