

Preconference Workshop

Overview: A youth-centred exploratory study with rural and urban Zambian youth regarding their perceptions of civic engagement, gender and community.

(Utilising CYRM)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in
Children, Youth and Civic Engagement
Ireland



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UNESCO Chair – Doctoral Fellow

The Child and Family Research Centre

Introduction

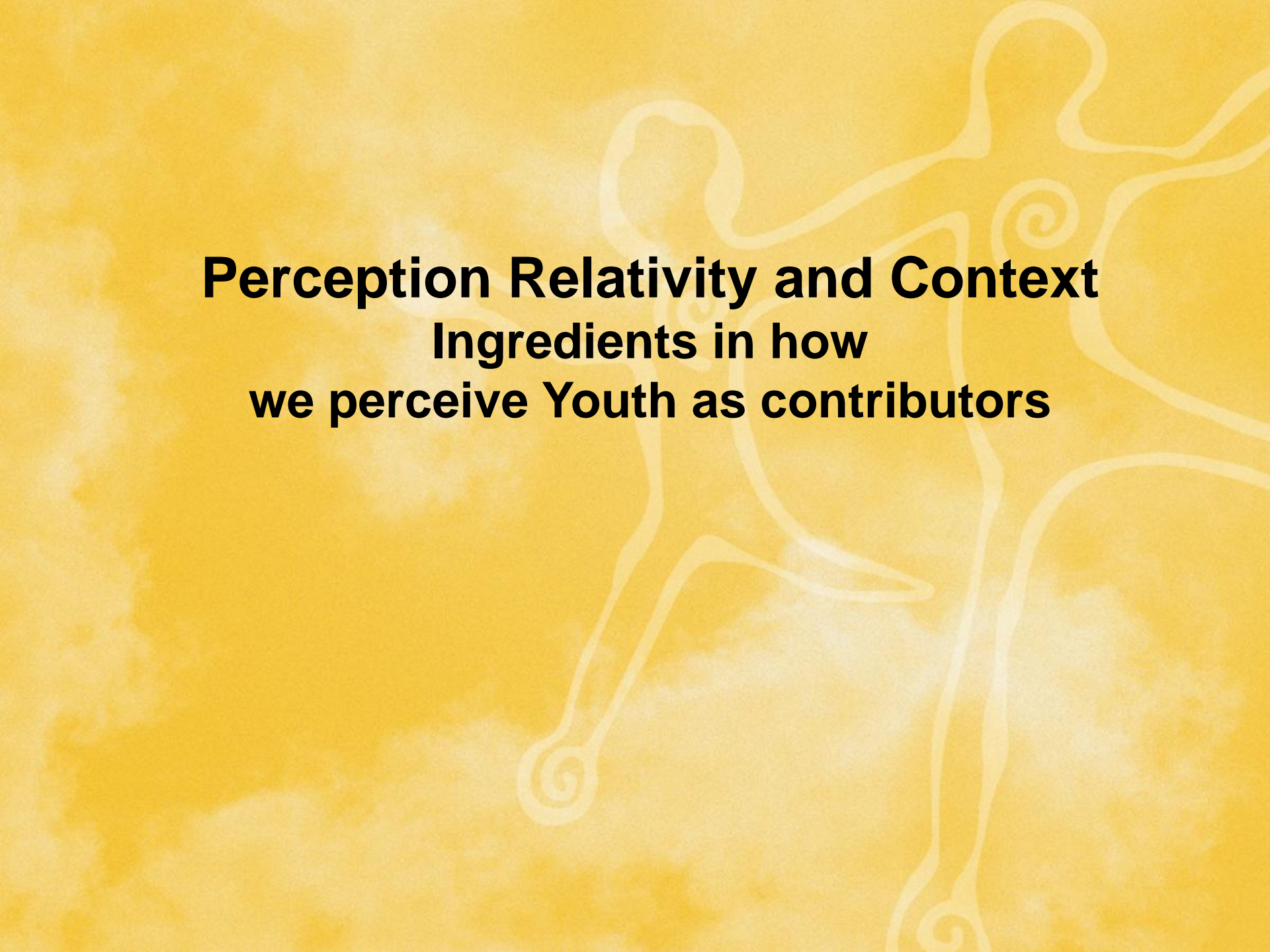
- Background and rationale
- Research question and aim
- Utilising CYRM to invoke Narrative
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Research progress to date

