

## **Interview guide**

**Study title:** Feasibility of village health teams (VHTs) in using a smart phone guided intervention to link older Ugandans with chronic conditions to care

### **Demographic characteristic**

- Study number
- DOB or age in years
- Sex
- Education level
- Occupation
- Marital status
- Number of children
- Number of years/months as VHT

### **VHT recruitment and activities**

- Can you describe the process through which you were recruited as VHT and what was considered? Who recruited you? When, where, why were you recruited? What were you told on recruitment?
- Can you describe the training that you were given after recruitment? Who trained you, where, what were you trained on? Was the training helpful to you? Have you received refresher training since then?
- Can you describe your roles as a VHT? What activities are you involved in in a routine week? Are you involved in only activities related to health only? If not, what other community activities are you involved in?
- Can you describe your relationship with workers in the traditional health care system? Do you communicate with them routinely? How many times in a month? What exactly do you communicate with them? Are there any issues in your relationship?
- Can you explain to me in detail what you do in case you have someone in your community who needs referral to a health care? How do you feel about the referral process
- Tell me about community meetings. Do you hold them routinely? Who is involved? What do you discuss? Who takes minutes, who makes sure that what is discussed is implemented?
- Can you briefly describe how you keep records in your work? What type of records do you keep? Where? And what for?
- Tell me the challenges and opportunities in your work. (remuneration and facilitation should come in here)

### **Dealing with Older people**

- Tell me about the age groups you normally deal with in your activities i.e. the ones that are vulnerable within your villages. If they include older people, how does he/she define an older person?
- What can you say about the relationship between older people and young people in your village?

- Tell me about some of the social issues that affect older people in your village. Do you know about some of the health issues/diseases that are specific to older people? Mention them. In your opinion, why do you think older people are at risk of these health issues/diseases?
- Tell me about health seeking behaviour for older people in your village. What do they do when they are not feeling well? Who helps then in this situation? Have you had any previous experience of dealing with an older people with a health problem? What health problem did they have? What did you do? What are the specific challenges of dealing with older people with health issues/diseases?

### **Linking people with health issues to care**

- Can you describe the process of linking people in your village with health problems to care? How do the VHTs do this? Is the process different when considering older persons?
- Describe the kind of health facilities are available in their communities? Government? Private, what level, average treatment costs, health personnel and relationship with clients. Any health facility that provides older people related services. If yes what specific services?
- What challenges do you face in linking people with health problems to health care facilities? What do they think can be done to improve the linking to care? Do they get feedback from health workers after referral?

### **Knowledge on chronic diseases**

- Have you ever heard about chronic diseases? What do you understand by chronic diseases? Can you name some of the diseases they think are chronic? Who is at risk of these chronic diseases? Which ones are common in older people in your village?
- Can you tell me what happens when a person has a chronic disease? (Impact)?
- Can you tell me what these diseases can do to an individual, family and health care facility?

### **Smart phones**

- What do you understand by smartphones? What local term do use to describe a smart phone? How is it different from other phones? Have you ever used smart phones before? Do you have one? Are they available in your village? What do you like about smart phones?
- What do you think can smart phones do apart from making calls?
- How do you think smartphones can help in linking people with health problems in your village to care?
- What do you think about a smart phone intervention of linking older people with chronic conditions to care? Would they be willing to use it if it is developed and why? What would be some of the challenges of using such an intervention in the community?

- Have you ever heard of any smart phone guided intervention in health in Uganda or any other country? If so which one? What was it being used for?
- Any other issues or questions/comments

**Thank you**