

# dRPC Research Ethics and Policy



*Facilitating Participatory Development*

An Overview



# Introduction and Background



- **The Development Research and Projects Center (dRPC) is a renowned NGO focused on research and project implementation.**
- **Committed to evidence-based solutions and social change across various domains.**
- **Established as a leading institution in the research and development sector.**



- **Research is the cornerstone of the dRPC's activities, driving knowledge generation and transformative impact.**
- **Conducts rigorous and contextually relevant studies in social sciences, health, education, governance, and economics.**
- **Upholds the highest standards of research ethics, protecting human rights, privacy, and confidentiality of participants.**





# Introduction and Background Contd.



- **Combines research with effective project implementation to translate evidence into action.**
- **Bridges the gap between research findings and practical solutions for sustainable development and social justice.**
- **Actively engages stakeholders, collaborates with partners, and facilitates knowledge exchange for lasting impact.**



- **Dedication to excellence in research and project implementation.**
- **Promotes capacity-building initiatives, training programs, and mentorship opportunities.**
- **Nurtures talent, fosters a supportive learning environment, and enhances research capabilities for individuals and institutions.**





# Scope and Applicability of the Code of Ethical Protection

- Outlines the coverage and entities to which the code applies.
- Establishes boundaries and context for governing field research by the dRPC.

## Field Research Scope

- Applies to primary data collection, interviews, surveys, observations, etc.
- Encompasses qualitative and quantitative research in various contexts.

## Researchers and Staff

- Applicable to dRPC's staff, affiliated researchers, consultants, and volunteers.
- Sets expectations for behavior, ethical decision-making, and professionalism.

## Collaborative Research & External Stakeholders

- Applies to collaborative projects where dRPC is a partner.
- Encourages ethical practices among collaborators.
- Importance of engaging local communities, participants, agencies, and funders.
- Emphasizes communication and alignment of principles and values.





# Importance of Ethical conduct in Research

## Protection and Human Rights

Ethical conduct ensures the protection of the fundamental rights and dignity of individuals and communities participating in research. Respecting their autonomy, privacy, and well-being is essential to foster trust, maintain ethical integrity, and safeguard against exploitation, discrimination, or harm.



## Trust and Collaboration

Ethical conduct builds trust between researchers and participants, as well as with external stakeholders. Trust is a fundamental component of successful field research, enabling open and honest communication, cooperation, and collaboration. Ethical practices help establish a positive reputation and facilitate future engagement with research communities.

## Scientific Validity and Credibility

By adhering to ethical principles and practices, researchers ensure that their methodologies are sound, data collection is accurate and reliable, and analysis is unbiased. This strengthens the quality and integrity of research outcomes, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to knowledge and decision-making processes.





# Importance of Ethical conduct in Research Contd.

## ● Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements


By adhering to these requirements, researchers avoid legal consequences and protect the rights and well-being of participants. Compliance also fosters transparency and accountability in research practices.

## ● Responsiveness in Local Context

Ethical conduct in field research requires sensitivity and responsiveness to the local context, cultural norms, and community expectations. Researchers must navigate diverse cultural, social, and political landscapes, understanding and incorporating local perspectives and values to ensure respectful and relevant research outcomes.

## ● Social Impact and Benefit

Research outcomes can inform evidence-based policies, programs, and interventions that address societal challenges, improve lives, and advance social justice. Ethical research aligns with the dRPC's mission to support inclusive and equitable development.



