SAMPLE FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION AND IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDES

Community Awareness of and Barriers to Longer-Acting and Permanent Contraception

Introduction

The following is a compilation of sample focus group discussion guides that were developed in 2004 by Family Health International in collaboration with ACQUIRE/EngenderHealth and local partners for use in Guinea. These guides were used to conduct focus group discussions and in-depth interviews on longer-acting and permanent contraception among women, men, service providers, and religious and community leaders. Such discussions can help researchers or program managers identify attitudes, beliefs, myths, or rumors that might serve as barriers to the provision or acceptance of particular contraceptive methods, such as the IUD.

This document should be used to help develop a tailored guide for a local context, rather than implemented as presented. Questions chosen for focus group discussions should be reviewed by local stakeholders to ensure they address the programmatic issues investigators wish to address. Questions should also be reviewed to ensure that they are culturally relevant and appropriate. However, keep in mind that researchers have sometimes found that it can be worthwhile to ask certain questions that may not at first seem locally relevant, especially if such questions challenge widespread assumptions.

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FOCUS GROUP GUIDE: FEMALE NONUSERS

Selection criteria: married women, aged 20-44, who have never used modern methods of contraception and reside in rural communities

Copies of informed consent and confidentiality forms should be provided to each participant and read aloud for the benefit of those who cannot read. Participants should be provided an opportunity to ask any questions. Verbal agreement should be taped.

The following is a guide. Try to ask all the questions below in the order given, but it is more important to maintain the flow of discussion. Suggested probes have been included. You should try to encourage participation of all group members in the conversation.

Start by explaining the ground rules as follows:

Before we start, I would like to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers in this discussion. We are interested in knowing what each of you think, so please feel free to be frank and to share your point of view, regardless of whether you agree or disagree with what you hear. It is very important that we hear all your opinions.

You probably prefer that your comments not be repeated to people outside of this group. Please treat others in the group as you want to be treated by not telling anyone about what you hear in this discussion today.

Let's start by going around the circle and having each person introduce herself. (Members of the research team should also introduce themselves and describe each of their roles.)

1. What do you think about the topic that has brought us here today (family planning)?

2. In this community, who makes the decisions about the number of children in the family? (Probe: Husbands? Mother-in-laws? Religious or community leaders? Co-wives? Others?)
   - Who makes decisions about the spacing of births?
   - How are these decisions made?

3. According to you, what are the reasons for:
   - Having a lot of children?
   - Having few children?
   - Waiting a certain amount of time between pregnancies?

4. According to you, who should take the responsibility for having children, not having children, and child spacing (Men? Women? Etc.)? Please explain.
5. What methods do women use when they want to wait before having another child or when they don’t want to have another child?
   - And if they want to wait, for example, two or three more years?
   - What do you know about these methods? *(Probe: Efficacy? Characteristics? Perception or attitudes of partners?)*
   - Where/from whom do they obtain information about these methods?
   - Where do they obtain the method?
   - Describe how these methods are selected for the purpose of spacing pregnancies.
   - What are some reasons women might choose a traditional method over a modern one?
   - What are some reasons women might choose a modern method over a traditional one?
   - What are some reasons women might not want to use any of these methods?
   - Why would a woman who had already decided to use one of these methods change her mind?

6. Have you heard of the IUD? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about the IUD.
   - *If participants are unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask:* Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
   - *If any have heard of the method, ask the following:* What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
     - o What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
     - o What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
     - o Do you know anyone who has used this method? What was her experience?
     - o Have you considered using it? Please explain.
   - What would women in this community think about having a contraceptive device inserted into the uterus?
   - If a woman wanted to use the IUD, what are the some of the things that might make it hard for her to do so?
   - What are some of the things that might make it easy for her to use it?
   - For women who are interested in using the IUD, where do you think the services should be offered? Please explain.
     - o Who should provide the service?

7. Have you heard of tubal ligation? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about tubal ligation.
   - *If participants are unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask:* Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
   - *If any have heard of the method, ask the following:* What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
o What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
o What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
o Do you know anyone who has used this method? What was her experience?
o Have you considered using it? Please explain.

• How would women in this community react to the fact that this is a surgical method? How would their husbands react?

8. Have you heard of vasectomy? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about vasectomy.

• If participants are unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
• If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
o What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
o What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
o Do you know anyone who has used this method? What was his experience?
o Would you recommend this method to your husband? Please explain.
• How would men in this community react to the fact that this is a surgical method? How would their wives react?

