

# **Assessing Economic Integration**

## **Survey Tool Proposal**

The New School UNSS Team

Prepared for The International Rescue Committee

July 2015

## Survey Tool Proposal Contents

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### E.I. Direct Questionnaire

1. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

2. What is your current age?

- ☐ Please write below: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

3. What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ Please write below: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

4. What is your country of origin?

- ☐ Please write below: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

5. What is your current marital status?

- ☐ Single, never married
- ☐ Married or domestic partner
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

## Pre-Arrival Questions

6. Please indicate the highest level of formal education that you have completed?

- ☐ No Schooling
- ☐ Some high school or less
- ☐ Graduated from High School
- ☐ Some College or technical school
- ☐ Graduated from Four-Year College
- ☐ Post-graduate or Professional
- ☐ Online Courses
- ☐ Certifications
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

7. Before arriving to the United States, what was/were your main income generating activities? Please list up to 5 activities.

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8. When did you arrive into the United States?

- ☐ 1-2 years ago
- ☐ 3-4 years ago
- ☐ 5-6 years ago
- ☐ 7-8 years ago
- ☐ 8-10 years ago
- ☐ 10+
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

### Since Arrival Questions

9. Since arriving in the United States, what education experiences have you had?

- ☐ No Schooling
- ☐ Some high school or less
- ☐ Graduated from High School
- ☐ Some College or technical school
- ☐ Graduated from Four-Year College
- ☐ Post-graduate or Professional
- ☐ Some Online Courses
- ☐ Certifications
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

10. Since arrival, what are your main income generating activities? Please list up to 5 activities.

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12. Are you with comfortable communicating in English? Check all that apply

- ☐ I am comfortable speaking
- ☐ I am comfortable writing
- ☐ I am comfortable reading English
- ☐ I am comfortable writing and speaking
- ☐ I am comfortable with writing, speaking and reading English
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

13. Do you have access to technology? Click all that apply.

- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Cell phone
- ☐ Computer and/or laptop
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

14. Since arrival, what is your primary method(s) of communication? Please list.

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15. How long did it take you to find a job since arrival?

- ☐ 0-3 months
- ☐ 3-6 months
- ☐ 6-9 months
- ☐ 9 months or more
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

16. How many jobs have you had since your arrival?

- ☐ 1-3
- ☐ 4-7
- ☐ 8-11
- ☐ 11 or more
- ☐ Not Applicable

17. Since arrival, are you in the habit of saving money?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I have acquired some debt
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

11. How would you describe your participation in your local community? Check all that apply.

- ☐ I have family and/or friend(s) in my local community
- ☐ I participate in community events
- ☐ I volunteer within my community
- ☐ I attend my local faith group
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I prefer not to say/ Don't Know

18. Do you want to live in your current community for the next:

- ☐ 6 months
- ☐ 1-3 years
- ☐ 4-6 years
- ☐ 7-9 years
- ☐ 10+ years
- ☐ I do not want to live in my community any longer
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

19. If you would like to stay within your community what are your reasons why (check all that apply):

- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Job
- ☐ Proximity to IRC programs
- ☐ Church
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

## IRC Program Participation Questions

20. Do you currently participate in IRC programs or classes that involve (check all that apply):

- ☐ Economic Empowerment
- ☐ Education and Learning
- ☐ Skills Training
- ☐ Health and Wellness
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ None
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

If None Is Selected, Then Skip To End of Block If Prefer not to answer Is Selected, Then Skip To End of Block

21. Did you complete the program(s) and/ or class(es) from above?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ In process of completion
- ☐ Not Applicable

22. Have you ever received aid from organizations (governmental or non-governmental) other than the IRC?

- ☐ Yes, temporary aid
- ☐ Yes, long term aid
- ☐ Looking for aid from other organizations
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable

23. Since arrival, when did you stop receiving aid from the IRC?

- ☐ Still receiving aid
- ☐ 0-3 months
- ☐ 3-6 months
- ☐ 6-12 months
- ☐ 12-18 months
- ☐ 18-24 months
- ☐ Not Applicable