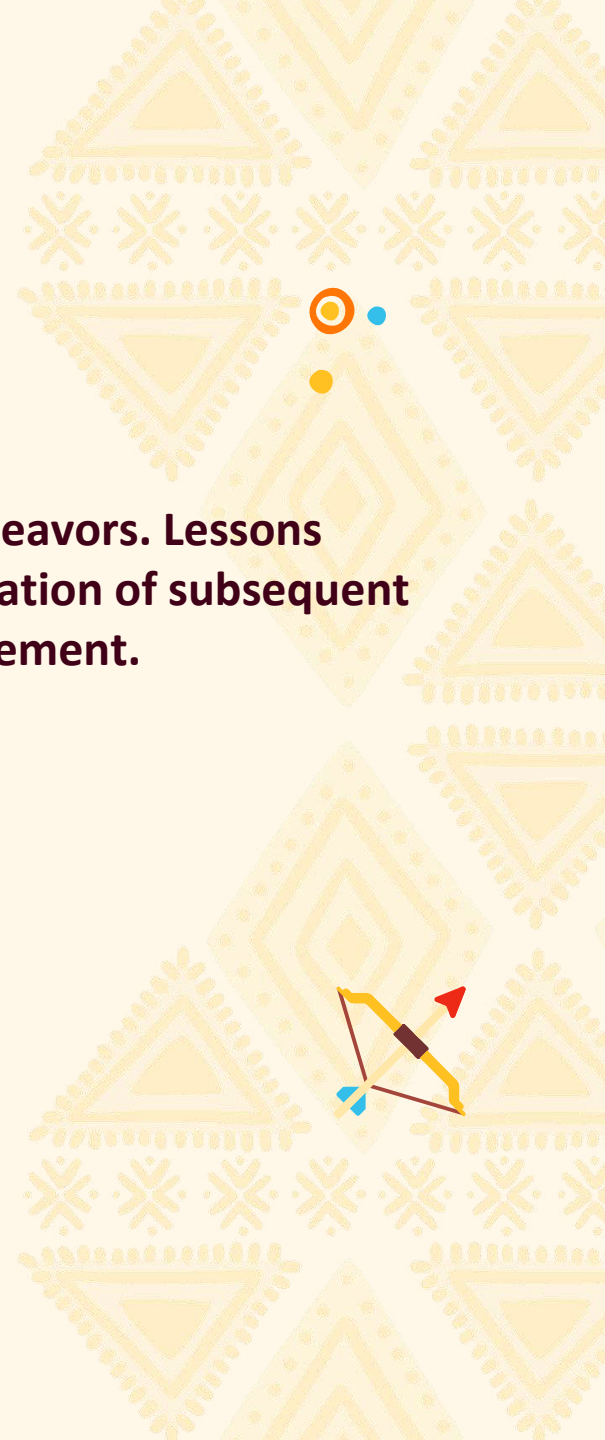




# Importance of Ethical conduct in Research Contd.

## ● Ethical considerations for Future Research

Ethical conduct in field research establishes a foundation for future research endeavors. Lessons learned from ethical practices can inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of subsequent studies, contributing to a culture of responsible research and continuous improvement.





# Core Principles and Values of a Researcher





# Integrity and Professionalism



## Honesty and Truthfulness

Researchers are expected to demonstrate honesty and truthfulness in all aspects of their work. This includes accurately representing their qualifications, disclosing potential conflicts of interest, and providing transparent and unbiased reporting of research findings. Integrity in data collection, analysis, and interpretation is paramount, ensuring that research outcomes reflect the reality of the study participants and the context in which the research is conducted.



## Ethical Decision Making

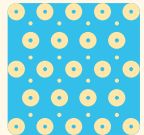
Integrity requires researchers to make ethical decisions based on a solid ethical framework. They should consider the potential impact of their actions on research participants, communities, and society as a whole. Ethical decision-making involves assessing potential risks, benefits, and trade-offs, and making choices that prioritize the well-being and rights of participants while adhering to ethical guidelines and legal requirements.

# Integrity and Professionalism Contd.



## Professional competence

Researchers should possess the necessary expertise, skills, and qualifications to conduct field research in a competent and professional manner. They should continuously update their knowledge, stay abreast of relevant research methodologies, and engage in professional development opportunities to enhance their competence and contribute effectively to the field of research.