9. What methods have you used to space births or to not have children?

• Why did you choose these methods?
• How did you make the decision to use these methods? (On your own? With your husband? Following the instructions of your husband? Following the advice of other members of your family? Following the advice of your friends?)
• What was the reaction of others (husband? mother? etc.) to your decisions?
• What did you like about these methods?
• What did you not like about these methods?
• Did you tell anyone about your decision?
o Who?
o When did you tell them? (Before making the decision? Before actually getting the method? Afterwards?)

10. How do people in this community feel about using methods (modern or traditional) to prevent a pregnancy?

• How do you think they would react to the methods we’ve discussed?

11. In this community, what are the best ways to inform people about these methods?

12. Where do you go for reproductive health care (i.e., care for women’s issues)?

• To whom do you talk when you have a health problem?
• What type of provider do you prefer? (Probe: Man vs. woman? Doctor vs. nurse vs. midwife? Someone outside your community or from within?)
• Have you ever had a conversation with a health worker about methods you can use to prevent pregnancy?

13. What information sources are used in this community? *(Probe: How about the radio? Printed materials? The newspaper?)*

14. What is the ideal number of children in a family?
   • In this family, how many girls?
   • How many boys?
   • What is the ideal number of years to have between children?
   • Is there an ideal order in which female and male children should be born? If so, what is the preferable birth order for girls and boys?
   • What factors determine the composition of the family? *(Probe: generation, i.e., younger vs. older, etc.? Economic class? Profession/work, i.e., agriculture, industry, etc.?)*

15. What barriers prevent use of the three methods we have discussed (the IUD, vasectomy, tubal ligation)? Please explain.

16. Let’s summarize some of the key points from our discussion. Is there anything else?

17. Do you have any questions?

   *Thank you for taking the time to talk to us!!*
FOCUS GROUP GUIDE: MEN’S GROUPS

Selection criteria: married men, aged 25-50, who reside in rural communities

Copies of informed consent and confidentiality forms should be provided to each participant and read aloud for the benefit of those who cannot read. Participants should be provided an opportunity to ask any questions. Verbal agreement should be taped.

The following is a guide. Try to ask all the questions below in the order given, but it is more important to maintain the flow of discussion. Suggested probes have been included. You should try to encourage participation of all group members in the conversation.

Start by explaining the ground rules as follows:

Before we start I would like to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers in this discussion. We are interested in knowing what each of you think, so please feel free to be frank and to share your point of view, regardless of whether you agree or disagree with what you hear. It is very important that we hear all your opinions.

You probably prefer that your comments not be repeated to people outside this group. Please treat others in the group as you want to be treated by not telling anyone about what you hear in this discussion today.

Let's start by going around the circle and having each person introduce himself. (Members of the research team should also introduce themselves and describe each of their roles.)

1. What do you think about the subject that has brought us here today (family planning)?

2. In this community, who makes the decisions about the number of children in the family? (Probe: Husbands? Mother-in-laws? Religious or community leaders? Co-wives? Others?)
   - Who makes decisions about the spacing of births?
   - How are these decisions made?

3. According to you, what are the reasons for:
   - Having a lot of children?
   - Having few children?
   - Waiting a certain amount of time between pregnancies?

5. What methods do women use when they want to wait before having another child or when they don’t want to have another child?

- And if they want to wait, for example, two or three more years?
- What do you know about these methods? (Probe: Efficacy? Characteristics? Perception or attitudes of partners?)
- Where/from whom do they obtain information about these methods?
- Where do they obtain the method?
- Describe how methods are selected for the purpose of spacing pregnancies.
- What are some reasons women might choose a traditional method over a modern one?
- What are some reasons women might choose a modern method over a traditional one?
- What are some reasons women might not want to use any of these methods?

6. Have you heard of the IUD? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about the IUD.

- If participants are unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
- If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
  - What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
  - What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
  - Do you know anyone who has used this method? What was her experience?
- If your wife or one of your wives wanted to use the IUD, how would you react? Please explain.
  - How would your family react?
  - How would your friends react?

7. Have you heard of tubal ligation? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about tubal ligation.

- If participants are unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
- If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
  - What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
  - What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
  - Do you know anyone who has used this method? What was her experience?
- If your wife or one of your wives wanted to use tubal ligation, how would you react? Please explain.
  - How would your family react?
  - How would your friends react?
- How would women in this community react to the fact that this is a surgical method? How about their husbands?