## Employment Questions

24. What is your main source of income?

- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Self-employment
- ☐ Selling of goods (crafts, local goods, etc)
- ☐ Unofficial employment
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

25. What is your current employment status? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Employed full-time by others
- ☐ Employed part-time by others
- ☐ Self-Employed
- ☐ Temporarily unemployed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Full-time student
- ☐ Not employed at all
- ☐ Unofficial employment
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

If Not employed at all Is Selected, Then Skip To End of Block If Prefer not to answer Is Selected, Then Skip To End of Block

26. If you are employed, what type of employment do you hold?

- ☐ Hourly
- ☐ Salary
- ☐ Temporary
- ☐ Unofficial employment
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

27. If you are employed, describe which scenario best describes your situation. Check all that apply.

- ☐ I work in the same area as before arrival
- ☐ I work in a different area as before arrival
- ☐ My skills were not recognized
- ☐ I work in a different area but looking for a similar job as before arrival
- ☐ I work in a different area but NOT looking for a similar job as before arrival
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

## Money Management Questions

28. Thinking about your household income and expenses (you and your spouse/partner/family who immigrated with you), is your money sufficient to cover weekly basic needs (food, clothes, residence, transportation)?

- ☐ More than enough to meet basic needs
- ☐ Just enough to meet basic needs
- ☐ Not enough to meet basic needs
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

29. Do you receive additional support from family and/or friends? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Childcare
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Household work
- ☐ Finding employment
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

30. Do you provide additional support to family and/or friends? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Childcare
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Household work
- ☐ Finding employment
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Factors</b>
<b>Primary</b>	1. Participation in Labor Force 2. Employment Income	1. Length of Adjustment Period 2. Resettlement Community Characteristics
<b>Secondary</b>	1. Entrepreneurship 2. Taxes	1. Exit Conditions 2. Gender 3. Cultural Transition 4. Country of Origin
<b>Minor</b>		1. Skill Sets 2. Education 3. Access to/skill level in technology 4. Previous Professional Training
<b>Not Reviewed</b>		1. Economic & Social Environment of Host Country

### **Primary Indicators:**

1. Please indicate the highest level of formal education that you have completed?
2. Since arrival, what are your main income generating activities? Please list up to 5 activities.
3. How many jobs have you had since your arrival?
4. Since arrival, are you in the habit of saving money?
5. What is your main source of income?
6. What is your current employment status? Check all that apply.
7. If you are employed, what type of employment do you hold?
8. If you are employed, describe which scenario best describes your situation. Check all that apply.
9. Thinking about your household income and expenses (you and your spouse/partner/family who immigrated with you), is your money sufficient to cover weekly basic needs (food, clothes, residence, transportation)?

### **Primary Factors:**

1. When did you arrive into the United States?
2. Since arrival, what is your primary method(s) of communication? Please list.
3. How long did it take you to find a job since arrival?
4. If you would like to stay within your community what are your reasons why (check all that apply):

### **Secondary Indicators:**

1. Do you provide additional support to family and/or friends? Check all that apply.

### **Secondary Factors:**

1. How would you describe your participation in your local community? Check all that apply.
2. Do you want to live in your current community for the next:
3. Do you receive additional support from family and/or friends? Check all that apply.

**Minor:**

1. Please indicate the highest level of formal education that you have completed?
2. Since arriving in the United States, what education experiences have you had?
3. Are you with comfortable communicating in English? Check all that apply.
4. Do you have access to technology? Click all that apply.
5. Since arrival, what is your primary method(s) of communication? Please list.

**Other:**

1. Do you currently participate in IRC programs or classes that involve (check all that apply):
2. Did you complete the program(s) and/ or class(es) from above?
3. Have you ever received aid from organizations (governmental or non-governmental) other than the IRC?
4. Since arrival, when did you stop receiving aid from the IRC?

