**Community Consultation**

*Answering five key questions for a community-informed project by using Practice-to-Purpose (P2P)*

1. **Purpose**

By using P2P at the start of a project, the NS together with the communities can shape all the activities that will determine the success of their initiative. The group begins by generating a shared *purpose* (i.e., why the work is important to each participant and the larger community). All additional questions on *principles, participants, structure, and practices* are answered to help achieve the purpose. By answering these five questions together, participants clarify how they can organize themselves to run a successful project.

1. **Objective of the consultative workshop**

*Objectives of the workshop*: gather information and insights from community members to develop a community-informed project.

1. **Conditions of the workshop**
2. **Time allocation**: reserve at least one full day to conduct this workshop, depending on the concentration span of the participants, this can also be divided over two half days.
3. **Participants:** all individuals who have a stake in the project, meaning community representatives, also from the marginalized groups, Red Cross volunteers, government and non-government stakeholders.
4. **Materials:** big sheets of paper, simple art materials, audio-recorder/phone with audio, flip-charts, random selection of objects (preferably that can be found in the surroundings of where the workshop takes place), yarn or string (optional, depending on chosen activities)
5. **Group set-up:** each group can exist of a minimum of 4 to 6 people, with one RC volunteer per table to facilitate the capturing of the inputs.
6. **Venue:** the venue should be big enough to cater for the number of groups you will have, including offering tea break and lunch.
7. **Extra:** for some of the exercises, you as a facilitator, need to do some preparatory work.
8. **Methodology**
9. Invite all stakeholders to participate in the review of the outcomes of the new project in order to answer five core questions on purpose, principles, participants, structure, and practice.
10. Ensure to have the main outcomes of the project you are doing the consultations for are either written down on big flip-overs or recorded in audio on a phone or audio recorder (in case people in the group are illiterate) so they can repeat the audio or relook at the flip-overs during the session.

**Questions 1: purpose**

1. Ask the first question to the group on the purpose, by showing them a big flip-over with the question, as well as repeating the question out loud:
   1. **“Why are these outcomes important to you and the larger community?”**
   2. Ask the group if they understand the question or if they need any clarification, in case they do, provide them with clarification.
   3. Have them look at or listen to the outcomes.
   4. *Conduct the following exercise to gain their insights:*
   5. Visual storytelling:
      1. Provide a series of pictures or illustrations representing different aspects of the outcomes in question.
      2. Ask individuals to arrange the images in a sequence that conveys their perspective on why these outcomes are important.
      3. Encourage them to share their story orally or through gestures.
   6. Tell them now that each group can share their input with all the other groups in plenary. Together, as the entire group they can integrate the themes and finalize ideas on this first question.
   7. The facilitator can capture the ideas in writing to ensure that the input doesn’t get lost.

**Question 2: principles**

1. Ask the second question to the group on the principles, by showing them a big flip-over with the question, as well as repeating the question out loud:
   1. **“What rules must we absolutely obey to succeed in achieving our purpose?”**
   2. Ask the group if they understand the question or if they need any clarification, in case they do, provide them with clarification.
   3. Have them look or listen to what they have come up with in the first round.
   4. *Conduct the following exercise to gain their insights:*
   5. Interactive storytelling:
      1. Encourage participants to create a collaborative story or narrative that illustrates the rules for success in achieving the shared purpose. They can use visual aids, gestures, and simple props to represent key concepts.
   6. Tell them now that each group can share their input with all the other groups in plenary. Together, as the entire group they can integrate the themes and finalize ideas on this second question.
   7. The facilitator can capture the ideas in writing to ensure that the input doesn’t get lost.

**Question 3: participants**

1. Ask the third question to the group on the participants, by showing them a big flip-over with the question, as well as repeating the question out loud:
   1. **“Who are our stakeholders that we need to involve to achieve our outcomes successfully?”**
   2. Ask the group if they understand the question or if they need any clarification, in case they do, provide them with clarification.
   3. Have them look or listen to what they have come up with in the previous rounds.
   4. *For the interactive exercise, you can choose between three methods, depending on what is culturally most appropriate:*
   5. Visual mapping:
      1. Provide participants with large sheets of paper and a variety of art supplies.
      2. Ask them to visually map out the stakeholders by drawing symbols or pictures representing different groups or individuals involved in the community.
      3. Encourage them to use colors and sizes to indicate the importance or influence of each stakeholder.
   6. Community network weaving:
      1. Provide a large board or canvas and ask participants to create a visual representation of their community network.
      2. Use yarn or string to connect different stakeholders and demonstrate the relationships between them.
   7. Symbolic representation:
      1. Invite participants to bring or choose objects that symbolize different stakeholders in their community.
      2. Ask participants to choose and arrange these symbols to create a visual representation of the stakeholders involved in achieving the outcomes.
   8. Tell them now that each group can share their input with all the other groups in plenary. Together, as the entire group they can integrate the themes and finalize ideas on this third question.
   9. The facilitator can capture the ideas in writing to ensure that the input doesn’t get lost.

**Question 4: structure**

1. Ask the fourth question to the group on the participants, by showing them a big flip-over with the question, as well as repeating the question out loud:
   1. **“How must we distribute the roles and responsibilities amongst the stakeholders to successfully achieve our purpose?”**
   2. Ask the group if they understand the question or if they need any clarification, in case they do, provide them with clarification.
   3. Have them look or listen to what they have come up with in the previous rounds.
   4. *For the interactive exercise, you can choose between two methods, depending on what is culturally most appropriate:*
   5. Storytelling through actions:
      1. Encourage participants to use actions and movements to tell a story about the distribution of roles and responsibilities.
      2. This can be a form of silent storytelling where participants act out their perspectives.
   6. Community mapping with objects:
      1. Provide or jointly draw (in sand or on paper) a large map or diagram of the community.
      2. Use objects to represent stakeholders and their respective roles, allowing participants to physically move and arrange them to show the distribution of responsibilities.
   7. Tell them now that each group can share their input with all the other groups in plenary. Together, as the entire group they can integrate the themes and finalize ideas on this fourth question.
   8. The facilitator can capture the ideas in writing to ensure that the input doesn’t get lost.

**Question 5: practices**

1. Ask the second question to the group on the participants, by showing them a big flip-over with the question, as well as repeating the question out loud:
   1. **“What activities will we implement and how will we do it?”**
   2. Ask the group if they understand the question or if they need any clarification, in case they do, provide them with clarification.
   3. Have them look or listen to what they have come up with in the previous rounds.
   4. *For the interactive exercise, you can choose between two methods, depending on what is culturally most appropriate:*
   5. Visual storytelling:
      1. Provide participants with large sheets of paper and art supplies.
      2. Ask them to visually storyboard the activities they plan to implement in the community. They can use drawings, symbols, and colors to represent different aspects of each activity.
   6. Symbol storytelling:
      1. Create or find a set of symbols or icons representing various types of activities (e.g., education, health, community events).
      2. Participants can select and arrange these symbols to create a visual plan for the activities they want to implement.
   7. Tell them now that each group can share their input with all the other groups in plenary. Together, as the entire group they can integrate the themes and finalize ideas on this fifth question.
   8. The facilitator can capture the ideas in writing to ensure that the input doesn’t get lost.

When all the questions have been answers, ask participants to step back and take a close look at their draft of the five questions together. Let them reflect on their inputs, and make changes if they feel the urge to do so. Close the workshop by having every member of the group verbally agree to the ideas.