8. Have you heard of vasectomy? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about vasectomy.
   - *If participants are unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask:* Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
   - *If any have heard of the method, ask the following:* What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
     - What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
     - What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
     - Do you know anyone who has used this method? What was his experience?
     - Have you considered this method? Please explain.
   - How would men in this community react to the fact that this is a surgical method? How would their wives react?

9. How do people in this community feel about using methods (modern or traditional) to prevent a pregnancy?
   - How do you think they would react to the methods we’ve discussed?

10. In this community, what are the best ways to inform people about these methods?

11. What sources of information are used in this community? *(Probe: How about the radio? Printed materials? The newspaper?)*

12. What is the ideal number of children in a family?
   - In this family, how many girls?
   - How many boys?
   - What is the ideal number of years to have between children?
   - Is there an ideal order in which female and male children should be born? If so, what is the preferable birth order for girls and boys?
   - What factors determine the composition of the family? *(Probe: generation, i.e., younger vs. older, etc.? Economic class? Profession/work, i.e., agriculture, industry, etc.?)*

13. What barriers prevent use of the three methods we have discussed (the IUD, vasectomy, tubal ligation)? Please explain.

14. Let’s summarize some of the key points from our discussion. Is there anything else?

15. Do you have any questions?

*Thank you for taking the time to talk to us!!*
IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW: LEADERS OF WOMEN’S GROUPS

Copies of informed consent and confidentiality forms should be provided to each participant and read aloud for the benefit of those who cannot read. Participants should be provided an opportunity to ask any questions. Verbal agreement should be taped.

The following is a guide. You may want to start the discussion by asking the interviewee about some of the activities she/he carries out as a leader in the community. Ask about issues related to health. Try to ask all the questions below in the order given, but it is more important to maintain the flow of discussion. Suggested probes have been included.

Start by explaining the ground rules as follows:

Before we start I would like to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers in this discussion. We are interested in knowing what you think, so please feel free to be frank and to share your point of view. It is very important that we hear your opinion.

1. What is your role in this community?
   • How does the local population think of you?
   • In which situations does the local population ask for your advice? (Men? Women?)
   • What do you think about your influence in this community?

2. In this community, who makes the decisions about the number of children in the family? (Probe: Husbands? Mother-in-laws? Religious or community leaders? Co-wives? Others?)
   • Who makes decisions about the spacing of births?
   • How are these decisions made?

3. According to you, what are the reasons for:
   • Having a lot of children?
   • Having few children?
   • Waiting a certain amount of time between pregnancies?

4. During community gatherings, do you discuss family planning issues? If so:
   • At what types of gatherings are these issues discussed?
   • What prompts the discussion?
   • What sort of topics do you discuss?
   • What are the main reactions of the people present?
   • At which types of gatherings would you not discuss these topics?

5. How do you feel about discussing these issues at community gatherings?
   • What are the different places where you discuss these issues?
   • What are the occasions in which you discuss these issues?
6. How involved are religious leaders in contraception and family planning?
   - What about chiefs?
   - What about politicians?
   - What about women?
   - What roles do these types of people play? Please explain.

Now I am interested in hearing about some of the methods of contraception about which you might have heard.

7. What methods do women use when they want to wait before having another child or when they don’t want to have another child?
   - And if they want to wait, for example, two or three more years?
   - What do you know about these methods? (Probe: Efficacy? Characteristics? Perceptions or attitudes of partners?)
   - Where/from whom do they obtain information about these methods?
   - Where do they obtain the method?
   - Describe how methods are selected for the purpose of spacing pregnancies.
   - What are some reasons women might choose a traditional method over a modern one?
   - What are some reasons women might choose a modern method over a traditional one?
   - What are some reasons women might not want to use any of these methods?
   - Why would a woman who had already decided to use one of these methods change her mind?

8. Have you heard of the IUD? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about the IUD.
   - If interviewee is unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
   - If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
     - What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
     - What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
   - If a woman wanted to use the IUD, what are the some of the things that might make it hard for her to do so?
   - What are some of the things that might make it easy for her to use it?

9. Have you heard of tubal ligation? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about tubal ligation.
   - If interviewee is unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
• If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
• How would women in this community react to the fact that this is a surgical method? How about their husbands?

10. Have you heard of vasectomy? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about vasectomy.
• If interviewee is unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
• If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
• How would men in this community react to the fact that this is a surgical method? How about their wives?

11. How do people in this community feel about family planning?
• How do you think they would react to the methods we’ve discussed?
• What are your reactions to the methods we have discussed?

