

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION - WOMEN

Date:

Location: Mpazi Urban Upgrading Center (Skat Model House)

Facilitators:

Participants: women of CWG; women invited representatives of the following categories: Business woman, Owner, Elder woman, Working woman with small children (5-9), Tenant, Educated – Bachelor, widow, Head of a saving group, Young woman, Mature woman, Young married, Opinion leader, Pregnant woman, disable, Married

Material: attendance list, projector and computer, white board or flip-chart, tracing papermaps, markers, water, refreshment, masks, sanitizer, note-books and pens; print this document with the agenda, methodology, and all information to communicate.

Time	Activity	Material	Team
INTRODUCTION			
14.30 – 14.50	Gathering at info-point and ice-breaking activity Introduction to Mpazi project and participatory process Agenda introduction and objectives	Water Note-books Pens Attendance list	
	Round of women introduction and their profiles		
14.50 – 15.00	Showing videos. Why is important the women and gender perspective in the urban planning project and in the neighborhood planning HerCity tool – UN-Habitat Cities for Women – Cities Alliance Womenability - Botswana	Videos and media	
ASSESSING THE NEEDS			
15.00 – 15.35	Sensitive mapping of use of the spaces in the neighborhood and movements.	A1 and A2 map	
15.35 – 15.55	Safety and challenges, using problem box tool	Paper and pen	
15.55 – 16.00	Refreshment and break	Refreshment	
DESIGNING THE SOLUTIONS			
16.00 – 16.55	Brainstorming on gender-oriented spaces and uses needs Solutions to tackle safety and the challenges raised from previous session.	Tracing paper, markers, post-it, measuring tape, Lego	
CONCLUSION			
16.55 – 17.00	Conclusions and thanking		

Objectives:

- To introduce the Mpazi project to the women group
- To profile the women of the neighborhood, their specific needs and challenges, especially on the use of spaces, economic activities, routes, and safety or risks

- To discuss together possible solutions and improvements
- To provide information and raise knowledge on why it is important to involve women in the planning of their neighborhood and spaces.
- To raise the sense of ownership towards the project and the process by co-thinking with the women of the community
- To collect inputs to provide gender-sensitive planning solutions for the neighborhood layout

Introduction

Ice-breaking activity in the exhibition room.

Introduction of the objective of the meeting: why they are invited? What we want to achieve in

Raise the following questions and write down on the flip-chart the main points/responses.

- 1) "What do you know about the ongoing project?" ? This will be a baseline of the awareness about their neighbourhood: what's going on here?
- 2) What are your expectations for today meeting? What do you know about the project?
- 3) After, facilitator explains the Community Mobilization process for Mpazi urban upgrading and re-housing project.

Round of introduction for all women, and if they allow, providing details on marital status, children and their age under their care, age, occupation, if member of any grass-root organization.

Can you let us know if you are renting a place or you live in your own plot or family-owned plot?

Assess if the profiles cover all the different needs and perspective of women, and in case missing, request to think and contribute on behalf of (Elder women, Widow, Young Married, Divorced, Single, Working mother with small children, Working mother with toddler, Working mother with teens, Care-giver, Business women, Women tenant, Women owner, Women group/association/grass-root organization representative, Women with different level of education, Pregnant women).

Provide information and show short videos on why it is important to engage women, and have their prospective for the neighborhood planning, in order to collect inputs to provide gender-sensitive planning solutions for the neighborhood layout.

Assessing the needs

Sensitive mapping and gendered spaces profiling

Use of the spaces and daily mobility – Explore the interaction between the spaces and the emotions, the feelings and the perception of urban space.

Understanding the economic empowerment of the women group.

Using the maps to mapping WHERE the different experiences, challenges, uses, risks happen. When there is a question on 'where', the facilitator asks to show in the map.

SPACES and USES

1. What neighborhood spaces do you use?
2. Where do you meet friends?
3. Where do you choose to rest?
4. Where do you go shopping? What time do you go mostly? Shops/ vendors are available at night?
5. Where do you go with your children?
6. Do children (young age) play by themselves or always accompanied by adults? Why? Where do they play?

