FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS - 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 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 our discussion, I would like to ask you some questions about what sort of groups, services, and projects exist in your community.

1. 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			

2. What key services are provided in your community?
   a. Who is involved in these projects?
   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 and description of the service, who is involved, and how it is financed.

3. 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. Please record the name of the project, who is involved, and how it is financed.

4. Can you explain what types of payments you make for public services in your community?

Prompt: Read each payment one by one, and prompt if they make this payment for public services. Prompt for security payments, payments for water/education/health, payments to the government and taxes, as well as payments to traditional/clan leaders. For example, do you make any payments for security in your community?

For each payment described by respondents, please ask the questions listed below the chart (Q 5 – 10). This must be done for each payment described.

For each payment answer the following and record in the chart below:

5. What value is the payment?

6. How often do you make the payment?

7. To who do you make the payment?

8. Why do you make this payment?

9. How does the collecting entity use this revenue?

10. What would increase your willingness to make this payment?

No.	Item	Value	Frequency	To who?	Why is payment made?	What is it used for by the organization?	What would increase willingness to pay?
1	Income tax						
2	Land/property tax						
3	Business taxes						
4	Market fees						
5	Transportation fees						

6	Checkpoint fees					
7	Education fees					
8	Medical payment					
9	Electricity					
10	Water/sanitation					

11	Payments to traditional leaders					
12	Payment to clan leaders					
13	Payment to religious bodies					
14	Security payments					

15	Payment to other community group (ex. community center)						
16	Payments for social or cultural events						
17	Other payments						

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.
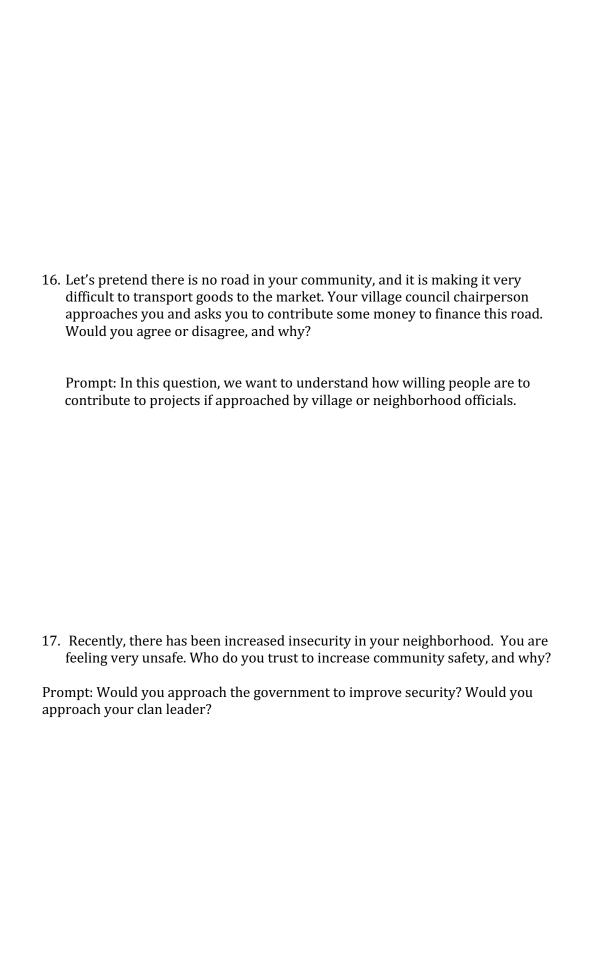
11. In your community, who makes decisions on public services?

Prompt: This could be things such as electricity services, water services, providing education, etc.

12. In your community, who makes decisions on community development projects?

Prompt: Say the community wants to build a community center. Who would be in charge of that?

13. In your community, who makes decisions about security? Who is in charge of financing these services?

   Prompt: For example, if there is a security problem in your village, who makes decisions on how to address the problem? Probe for different fees and payments made for security, such as voluntary contributions, local taxes, and other revenue. We want to understand who is in charge of security.

14. Let's pretend there is no road in your community, and it is making it very difficult to transport goods to the market. Your clan leader approaches you and asks you to contribute some money to finance this road. Would you agree or disagree, and why?

   Prompt: In this question, we want to understand how willing people are to contribute to projects if approached by clan leaders.

15. Let's pretend there is no road in your community, and it is making it very difficult to transport goods to the market. Your district commissioner approaches you and asks you to contribute some money to finance this road. Would you agree or disagree, and why?

   Prompt: In this question, we want to understand how willing people are to contribute to projects if approached by district officials.

16. Let's pretend there is no road in your community, and it is making it very difficult to transport goods to the market. Your village council chairperson approaches you and asks you to contribute some money to finance this road. Would you agree or disagree, and why?

    Prompt: In this question, we want to understand how willing people are to contribute to projects if approached by village or neighborhood officials.

17. Recently, there has been increased insecurity in your neighborhood. You are feeling very unsafe. Who do you trust to increase community safety, and why?

Prompt: Would you approach the government to improve security? Would you approach your clan leader?

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.**

18. Who do you go to in your community when you have a problem or there is a conflict?

    Prompt: This can include disputes over resources, disputes over land, security threats, family disputes, etc.