12. Does your group advocate for or against the use of contraception for spacing births? Please explain.

13. Would you recommend the IUD to women in this community? Please explain.
• How about tubal ligation?
• Would you recommend vasectomy to a man in this community? Please explain.

14. What barriers prevent use of the three methods we have discussed (the IUD, vasectomy, tubal ligation)? Please explain.

15. What is the ideal number of children in a family?
• In this family, how many girls?
• How many boys?
• What is the ideal number of years to have between children?
• Is there an ideal order in which female and male children should be born? If so, what is the preferable birth order for girls and boys?
• What factors determine the composition of the family? (Probe: generation, i.e., younger vs. older, etc.? Economic class? Profession/work, i.e., agriculture, industry, etc.?)

16. Let’s summarize some of the key points from our discussion. Is there anything else?

17. Do you have any questions?

Thank you for taking the time to talk to us!!
IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW: SERVICE PROVIDERS

Copies of informed consent and confidentiality forms should be provided to each participant and read aloud for the benefit of those who cannot read. Participants should be provided an opportunity to ask any questions. Verbal agreement should be taped.

The following is a guide. You may want to start the discussion by asking the interviewee about some of the activities she/he carries out as a leader in the community. Ask about issues related to health. Try to ask all the questions below in the order given, but it is more important to maintain the flow of discussion. Suggested probes have been included.

Start by explaining the ground rules as follows:

Before we start I would like to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers in this discussion. We are interested in knowing what you think, so please feel free to be frank and to share your point of view. It is very important that we hear your opinion.

1. How long have you been providing family planning information or services to clients?

2. What methods do you tell them about?
   • What methods do women use most often? Please explain.
   • What methods do women use less often? Please explain.
   • What methods are available in your health center?

3. Based on your experience, how are decisions about family planning made in this community?
   • Who is involved in the process?

4. What do you tell a client who wants to wait two years or more before becoming pregnant again? Please explain.
   • What do you tell a client who no longer wants any more children?
   • What methods do you recommend to the client, in each instance?
   • Does the age of the client influence which methods you recommend? How so?

5. When did you first hear about the IUD?
   • What were you told about it?
   • What was your initial impression of the method?
   • Has your initial impression changed?

6. When did you first hear about tubal ligation?
   • What were you told about it?
   • What was your initial impression of the method?
   • Has your initial impression changed?

7. When did you first hear about tubal ligation?
• What were you told about it?
• What was your initial impression of the method?
• Has your initial impression changed?

8. Do you advise clients to use the IUD?
   • Why or why not?
   • If yes, what do you tell them about the method?

9. Do you advise clients to use tubal ligation?
   • Why or why not?
   • If yes, what do you tell them about the method?

10. Do you advise clients to use vasectomy?
    • Why or why not?
    • If yes, what do you tell them about the method?

11. What questions would you expect that a client would ask a family planning counselor before requesting an IUD?
    • How would you respond these questions?

12. What questions would you expect that a client would ask a family planning counselor before requesting tubal ligation?
    • How would you respond these questions?

13. What questions would you expect that a client would ask a family planning counselor before requesting a vasectomy?
    • How would you respond these questions?

14. What is the total cost of these methods to the clients in this facility?
    • What do they pay for the procedure?
    • Does a family member or friend usually accompany them to obtain the method?
    • What is their usual mode of transportation?
    • How many visits are needed before the client is able to obtain the method?

15. How well equipped is this facility for providing each of these methods?
    • Does it have the necessary kits?
    • Does it have emergency preparedness equipment?
    • Is a family planning counselor available for your clients prior to the procedure?

16. Are the staff members at your family planning clinic trained in providing the methods that we have talked about today?
    • Do they have more experience with certain methods?
    • Do they have less experience with certain methods?
    • How comfortable are staff members in their role as family planning service providers?
• What is their level of motivation?
• What is their level of confidence?

16. What requirements must clients meet to obtain an IUD? (*Probe: Parity? Age? Spousal consent?)

17. What requirements must clients meet to obtain a tubal ligation? (*Probe: Parity? Age? Spousal consent?)

18. What requirements must clients meet to obtain a vasectomy? (*Probe: Parity? Age? Spousal consent?)

19. How interested do you think clients in this community are in these different methods?

20. What is the best way to inform people in this community about the IUD? Tubal ligation? Vasectomy?

21. Please describe all of the advertising and marketing for these methods that you have seen or heard about in this area.
   • Do you think it has been effective? Why or why not?