## Ethical Leadership

Integrity and professionalism extend to the leadership role of researchers. They should exemplify ethical behavior, promote a culture of integrity and professionalism among their team members, and ensure compliance with ethical guidelines and organizational policies. Ethical leaders foster an environment that encourages open dialogue, ethical decision-making, and the well-being of research participants and team members



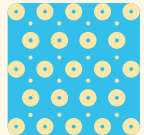


# Integrity and Professionalism Contd.



## Respectful Engagement

Integrity and professionalism involve respectful engagement with research participants, colleagues, and stakeholders. Researchers should demonstrate cultural sensitivity, empathy, and open-mindedness, valuing the diversity of perspectives and experiences within the research context. They should foster an inclusive environment that respects the rights, dignity, and voices of all individuals and communities involved in the research.



## Ethical Research and Collaboration

Researchers should uphold integrity and professionalism in their collaborations with other researchers, institutions, and partners. They should promote fairness, transparency, and mutual respect in all collaborative efforts, ensuring that research objectives, methodologies, and ethical considerations are aligned. Collaborative research endeavours should prioritize the well-being of research participants and the quality of research outcomes.

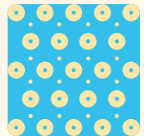


# Respect for Human Dignity and Rights



## Inclusion and Non-Discrimination

Researchers should embrace inclusivity and non-discrimination, ensuring that all individuals have an equal opportunity to participate in research regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or any other characteristic.



## Informed Consent

Respect for human dignity and rights requires obtaining informed consent from research participants. Researchers should provide comprehensive and understandable information about the research objectives, procedures, potential risks, benefits, and the voluntary nature of participation. Participants should be given sufficient time and opportunity to ask questions, express their concerns, and make an informed decision about their involvement in the research.



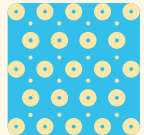


# Privacy and Confidentiality



## Respect for Privacy

Researchers should respect the privacy of research participants, recognizing their right to control the disclosure and use of their personal information. This includes protecting participants from unwarranted intrusion into their private lives, ensuring that data collection procedures are conducted in a manner that minimizes invasiveness, and respecting cultural norms and expectations regarding privacy within the research context.



## Confidentiality of Data

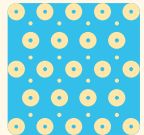
Researchers have a responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of data collected during the research. This involves storing, handling, and transmitting data in a secure manner to prevent unauthorized access, use, or disclosure. Researchers should implement appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect the confidentiality of data, including encryption, password protection, secure storage, and restricted access to data.

# Privacy and Confidentiality Contd.



## Secure Data Handling and Storage

Researchers should implement appropriate measures to ensure the secure handling and storage of research data. This includes encrypting electronic data, maintaining password-protected devices and systems, and using secure data transmission protocols. Physical documents and records should be stored in locked cabinets or secure locations to prevent unauthorized access.



## Data Sharing and Dissemination

Researchers should exercise caution when sharing or disseminating research data to ensure privacy and confidentiality. Any data shared or published should be appropriately de-identified and aggregated to prevent the identification of individual participants. Researchers should follow data-sharing agreements, adhere to ethical guidelines, and obtain necessary permissions from participants and donors before sharing or using their data beyond the original research purposes.





# Responsibilities of Researchers





# Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements



Researchers at the dRPC have a fundamental responsibility to comply with legal and regulatory requirements throughout the research process. This entails familiarizing themselves with the applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines, including national and international frameworks.

They must seek ethical review and approval before initiating research, ensuring adherence to protocols, informed consent procedures, and data management plans. Researchers must prioritize the protection of human rights, including safeguarding participant confidentiality and privacy, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Compliance with privacy and data protection laws is essential, requiring permissions for data collection, storage, and use, as well as implementing security measures. Intellectual property rights and copyright laws must be respected, with proper attribution and permissions obtained.

Researchers must also adhere to health and safety regulations, minimizing risks and accidents to ensure the well-being of all involved.



# Informed Consent and Voluntary Participation



Researchers at the dRPC have a critical responsibility to ensure informed consent and voluntary participation of individuals in research studies. To fulfill this responsibility, researchers must provide clear and understandable information about the study, including its purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits.

