

Interview Guide for Life Histories in Rwanda

INTRODUCTION AND CONSENT

Introduce myself and the research purpose of the research:

- It's good to see you! Do you remember me? My name is Patrick. I am a PhD student from Switzerland and am working for a research project that is led by CIAT and funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.
- How have you been since we last spoke?
- Last time, we have talked a lot about your situation right now. This time, I propose to talk more about your life over time. I would like to understand your journey better and the changes that have occurred along it.
- I am especially interested in changes in your work, your assets, your food and health situation over time.
- **I don't want you to talk about the war ("intambara") or the genocide. We can just talk about before and after if you like.**
- **Even so, I understand if you feel uncomfortable. I don't want to put any pressure on you. If you don't want to talk about the past, we can also take this time to talk more about your present situation. Which do you prefer?**
- **You do not have to talk about anything that you don't want to. If I ask about anything you don't want to talk about, please just say you'd rather not go into that and we can talk about something else. And if you feel uncomfortable, need a break, or want to stop the interview, you can tell me any time. You can also ask me to turn off the recorder.**
- I also invite you to ask any questions or if you want me to clarify something along the way.

Obtain informed consent:

- There is no problem if you don't want to participate, you can just tell me. And if you decide to participate, there will be no payment.
- If you agree, our conversation may last approximately 2h.
- I am here to learn from you and hear about your experiences. I would like to know how you personally see things. There are no right or wrong answers.
- I would like to audio-record the interview with this device in order for me to relisting later and write down your answers. The recording won't be shared with anyone outside the research project.
- In addition, everything you say will remain anonymous (it will not have your name on it). I might quote and publish small parts of your responses in my dissertation but if I do so, I will only do it in a manner in which you cannot be identified (e.g. replacing your name with another).
- Do you have any questions?
- Do I have your permission to conduct and audio-record this interview?

GETTING STARTED

- Record interviewee's age and gender
- Note down individual's appearance and demeanour (happy, sad, anxious etc.)
- Describe house and compound

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

- When and where were you born?
- Parents:
 - Where were the parents from? (in the case of migration from another place, when did they move and why?)
 - Monogamous/polygamous marriage?
 - Did your parents go to school?
 - What kind of work did your parents do? Role of coffee?
 - What did you learn from your parents?
- Siblings (same mother or same father)
 - Number and gender? (step-siblings?)
 - Who went to school?
 - What kind of relationship to your siblings? – Anything/anybody special?

CHILDHOOD/YOUTH:

- What assets did your parents have when you were a child (land, trees, livestock, buildings, etc.)?
- What was your health like?
- What was your food situation like?
- Did you go to school?
- How did your house compare with the house that you live in now (much better, better, the same, worse, much worse)?
- How did your parent's standard of living compare with your standard of living now?
- Where did you spend most of your childhood?
- When did you start working for others? What were the circumstances? How did you find it? What did you do?
- Did you have a happy childhood? – Why (not)?

MARRIED LIFE:

- What did you own before marriage (especially house, land and livestock)?
- Marriage:
 - When did you get married?
 - How did you meet/choose your husband? How was your husband chosen for you?
 - What was the process around getting married?
 - What did your husband or his family bring into the marriage (inkwano)?
 - What did you/your wife or her family bring into the marriage (ibirongoranwa)?
 - How did your marriage affect your land ownership? Did you inherit any land?
 - Can you describe the move to your spouse's village? Feelings/ problems
 - Can you describe how your house was set up?
- How did life change when you married?
 - Did you move homes ever while married? If yes, what were the circumstances?
 - How did it affect your work (self-employment, hiring in/out) and your responsibilities?
 - Have your belongings (especially house, land and livestock) changed? If so, how?
 - Has your food situation changed? If so, how?
 - Would you like to share how your health situation changed? If so, how?

- Do you have children? If yes, how many? sexes? age? education level?

WIDOWHOOD/SEPERATION:

- Now we would like to learn a little bit about life as a female-headed household. Is that something you are comfortable sharing with us or would you rather talk about something else?
- How did you adapt to this change?
 - Did you move homes ever since? If yes, what were the circumstances?
 - How did it affect your work (self-employment, hiring in/out) and your responsibilities? Has it affected your ability to access work? If so, how?
 - Have your belongings (especially house, land and livestock) changed? If so, how?
 - Has your food situation changed? If so, how?
 - Would you like to share how your health situation changed? If so, how?
- Did this affect your relationship with others (family, neighbours, employers, etc.)? If yes, how so?
- Who can you turn to when you need help?
- In your life, have you ever slept outside of home in order to work? What were the circumstances?

PRESENT:

- What is your situation now?
 - Work
 - Land
 - Assets
 - Health
 - Food

FUTURE:

- Looking forward, what life would you like your children to have?

ENDING

- What are you most proud of in your life?
- What makes you happy in life?