22. What barriers prevent use of the three methods we have discussed (the IUD, vasectomy, tubal ligation)? Please explain.

23. What is the ideal number of children in a family?
   • In this family, how many girls?
   • How many boys?
   • What is the ideal number of years to have between children?
   • Is there an ideal order in which female and male children should be born? If so, what is the preferable birth order for girls and boys?
   • What factors determine the composition of the family? (*Probe: generation, i.e., younger vs. older, etc.? Economic class? Profession/work, i.e., agriculture, industry, etc.?)

24. Let’s summarize some of the key points from our discussion. Is there anything else?

25. Do you have any questions?

    *Thank you for taking the time to talk to us!!*
IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW: RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Copies of informed consent and confidentiality forms should be provided to each participant and read aloud for the benefit of those who cannot read. Participants should be provided an opportunity to ask any questions. Verbal agreement should be taped.

The following is a guide. You may want to start the discussion by asking the interviewee about some of the activities she/he carries out as a leader in the community. Ask about issues related to health. Try to ask all the questions below in the order given, but it is more important to maintain the flow of discussion. Suggested probes have been included.

Start by explaining the ground rules as follows:

Before we start I would like to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers in this discussion. We are interested in knowing what you think, so please feel free to be frank and to share your point of view. It is very important that we hear your opinion.

1. What is your role in this community?
   • How does the local population think of you?
   • In which situations does the local population ask for your advice? (Men? Women?)
   • What do you think about your influence in this community?

2. In this community, who makes the decisions about the number of children in the family? (Probe: Husbands? Mother-in-laws? Religious or community leaders? Co-wives? Others?)
   • Who makes decisions about the spacing of births?
   • How are these decisions made?

3. According to you, what are the reasons for:
   • Having a lot of children?
   • Having few children?
   • Waiting a certain amount of time between pregnancies?

4. What does the religion you practice recommend in terms of family planning?
   • What does it say about the spacing of children?
   • What does it say about not having any more children (stopping having children)?
   • Do you recommend family planning to your constituents? Please explain.

5. Do you discuss issues of family planning during the services at your place of worship?

6. Do you discuss having or not having children? Waiting for a while between each child’s birth?
   • How do you feel about discussing these issues at your place of worship?
   • Do you discuss these issues publicly in other places? Please explain.
7. How involved are religious leaders in contraception and family planning?
   • What about chiefs?
   • What about politicians?
   • What about women?
   • What roles do these types of people play? Please explain.

Now I am interested in hearing about some of the methods of family planning about which you might have heard.

8. What methods do women use when they want to wait before having another child or when they don’t want to have another child?
   • And if they want to wait, for example, for two or three more years?
   • What do you know about these methods? (Probe: Efficacy? Characteristics? Perception or attitudes of partners?)
   • Where/from whom do they obtain information about these methods?
   • Where do they obtain the method?
   • Describe how methods are selected for the purpose of spacing pregnancies.
   • What are some reasons women might choose a traditional method over a modern one?
   • What are some reasons women might choose a modern method over a traditional one?
   • What are some reasons women might not want to use any of these methods?
   • Why would a woman who had already decided to use one of these methods change her mind?

9. Have you heard of the IUD? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about the IUD.
   • If interviewee is unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
   • If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
     o What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
     o What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
   • If a woman wanted to use the IUD, what are the some of the things that might make it hard for her to do so?
   • What are some of the things that might make it easy for her to use it?

10. Have you heard of tubal ligation? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about tubal ligation.
    • If interviewee is unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
• If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?

11. Have you heard of vasectomy? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about vasectomy.
   • If interviewee is unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
   • If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
     o What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
     o What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
   • How would men in this community react to the fact that this is a surgical method? How about their wives?

12. How do people in this community feel about family planning?
   • How do you think they would react to the methods we’ve discussed?

13. Would you recommend the IUD to women in this community? Please explain.
   • How about tubal ligation?
   • Would you recommend vasectomy to a man in this community? Please explain.

14. What barriers prevent use of the three methods we have discussed (the IUD, vasectomy, tubal ligation)? Please explain.

15. What is the ideal number of children in a family?
   • In this family, how many girls?
   • How many boys?
   • What is the ideal number of years to have between children?
   • Is there an ideal order in which female and male children should be born? If so, what is the preferable birth order for girls and boys?
   • What factors determine the composition of the family? (Probe: generation, i.e., younger vs. older, etc.? Economic class? Profession/work, i.e., agriculture, industry, etc.?)