UNESCO Chair Interested in

Social Support Networks
including Informal Support
Sources as 'Nodes of
Resilience

Civic Engagement & Action in Youth as a tool to Resilience

- Social – Altruism (Needs Based)
- Political – Justice (Cause Based)

The background is a solid yellow color with a subtle, textured pattern. Overlaid on this is a large, stylized white line drawing of a person in a dynamic, dancing or expressive pose. The lines are thick and fluid, capturing the essence of movement rather than fine detail. The figure's arms are raised, and its legs are in a wide, expressive stance. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

Perception Relativity and Context
Ingredients in how
we perceive Youth as contributors

Background and rationale

UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement

1. **Research**
2. **Teaching**
3. **Policy/Advocacy**
4. **Practice**

- **McArdle's Research contributes to the work of the Chair**

UNESCO Medium-term Strategy (2008-2013)

- **Africa – Sub-Saharan**
- **Gender equality**
- **Youth**

Background and rationale

Research rationale

- Zambia 68% of population under 35 years of age
- Child born between 2005 -2010 life expectancy of 42 years of age
- 73 different ethnic groups
- Young people face significant risks in their daily lives
- Gender inequalities – manifest in adulthood.
- The Zambian government has set national goals to increase youth participation and respond to gender inequality

Research question and aim

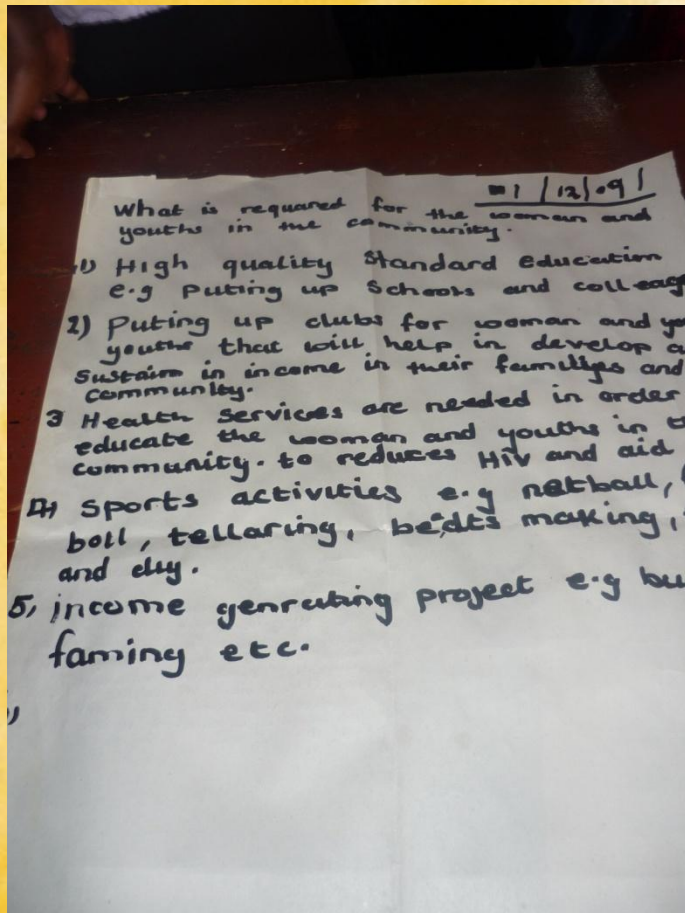
Research Question

- In what way does gender and living in a rural area impact upon the participation of young Zambian people in civic engagement opportunities which may be facilitated by their community?

