

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH ELDER FEMALE FAMILY INFLUENTIALS (EFFI)

FGD: #	
Number of Participants:	
Address/Location:	

EFFI Ideal Behaviors:

- Provide social support and anticipatory guidance during pregnancy, birth and early postpartum to women in the community;
- Actively encourage and participate in household dialogue with other family influentials and peers regarding:
 - birth preparedness,
 - timely use of skilled care for normal births,
 - timely use of skilled care for obstetric complications and emergencies,
 - early postpartum care use (first 1-2 weeks after birth);
- Participate in the development of household solutions as part of the maternal care team during pregnancy, birth, and early postpartum period (first 1-2 weeks after birth) along with a skilled provider whenever possible;
- Accept and promote among family and peers in her community the proposed “link care provider”- to link women and families to the closest source of skilled obstetric care; and
- When participating in a birth without skilled attendant present, recognize complications during birth and early postpartum and influence other family influentials (husband) and TBA to seek timely care from the closest skilled attendant.

Research Objectives:

To compare the attitudes and images that EFFIs have of TBA care and of women who use TBAs to their attitudes and images of skilled attendance and women who use skilled attendance.

To verify and explore EFFI perceived factors that contribute to community norms regarding skilled care at birth and in the early postpartum period.

To test concepts with EFFIs to improve practices related to skilled attendance at birth and early postpartum.

To determine EFFIs role in decision making for careseeking for: routine birth, obstetric complications and emergencies, and early postpartum care; to determine which obstetric complications and emergencies EFFIs recognize and act upon, when and how.

To learn what EFFIs believe are the reasons behind household and community level delays in seeking skilled care and reaching skilled care; what their roles in these delays and the roles of other household and community influentials are.

To explore EFFI attitudes toward use of skilled care compared to TBA care, perceived costs and consequences, whether they would accept TBAs as link care providers; and determine the possible motivations for EFFIs to promote skilled attendance in their household and community.

To determine the EFFI perspective on who comprises their own social networks; the social networks of WRA in their district; social networks of TBAs: social networks of husbands/community leaders and influentials, and how these social networks might be best used to rapidly spread information about improved obstetric care practices among their peers and the community- at- large.

This is part of a study to learn more about how we can help women be healthier in pregnancy and childbirth. We want to learn about what role elder women in your village have during childbirth and in the time right after, because we know that elder women are very important in the family and the community.

Basic Line of Questioning	Probes
SKILLED ATTENDANCE AT BIRTH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do elder women of your age contribute in decision-making for skilled care seeking behaviors? • Is this what actually happens? • Do the women in your households usually follow your advice? Why/why not? • Where do most women give birth in this community? Why? • Which place do most women your age recommend to younger women? Why? • What are the good things about giving birth with traditional attendants? Are there any bad things? • What are the good things about giving birth with skilled providers (<i>describe</i>)? Are there any bad things? • Why do you think some women do not give birth with skilled providers? • What could women your age do to help more women give birth with skilled attendants? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who else contributes? ▪ Who makes the final decision about where a woman seeks care? ▪ Does this differ by the type of relationship to you? ▪ Specific terms and concepts that EFFIs use to define perceived skill, “caring” or quality of care of TBAs/skilled providers? ▪ What do people say about the TBAs/skilled providers? ▪ What type of women give birth with TBAs/skilled attendants? ▪ Does where she gives birth decision reflect upon you? ▪ Would this be easy or difficult? Why?
SKILLED CARE FOR OBSTETRIC EMERGENCIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What obstetric complications and emergencies have you heard of that occur during birth? • What complications and emergencies have you heard of during the first 1-2 weeks after birth in the mother? The baby? • How do you know if there is a problem? • [<i>For each, ask:</i>] What do you do? 	<p>If not mentioned, probe: Premature rupture of membranes, prolonged labor/ruptured uterus, hemorrhage, sepsis, eclampsia</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should be done for the mother in case of each problem? • What should TBAs do for each? • Why do you think some women do not reach skilled care in good time in case of a problem? • What do women your age usually do in case of problems? • Why do you think some women reach a facility but do not get care in good time? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For each, who is the best person to do this? ▪ Treat or refer? ▪ Does this differ by type of emergency? ▪ Are these delays in the household or in the community or both? ▪ Does someone ask them to do something or do they just know? ▪ Who else helps? ▪ What have you heard about care in facilities? ▪ Do they welcome women from this community? Why/why not? ▪ Do you feel comfortable going to the facility? Why/why not?
<p>EARLY POSTPARTUM CARE</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do new mothers need check ups after giving birth if there is no problem? • Does this usually happen? • Do you think that more women should get check ups 1 and 2 weeks after birth? • Do new mothers need check ups after giving birth if complications are detected in new mother or newborn? • Does this usually happen? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why/why not? ▪ If yes, when? ▪ What type of care (Skilled? Traditional?) ▪ Who is the best person to check the mother? The baby? ▪ Why/why not? ▪ If yes, how? ▪ What would the benefits of this be? ▪ Would this be easy or difficult? ▪ Why/why not? ▪ If yes, when? ▪ What type of care (Skilled? Traditional?) ▪ Who is the best person to treat the mother? The baby? ▪ Why/why not?

CONCEPT TESTING: TBA OR TRADITIONAL ATTENDANT AS LINK CARE PROVIDER

We have been thinking that now, in these times, TBAs or other people in the community could be useful to help all women get to a place where skilled childbirth care is available, instead of actually helping the women give birth.

- What do you think about this?

- Would that work?
- Why/why not?
- Would this be easy or difficult?
- What would other EFFIs and families think? Why?
- Do you think that staff at facilities would accept TBAs (or other traditional providers) as link care providers? Why/why not?

SOCIAL SUPPORT/SOCIAL NETWORKS/COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- What information and advice do women your age tell younger women about pregnancy and birth?
- What support do women your age usually give women in their households during birth? In the 2 weeks after birth?
- Does this usually happen?
- Who do women rely on for help when they need it during and after childbirth?
- Do elder women talk with the whole family about preparations for the birth?
- How could this dialogue be improved?
- Where do women of your age meet others?
- What is the best way to quickly spread new information about childbirth?

- Is there any information that is taboo, or not good to give her? If yes, what?
- When does this support start?
- Do some elder women give more support than others? Why? Who are they?
- Why/why not?
- If yes, what topics are included?
- When? How often? Who attends?
- Are there other activities that you do together?

MOTIVATIONS

- What makes a good mother? Mother-in-law?
- What are elder women's main responsibilities toward her

- Traditional responsibilities, care-giving, ensuring

<p>daughter when she gives birth? Her daughter-in-law when she gives birth?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What qualities do you admire in other women your age? What qualities do you dislike?• Is there some EFFI who is really good? Why?• Since we are talking about birth, what would this EFFI do to help her daughter or daughter-in-law have a safer birth?• How can a person tell when an EFFI is good and helpful? How can they tell when an EFFI is bad?	<p>others are there to care</p>
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