7. What do teenage children/ adolescents do mostly? Where do they go? Weekdays? Weekend?
8. What places have a special meaning to you (such as a good memory or a historical place)?
9. Are there specific spaces where only women go or use?
10. Which places make you feel good and comfortable? Why? Power pole in the middle of community, electric cables, water pipe on the surface, grey water directly drained into the street
11. What are your preferred activities in the neighborhood? During which day of the week? Which hours?
12. Where are the closest facilities and services (such as health services, cultural or religious facilities, public transport, sport facilities or educational facilities)?

Events

Where do you hold the following events? At home or outside?

13. For wedding,
14. For funeral,
15. Any festival to celebrate such as religious, national events, traditional, customary

16. Where is the nearest clinic to receive women-related medical services and support during pregnancy/delivery? Is easily and safely accessible?

MOBILITY

1. Which are the routes you prefer more and why? *Who maintains the streets clean?*
2. Why do you choose certain streets to walk?
3. Do you use public transport? Where you get it?
4. Would you use bicycle? Why?
5. How your kids go to school? Alone or accompanied? Which routes you/they take?
6. What are the conditions of the streets you use?

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND EMPOWERING

7. What are the main professions of women in the community?
8. Are there job opportunities inside the community for women?
9. Do many women have home-businesses? What do they do? What do you do? Where do you get raw materials to do your business? *(Depending on the business that women describe)*
10. Where are the majority of businesses held by women located?
11. Do you think women have the skills and education necessary to have their own businesses?
12. Do you find everything you need as women in the shops closed to the community?
13. Are women used to work in the urban farming/kitchen gardens? Or it is an activity equally shared?
14. Where are these areas? (Inside the community/outside?)
15. How do you manage and conciliate between the care-giving for your children/family and the working time?

SAFETY AND RISKS

16. Is there a certain space that you do not use because you do not like it?
17. Where do you feel unsafe? Why?
18. Do you feel more or less safe at different times of the day (such as morning, afternoon, evening, or night), or on different days of the week (such as weekdays versus weekends)?
19. Are there routes you avoid? And why?
20. Do you feel safe in routes you use to go shopping or working?
21. Have you heard any incidents that women were threatened in this neighbourhood?
22. Are there places where it happens women are harassed and feel in danger?
23. Is there enough lighting in the night?

24. Which are the main assets and impacts of heavy rain or flooding?

Below a tool we could use, if we feel there are other challenges which have not emerged from the discussion and should be tackled anonymously.

Challenges and safety using problem box tool

Each participant anonymously writes down on paper a problem they encounter in their habitat. The pieces of paper are then put together in a box and read aloud by a facilitator in front of all participants. Women can then discuss the highlighted problems collectively.

Designing the solutions

Brainstorming on gender-oriented spaces and uses needs. Use Lego bricks if helps to visualize the desired spaces.

Spaces and facilities

1. Which are the spaces for women that are missing in the neighborhood?
2. Which other facilities you would need and where?
3. Are you happy with the equipment of the facilities in the neighborhood and nearby?
4. What will you change or improve of the streets you use to go to work/children to school? Where?

Economic activity

5. Are there any services or spaces you would need to support conciliating between care-giving and working? Would you need a nursery or kindergarten nearby your working space? Where should be located?
6. Which spaces you need to support job opportunities in the neighborhood?
7. Where should the businesses held by women preferably located?
8. Do you have sufficient shops for the needs of the community and specifically for women needs? If no, which and where should be located?

Safety

9. What would you improve in the identified unsafe area?
10. Which different solutions for daily and night time?
11. Where public lighting or lighting should be provided?

Discussion of solutions to tackle the challenges raised from previous session, give their points of view, share their experience and draw up solutions all together.

[If a specific asset of the neighborhood will be proposed, we could attempt a participatory building prototype with Lego. This could be even organized in another session, on participatory designing, if during the discussion it emerged the need for a women-facility building or space, for example a women-centre or green park/public space].

Conclusion

Thanking the group.

Check, and list what was done together.

The team commits to provide updates on the progress of the neighborhood planning in the upcoming public information session in July/August.