Research aim

- To generate youth-centred knowledge, which may subsequently inform policy and practice regarding the development of youth civic engagement interventions, which are culturally appropriate and **promote resilience**

Underpinning approaches



- Resilience Theory – Ecological perspective (Ungar 2007:288)
- Youth-centred practice
- Critical feminist lens

Methodology

International Resilience Project (IRP) (Ungar, 2005)

- Mixed Method Study associated with pragmatism, but has one other philosophical base

(Creswell and Plano-Clark, 2007:27)

Mixed method study

- Triangulated
- Embedded
- Explanatory
- Exploratory

Relevance of research

- May provide information to develop culturally appropriate approaches
- May provide information to inform the development of services that promote gender equality
- May contribute to the knowledge base of International networks, e.g. UNESCO, IRP, Unitwin etc

Exploratory Model

Exploratory mixed method model

1. Qualitative

2. Quantitative

3. Qualitative

4 Completion



MOU

System consent

Sampling

Final

Consent/Assent

Distribution of survey

Consent/Assent

Report

Data generation

Return of survey

Data generation

Analysis/Review

Interviews

Findings/analysis

Design Qu

Findings/analysis

Review of analysis

Review Qu

Write-up phase 2

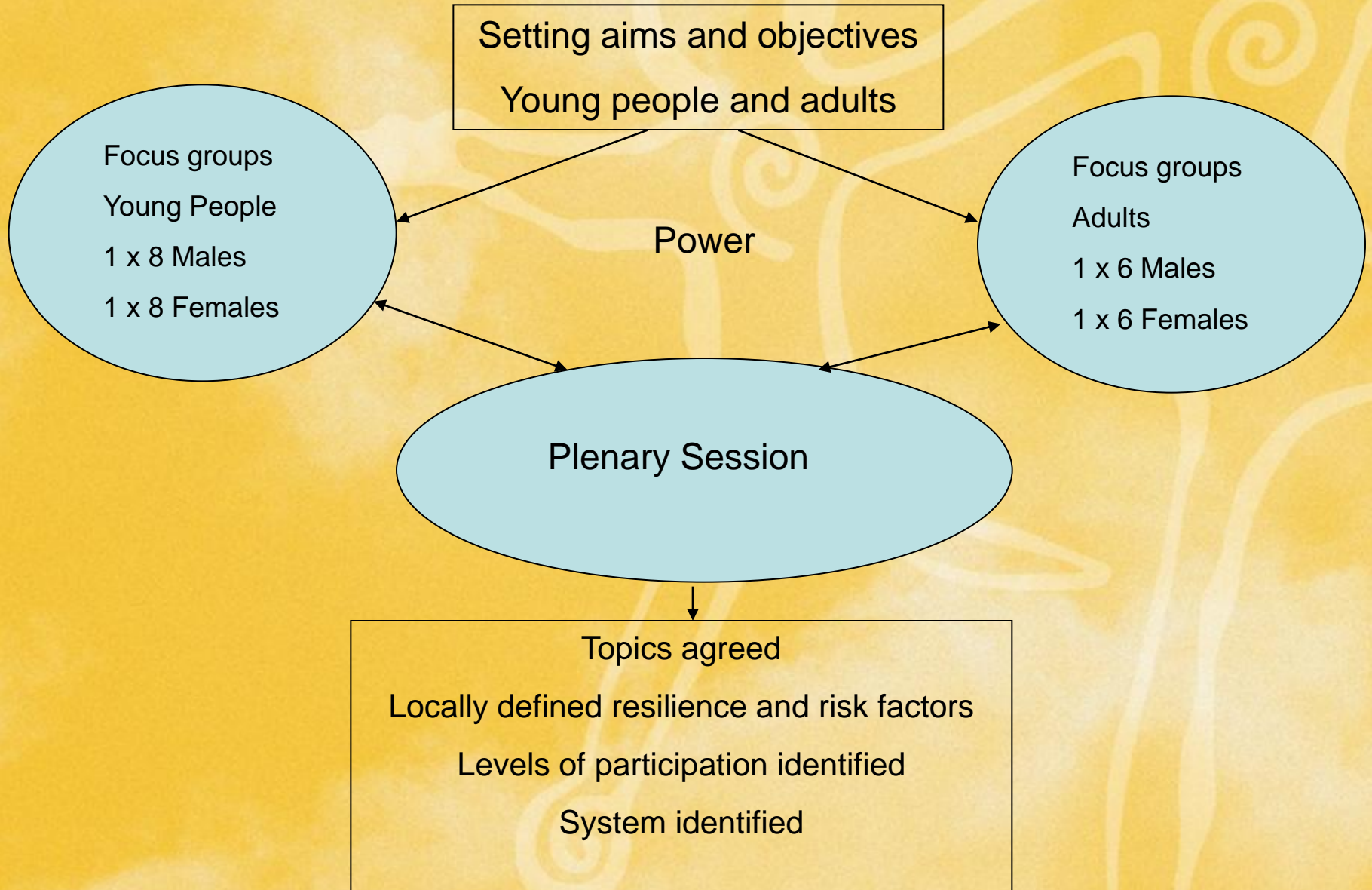
Write-up phase 3

Ratification phase2

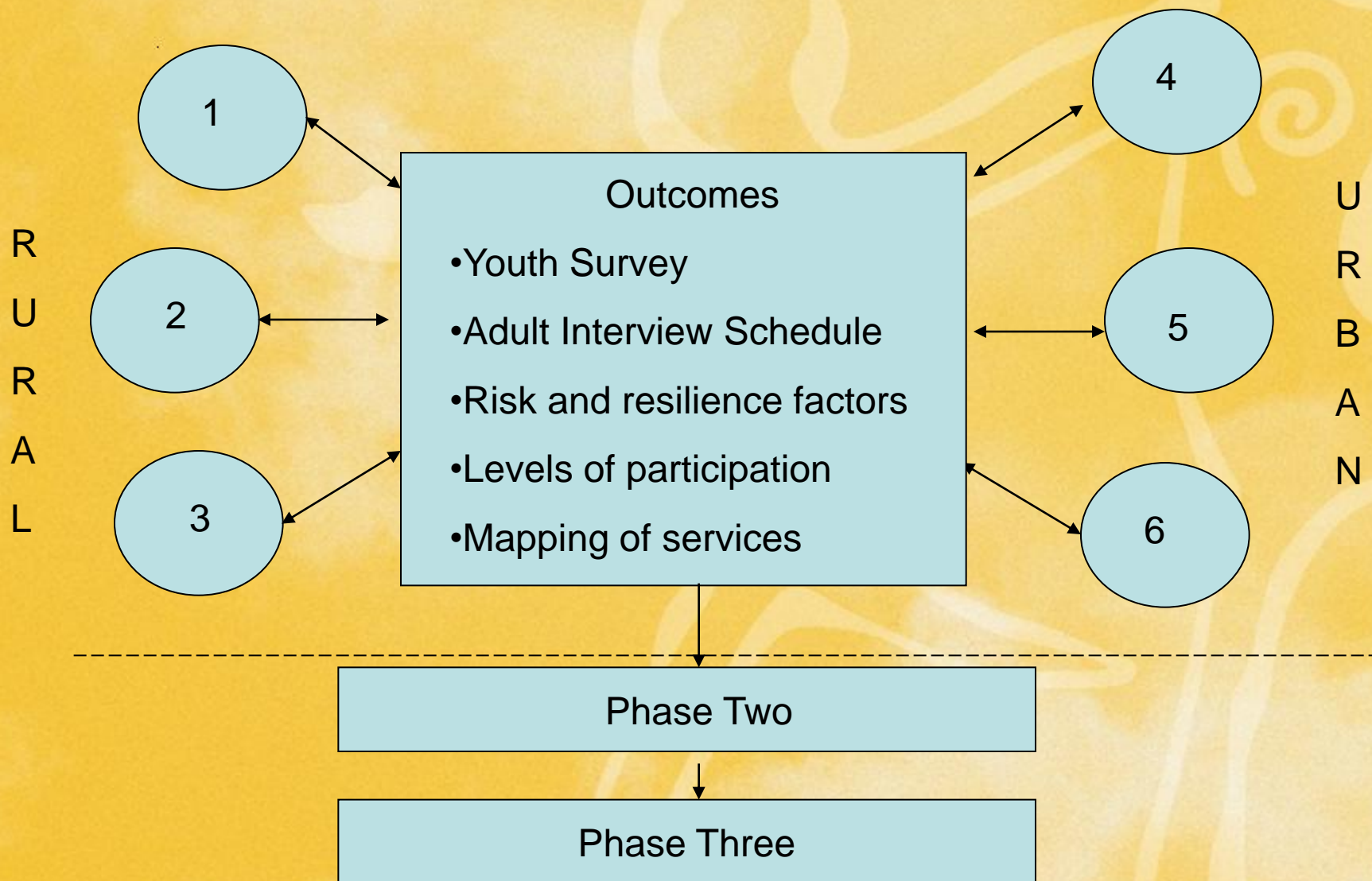
Ratification phase 3

Write up Phase 1

Phase One - Step One – Contextualisation



Phase One - Step Two Review Forum



Participation Nov 09 – March 10

Total = 148

- 76 males
- 72 females

Adults = 68

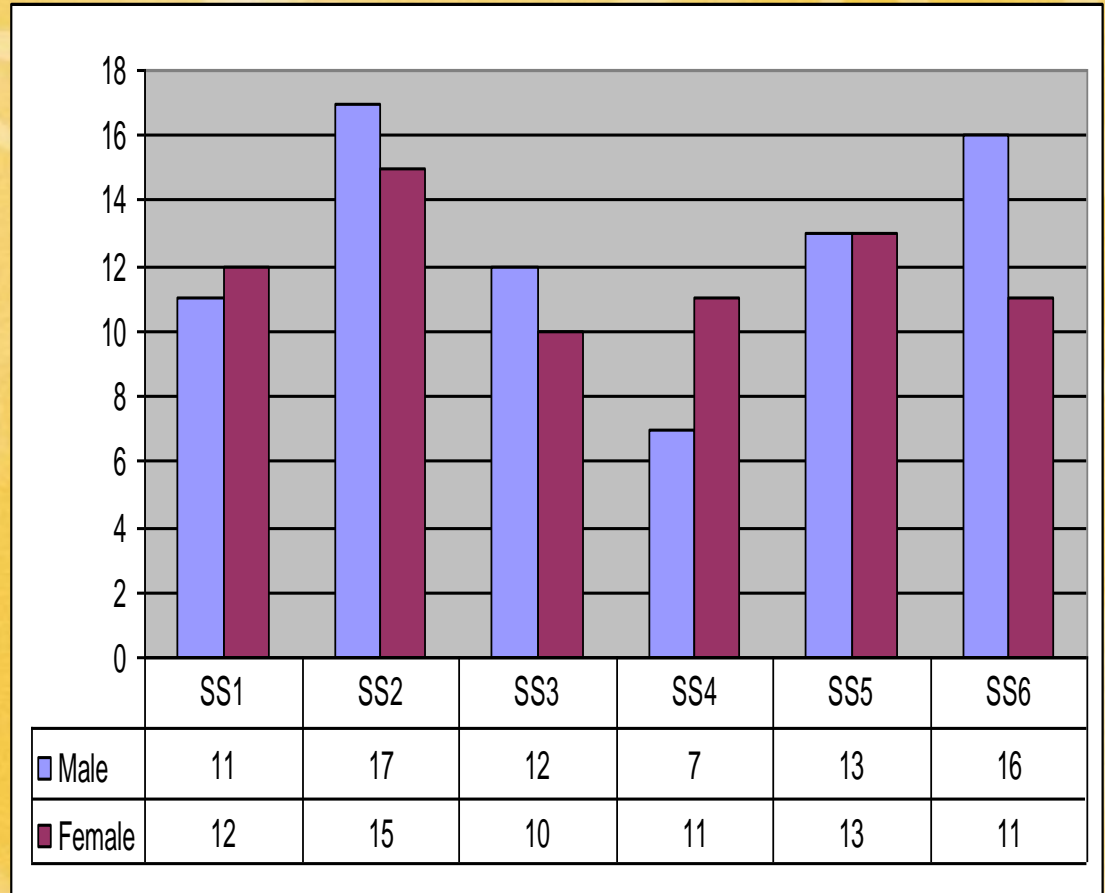
(18 years of age and above)

- 33 males
- 35 females

Young people = 80

(12, 13 and 14 year olds)

