



Good Participatory Practice Tools

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## **GPP Strengths & Gaps**

February 2014

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## ESTIMATED SESSION TIME

- 60 minutes

## OBJECTIVES

To identify areas of stakeholder engagement in which the trial site has performed well in the past, as well as areas that need improvement, with respect to the GPP guidelines

## METHODS

- Group game
- Large group discussion

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Flip chart
- Markers
- Pens/pencils
- Sheets of paper, 2 different colors

## TO PREPARE FOR THE SESSION

- Familiarize yourself with the good participatory practices in subsection D of each of the topic areas outlined in Section 3 of the GPP guidelines.
- Identify who will participate in the exercise. Community Perspectives can be conducted with the trial site's full team, select staff members, members of stakeholder advisory mechanisms (such as CABs), other stakeholders, or any combination of these groups. Consider the dynamics between the different groups, as well as the local culture, in deciding whether to conduct the exercise with a mixed group or in separate groups.
- Place at least two flip-chart papers side by side, one for listing "successes" and the other for listing "areas for improvement". (Optional: you can prepare additional flip-chart papers, using more specific categories, such as particular GPP topic areas, to help make your discussions more focused.)

## TO CONDUCT THE SESSION

### STEP 1:

- Explain that participants will be providing feedback about the success and shortcomings of the research team's stakeholder engagement activities and then discussing their ideas in relation to the GPP guidelines.
- Tell the group that you'll be handing out paper for them to write on, but they should not put their names on their papers. This is an anonymous process and they should feel free to provide honest input.



## STEP 2:

- Provide each person with two sets of colored paper.
- Designate one color for “successes” and the other for “improvements”.
- On the “successes” paper, have participants describe things the research team has done well to engage stakeholders. It may be something that occurred prior to the start of a trial, during trial implementation, or after trial closure—perhaps something that the individual is proud of or thinks the site should do more of.
- On the “areas for improvement” paper, have participants describe changes they think the research team could make to improve stakeholder engagement processes.
- Reiterate that participants should not write their names on their papers.
- As participants write a success or area for improvement, have them crumple their piece of paper into a ball and throw it into the front of the room.
- Allow participants to use as many pieces of paper as they need. **Note:** *They can write one strength or area of improvement per paper or multiple. This depends on site resources and facilitator preference.*

## STEP 3:

- After all the paper has been thrown up front, select pieces of paper randomly and read their contents aloud.
- List participants’ input for “successes” and “improvements” on flip-chart paper for display to the group.

## STEP 4:

- When you have finished copying the items onto the flip-chart lists, facilitate a discussion, beginning with the list of successes. Use some or all of the following questions as a guide:
  - Why is this item considered a success?
  - What factors allowed this item to be a success?
  - Which of the 16 GPP topic areas would this fall under, if any?
  - Is this listed as a good participatory practice in subsection D of any of the topic areas??
  - Are there any aspects of the item listed that could be improved or changed?

## STEP 5:

- Next, discuss the list of areas for improvement, using some or all of the following questions as a guide:
  - Why is stakeholder engagement important for this item?



- Did the research team attempt to implement this aspect of stakeholder engagement? If so, why was it not successful?
- Which GPP topic area would this item fall under?
- How can the research team improve its performance in relation to this item or the GPP topic area it falls under?

**STEP 6:**

- Close by explaining that the “successes” and “areas for improvement” the group provided will be consolidated with input from other groups and summarized in a recommendations worksheet that designated staff will work with to develop an action plan for improving the research team’s stakeholder engagement efforts.

**STEP 7:**

- Compile a list of the recommendations agreed upon by the group. Optional: separate the recommendations out by GPP topic area or stage of the trial life cycle.
- Use the recommendations from the Basic Popcorn Activity and stakeholder interviews to prioritize the next steps and develop an action plan for improving stakeholder engagement efforts.