# Potential Questions:

## Demographics:

1. What is your religion?

## Income:

1. What is your annual income?
2. What is your estimated average total household income per month (USD)?

## Employment (Continued):

1. How do you find places of employment?
2. If you are employed, what is your current position?
3. Do you have your own business(es)?
4. How long did it take for you to find a job since arrival?
5. If you are employed, how many hours do you work a week?
6. If you are employed, how do you get to your place of employment?

## Household:

1. What is your current household size?
2. Do members of your household regularly receive aid?

## Skills/ Education:

1. Have the skills from your country of origin been recognized?
2. Is your education from your country of origin recognized?

## Debt/Loans/Credit:

1. Do you have any debt?
2. If you have debt, how much of your monthly income goes towards paying back debt?
3. Have you ever taken out a loan?
4. Do you have a credit card(s)?

## Assets:

1. Since arrival, have you acquired other assets (land, car, savings, etc.)?
2. Since arrival, do you own a house and/or apartment?
3. Do you own assets in your country of origin (home, land, car, savings, etc.)?

## Remittances:

1. Do you send remittances?
2. If you send remittances, about how much per month?
3. How often do you send remittances?

## Medical:

1. Do you have the necessary resources for medical emergencies?
2. Do you pay for your medical expenses out of pocket?
3. Do you have medical insurance?
4. What is your source of medical coverage?

## Community Area:

1. What area describes the area you live in?

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Factors</b>
<b>Primary</b>	1. Participation in Labor Force 2. Employment Income	1. Length of Adjustment Period 2. Resettlement Community Characteristics
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#### **Primary Factors:**

1. When did you arrive into the United States?
2. Since arrival, what is your primary method(s) of communication? Please list.
3. How long did it take you to find a job since arrival?
4. If you would like to stay within your community what are your reasons why (check all that apply):

#### **Secondary Indicators:**

1. Do you provide additional support to family and/or friends? Check all that apply.

#### **Secondary Factors:**

1. How would you describe your participation in your local community? Check all that apply.
2. Do you want to live in your current community for the next:
3. Do you receive additional support from family and/or friends? Check all that apply.

**Minor:**

1. Please indicate the highest level of formal education that you have completed?
2. Since arriving in the United States, what education experiences have you had?
3. Are you with comfortable communicating in English? Check all that apply.
4. Do you have access to technology? Click all that apply.
5. Since arrival, what is your primary method(s) of communication? Please list.

**Other:**

1. Do you currently participate in IRC programs or classes that involve (check all that apply):
2. Did you complete the program(s) and/ or class(es) from above?
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# Potential Questions:

## Demographics:

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## **Focus Group Open Ended Questions and Minor Prompts**

### **Employment**

- **Opening Broad Question:** *Could you please describe your typical work week?*
- *What methods worked for you when you were searching for jobs?*
  - What have you tried?
  - What didn't you try?
- *How do you feel before and after you go to work each day?*
  - What are things that you feel like you or your family should have but do not?
- *Have you changed your career path since arriving to the U.S.? If yes why so? Do you currently want to change jobs? How are you trying to change careers now if you are?*

### **Local Attitudes/Values/Discrimination**

- **Opening Broad Question:** *What barriers did you face when trying to get a job?* (List 3)
  - How have you been able to overcome them?
  - Were you helped by friends, family or any locals in the community in finding a job? Who, how?
- *Have you ever experienced discrimination in relation to employment?*
- *How has your community showed that you're welcome?*
  - Prevalent race, religion, political attitudes?
- *What are your perceptions of the community?*
  - Do you feel you're around people like you?
  - Have you created new friendships with locals in the community?
  - Have you created friendships with other refugees in the community?
  - Are there other people from your country of origin in your community?  
How did you meet them, do you still talk to them or see them?
- *Have you experienced discrimination in your community during daily activities? (ex. obtaining credit, or a loan) If so how? Were you alone? Did anyone come to your aid?*