They must emphasize that participation is voluntary and that participants have the right to refuse or withdraw without negative consequences. Researchers should assess the competence and capacity of potential participants, especially those who may have diminished decision-making capacity.

Informed consent should be properly documented, and ongoing consent and re-evaluation should be ensured throughout the study.

# Minimizing Harm and Risk to Participants



Researchers at the dRPC have a paramount responsibility to minimize harm and risks to participants in research studies. They should conduct a comprehensive risk assessment and manage potential physical, psychological, social, or other risks associated with participation. Researchers must ensure that potential benefits justify the risks involved and incorporate measures to minimize harm.

During participant selection and recruitment, researchers should exercise caution, considering factors such as age, health status, vulnerability, and suitability for the study. Informed consent for procedures with known risks is crucial, ensuring participants have a clear understanding of potential discomforts, side effects, or adverse events. Participant well-being should be closely monitored, with protocols in place to promptly address any emerging risks or adverse events.

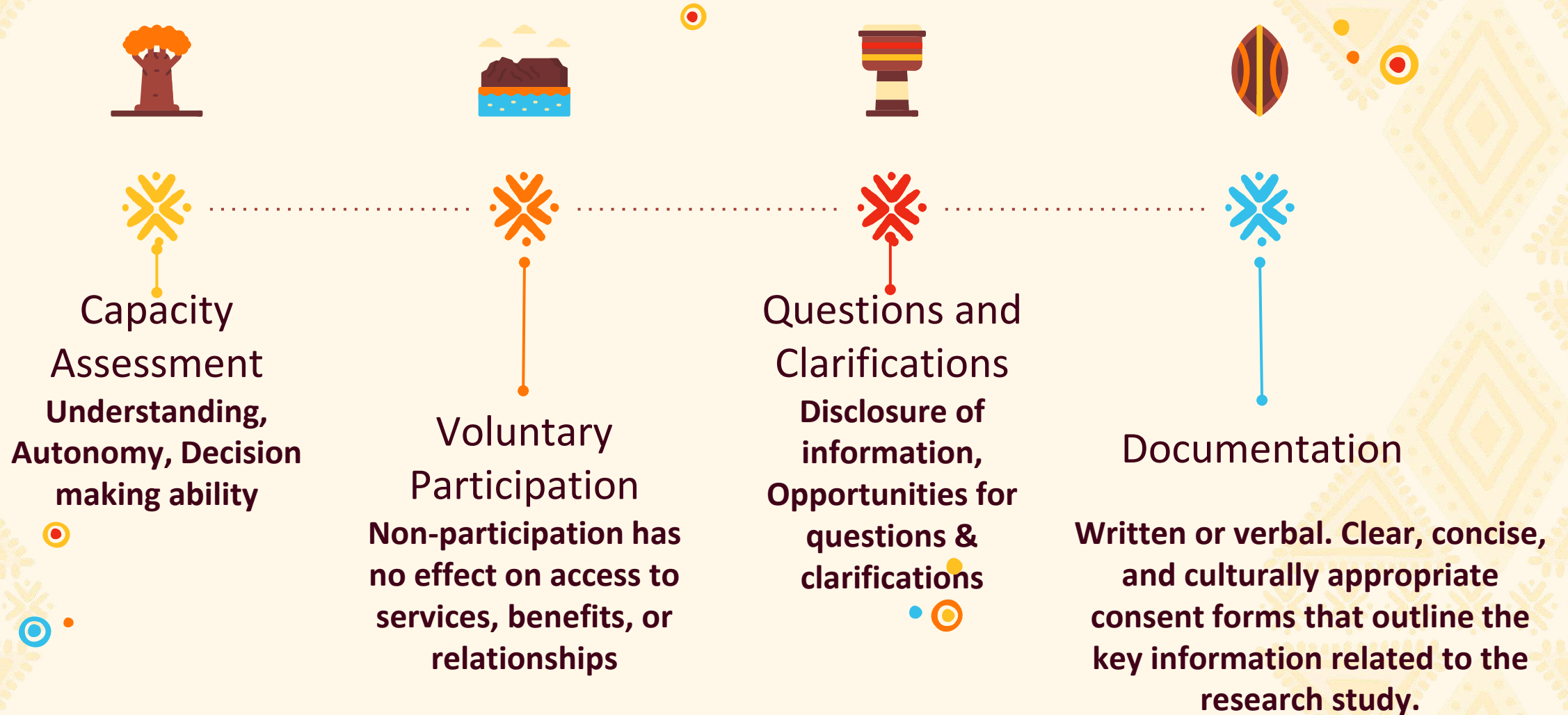
Researchers should provide support and referrals, particularly in cases of sensitive or distressing information, ensuring participants have access to necessary care and support services. Regular ethical review and oversight should be maintained throughout the study to address emerging ethical concerns or unforeseen risks.