- 43 males
- 37 females



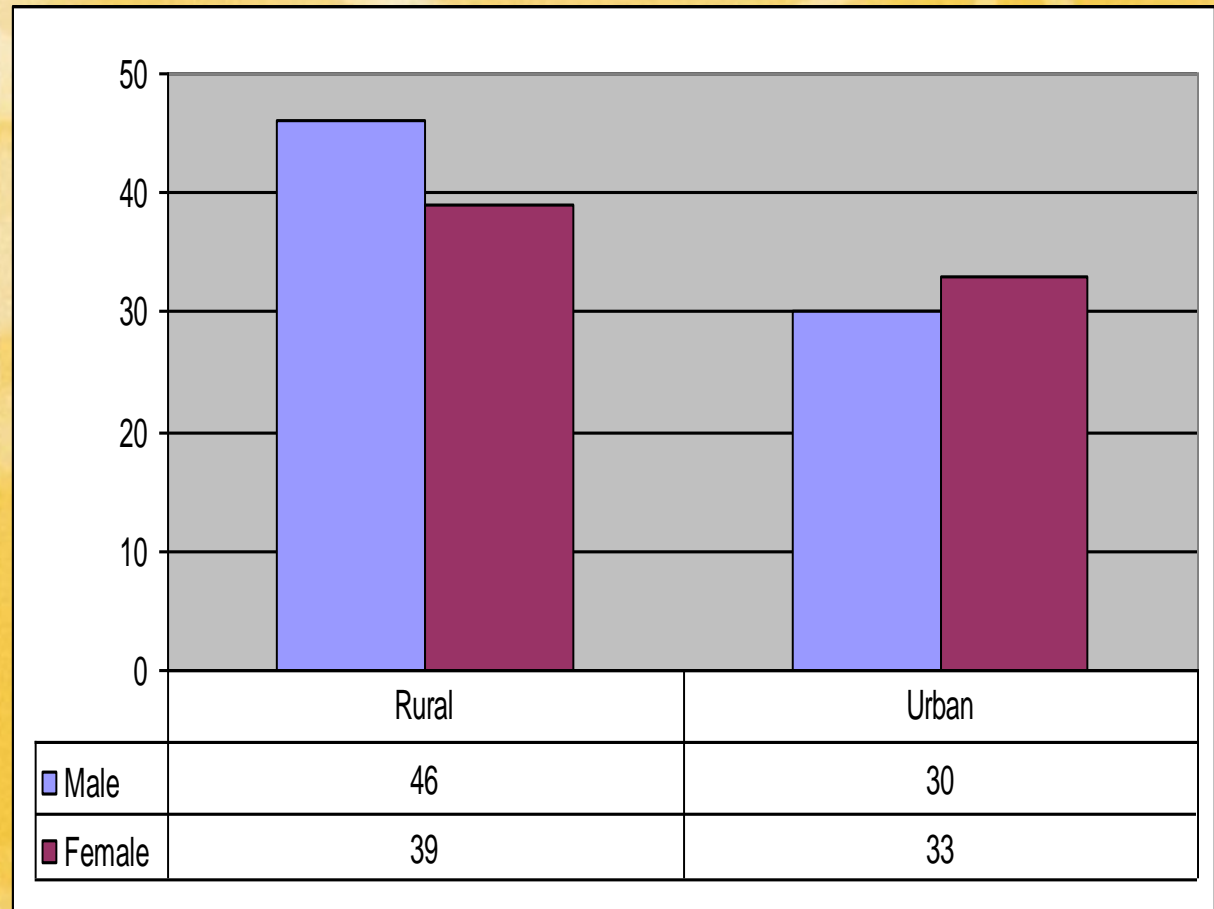
Rural vs Urban

Rural = 85

- 46 Male
- 39 Female

Urban = 63

- 30 Male
- 33 Female



Conclusion

- Sound background and rationale which is seen to inform the research proposal
- The research definitions and approaches located within the transformative paradigm e.g. advocacy and participatory
- The IRP methodology is being adapted to progress the research
- Mixed method study utilising an exploratory model to work in three provinces, one rural and one urban area in each
- Respond to the overall research question
 - ***In what way does gender and living in a rural area impact upon the participation of young Zambian people in civic engagement opportunities which may be facilitated by their community?***