

Focus Group Discussion Guide: **WOMEN**

Interview Schedule

Interviewer Comments:

Interviewer code _____

Date _____

District _____ Location _____

Venue _____

Time: from _____ to _____

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH GROUP OF WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

Respondent Code:	Ethnicity:
Participants names:	
Distance to facility w/ maternity: (less than 5km) (more than 5km)	Closest facility w/ surgical capacity:

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

Overall Objectives:

- A. To identify factors which contribute to current maternal care-seeking behaviors.
- B. To determine the amenability of care-seeking behaviors to change and barriers.
- C. To document social networks and communication channels which facilitate rapid dissemination of information about, and adoption of, improved practices.

Specific Objectives:

- A. To identify current and potential sources of social support for preparing for childbirth, during childbirth and early postpartum; currently used and preferred information sources of women for information on childbirth and early postpartum.
- B. To document preparations that women and families currently make for childbirth and new baby (including traditional preparations); identify family and community members involved in preparing for childbirth and early postpartum, and what role they play in care seeking decision-making during and after childbirth.
- C. To determine the level of autonomy of women, freedom of movement to access skilled care if they prefer it, relative contribution of woman herself in decision making and initiation of action for skilled care seeking behaviors.
- D. To identify factors that influence preferred childbirth location/childbirth attendant; document reasons for differences between preferred/intended/actual childbirth attendant and actual childbirth location.
- E. To explore knowledge of and attitudes toward obstetric complications and emergencies; perceived causes of and treatment for obstetric emergencies; perceived personal risk/susceptibility; current advance preparation for possibility of obstetric complications.

DO NOT READ OBJECTIVES OUT LOUD TO INTERVIEWEE!

Say: This is part of a study to learn more about how we can help women be healthier in pregnancy and childbirth. I want to ask you questions about what women in your community think about this issue.

BIRTH PREPAREDNESS

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- What types of routine preparations are made for childbirth?
- Who helps in planning and making preparations for birth?
- Who is the decision-maker for delivery location and preparations for birth?

Say: I'd like to ask you about how women and their families prepare for childbirth.

Questions to ask:

1. When a woman is pregnant, do she and her family discuss where she's going to delivery the baby?

If yes: Who's involved in the conversation? Who initiates it? When in the pregnancy do they start to discuss this issue? What is said? What are all the places for delivery women and their families consider?

If no: Why not? Should they have this kind of discussion? Why/ why not? How could a woman initiate a conversation like this with her family?

2. What preparations do women and their families make for childbirth?

For herself? For the new baby? Who is involved? What do women themselves do? What do men do? How are female elders involved? When are these preparations made?

3. If a pregnant woman and her family have different ideas about where she should deliver or which preparations should be made, whose opinion in the family is the final decision?

How much influence does the woman herself have over where she's going to deliver?

SKILLED CARE AT CHILDBIRTH

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- Where do women prefer to deliver?
- What are barriers to delivering in health facilities?

Say: As you know women deliver their babies at different places – at their own homes, TBAs homes, and health facilities. I'd like to ask you some questions now about why this is.

Questions to ask:

4. Why do you think women sometimes deliver their babies at home?

What do they like about delivering there? What do family members do to help?

5. What do TBAs do to help women during delivery?

Where do they usually assist deliveries – at their own homes or at women's homes? What are the best parts about delivering with a TBA? What do women not like about delivering with a TBA? Why do you think some women deliver with TBAs and others deliver by themselves or with family members?

6. What do staff at health facilities do to help women during delivery?

How do they help a woman feel more comfortable? How do they treat the people who come with the woman to the health facility, like her family members or a TBA? Do they ask women and their families to purchase any items or pay any fees? What? How much does it cost? What happens if women and their families can't pay these fees? Why do you think some women deliver at health facilities and others deliver their babies at home and/or with TBAs?

7. Around here, are men ever away when their wives go into labor?

If yes: Where are they usually (*probe for migrant work, etc.*)? What happens it's time for a woman to deliver her baby but her husband's not available? If the woman wants to go a health facility, can she go even his without permission?

SKILLED CARE FOR OBSTETRIC EMERGENCIES

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- What do women know about obstetric complications?
- How do women feel about planning for obstetric emergencies?

Say: Some women experience complications in late pregnancy, childbirth and the first weeks after delivery. It would be helpful to hear more about these problems.

Questions to ask:

8. Around here, what types of complications can women have?

Complications during late pregnancy? During delivery? During the first few weeks after childbirth?

9. Out of all these problems, which do you think are the most serious?

For each problem ask:

- a) Have any of you ever had that problem?
- b) Do you know anyone who had that problem?
- c) Do you know what causes that problem?
- d) What can happen to the woman who has this problem?

10. If a woman in your community is experiencing one of these problems, what can she and her family do?

Ask each of the following questions:

- a) Is there anything that they can try at home to solve the problem? What? Why?
- b) Where can they go to get help in your community?
- c) Which health facilities can they go to?
- d) What kinds of arrangements do they make if they decide to go to a health facility?
- e) What kind of transportation can they take to get to a health facility?
- f) What do you think can happen once they get to a health facility?

11. Do women and their families ever make plans in advance in case problems like these occur?

If yes: What do they do? Why? Who is involved in discussing and making these arrangements? Are there other plans that you think they should make in advance? What would make it easier for women and their families to make these kinds of plans?

If no: Why not? Do you think that they should have this kind of discussion? Why/ why not? How easy or difficult would it be to make these kinds of plans?

EARLY POSTPARTUM CARE

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- What are customary practices during the first two weeks after childbirth?
- How do women view early postpartum care on a routine basis?

Say: We talked about preparing for delivery, and about giving birth. Now I would just like to ask you a few more questions about the time right after childbirth.

Questions to ask:

12. Does anyone come to a woman's home in the first weeks after she gives birth?

Who? How soon after the delivery? What do they do? Are there any particular people who will not be allowed to come to a woman's home so soon after she has given birth?

13. How soon after a woman gives birth can she first leave her house?

Can women leave the house whenever they want after childbirth? Why? Are there exceptions?

14. Do you think that women should go to a health facility after they deliver to get a check-up for themselves?

Why/ why not? If a woman has a normal delivery and a healthy baby and feels well, should she go for a check-up for herself? Why or why not? How soon after the birth should she go? Who should go with her? If she doesn't go to a health facility, should she go to a TBA? Why/ why not?

SOCIAL NETWORKS/ COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- How do pregnant women get information and support from their household and community?
- What are potential outlets for health-related messages, including radio?

Say: I'm also interested to hear how women around here learn about childbirth.

Questions to ask:

15. What are women told to expect during childbirth?

What are they told that they should or should not do? What do their friends and sisters tell them? What do female elders say? Are there other people they talk to about childbirth? Who?

16. Other than friends and family, how do women learn about health-related topics?

Radio? Theatre? Health talks? Newspapers? Magazines? Other?

17. Do women around here ever listen to the radio?

If yes: Do they have favorite programs? Which ones? Why do they like those programs? At what times do those programs air?

Say: Thank you for answering all our questions about giving birth. Your answers have been very helpful. Maybe you have thought of something that we have left out. Is there anything else that you'd like to tell me/ us about your experience?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO TALK TO ME/US.