

Focus Group Open Ended Questions and Minor Prompts

- Purpose/Why We are Conducting the Interview

- **Opening Broad Question:** *When and why did you to move to the United States?*
General background questions (ask for their story)
 - Reasons for moving to the United States
- *What languages do you speak?*
- *Can you describe your household?*
 - Live with my spouse/partner, live alone, live with extended family?

- 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 or unwelcome?*
 - 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?*

- 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?*