16. Let’s summarize some of the key points from our discussion. Is there anything else?

17. Do you have any questions?

Thank you for taking the time to talk to us!!
IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW: CHIEFS AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS

Copies of informed consent and confidentiality forms should be provided to each participant and read aloud for the benefit of those who cannot read. Participants should be provided an opportunity to ask any questions. Verbal agreement should be taped.

The following is a guide. You may want to start the discussion by asking the interviewee about some of the activities she/he carries out as a leader in the community. Ask about issues related to health. Try to ask all the questions below in the order given, but it is more important to maintain the flow of discussion. Suggested probes have been included.

Start by explaining the ground rules as follows:

_Before we start I would like to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers in this discussion. We are interested in knowing what you think, so please feel free to be frank and to share your point of view. It is very important that we hear your opinion._

1. What is your role in this community?
   - How does the local population think of you?
   - In which situations does the local population ask for your advice? (Men? Women?)
   - What do you think about your influence in this community?

2. In this community, who makes the decisions about the number of children in the family? (Probe: Husbands? Mother-in-laws? Religious or community leaders? Co-wives? Others?)
   - Who makes decisions about the spacing of births?
   - How are these decisions made?

3. According to you, what are the reasons for:
   - Having a lot of children?
   - Having few children?
   - Waiting a certain amount of time between pregnancies?

4. During community gatherings, do you discuss family planning issues? If so:
   - At what types of gatherings are these issues discussed?
   - What prompts the discussion?
   - What sort of topics do you discuss?
   - What are the principal reactions of the people present?
   - At which types of gatherings would you not discuss these topics?

5. How do you feel about discussing these issues at community gatherings?
   - What are the different places where you discuss these issues?
   - What are the occasions in which you discuss these issues?
6. How involved are religious leaders in contraception and family planning?
   • What about chiefs?
   • What about politicians?
   • What about women?
   • What roles do these types of people play? Please explain.

Now I am interested in hearing about some of the methods of contraception about which you might have heard.

7. What methods do women use when they want to wait before having another child or when they don’t want to have another child?
   • And if they want to wait, for example, two or three more years?
   • What do you know about these methods? (Probe: Efficacy? Characteristics? Perception or attitudes of partners?)
   • Where/from whom do they obtain information about these methods?
   • Where do they obtain the method?
   • Describe how these methods are selected for the purpose of spacing pregnancies.
   • What are some reasons women might choose a traditional method over a modern one?
   • What are some reasons women might choose a modern method over a traditional one?
   • What are some reasons women might not want to use any of these methods?
   • Why would a woman who had already decided to use one of these methods change her mind?

8. Have you heard of the IUD? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about the IUD.
   • If interviewee is unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
   • If any have heard of the method, ask the following: What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
     o What are some of the good things you have heard about it?
     o What are some of the bad things you have heard about it?
   • If a woman wanted to use the IUD, what are the some things that might make it hard for her to do so?
   • What are some of the things that might make it easy for her to use it?

9. Have you heard of tubal ligation? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about tubal ligation.
   • If interviewee is unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask: Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
• *If any have heard of the method, ask the following:* What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
• How would women in this community react to the fact that this is a surgical method? How about their husbands?

10. Have you heard of vasectomy? I’d like to hear more of your thoughts and opinions about vasectomy.
• *If interviewee is unfamiliar with the method, explain what it is and how it works. Then ask:* Does this sound like something people might be interested in? Please explain.
• *If any have heard of the method, ask the following:* What have you learned about this subject? Who told you about it?
• How would men in this community react to the fact that this is a surgical method? How about their wives?

11. How do people in this community feel about family planning?
• How do you think they would react to the methods we’ve discussed?
• What are your reactions to the methods we have discussed?

12. Would you recommend the IUD to women in this community? Please explain.
• How about tubal ligation?
• Would you recommend vasectomy to a man in this community? Please explain.

13. What barriers prevent use of the three methods we have discussed (the IUD, vasectomy, tubal ligation)? Please explain.

14. What is the ideal number of children in a family?
• In this family, how many girls?
• How many boys?
• What is the ideal number of years to have between children?
• Is there an ideal order in which female and male children should be born? If so, what is the preferable birth order for girls and boys?
• What factors determine the composition of the family? *(Probe: generation, i.e., younger vs. older, etc.? Economic class? Profession/work, i.e., agriculture, industry, etc.?)*

15. Let’s summarize some of the key points from our discussion. Is there anything else?

16. Do you have any questions?

    *Thank you for taking the time to talk to us!!*