# Participant Protection and Consent



# Participant Protection and Consent





# Component of an Information Sheet

## ➤ **About the Research**

- What is the purpose of the research or what does it hope to highlight or achieve?

## ➤ **What would my involvement be?**

- What will the participant be asked to do?
- How long will it take?
- Will they be compensated for their time?
- What happens if they change their mind part way through?

## ➤ **Data protection and confidentiality**

- What data will be collected about the participant?
- What is the legal basis for processing this data?
- What are the rights of the participant in relation to their data?
- Will their participation be confidential or will data be shared with others?

## Component of an Information Sheet (Cont'd)

### ➤ **What if I have a complaint?**

- Contact details of the supervisor or first point of contact.
- Contact details of the Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity Team.

### ➤ **Researcher contact details**

- Should be the telephone number and or email address of the student.

### ➤ **Ethics committee or Board that approved the research**





# Safety and Security



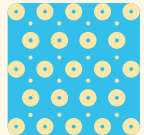


# Safety and Security



## Risk Assessment

Before undertaking any field research, a comprehensive risk assessment should be conducted. This assessment should identify potential hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities associated with the research location, including political, social, cultural, and environmental factors. The assessment should inform the development of appropriate safety measures and protocols.



## Safety Protocols

Clear and comprehensive safety protocols should be established and communicated to all researchers and participants involved in the research. These protocols should include guidelines for personal safety, emergency response, medical support, and evacuation procedures. Researchers should be familiar with these protocols and ensure their implementation throughout the research process.

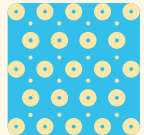


# Safety and Security Contd.



## Communication and Check-Ins

Researchers should establish regular communication channels and check-in procedures to maintain contact with colleagues, supervisors, and relevant authorities. This includes sharing information on research activities, locations, and any changes in plans. Researchers should adhere to established communication schedules and inform others of their whereabouts, especially when working in remote or high-risk areas.



## Local Support Contacts

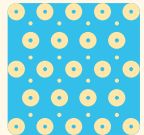
Establishing relationships with local stakeholders, communities, and organizations can provide valuable support and assistance in ensuring safety and security. Researchers should engage with local authorities, research partners, community leaders, and security providers to gather information, seek advice, and establish contacts for emergency situations.

# Safety and Security Contd.



## Cultural Sensitivity

Researchers should demonstrate cultural sensitivity and respect for local customs, traditions, and norms. This includes dressing appropriately, respecting local customs and practices, and seeking permission from community leaders or authorities when necessary. Adhering to cultural norms helps foster positive relationships, minimizes potential risks, and enhances personal safety.



## Continuous Risk Monitoring and Adaptation

Throughout the research process, researchers should continuously monitor the safety and security situation in the research area. Any changes or emerging risks should be promptly assessed, and appropriate measures should be taken to mitigate these risks. Flexibility and adaptability are essential to ensuring the safety of all individuals involved.





Thank You!!!



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