19. 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? We want to know who people trust for projects.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. Do you know of any projects or activities where your community has worked with different clan groups? Describe.
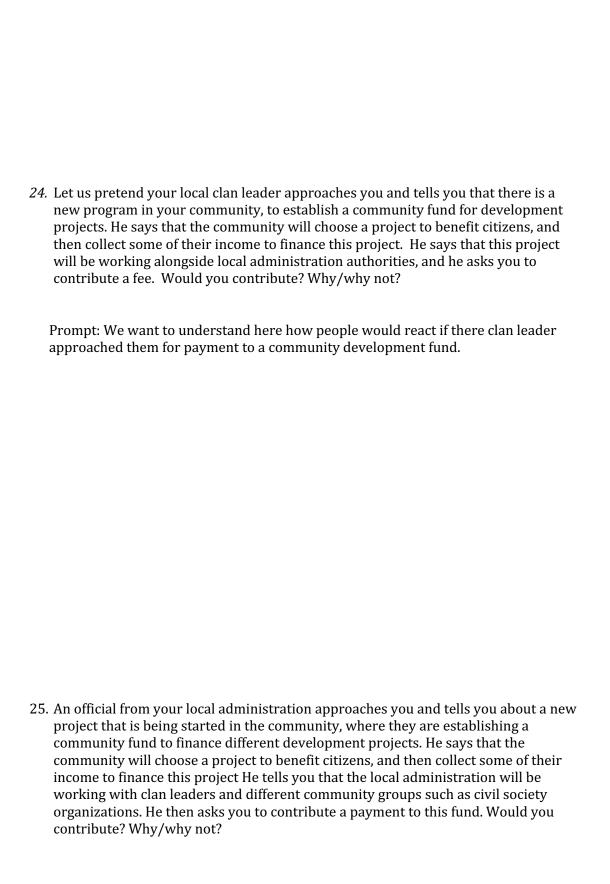
Prompt: We want to understand if there are any projects in which multiple clan groups work together. This includes projects that happened in the past, or current projects. Describe the project, who worked on it, and when it occurred.
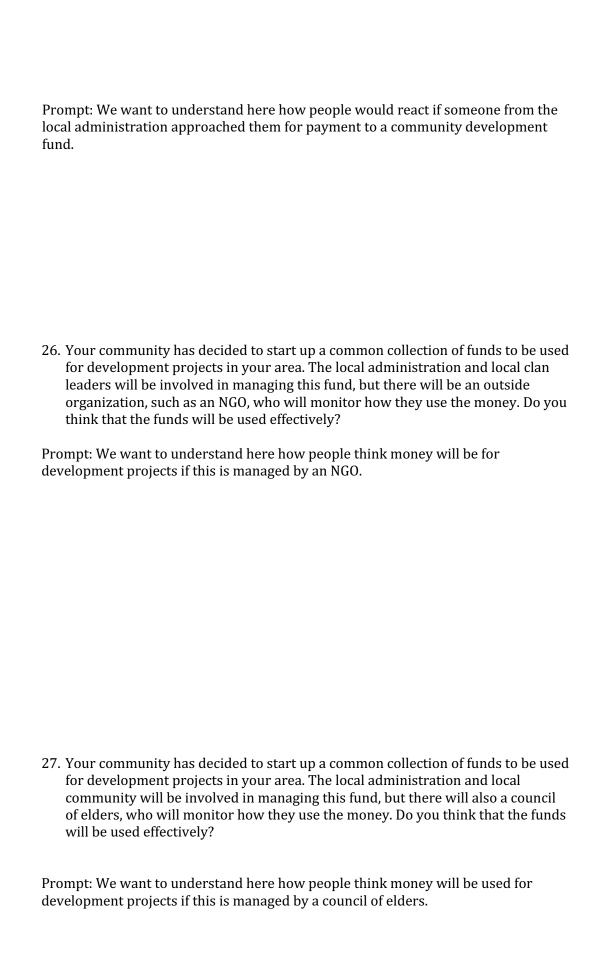
Part 4

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.

23. In the future, what would make you want to contribute your own financial resources to a specific development project?

Prompt: We want to understand what people would need for them to be willing to contribute financial resources to a community development project. Examples could include if they had more say in the project activities, or if they saw the project being managed effectively, or if they were involved in decisions. This does not mean what sorts of projects people want to see, but generally, what would make them want to increase their payment contributions to development projects in general.

24. Let us pretend your local clan leader approaches you and tells you that there is a new program in your community, to establish a community fund for 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 says that this project will be working alongside local administration authorities, and he asks you to contribute a fee. Would you contribute? Why/why not?

    Prompt: We want to understand here how people would react if there clan leader approached them for payment to a community development fund.

25. An official from your local administration 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 clan leaders and different community groups such as civil society organizations. He then asks you to contribute a payment to this fund. Would you contribute? Why/why not?

Prompt: We want to understand here how people would react if someone from the local administration approached them for payment to a community development fund.

26. Your community has decided to start up a common collection of funds to be used for development projects in your area. The local administration and local clan leaders will be involved in managing this fund, but there will be an outside organization, such as an NGO, 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 an NGO.

27. Your community has decided to start up a common collection of funds to be used for development projects in your area. The local administration and local community 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 used for development projects if this is managed by a council of elders.

28. Your community has decided to set up a common pool of funds to be used for development projects in your area. The local administration and local community leaders will be involved in managing the fund, where payments will be made by citizens through SMS. If you make a payment, you will receive a text message when project funds are spent, and you can monitor how this money is used. Would you contribute funds to this project? Do you think the money will be used effectively?

Prompt: We want to understand here how people think money will be for development projects if they can monitor the payments and fees themselves through an SMS system. For example, each time someone withdraws money from the account, they would get a text message telling them what amount has been withdrawn and by who.

29. 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.