

# Filming Interviews on location – A Practical Guide

The purpose of this guide is to assist global health researchers or implementors in filming an interview with a research participant, beneficiary, or decision-maker.

The guide will walk you through the various practical aspects to consider when conducting film interviews in real-world settings, such as camera set-up, the placement of your interviewees, and tips for how to conduct the interview.

*This guide should be used and read ahead of conducting your film interview.*

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- The people watching the video will not hear your question, so it is helpful for the interviewee to repeat a part of the question, for e.g.

Question: Can you tell me when you first learned about Ebola?

Answer: I remember the moment I first learned about Ebola....

Question: What are the challenges in your community?

Answer: Here in my community, we have many challenges such as...



#### 4. TIP 4: THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN YOU DO THE INTERVIEWS

- Make sure you are feeling calm and confident, and don't rush the process. It is ok if the interview goes for longer, as we can edit it afterwards.
- When the interviewee finished giving an answer to the question you asked, you must wait 5-10 seconds before you ask the next question. This pause helps us edit the interview.
- Avoid speaking at the same time as the interviewee. Use your face to encourage them or to show active listening but avoid comments, uhms, ah's etc when they are giving their answer.
- Do not do any on-the-spot translations, we will translate what the interviewee has said afterward.
- It is ok to ask leading questions if we know we want to get a specific answer to use in the film. You can repeat the questions in a slightly different way if you feel the full answer isn't what was needed to tell this story.
- We are looking for emotion! The most compelling answer is when people show emotion – sad, happy, excited, passionate. So encourage the interviewee to share their feelings.





## 1. TIP 1: SET-UP

**Find a quiet place (room) with good light.**

**Listen with your eyes closed for any noises.**

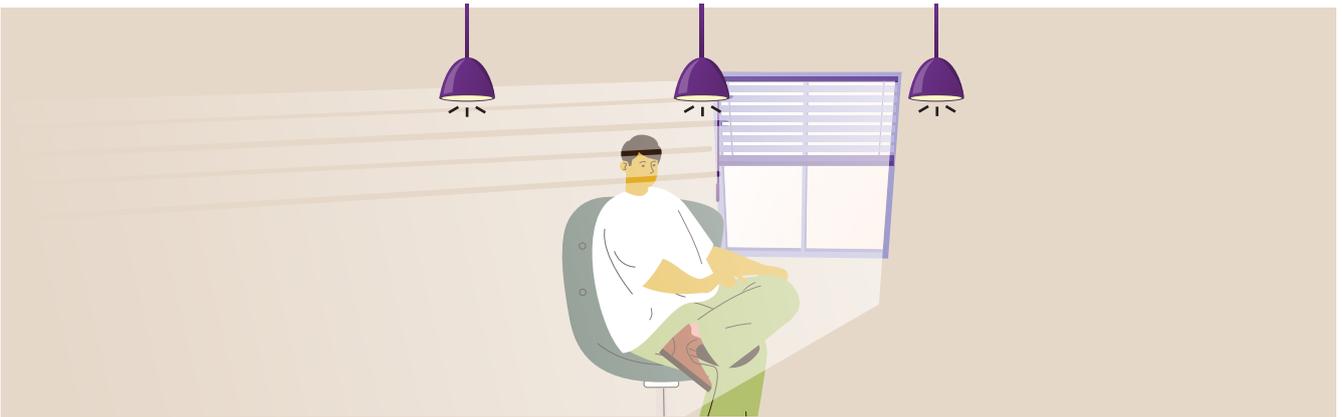
Make sure there are no:

- Traffic noise, people speaking in the background or animal noises.
- Switch off any fans or air conditioners which can make soft buzzing sounds.
- Close the door, and if need be, put a sign up outside so people know filming is happening.
- Close the window if noise is coming from the outside.



**Look to ensure there is sufficient light in the room.**

- Windows are the best source of natural light, so look for a room with windows.
- Turn on the lights in the room, but make sure it is not a neon strobe light that is flickering.



## 2. TIP 2: POSITION

**Set up:**

Get two chairs, one for the interviewee and one for you, ideally a chair with a lower back. Ensure that you are both sitting at the same level. Make sure you are both comfortable, not rushed and you can both feel relaxed.



### Position the interviewee:

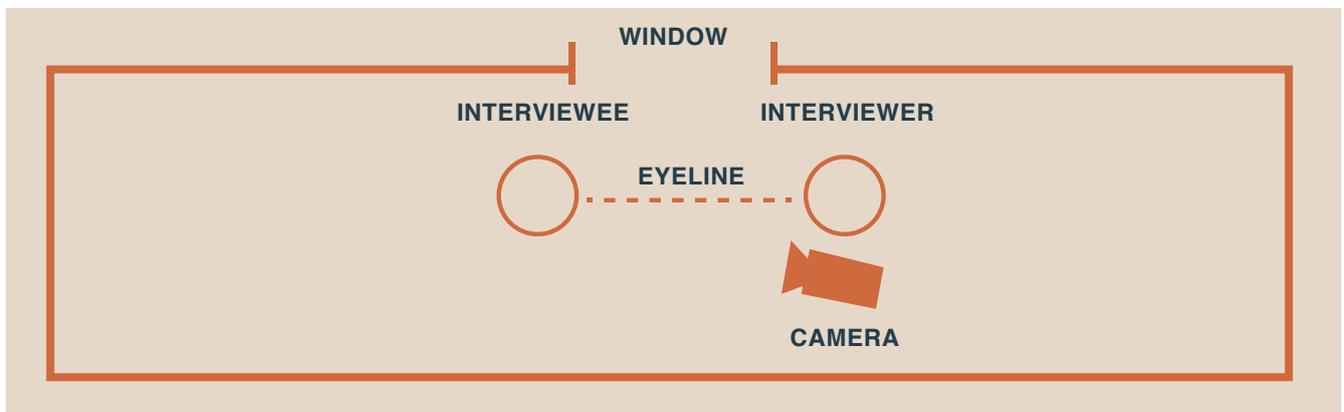
Position the interviewee next to a window, and make sure there is enough light on his/her face. Avoid putting the interviewee with their back to the window.



### Position yourself and the camera:

You and the camera must be set up across from the interviewee. You, the camera, and the interviewee must be at the same eye level. Sit next to or slightly behind the camera, off to the side.

*(see the Guide for the Filming, to make sure the positioning of the camera)*



## 3. TIP 3: EXPLAIN THE PROCESS TO THE INTERVIEWEE

- The interview must feel like a ‘conversation with a friend’, even though you will be asking questions. Make sure the interviewee is at ease and relaxed. Reassure them that they will do very well!
- The interviewee must not look into the camera when speaking but look directly at you when speaking.
- Explain to the interviewee that they don’t need to get it perfect the first time. If they want to repeat their answer again, they can do so. They must just stop, wait a 5-10 seconds, and then repeat their answer.
- Advise them to keep their answers short.
- Advise them to not use abbreviations, as the people watching the film may not know what they are referring to.