### **Transition**

- **Opening Broad Question:** *What factors helped ease your transition into the United States?*
  - *What languages do you speak?*
  - *Did you have the support of friends or family? Can you describe your household?*
    - Live with my spouse/partner, live alone, live with extended family?
  - *Do you have savings or other assets that helped you with the transition? If so, what kinds?*

### **Quality of Life**

- **Opening Broad Question:** *What do you do in your free time?*

- What is one of the best changes you have experienced in your new community versus your old one? Is anything worse?
- What do you spend the most time doing in your free time?
- *What are the top three things or experiences you want to make happen for you or your family?*

**Future Goals:**

- **Opening Broad Questions:** *What goals do you have for the next 5/10 years?*
  - What would your ideal job be?
  - Where would you like to live?
  - Do you think this is achievable?
- *What do you see as the major obstacles to achieving your goals?*
  - ex. Language training, discrimination, lack of recognition for credentials, money for school, health, mental health, PTSD etc.
- *Have you ever discussed or initiated beginning a business? Have you or a family member started a business?*
- *If, so what methods worked for you when you were starting your business?*
  - What have you tried?
  - What didn't you try?
- *Having been through the (IRC?) resettlement process firsthand what suggestions do you have for improving the economic transition for refugees?*

## International Rescue Committee Secondary Data Analysis Checklist

**Purpose:** The purpose of this checklist is to centralize and collect data that is accessible from the IRC. Whatever we cannot collect from this checklist will be found through outside resources. Knowing what specific IRC data our team has access to will sharpen the precision and clarity of our data collection and analysis.

**Instructions:** Some questions are left open-ended; others are simply 'yes' or 'no'. If a question is answered affirmatively, please attach the appropriate data [e-mail or hard-copy, to be determined]. This format allows the field office to omit sensitive or irrelevant information. Open-ended questions are designed to prompt a targeted response.

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### IRC Client and Program Data

1) Is there accessible information on the client's arrival date?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2) Is there accessible data (specific or aggregated) on demographics of clients?

- ☐ Age
- ☐ Gender
- ☐ Country of Origin
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Ethnicity
- ☐ Marital Status
- ☐ Household Size
- ☐ None of the above

3) Is there information on the average household size of clients?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4) Is there accessible data regarding remittances?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5) There is accessible data regarding client's...Check all that apply.

- ☐ Employment Status
- ☐ Type of Employment
- ☐ Income Level
- ☐ None of the above

## International Rescue Committee Secondary Data Analysis Checklist

6) Is there aggregated and/or specific information available regarding the attendance rates of clients in educational institutions?

- ☐ Children ( <17)
- ☐ Adults (18+)
- ☐ No information available

7) With regards to IRC programming in this specific field office, the following information is available...

- ☐ Client programming participation
- ☐ Client programming completion rates
- ☐ Length of client enrollment in specific programming
- ☐ Other specific Information
- ☐ None of the above

### **Resettlement Community Environment**

8) In this location, what forms of aid do clients receive from the IRC?

- ☐ Microloans
  - ☐ ESL Classes
  - ☐ Meeting Basic Needs (Food, shelter, transportation, security)
  - ☐ Skills or Vocational Training
  - ☐ Other Specific Programming
- 

9) What resources can clients utilize, within the programming of the IRC, relating to employment opportunities? List below.

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10) Besides the IRC, what other sources of financial aid do clients receive?

- ☐ Family/Friends
  - ☐ Other NGO's
  - ☐ Government Programming
  - ☐ Religious or Community Organizations
  - ☐ Other
- 

11) Excluding the IRC, is there information on non-governmental organizations that support refugees, either as a primary (explicit) or secondary (implicit) function?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

## International Rescue Committee Secondary Data Analysis Checklist

12) There is accessible data regarding the following... Check all that apply

- ☐ Local Population Demographics
- ☐ Community Resources for Employment
- ☐ Type of Community the Clients Live In (Ex: urban, rural, suburban)

13) What are the most prevalent ethnicities in the local community? Please list the top 5 most represented groups.

Ethnic Group #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Group #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Group #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Group #4 \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Group #5 \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

14) How many IRC clients are resettled in this area?

\_\_\_\_\_

15) How many clients participate in economic empowerment programming in this location?

\_\_\_\_\_

16) What is the employment rate of the county/region?

\_\_\_\_\_

17) What is the dominant employment type in this area?

- ☐ Manual Labor
- ☐ Non-official employment
- ☐ Professional
- ☐ Vocational Work
- ☐ Part-Time Positions
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

18) Is data available on the types and number of educational institutions within the county/region?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

## International Rescue Committee Secondary Data Analysis Checklist

19) Within the local community, what percentage of students enroll in post-high school education?

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20) Is data available on the number and types of religious institutions within the region/county?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

21) Is data available on the attendance rates of religious institutions within the region/county?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

22) Is data available on continuing educational institutions that offer needs based scholarships?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

23) Is data available on the banks within the region/county? More specifically regarding bank customer size and lending habits?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

24) Is data available on the amount of businesses in the region/county that have been started within the last ten years, and continue to currently function?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

25) Is data available regarding business in the region/county that have started up within the last ten years and no longer function?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

26) Is data available on the size and amount of small, non-franchised businesses within the region/county?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

EFFECTIVENESS

*"Develop **standard indicators for measuring outcomes** and conduct a baseline assessment...  
...and a long-term study of impact indicators"*

**Collecting** data on **targeted factors & indicators** affecting economic integration [Direct Questionnaire]

*"Many specialized programs, such as job readiness or health and wellness programming, **require clients to respond to evaluations** by the end of the program..."*

**Continue matching** clients with the appropriate programs based on actionable characteristics [Focus Groups]

VALUE FOR MONEY

*"Determine **cost-per-client** of program services"*

**Data-focused practices** at all phases will allow IRC to quantify all of its activities [Aggregate Data Analysis]

*"USP will develop and adopt **standard tools for rapid and consistent calculation** of per-client project costs"*

**Track core indicators** over time and **develop indices** of integration & well-being by applying standard calculations [Direct Questionnaire]

SCALE

*"Increase the number of refugees resettled from 12% to 15% of the annual presidential determination by **increasing IRC's geographic footprint in the US through affiliates, sub-offices or office relocations**"*

Reporting capabilities allow for **efficient allocation of resources** and decisions on programming [Aggregate Data Analysis]

*"Centrally-coordinated **resources can be efficiently deployed** to their strongest effect and can be rapidly recalibrated to meet changing community needs and realities"*

**Developing and standardizing country-wide deployable tools** that can be utilized not just by IRC staff, but anyone who has been trained [Aggregate Data Analysis]

TIMELINESS

*"Extend the resettlement service period from 3 months to 2 years **as needed**"*

**Identifying vulnerable populations** at various stages in the resettlement process to facilitate long-term integration [Focus Groups]

*"By 2020, the IRC will have expanded its impact from an organization that achieves short-term outputs for its general client base to an organization that **supports the long-term integration and well-being** of all individuals, regardless of gender, within the community."*

**Collecting and analyzing over time** specifically-selected indicators of self-reliance and integration with a gender-sensitive lens [Aggregate Data Analysis]

CLIENT & COMMUNITY FOCUS

*"Programs will be designed, implemented and adapted based on the **needs, priorities, aspirations, motivations, and capacity** of local stakeholders"*

**Soliciting client feedback** reinforces a client-centered approach and ensures that programs are driven by client/community needs. [Focus Groups]

*"...a strengths-based methodology that asks staff members to **leverage the client's own assets rather than provide a set of generic services**, and a multidisciplinary approach that enables caseworkers with diverse specialties to work together to address clients' complex needs."*

**Involving the client and asking** what their strengths and goals empowers them and gives them agency [Participatory Action Research]